

Schuylkill and Delaware Direct Watershed Partnership Meeting and Tour
Thursday, May 24, 2012, noon – 2:30 pm
The Woodlands Mansion and Nearby BMP Sites

Attendees: See below at end of notes

Meeting Notes

Welcome and Introductions *Joanne Dahme, Philadelphia Water Department (PWD)*
Joanne welcomed the two partnership groups, reiterating partnership goals of collaborating on stormwater and waterway restoration projects.

Community Input Form Presentation *Valessa Souter-Kline, PWD*
Valessa presented on PWD's new online Community Input Form for Green Stormwater Infrastructure (phillywatersheds.org/cif) where community groups and individuals can propose site locations for PWD stormwater management projects. Through the *Green City, Clean Waters* program PWD is installing green stormwater infrastructure throughout the City. Site selection is based on a variety of criteria including, for example, land ownership (a detailed list of eligible property types can be found online), available space, the amount of stormwater that can be managed and community support for the project. Valessa described the various ways that PWD identifies potential projects and how interested communities can submit locations in their neighborhood for consideration. See attached *GC, CW Identifying Potential Green Stormwater Infrastructure Projects in Your Neighborhood* presentation.

Green City, Clean Waters Ambassador Program Overview *Paul Racette, PEC*
Paul summarized the recently initiated Ambassador Program, which trained neighborhood representatives to serve as the "go to" person for GC, CW program education, and promotion and stewardship of green stormwater. The presentation described the Ambassador recruitment and training process, and the roles and activities to be performed post training. See attached *GC, CW Ambassadors Spring Class of 2012* presentation.

Paul also provided an overview of Delaware Direct Watershed Partnership activities, which have included development of goals and objectives, review and prioritization of green streets, and an overview of ecological restoration along the Delaware River. The partnership will continue to examine relationships between partner initiatives and the Green City, Clean Water program.

Stormwater Project Database Update *Valessa Souter-Kline, PWD*
Valessa summarized the watershed based stormwater project maps on PWD's website which will showcase all of the great work being done by partnership members! In addition to mapping out stormwater projects across the partnership area, the inventory will serve as a communication and resource link so that partners can stay informed of what is happening and who to contact for information on specific projects. To have your project added to the map, please submit the information outlined in the attached

Watershed Based Project Maps spreadsheet via e-mail to valessa.souter-kline@phila.gov
See attached *Interactive Watershed Project Maps* presentation.

Partner Updates *Attendees*

Sarah Thorp of the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC) described DRWC project updates including:

- Acquisition of 11 acres of land along the piers in south Philadelphia for the purpose of ecological restoration. This acquisition was facilitated by the Natural Lands Trust and via funding from the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. It is part of what is a planned 40 acre restoration project in the area between Washington Avenue and Pier 74. A press event is planned for June 6th (canceled due to conflicts; will be rescheduled).
- A June 7th Race Street Pier Promenade festivity event will take place at the Race Street Pier Park, including food and entertainment. This is a fund raising event with proceeds benefiting arts programming on the waterfront.
- Upgrades have been completed on Race Street to enhance connections from the neighborhoods to the Race Street Pier. These include a bike lane, signage, benches, bollards, curb realignments, increased sidewalk widths, crosswalks, plantings and a light screen along the right-side wall of the highway underpasses.
- DRWC is working with the New Kensington Community Development Corporation on creating green street enhancement features for the Columbia Street connection from the neighborhoods to Penn Treaty Park.
- DRWC is participating in the Spring Garden Street master plan effort which is considering a trail and green street connection on Spring Garden between the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers.
- Design work is underway on the Penn Street Trail, which will connect Spring Garden Street with the Sugar House Casino's portion of the central Delaware waterfront trail.

Tom Branigan of the Delaware River City Corporation reported the following updates:

- Opening of Lardner's Point Park, a 4.5 acre park along the North Delaware waterfront. The park includes 300 feet of fringe wetland restoration along the waterfront along with upland meadows and tree/shrub plantings. The park includes the first section of the K&T riverfront trail.
- An RFP for construction of the Port Richmond Trail was recently issued; this trail section will extend along Allegheny Avenue from Richmond Street to Delaware Avenue, and on Delaware Avenue from Allegheny Avenue to Lewis Street. An October 2012 construction start is expected
- The K&T will likely be advertised for construction in early 2013; this trail will run along the river from the Frankford Arsenal boat launch upriver to the Tacony boat launch.

Tom Davidock of the Schuylkill Action Network (SAN) and Partnership for the Delaware Estuary reported on SAN rain garden projects with area schools and on SAN source water protection activities.

Cynthia Kishinchand of the Tree Tenders and GC, CW Ambassador Program reported on East Fall Tree Tender projects.

The Lower Schuylkill River Master Plan development process is advancing. The Master Plan is a collaborative effort to create a blueprint for high-quality sustainable redevelopment of the historically industrial corridor along the east and west banks of the Lower Schuylkill River in Philadelphia. For further details contact Andrew Goodman of Penn Praxis at agoodman@design.upenn.edu.

Tour:

- **The Woodlands site** – *Jessica Baumert, The Woodlands*
 - Overview of meadow created on Woodlands property
- **University of The Sciences - Rain Garden** -*Sue Pringle (University City (UC) Green)*
 - Overview of native plant rain garden created at Chester Avenue and 43rd St.
- **Clark Park** – *Infiltration Systems PWD/PEC*
 - Overview of the existing stormwater infiltration bed below the Clark Park basketball court, which manages runoff from ~32,000sf of impervious surface along 43rd Street from Chester Avenue to the basketball court as well as from the parking lot directly adjacent. Future plans propose a stormwater infiltration bed below the 43rd street sidewalk from Baltimore Avenue to Chester Avenue.

Attendees:

Organization	Name (Attendee)
University of Pennsylvania and Friends of Clark Park	Erin Engelstad
UC Green	Sur MacQueen
Friends of Clark Park/ Phila Public Record	Tony West
Southwest CDC	Elhadji Mdiayi
Schuylkill River Development Corp	Danielle Gray
University City Green	Sue Pringle
Amtrak	Philip Economou
Partnership for the Delaware Estuary	Tom Davidock
The Woodlands	Jessica Baumert

Philadelphia Water Dept.	Valessa Souter-Kline
Philadelphia Water Dept.	Joanne Dahme
Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Liz Feinberg
Pennsylvania Environmental Council	Paul Racette
Philadelphia Water Dept.	Maggie Deptola
Philadelphia Department of Commerce and Delaware River City Corporation	Jim Donaghy
Delaware River City Corporation	Tom Branigan
Delaware River City Corporation	Debra Halligan
PWD Ambassador (Northern Liberties) + Hazen and Sawyer	Nicole Healy
PWD Ambassador (Lower Moyamensing) + U Penn	Anna Shipp
Philadelphia City Planning Commission	Michael Thompson
PWD Ambassador (East Falls)	Cynthia Kishinchand
	Kumar Kishinchand
PWD Ambassador (Passyunk Square Civic Association)	Sarah Anton
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission	Amy Miller
Delaware River Waterfront Corporation	Sarah Thorp
New Kensington CDC	Shanta Schachter
New Kensington CDC	Carla Castillo