

MINUTES OF MS4 COMMITTEE MEETING  
March 14, 2016

Present: Jay Card, Laury Dowd, Chris Tehan, Billy Banks, John Colby, Jim Colligan

Laury discussed the changes on the MS4 scene and the meetings with the DEC held at the Peconic Estuary Protection Committee. There was a PEPC discussion with PEPC in February on how DEC categorizes properties it puts on its 303(d) list. Fresh Pond had been on that list at one time, but the DEC removed it and placed it on a no immediate action status. The problem is that the DEC is classifying waterbodies as 303(d) impaired by urban stormwater runoff even if the waterbody has little or no contact with urban stormwater runoff. The discussion revealed that the DEC uses the urban stormwater runoff classification as their catch all if they cannot identify any other source. The DEC agreed to try to find some other term. It also turns out that the DEC will not accept any water test results unless they have been processed through the DEC-approved laboratory. While the DEC expressed a willingness to accept water samples that the town collects, they made it clear that their lab does have very little capacity to process any samples other than DEC high priority ones. There is a lack of interest in Albany to provide funding to expand the state's testing capacity. The result is that many waterbodies will be listed as impaired and not open to shellfishing out of an excess of caution rather than any actual impairment.

The PEPC has also been monitoring the progress of the Long Island Nitrogen Action Plan currently being developed. The East End towns are collecting GIS, zoning, drainage, sewer system and similar information from all their databases to develop a comprehensive GIS Land Mapping initiative. The goal is to make this available to the Nitrogen Action planners so that they can base their study on current and correct information rather than some database thirty years out of date.

Laury said that she would be starting the MS4 Annual Report for the period from 3/10/15 to 3/9/16. She will be requesting the quantitative data needed for the report and plans to have it ready for review by the MS4 Committee in April. It will then go to the Town Board and public for comment. The comment period will be over the last week in May because the report has to be submitted to the DEC by June 1.

The committee started review of the Town's good housekeeping procedures. Jay spoke about the town's GIS tracking of storm drains. He is working with Vim Tingle to update the database, as it turns out some drains were inadvertently left off when Vim created the drainage layer.

The Highway Department cleans storm drains regularly but their records are still handwritten in a notebook. Jay is transitioning to a system that will track the last time the drain was cleaned and prompt when another cleaning is due. He is planning a summer intern project to have the intern visit each drain and input what is physically in the ground.

Jay told Laury that the Marcello construction yard, which has a lot of dirt subject to stormwater runoff, drains into the state storm drain. The state has been called out to review the Marcello curb cut and should be addressing the MS4 problems as well.

Jay noted that there is a problem with drains filling up with dirt during new construction when the soil is disturbed. The committee discussed requiring a temporary construction road that is graded properly to avoid dumping dirty stormwater out onto the road. Jay asked the Building Department to require such a road from all new construction projects.

Jay said he is also following a SCHED recommendation to pump out all waterfront drains that are flooded in a storm, to prevent the salt water from being injected into aquifer. He said that there is a rubber plug that could be put over the top of a storm drain in advance of the storm to stop salt water intrusion in to storm drains. This will become a more pressing problem as sea level rise occurs. The down side is the cost of the plug and the work of installing and removing it.

The committee then focused on good housekeeping at the town's transfer station. Jay places collects storm drain cleaning materials, as well as street sweepings. He is working to adjust the landfill cap permit to elevate the hole so that solar panels can be placed there. He is seeking approval to use the above-described materials and crushed glass to fill in the landfill hole.

The committee discussed marking catch basins re drainage. It was suggested that Jay could do the marking via a stencil.

The committee agreed to continue the good housekeeping review at the April MS4 Committee meeting.

The meeting dates in 2016 are:

~~1/11, 2/8, 3/14,~~ 4/11, 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, 9/12, 10/17, 11/14, 12/12

The meeting adjourned at 3:55pm.

The next meeting will be on April 11, 2016.