

Poquessing Watershed Partnership Meeting

[Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC) Meeting No. 4]

Thursday, December 8, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Delaware Valley Veteran's Home at 2701 Southampton Rd just off of Roosevelt Boulevard

See list of attendees in Attachment A at end of minutes.

Meeting Minutes

Please note that these minutes and the PowerPoint presentations shown at the meeting are being posted at http://www.phillywatersheds.org/poq_working

Welcome and Introductions: *Paul Racette, Pennsylvania Environmental Council.* Paul welcomed the Partners and provided an overview of meeting to follow, which addressed the status of:

- Update and status of Poquessing Act 167 stormwater management plan
- Overview of PWD State Road relief sewer
- Partner updates

Updates and Status of Poquessing Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan: *Paul DeBarry, Project Manager, Water Resources, NTM Engineering Inc.* Paul provided an overview of the Act 167 plan using the below topic outline. Meeting notes/discussions added as sub-bullets. Paul DeBarry's presentation is posted for viewing and/or downloading at http://www.phillywatersheds.org/poq_working.

- Review of Problem Areas and Proposed Solutions
 - Problem areas in watershed identified by municipalities, PWD, and other observations. Problem area examples include sedimentation and erosion sites, structures (243 buildings) in flood plain, FEMA re-occurring flood claims, water back-up behind bridge obstructions, and stream impairments (sediment and PCBs).
 - Act 167 report identifies general and detailed problem areas on watershed map, and problem area forms with recommended solutions such as the development of regional stormwater management basins.
- Poquessing Hydrologic Model
 - Hydrologic model simulates rain fall and resulting runoff for urban areas. Modeling used to define release rates for stormwater management projects (i.e. release rate management districts). These rates time the release of water from stormwater projects in order to minimize peak stream flows across the watershed. The management districts are defined in the below noted ordinance.
- Draft Ordinance Distribution and Review
 - Act 167 requires updates to municipal stormwater ordinances for new development and re-development projects over a certain size.
 - The regulations address earth disturbance activities that affect stormwater runoff. Smaller projects that fall under prescribed size thresholds are exempted from the regulations (see Table 106.1a of Act 167 ordinance for new impervious surface and earth disturbance thresholds).
 - A small project stormwater management site plan can be submitted without an engineer approved plan if the project is less than 1,500 square feet of new impervious surface and less than 1 acre of earth disturbance. Examples of how to construct the small projects are included in an appendix to the Act 167 plan.
- Draft Report Outline
 - The outline of the Act 167 plan was provided in the presentation

- Next Steps and Schedule-Timeline
 - Paul described a process whereby the draft Act 167 plan will be reviewed by the municipalities and other watershed stakeholders, PWD, the counties, and PA DEP before being finalized in approximately 6 months.
 - Paul DeBarry requested comments from WPAC members by January 7th. Written comments have already been received on the plan (see attachment B) and forwarded to Paul DeBarry for inclusion in the Plan and Ordinance.

Overview of PWD State Road relief sewer: *Valessa Souter-Kline, Watersheds Program Coordinator & Outreach Specialist, Trans-Pacific Engineering Corp. Consultant to the Philadelphia Water Department.* Valessa provided an overview of this recently completed project. It was designed to address sewer overflows that were occurring due to infiltration and inflow of stormwater into the sanitary sewer. To address the overflow issue, PWD completed a two mile long interceptor pipe that can hold 7 million gallons of overflow that is then directed to the Northeast Water Pollution Control Plan for treatment before discharge to the Delaware River.

Partner Updates: Updates from partnership members on current or upcoming projects/events occurred as follows:

- Tony Belfield of Bensalem Township reported on Dinosaur Lake, a man-made lake located on Bensalem Township Country Club lands along Poquessing Creek. The Township recently acquired the Country club along with Dinosaur Lake and other natural lands along the creek. They are planning to procure a grant from Bucks Count to preserve these lands under the county's Natural Areas Program (that is, 68 acres of Atlantic coastal plan forests). There is concern about the berm between Poquessing Creek and Dinosaur Lake eroding and breaching.
- Tony Belfield also reported on proposed Cornwallis Elementary School stormwater detention facility. The school district has proposed the design and construction of a stormwater detention that would provided additional stormwater storage and control. No further information at this time on status of project, but if it moves forward the Partnership could look at public education and outreach opportunities associated with the project.
- Glenn Graham reported on the proposed NE Trail. Railroad construction activity is occurring along the track/trail right of way to accommodate double stack rail cars. Glenn proposed that while the construction is ongoing, it could be an opportunity to also make trail improvements.

Attachment A - Attendees:

Last Name	First Name	Affiliation
Belfield	Tony	Bensalem Township
DeBarry	Paul	NTM Engineering
Featherstone	Jeff	Temple University Center for Sustainable Communities
Graham	Rev.Dr. Glenn	Philadelphia NorthEast Trail
Ihle	Eric	Benjamin Rush State Park
Mora	Denis	Philadelphia Water Department
Olson	Jacqueline	Philadelphia Parks and Recreation
Racette	Paul	Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Rogulus	Meghan	Bucks County Conservation District
Souter-Kline	Valessa	Trans-Pacific Engineering Corp for PWD
Zlotnick	Suzanne	Friends of Poquessing Watershed

Attachment B - Written comments to Act 167 stormwater ordinance received from WPAC members:

Donna Remick, Friends of Poquessing:

- Below is one comment that I received (from Charles Younger), and I'd also like to hear the answer.
- My own problem with these ordinances is that variances are routinely granted.

Charles Younger, Friends of Poquessing:

- I'm sorry I don't feel enough enthusiasm to read through this. One obvious point of conjecture is why the many redevelopment exemptions for Bucks and Montgomery if they should have at least acknowledged that a problem exists that needs to be remedied.

Tony Belfield, Bensalem Township

- My opinion is that it would be better for the Township to have one ordinance that applies to all the watersheds, as opposed to separate ones governing the Neshaminy and Poquessing. However, if there are unique issues between the two watersheds I can see the need for two separate ordinances. I will go with what the experts feel is best.
- Ron, would it be possible to share with Paul a copy of the draft ordinance for the Neshaminy? ... Paul, if you could review this draft, and if acceptable in its current form, maybe we can just have it approved for both the Neshaminy and Poquessing, killing two birds with one stone?
- Regarding Neshaminy Ordinance for Bensalem: Barbara Kirk and Ron Gans have prepared the Act 167 Stormwater Ordinance to comply with the County model ordinance. Both the Township and County Planning Commissions have reviewed it and have recommended adoption. Barbara Kirk and Marge will determine when it can go on Council's agenda.

Ted Taylor, Lower Southampton Township (regarding two ordinances)

- Yes, we have both watersheds (Neshaminy and Poquessing) and a combined ordinance makes perfect sense. Wayne Kiefer was working on this.

Paul Racette, Pennsylvania Environmental Council (on multi watershed ordinances)

- Bensalem Township is looking at Neshaminy and Poquessing ordinances, with an eye towards a combined Act 167 ordinance. We just need to figure out where there is a need for watershed specific subsections.