

Stormwater Consortium Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 2:00 pm

Cornell Cooperative Extension, 10 Patriot Hills Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980

Present: Luke Kalarickal, Kevin Maher, Mary Hegarty, Frank Fleischer, James Dean, Ted Dzurinko, Mike Sadowski, Manny Carmona, Doris Ulman, Joe Caruso, Kevin Fitzpatrick, Eve Mancuso, Paul Trader

1. Discussion of the Round 8/9 Grants:

- A. Kevin suggested that we meet as a group to review the forms so that each MS4 completes the forms in the same manner, to ensure consistency in reporting. He is researching if DEC needs signatures from each municipality on the *Equal Opportunity* statements.
- B. MEETINGS – Focusing on Round 8 Grant Awards:
- April 21 at 2 pm: A “Workshop Meeting” (with mandatory attendance by all Consortium members) will be held on April 21 at 2:00 pm at CCE. Each municipality needs to bring their staff time/tasks documentation for Round 8 and be prepared to present it to the rest of the group; it will be a chance for people to ask questions and clarify concerns. Kevin F. will mail a letter to all participating MS4s, advising them to attend this working meeting to review all documentation.
 - April 30: The absolute deadline for submitting documentation from all MS4s to Kevin Fitzpatrick will be April 30, 2009; he will resend an email to all Consortium members containing all documents that must be completed by April 30.
 - May 5 at 2 pm: This meeting will focus on finalizing all reports and documentation for Round 8 before submitting to the DEC.
- C. Kevin F. noted that preparation and follow-up time may be included (in addition to the actual time of the meeting) in calculating the costs associated with participating in Consortium meetings. MS4s cannot be compensated for any mapping work done after January 1, 2008.
- D. Kevin will research Luke’s question as to whether MS4s may be compensated for work that was done prior to 1/1/8 but was not paid until after 1/1/8.
- E. Jim Dean discussed Orangetown’s preliminary research on setting up stormwater districts. Orangetown separated items (anything related to drainage) out of its Town budget and added a Stormwater line item; this line item may then be used to pay for drainage/stormwater work carried out by the Highway Department. Most villages do not have the mechanism in their budget to set up this process.
- F. Round 8 covers the time period of 1/1/05 - 12/31/07. It appears that the state is being deliberately slow in its reimbursement payments due to the NYS budget crisis. It was recommended that the consultant – Greater Hudson Valley Engineering (GHVE) submit the Project Workplan to DEC as soon as possible due to this delay in reimbursements.
- G. Jim Dean noted that currently the SWCD is paying the consultant- GHVE out of their pocket and so GHVE needs to have the Work Plan submitted ASAP (it should have been submitted months ago), so that the SWCD can receive some grant funds to pay GHVE.
- H. Mary noted that unused funds from Round 8 may be added to Round 9 available funds.
- I. Mary reminded those who might still need to map their catch basins (not outfalls) that Doug Schuetz of the Rockland County Planning Dept. has digitized maps of all of the storm drains/catch basins in the county.

2. Feedback from Audits by the DEC

- A. Ramapo received a “satisfactory” rating from the DEC. It helped to have all of their files organized in advance, for ease of access by the DEC. They also had staff from various departments ready and available to answer the auditors’ questions. In reviewing the Plan, the DEC focused primarily on the Minimum Control Measures 1-6.

- B. Stony Point and Clarkstown have both been audited. In several cases, the DEC asked if staff had participated in training on “Illicit Discharge.” It was recommended that CCE organize a training on this topic (*consider involving Jim Maxwell as a potential instructor.*)
- C. Kevin Maher used the EPA Stormwater Management Plan Template (available on the EPA’s website) and found it to be useful and met the DEC’s need.

3. New MS4 Annual Report Form

- A. The form is due to the NYS-DEC by June 1, 2009. It is a new form this year, so be aware of this change. Kevin Fitzpatrick will send out an email to all Consortium members with the link to this new form. Public meetings about the report are not required this year, as long as the MS4 makes the report available on a public website and allows time for the public to read and respond to the report.
- B. This year’s form also includes new questions about the amount of fertilizers and pesticides applied to the grounds.

4. Miscellaneous Announcements:

- A. Paul reported that the Village of Wesley Hills has approved and submitted its *Inter-municipal Agreement* and *Memorandum of Understanding*.
- B. Mary invited members to pick up new Storm Drain Markers from her office if they are interested in having storm drains marked in their communities.
- C. September 29 – will be a required training for all contractors on stormwater management; more information will be provided at a later date by Mary Hegarty.
- D. The Water Quality Committee (WQC) will host a presentation on *Bottled Water vs Tap Water* on March 25 at 7 pm at the Ramapo Town Senior Citizen’s Community Center, 319 Haverstraw Road, Montebello, NY. The speakers are Dan Miller (Rockland County Health Dept.) and Dr. Susan Golz, RCC.
- E. The WQC will also hold a seminar on *Green Roofs* on April 20 at 7 pm in the Ellipse Auditorium of the new Technology Center at RCC. The speaker is Michael Franco, Sr. Designer for Town and Gardens Ltd., New York City, NY
- F. Paul noted that Chuck Stead has been hired as the new Environmental Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension as of April 1. A resident of Airmont, Chuck is a well known environmentalist in Rockland, with experience as an educator, historian, storyteller, author, producer and community volunteer.

The meeting adjourned at 3:35 pm.