

Poquessing Watershed Partnership Meeting
[Watershed Plan Advisory Committee (WPAC) Meeting No. 5]
Monday, May 21, 2012, 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 noon
Glen Foerd Mansion

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
- Potential Shoreline Restoration at Glen Foerd
- Partner updates

Paul noted that the focus on this meeting is the presentation of the almost final Poquessing Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan. This version of the plan reflects updates received as a result of review and comments by WPAC, PWD, and PA DEP. The final steps for approving the plan include holding a public hearing and then having the counties and then PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) adopt the plan. After PA DEP adoption, the plan is final and the Poquessing Watershed municipalities have 6 months to update their ordinances to meet Act 167 plan ordinance requirements

Additional Poquessing Watershed Partnership activities will focus on plan implementation, stormwater management and watershed restoration projects, public education and outreach that fosters better stormwater management practices, and the promotion of public access to watershed resources (e.g. via trail development).

Updates and Status of Poquessing Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan: *Paul DeBarry, Project Manager, Water Resources, NTM Engineering Inc.* Paul DeBarry provided a summary of the Act 167 plan. His presentation is posted for viewing and/or downloading at http://www.phillywatersheds.org/poq_working.

Paul DeBarry addressed the following topics; meeting notes are added as sub-bullets:

- WPAC Members – Thank you!
 - WPAC members thanked for their participation, with primary members recognized (municipalities, counties, planning commissions, conservation districts, PWD, Friends of Poquessing, NE Trail, and other citizen/watershed groups).
- Review of Phase II Work / Useful Products
 - Paul DeBarry identified primary Act 167 plan Phase II products including watershed GIS layers (e.g. land use, soils, obstructions, problem areas), problem areas analyses, water quantity modeling, modeling, and model ordinance.
 - He walked through several problem area analyses such as where there are flood prone structures and what storms can and cannot pass under bridge obstructions.

- He recommended several stormwater management solutions such as retrofitting stormwater basins, building regional stormwater storage basins, and planting riparian vegetation.
- He noted that plan does not address sea level rise issues.
- He noted that new FEMA flood mapping included taking “lines on paper” and digitizing them on aerial overlays, but that they did not update the hydraulics for these new FEMA flood plain maps.
- Review of DEPs Comments
 - Paul included several slides that summarized the comments that PA DEP made during their review of the Poquessing Act 167 plan. PA DEP comments mostly addressed text and reference changes. No changes to modeling recommended.
- Differences Between Pennypack and Poquessing Ordinances
 - Paul noted that some of the PA DEPs comments to the Poquessing result in there being some differences between the Pennypack and Poquessing Watershed ordinances. Municipalities with land cover in both watersheds will have to consider these differences as they update ordinances. Paul identified differences in “applicability”, “purpose”, “general requirements” and “calculation methodology” sections.
- Review of FINAL DRAFT Ordinance
 - Paul reviewed several ordinance sections including applicability, exemptions, small project management site plans, stormwater management requirements, and peak rate control management districts.
- Next Steps, Schedule, Timeline
 - Paul described the following Act 167 plan finalization steps:
 - DEP already informally approved the draft final plan on 5/4/12.
 - WPAC final review by 5/21/12
 - NTM to incorporate final comments by 5/30/12.
 - Plan adoption by Counties before June 30, 2012 (note: this did not happen, required public hearing held on July 12 2012, and counties can now adopt plan).
 - PA DEP official approval – July 2012 (note: this could slip to August as counties still need to adopt plan. Montgomery County scheduled for July 19th, Bucks need to schedule adoption).
 - Municipal adoption of the ordinance (6 months after PA DEP approval).

As Plan is finalized, Bruce Offner of Lower Southampton Environmental Advisory Committee suggested that the plan be condensed into a video or shorter PowerPoint presentation for the purpose of informing Township officials about the plan to prompt action on plan implementation. GreenTreks video production was suggested. He suggested a connection be made between the Poquessing and greater Buck’s County and the Delaware Estuary. Valessa Souter-Kline of PWD will check into the GreenTreks option.

Potential Shoreline Restoration at Glen Foerd, Meg Sharp Walton, Executive Director, Glen Foerd. Meg reported on update to Glen Foerd' strategic plan and the potential for environmental education and ecological restoration at the facility. The strategic plan is focusing on history, the arts, and nature. Primary assets include location of the facility and the historical nature of the mansion and grounds. They would like to increase public use/programming and see natural resources, environmental education and recreation as ways to do this (e.g. Glen Foerd is point of

interest along East Coast Greenway trail, it is on the Tidal Delaware Water Trail, it has the natural resources of the Poquessing and/or Delaware River shoreline).

Example of programming could be bird watching and other environmental education programs that bring visitors to Glen Foerd for education and events. Developing the Carriage House into an education center is an option. Suzanne Zlotnick of Friends of Poquessing is interested in supporting environmental education programs. Robin Eisman of NLT is interested in ecological restoration project. Valessa Souter-Kline noted that PWD outreach for Green City Clean Water projects (via Community Input Form) is another outreach option. We agreed to continue exploring ecological restoration and related public education programming.

Other Partner updates: Glenn Graham reported on CSX and Norfolk Southern Railroad construction activity along the NE trail alignment. While the work is for railroad improvement (modify grades to allow for double stacked cars), Glenn sees this as a potential opportunity to improve the trail planned for this right of way. It was reported that the Army Corps of Engineers regulates the railroad construction activity.

Attachment A - Attendees:

Maggie Allio, CDM for Philadelphia Water Department
Paul DeBarry, NTM Engineering
Robin Eisman, Natural Lands Trust and Consultant
Jeff Featherstone, Temple University Center for Sustainable Communities
Glenn Graham, Philadelphia Northeast Trail
Bruce Offner, Lower Southampton Township EAC
Paul Racette, Pennsylvania Environmental Council
Valessa Souter-Kline, Philadelphia Water Department
Michael Thompson, Philadelphia Planning Commission
Meg Sharp Walton, Glen Foerd
Suzanne Zlotnick, Friends of Poquessing