

**Wissahickon Watershed Partnership
Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan Kick-off Meeting
Thursday, October 7, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 am
Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, 12 Morris Road, Ambler**

Attendees: See below at end of notes

Meeting Notes

I-Introduction and Welcome – Paul Racette, Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC)

Paul introduced the meeting agenda, noting the focus on launching the Act 167 stormwater management plan. He showed selected slides from a PA Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) slide show summarizing the Act 167 process, including:

- Purpose is to address increased rate and volume of stormwater runoff.
- Requires watershed-based plans that address stormwater quantity and quality, and groundwater and stream channel protection.
- Watershed Plan Advisory Committee should be involved in plan development.
- Municipalities should keep track of plan development costs; PA DEP may be able to reimburse municipal costs.

Paul also called attention to the stormwater/stream project inventory created at the last partnership meeting, and circulated the inventory requesting that project updates be noted (see attached *Wissahickon Project List*; please send any updates).

II-Wissahickon Watershed Act 167 Highlights and Scope of Work – Jeff Featherstone, Temple University Center for Sustainable Communities

Jeff provided an overview of the Act 167 plan and related flood plain mapping initiatives:

- He called attention to updated FEMA flood insurance rate maps now being released for Montgomery County. They will include 2-foot contour maps developed by Temple for Sandy Run Portion of the watershed.
- He described an effort to further update the maps for the rest of the watershed. Temple expects to receive \$250,000 of state funding to modernize the flood insurance rate maps in Montgomery County (i.e. create the 2-foot contour maps), and they will be asking for municipal match to complete this project. They also are seeking funding from PennDOT in 2011.
- He noted that FEMA flood payment claims in the watershed between January 2008 and March 2010 were over \$26 million. The location of FEMA flood claims will be use to help define and recommend solutions to problem areas.

Jeff then described the basic tasks (tasks 1 to 20) and final products of the Wissahickon Act 167 stormwater management plan. The plan development effort will take place from October 2010 to March 2013. The twenty tasks are described in Jeff's presentation posted at http://www.phillywatersheds.org/wiss_working.

In general, the tasks and products will include:

- Data collection and mapping. Most of this work will be done by Temple and NTM Engineering. Municipalities will be requested to submit readily available information (see Paul DeBarry's section below for details).
- Identification of current and likely future land use scenarios.
- Stormwater modeling (e.g. to evaluate impacts of obstructions, land use scenarios, and new stormwater management facilities).
- Development of updated flood plain maps including more accurate stream locations.
- Inventory of problem areas and proposed solutions.
- Inventory of potential stormwater best management practice projects (e.g. riparian buffers, infiltration trenches, and retrofitted stormwater basins), including cost evaluations.
- Act 167 stormwater ordinance.

See http://www.phillywatersheds.org/wiss_working for Jeff's full presentation.

III-Partner Questions, Concerns, and Interests

Bob Adams, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) regarding base flow issue:

- Bob report that the North Wales Waste Water Treatment Plant is slated for closure. This will result in the transfer of approximately 430,000 gallons per day (gpd) of treated effluent downstream to the Upper Gwynedd treatment plant. This will result in the loss of about 65% of total flow in the 6,500 feet of creek between the current and new discharge point. This area near the headwaters of the Wissahickon is already subject to low flow conditions.
- Bob also reported a second potential diversion of water from the creek in this area. Merck is seeking to divert treated wastewater flows from the Wissahickon Watershed. They are requesting the option to discharge up to 500,000 gpd (out of 1 million gpd that currently flows to Wissahickon) into the Neshaminy and/or Towamencin/Perkiomen Watersheds.
- Overall, Bob report that the shifts or diversion in water would exacerbate the low flow issues already associated with this headwater area.
- WVWA has proposed recommendations for how to address this issue, focusing on ways to recharge base flow. Examples of recommendations include (1) via infiltration galleries (e.g. on site of North Wale treatment plant), (2) stormwater wetlands along creek which capture and slowly release water back into creek, and (3) divert inflow and infiltration water before it reaches sanitary sewers and direct to infiltration beds.
- Bob noted that low groundwater elevations (e.g. below the level of the creek) is an issue that can further exacerbate the low base flow issue (e.g. infiltration would have to be located near the creek to assure creek recharge). Lisa Senior of the U.S. Geological Service noted that there is groundwater modeling data for this area (related to a separate project) that confirm this issue.
- See attached ***WVWA Potential closure of North Wales Water Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant and routing of flow to Upper Gwynedd Wastewater Treatment Plant Information and Position Summary*** for more details and recommendations.

Mindy Lemoine, Pennsylvania Environmental Council (PEC). Mindy reported on several issues including:

- Mindy provided copies of the **Wissahickon Roundtable** report. The Roundtable addressed Springfield, Upper Dublin, Whitpain, and Whitemarsh Township ordinances governing land development practices. The report provides specific recommendations for updating ordinances to better protect land and water resources. The report is posted at http://www.phillywatersheds.org/wiss_working.
- Mindy also reported on a **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Manager** system now being piloted by several local municipalities and consulting engineers. This is a commercial database that can be used by municipalities to manage their MS4 permit requirements and associated stormwater management projects.
- Mindy also reported briefly on the potential use of a municipal sediment credit system to address sediment reductions required under the Wissahickon Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations. The use of such a sediment credit system may be allowed under the soon to be updated MS4 permit. The sediment credit system proposes the use of stormwater volume reductions as a unit of measure for TMDL compliance. Volume reductions gained through best management projects such as basin retrofits and infiltration trenches could be used for compliance, and the proposed system would allow credit trading. An inventory of projects is currently available; the inventory will be expanded by Temple during Act 167 stormwater plan development.
- Mindy also reported briefly on the initiation of a municipal basin implementation team. The team consists of people who have implemented basin retrofit projects. The team will focus on how to reduce barriers to more widespread implementation of retrofit projects.

Municipal Participation – Data Collection Forms

Paul DeBarry, NTM Engineering

Paul DeBarry summarized the data collection effort associated with the Act 167 process. He reported on available documents, studies, and data layers for the Wissahickon Watershed (see his presentation at http://www.phillywatersheds.org/wiss_working). He then reviewed data types that can be provided by the municipalities. Municipalities are requested to identify problem areas (e.g. flood plain encroachment, undersized storm drains or stream channels, erosion/sedimentation, water quality issues). They are also being asked to document the location of stormwater features such as flood control projects, stormwater control facilities, and stormwater collection systems.

Paul provided a series of forms on which this data can be documented. Hard copies of the forms were presented to municipalities; electronic versions were forwarded post meeting.

Discussion regarding Act 167 implementation:

Discussed focused on how to sync the Act 167 plan with upcoming MS4 permit revisions, focusing on TMDL compliance:

- Jeff Featherstone noted the Act 167 plan is not scheduled for completion until March 2013. There is currently a project inventory that could be used for TMDL compliance, but stormwater modeling that can inform project selection will not be complete till 2012.

- The schedule for the MS4 permit update is tentatively November 2010, with a June 2011 deadline for municipalities to submit their notices of intent to comply with the permit. They then would have additional time to prepare a TMDL compliance plan that includes percent sediment reduction targets and projects.
- A suggestion was made that municipalities could state in their notices of intent their intention to use the Act 167 plan and products to establish TMDL compliance projects. They could then follow-up during the first two years of the permit with specific compliance project details that would be implemented during the 5 year cycle of the permit.

Other partner questions, concerns, and interests:

Lisa Senior of the U.S. Geological Service notified the group of a USGS Water Alert service. The system alerts subscriber's to recently updated stream gauge information, and so can be a useful tool for updates on flood levels. Lisa forwarded the below information after the meeting:

The USGS Water Alert service is free and sends email or text notification based on the subscriber's interest, such as stream stage if flooding were of concern, or water-quality parameters if something like pH or dissolved oxygen were of concern. The service is available for all real-time USGS data (stream stage and discharge, groundwater levels, and/or water-quality that is updated hourly or every 4 hours).

The link to the USGS Water Alert is <http://water.usgs.gov/wateralert/> with additional instructions described in the attached ***WaterAlert Directions*** file.

The user may also subscribe to Water Alert for any real-time data-collection site listed at the following link by clicking on the site and looking for the Water-Alert button. The link to USGS real-time water data in Pennsylvania can be found at <http://pa.water.usgs.gov/current.html>

For more information on this service, contact Kirk White (610) 321-2434 ext. 218

Attendees

Wissahickon Watershed Partnership

Date: October 7, 2010

Purpose: Act 167 Stormwater Plan Kick Off meeting

| Name | | Organization | Email |
|-----------------------|--------------|---|--|
| Bob | Adams | Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association | Bob@wwa.org |
| Ronald | Ayres | Wissahickon Restoration Volunteers | RonaldAyres@juno.com |
| Kaitlyn | Bendik | U.S. EPA, Region III | Bendik.Kaitlyn@epamail.epa.gov |
| John | Chambers | Montgomery Township | staff.csq@chambersassoc.com |
| Sister Mary Elizabeth | Clark | montgomery County Planning Commission | mclark@ssjphila.org |
| Susan | Curry | Ambler Environmental Advisory Council | suscurry@comcast.net |
| Joanne | Dahme | Philadelphia Water Department | joanne.dahme@phila.gov |
| Paul | DeBarry | NTM Engineering | pdebarry@ntmeng.com |
| Jeff | Featherstone | Temple Center for Sustainable Communities | feather1@temple.edu |
| Michele | Fountain | CKS Engineers, Inc. | mafountain@cksengineers.com |
| Rick | Fromuth | Temple Center for Sustainable Communities | rhw07@aol.com |
| Tim | Haney | Upper Dublin Township | |
| Betsy | Hammonds | Johnson & Johnson | ehammond@its.jnj.com |
| Doug | Heller | Springfield Township | heller@hellerspringfield.com |

| | | | |
|----------|-------------------|---|--|
| Desiree | Henning-Dudley | PA Department of Environmental Protection | dhenningdu@state.pa.us |
| Rudy | Kastenhuber | Cheltenham Township | rkastenhuber@cheltenham-township.org |
| John | Katsaros | CZOP/Spector Inc. for Upper Gwynedd | jkatsaros@czopspector.com |
| Jennifer | Kehler | PA Dept of Environmental Protection | jekebler@state.pa.us |
| Jon | Leshner | Montgomery County Planning Commission | jlesher@mail.montcopa.org |
| David | Link | Johnson & Johnson | dlink@its.jnj.com |
| Daniel | McCreary | Upper Gwynedd Township | danugt@comcast.net |
| Bob | Meyer | Chestnut Hill College | meyer@chc.edu |
| Dennis | Pennington | Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association | dennis@wwwa.org |
| Amy | Riddle-Montgomery | Springfield Township | amontgomery@bjengineers.com |
| Lisa | Senior | U.S. Geological Service | lasenior@usgs.gov |
| Dan | Shinskie | Lansdale Borough Waste Water Treatment Plant | dshinskie@lansdale.org |
| Nancy | Venner | Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association | nancy@wwwa.org |
| Nathan | Walker | AMEC Earth and Environmental | nathan.Walker@amec.com |