

Stormwater Consortium of Rockland County Meeting Minutes

- Meeting date: January 13, 2005 from 9:00 - 11:00 am at Ramapo Town Hall
 - Present: see attached sign-in roster
1. **INTRODUCTIONS:** Mary Hegarty introduced herself at the new Stormwater Educator for Cornell Cooperative Extension, discussed the agenda, distributed reference materials and a list of classes that were offered by Extension to date, along with attendance summaries.
 2. **FUTURE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS**
 - A. The group asked Mary to provide them with a list of upcoming classes in advance so that they could promote them through their municipal newsletters and websites; should be printed in news release format.
 - B. Suggestions for possible topics for general public classes included:
 - 1) Organic/natural vs. chemical yard and garden care
 - 2) Erosion control for homeowners
 - 3) Proper disposal of leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste
 - 4) Landscaping techniques for better water quality (rain gardens, IPM, etc.)
 - 5) How to maintain your easement (possibly involve United Water and O&R)
 - 6) Dealing with your landscaper (things that they should/not do to your yard)
 - 7) Include explanation of watersheds and stormwater in all classes
 - 8) *Note: When the public brings complaints to classes about solving drainage problems that might require municipal involvement, have them contact the mayor/supervisor with a copy any letters also sent to the highway or DPW superintendent.*
 - C. Suggestions for possible topics for municipal employees included:
 - 1) Chemical disposal, fueling systems -- for auto mechanics/DPW staff
 - 2) Snow and ice control
 - 3) Cleaning easements
 - D. Suggestions also included:
 - 1) Holding the consumer classes only in municipalities that have an MS4 agreement with Cooperative Extension.
 - 2) Holding municipal classes in individual towns rather than in one central location at the Fire Training Center; Paul Trader explained that this might be difficult, as speakers from outside the county do not want to have to repeat a class 5+ times.
 - 3) Videotaping the workshops and make copies available to the municipalities for their internal library use by employees.
 - 4) Where possible, obtain continuing education credits for employees, through established programs such as the Physical Engineers; also consider giving each participant a certificate of participation for his personnel file after each class.

- 5) In future years, provide training for planning boards (through RC Municipal Planning Federation), builders/developers, landscapers and lawn services -- possibly through the LEAPE program. Mary presented an overview of the LEAPE program (Locally-led Education and Action for Protecting the Environment.) She and Dan Miller (RC Health Dept.) have been trained in its use. LEAPE is an educational program for local governments interested in protecting water resources in their communities. It offers basic education about pollution of surface and groundwater, the relationship of water resources protection to traditional local government responsibilities, actions local government can take to protect and improve water quality, and sources of technical and financial resources. Mary suggested that a copy of LEAPE reference materials be kept in all town/village planning departments.

3. **NEWSLETTER ARTICLES:** The group suggested the following topics for articles that they might be willing to publish in their municipal newsletters or post on their websites:
 - A. How to install drains/pipes for property drainage
 - B. How to select and install/use drainage pumps
 - C. How to correct and prevent general drainage problems on properties

4. **NOTICES AND TARGETED MAILINGS:**
 - A. Consider mailing notices to landscapers and lawn services advising them not to dump landscape materials in drainage ditches
 - B. Consider printing educational information in bill-mailings by O&R and United Water NY.
 - C. Send educational mailings to builders and developers regarding erosion prevention/control.
 - D. Send educational mailings to owners/managers of shopping centers/malls regarding parking lot maintenance (in relation to the plugging of storm drains) and storing salt piles away from streams and drains.
 - E. Mary noted that the Rockland County Water Quality Committee has expressed interest in targeted mailings about right-of-way maintenance for property owners along streams and other bodies of water.

5. **OTHER MINIMUM CONTROL MEASURES:**
 - A. Mappings will be done town by town.
 - B. The group is interested in collaborating on creating general standards for local laws that regulate developers and builders; this could possibly be done in collaboration with the RC Municipal Planning Federation.
 - C. The group desires the county to take the lead in creating laws prohibiting illicit discharge; Jim Dean suggested finding a model ordinance that municipalities could adopt. John Loch suggested that the MS4s turn to the DEC as the enforcement agency in such cases of illicit discharge.

6. **GRANTS:** Mary noted that the DEC in Tarrytown informed her that RFPs will be publicized between January - March 2005 and will focus on projects of a more technical nature. This could be a good way to involve the county in organizing a collaborative that could receive the grant funds (perhaps through the Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District);

non-profits like Cooperative Extension are not allowed to receive such grant funds, according to the DEC.

7. **QUESTIONS FOR THE DEC:** The group asked Mary to contact the DEC for answers to the following questions. Once she receives them, she will pass them on to members of this group:
 - A. Has the DEC reviewed and approved last year's NOI plans? How will the MS4s know?
 - B. Will the MS4s receive feedback on their annual reports?
 - C. What are the DEC's expectations for year three?
 - D. Will the format be changed for Year #2's annual report? (If so, we need to know immediately!)
 - E. Who can take credit for what in the educational portion of the NOI?
 - F. Mary noted that if a municipality does not fulfill all of its NOI commitments, it can claim other things that WERE done in an effort to reduce stormwater pollution.
 - G. She also noted that Barbara Kendall of the DEC reviews annual reports for all MS4s that flow to the Hudson River; Manju Cherian reviews all reports for MS4s that flow to other outlets. Manju will also be overseeing SPEDS construction permits; she may be reached at 914-332-1835 ext. 357.

8. **CONTRACTS:** Paul and Mary will review and amend the 2005 contracts with each municipality, if necessary, before the final copy is signed by each supervisor/mayor.

9. **FUTURE MEETINGS:**
 - A. The group suggested that they meet with the RC Water Quality Committee in the future to discuss issues of common concern and ways to collaborate.
 - B. Jim Dean noted that the town highway superintendents will be meeting with Pat Ferracane of the DEC on Jan. 20.
 - C. **NEXT MEETING:** Tuesday, April 12, 2005 from 9:00 - 11:00 am at Clarkstown Town Hall (Room 311 or Andrew Jackson room). There will be no meeting on January 27.