

MINUTES OF MS4 COMMITTEE MEETING
March 9, 2015

Present: Paul Shepherd, Peter Reich, Jay Card, Chris Tehan, Laury Dowd
Absent: Butch Labrozzi, John Colby, Billy Banks

As preparation for compiling the 2014 MS4 Annual Report, the committee reviewed the comments on the 2013 Annual Report sent by Eileen Keenan on 12/29/14.

Eileen highlighted the Illicit Discharge MCM3 obligation. The 2013 report indicated that 90% of the outfalls were mapped. Jay said that all known outfalls have been mapped. He has instructed his highway workers and the bay constables to report any unexpected outfall pipes they run into during their work. Jay and his men will work on developing more details about the size and configuration of the system. Unfortunately most of it is not visible so it is difficult to develop a precise database. The Town has also upgraded its GIS mapping system for greater ease of use.

Laury asked Chris to check on the building department's follow-up on the discharge pipe at the St. Gabes property.

The focus turned to MCM4, Construction site runoff. Chris said that there were prominent postings re the obligation in the building department. His training will be expiring at the end of three years and he will redo. Chris said that there was an enforcement action taken this year when two acres were cleared. After issuing a stop work order, the owner submitted a SWPPP to the DEC and is complying.

In the 2013 Annual Report the focus was on phosphorous impairment, but correspondence from the DEC in 2014 indicates that the focus has now turned to nitrogen impairments, since the DEC has determined that all MS4s in the Peconic Estuary System have a nitrogen impairment. However, as correspondence between Southold and the DEC has indicated, the DEC has no factual basis for this determination. Moreover, there is no indication that nitrogen impairments come from MS4s, but rather from septic systems. These are regulated by the Suffolk County Health Department, which has been in the process of updating septic standards for several years. Until they

achieve this goal, the town must use their standards and there is little opportunity to change the main source of nitrogen into the estuary system. However, last summer the Town has started mapping the locations of well and septic systems on Shelter Island. This job is substantially done and will provide a good foundation for upgrading septic systems should the Suffolk County Health Department ever upgrade septic standards. The town engineer has attended a number of training sessions on this issue so that the town will be ready to proceed when allowed.

The town did substantial work on testing Fresh Pond last year. A thorough base-line was established in the spring, with subsequent testing in the fall. A written test protocol was established. The testing did not find any particular issues of concern in Fresh Pond.

The Town already has a non-fertilizer policy for town properties, and has prohibited the application of fertilizers within 100' of regulated wetlands. The Town has applied for a grant to install a pilot program advanced septic treatment system, to use as a demonstration project at the Town's youth center. This building is in the center of town (and thus is highly visible as part of the town's educational efforts) and in an area which has elevated concentrations of nitrates.

Re Post Construction stormwater management, MCM5, the focus is supposed to be on nitrogen. But it is difficult to see how nitrogen is being discharged through MS4s. The Town cannot afford to participate in the Peconic IMA this year, so there is limited access to information on how this could be addressed.

Re MCM6 Good Housekeeping measures re nitrogen, Jay will work on putting the fertilizer and turf management policies in writing. He says that the new rear-discharge mowers are more effective at keeping grass clippings out of storm drains. A project to move a portion of Dickerson Park to native plants is being studied and may also serve as a demonstration project for public education.

Laury noted that preparation of the 2014 Annual Report was commencing, and would incorporate this feedback. The committee will review the draft report at its next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.

The next meeting is April 13, 2015.

The Meeting dates for 2015 are:

~~1/12, 2/9, 3/9~~, 4/13, 5/11, 6/8, 7/13, 8/10, 9/14, 10/19, 11/9, 12/14