



**Cornell University**  
Cooperative Extension  
Rockland County

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**Storm Water Consortium Meeting Minutes:**

**Meeting Date: February 9, 2010, 2pm to 3:30pm at CCE, Stony Point, NY**

**Present:** Charles Sawicki, Village of Suffern; Ron Delo, Orangetown; Kevin P. Maher, Town of Stony Point; Doris Ulman, Villages of Chestnut Ridge and Pomona; Ted Dzurinko, Town of Ramapo; Mike Sadowski, Town of Ramapo; Vin Morgan, Village of Upper Nyack; Eve Mancuso, Villages of Nyack, Haverstraw, Wesley Hills, Pomona; Luke Kalarickal, Town of Clarkstown; Frank Fleischer, Rockland County Drainage Agency; Joseph Caruso, town of Haverstraw; P.J. Corless, Villages of Pomona and West Haverstraw; Chuck Stead, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland; Yesenia Nieves, intern Cornell Cooperative Extension of Rockland

Meeting opened with a vote on accepting minutes from the January meeting. Doris motioned and Mike seconded the motion, they passed.

**Review of Contracts:** After a short review of the contracts that were sent out two weeks earlier the consortium felt comfortable with them as they stand. Mike reported that he had heard from Rachel and Mary and that the word was the reports from the MS4s were in. Following this there was some discussion about the performance of the agency (Greater Hudson Valley Engineering) through whom the MS4s have filed their last year's reports and there was some consideration as to whether or not the Consortium was satisfied with this organization. Chuck expressed curiosity as to how this agency and the Consortium were to be re-reimbursed, he was told that it was the Consortium's understanding that the agency was to be paid when the MS4s received their state funded reimbursements.

**Some Further Discussion on Greater Hudson Valley Engineering:**

At this point in the meeting the Consortium members elected to discuss further the status of their reports and as to when they might be notified by Greater Hudson Valley Engineering. There was some concern that they were not being kept in the loop. (Note: I had not realized at the time that Mary Haggerty had emailed to let me know that she was not attending the meeting and that Rachel said all but two members had gotten their material in.) Some members believed that it was Rachel's job to keep the Consortium in the loop. Ron said that he was going to speak with Jim Dean to learn of the status of the contracts. Some members believed that since the grant was being administered by Soil and Water Conservation the updates on it should be coming from there and generally Jim Dean was the source for that but others believed that Rachel ought to be a bit more persistent in her communications.

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### **Nominating Committee:**

Chuck asked if the Consortium members were considering a nominating committee as of yet. He was told that they will bring this up in the March meeting.

**Review of participant lists and workshops over the past year:** Joe Caruso asked for lists of participants in Barbara Kendall's Code Enforcement workshops from January 26 as well as any material collected that could be added to the MS4s summaries for this past year. Chuck gave out copies of both things (see attached document for the Code Enforcement workshop lists and see other attached document for Programs and Volunteer Master Schedule for any potential connections for your MS4 records, also I will be sending you a record of storm water education work that I did over the past year any other possible connections for your records).

### **Review of Time Line:**

There was a short review of the time line that was noted in the cover letter Chuck sent out with the contracts. Doris pointed out that a thirty day break was a standard with municipalities, this in reference to the time frame between monthly meetings, so it was agreed that a limit of a sixty day time frame was to be allowed starting from the time the MS4 received the signed returned contract from CCE with the attached bill. Joe expressed an interest in having the municipality attach its own voucher with the payment to CCE for the record.

### **Discussion of Annual Report due in March:**

MS4 reps discussed their work on completing the annual reports that are summed up by March Tenth and due by June First. CCE will be able to supply rosters and evaluations for the 'Programs and Volunteer Master Schedule' dates that any MS4s included in their report. Chuck will attach documents (see above) and can supply evaluations for the Kendall workshops. The Code Enforcement workshop on January 26 had a total of 48 in attendance for the day. Some Consortium members had signed a list requesting a copy of the power point from Barbara Kendall and she sent it to them but others had not signed it and would like to receive it. Chuck will contact Barbara and request she send it to CCE and he will forward it to whoever requests it. He suggested that he forward it to the entire Consortium.

### **Program Discussion:**

Chuck reported that as a result of the fourth question on the Evaluation of Code Enforcement Mitigation Practices which was a request as to what other workshops/seminars would be of interest there was a good deal of interest in: storm water management, watershed education, blacktop road repair, drainage and maintenance of drainage systems, automotive and garage good house keeping operations, and anything on new requirements.

Ted asked about the idea of doing an in-house training at the Ramapo DPW garage and the Consortium agreed that this would be a good course for the spring sometime in April or May. Chuck suggested they consider some of the workshops listed with the **Cornell Local Roads Programs** as posted last December of 2008, this includes: Asphalt Paving Principles, Basics of a Good Road, Pavement Maintenance, Roadway and Roadside Drainage, Small Highway Department Management, Snow and Ice Control Operations. He gave out a list from the Local Roads Program and asked the Consortium members to consider the topics.

Chuck then initiated a discussion about **Don Lakes Stormwater Management Training Series** 2010 that is currently being sponsored at CCE of Orange County. Don Lake is teaching day long courses (8:30 to 4:30) at the Community Campus, 18 Seward Ave., Third Floor, Middletown, NY 10940. Although the first two courses have been held, there are still the following courses: March 4, Stormwater Management Design; April 9, Better Site Design; May 25, Erosion and Sediment Control 1; May 26, Erosion and Sediment Control 2; June 15, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE). These courses are \$225 per day. Chuck handed out a description of each course. He suggested that if any members were interested in a particular course we might car pool. Some members felt that Don Lake's series ought to be brought down to Rockland and Chuck said that our CCE could look into this for next year.

Another Operations Workshop that was announced was the **NY Materials 2010 Operations Workshop** being held up at Syracuse on March 3. Although the registration deadline was passed on February 19<sup>th</sup>, Chuck brought this one up as another source for workshop educators in particular Jason Kappel and Maryann Ashworth (from Spectra Environmental) who offer training on New Construction Stormwater Permits. There seemed to be little interest in this.

Chuck announced that he was taking one of the CCE vans to the **Watershed Planning Across Political Boundaries** workshop at SUNY New Paltz on February 24<sup>th</sup>. He offered to drive anyone who might want to come along. This is sponsored by the Hudson River Watershed Alliance and is a project of the Open Space Institute.

Ron mentioned that potential audits by DEC make a big deal with staffing. DEC apparently wanted to designate a Storm Water Manager at every site (with each MS4?) and he talked about how as the audits increase they appear to be expecting more. This caused Joe to suggest that DEC might offer a guideline workshop with review of their expectations.

#### **Discussion on FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program:**

There was a discussion of the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, as many Consortium members had received an email from Christopher Jensen, program coordinator at the county office of Fire and Emergency Services. This email was a notice to remind folks that NYS Emergency Management Office (SEMO) had announced that it will be accepting Letters of Intent (LOIs) for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HGMP) relating to declarations DE-1857 and DR-1869, "Sever Storms and Flooding". This email reminded folks that FEMA is currently in the process of reviewing Rockland County's All Hazards Natural Disaster Plan submission, and as such all the municipalities are eligible to submit an application package. This brought up some concern, as the deadline for the LOIs is 5 PM Friday February 26 of this year, the LOI work and application takes time, and given that there was no knowledge as to how FEMA's review of the County's Plan had gone Consortium members were not eager to get involved. There was some discussion about how in the recent past FEMA applications were rejected for the slightest over site (a box not checked on the form). Kevin Mayer from Stony Point talked about how in the passed they he had applied well in advance and then with only two days to go to the deadline at that time he discovered there was a clerical error in the application and he was rejected. He, for one, did not want to go through with another application if the county plan was not getting approved. Chuck will put in call to Chris Jensen and ask for an update on the plan.

**New date for Barbara Kendall's up coming program:**

March 9<sup>th</sup> is the new date for Barbara Kendall's next program here at CCE, that being Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping: Assessing and Keeping Records. As last time this program will be from 10-11:30 AM and repeated from 1-2:30 on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup>. Chuck will send out a new registration form for this program.

**Potential of Enhanced Role of AmeriCorps with the Municipalities:**

As a result of a dialog between Ron and Kevin about the need for enhanced inspection of outfalls and catch basins Chuck asked if any of the MS4s had hired AmeriCorps workers for such inspection over the summer. Mike said he had done this for a couple of seasons, that the interns were fairly good workers but there was some difficulty over the starting times and he wasn't entirely sure that the Training week actually offered relevant focus for such work. Chuck told the Consortium members that over the passed summer he had learned that the supervision was minimal with both the Town of Haverstraw and the Town of Clarkstown workers. In Haverstraw the workers were assigned catch basin and storm drain inspections but they were not satisfied with the guidance they had been given. Chuck reported that he held a workshop with them on how to interpret sewage maps and how best to examine storm catch basins and drains. He went out with them and worked a couple of blocks of inspections and taught them how to document drainage conflicts and learn about flow direction. In Clarkstown Chuck worked with the stream inspectors and taught them about bio-monitoring and about what to look for in the way of residential and industrial impact on the watershed and how to document this. He asked the Consortium members if they would be interested in having AmeriCorps workers do such on site inspections and documentation, and he offered to include this work in both the training week and in follow up sessions on site in the municipalities. He reported that he had been in dialog with Kathy Galione of AmeriCorps and that he was addressing three areas of improvement for the program: 1) encouraging returnees from the last season to come back and engage in the program in advance of the training week (usually the last week in June) and this would offer some 'hands on' guidance for the new workers; 2) he will do follow up training on site locations during the next six weeks (after training week) of the program, and 3) he wants to do engage the site supervisors at each site with some focus workshops on how to build the best relationship with the workers, as the workers were feeling like they were being taken for granted.

Ron liked these proposals and suggested that Chuck put together a package of the kind of educational program he wants to include with AmeriCorps at their sites.

Chuck advocated that this would be appropriate for the MS4s that had paid their contract fees and engaged the AmeriCorps program for new workers. He suggested that this was yet another advantage to being a paid member of this consortium. The Consortium discussed the potential of this AmeriCorps program running ten to eight weeks (assuming that the ten week time frame would be for the returnee workers, the eight weeks for the regulars, and that one of these weeks included the formal CCE training week). Mike offered to help with the field training as his methods were well received in the past. Generally speaking the workers liked the follow-up site visits as they reported being 'checked on' gave them the feeling that they mattered. Chuck offered to have a more structured training program for the Consortium review by next meeting.

**Next Meeting is March 16, 2010.**

**Special Note: The Omega Center for Sustainable Living: Water Reclamation Facility & Environmental Education Center** program this Wednesday February 24 at the Town of Ramapo Senior Citizen's Community Center, 319 Haverstraw Rd (Rte 202 & Mayer Dr.) Montebello. This program will examine how the Omega Center in the Town of Clinton completed an extensive water reuse project and constructed wetland for wastewater treatment system in 2009. Contact our own Mary Hegarty for more information at 364-2670.