

**Stormwater Coalition of Albany County
Board of Directors Meeting**

**MINUTES
Village of Green Island
19 George Street
Thursday, September 21, 2012
8:30-9:30 am**

Board of Directors Attending:

Sean Ward, Village of Green Island, Chairman
John Dzialo, Town of Colonie
Dennis Feeney, Albany County
Carl Fleshman, Village of Colonie
Glenn Hebert, Village of Voorheesville
John McDonald, City of Cohoes
Doug Melnick, City of Albany
Paul Penman, Town of Bethlehem (Alternate)
Paul Reuss, Village of Menands

Board of Directors Absent:

Thomas Dolin, Town of New Scotland
James Bulmer, City of Watervliet
Ken d'Arpino, Town of Guilderland

Also Present:

Nancy Heinzen, Stormwater Coalition Coordinator
Melissa Ashline-Heil, City of Cohoes (Meeting Notes)
Garry Nathan, City of Cohoes

I. Approval of July 27, 2012 Minutes

John McDonald moved to approve the minutes; Paul Reuss seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Reports

A. Coalition Administration and Decisions

1. Coalition Account (2012)

Nancy provided an overview of the 2012 Budget Report. Although vouchers have been submitted to the state, we have yet to receive reimbursements for aerial imagery (Homeland Security grant) or for green infrastructure and storm system mapping expenses (NYSDEC Stormwater grant).

The Town of Guilderland 2012 membership check will be arriving shortly. The related budget amendment has yet to appear in our budget.

The spend-down of various budget lines continues as would be expected, with one exception. We are over budget for the GIS Tech health insurance. As this is a grant funded expense and our reserve money is inaccessible, how this will be addressed is unclear.

In general, the reserve account problems continue. The County is not crediting the grant dollars to the Coalition. The grant money reimbursement has not come in yet despite payments made. Therefore the Coalition has a deficit in the reserve account. This will be discussed with various County officials in October.

2. Staffing

The employees on staff continue to do well. However, changes are imminent. On July 1st, 2013 Christina's grant funded job ends; therefore storm system mapping services to the municipalities will end as well. Patty Shultis, hired as a student intern, will most likely graduate by July 1st, 2013 and most likely leave by July 1 as well.

If municipalities are interested in continuing ORI and storm system mapping related work, each municipality could contribute towards a salary for Christina as she has become very proficient in GIS and system mapping. The ORI and mapping duties help municipalities meet required SWMP tasks.

1. Updated Contact List and 2013 Meeting Schedule

Nancy provided and highlighted an updated list of Board and Working Group members based on changes in representation. She also presented a proposed 2013 meeting schedule. Mayor McDonald moved to approve the meeting schedule. Paul Reuss seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Work Plans

1. Coalition Work Plan

a) Activities

The Coalition hosted a well-attended Center for Watershed Protection "Get The Dirt On Stormwater" webcast (9/19) at the Pine Bush Discovery Center. Patty continues to help out with ORI inventory field work and the Rain Garden partnership (Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners and Albany County Soil and Water Conservation District) identified maintenance needs at several gardens. Coalition members continue to work on updating the SWMP.

b) Grant activities

Model Green Infrastructure Local Law work continues and a draft law is anticipated sometime in early November. The Green Infrastructure Local Law Advisory Committee is planning a Green Infrastructure tour for June and other workshops January or February of 2013.

Two intermunicipal storm system maps are nearing completion. One is the Krommakill storm sewershed, the other is the Dry River. Recognizing that NYS Department of Transportation storm water infrastructure is interspersed throughout all of the MS4s and related sewershed maps, Nancy and Christina met with DOT staff to find out how best and where to find information about their infrastructure. They were very helpful. With winter looming, staff time is focusing on field work, in particular mapping storm structures using Trimble GPS units.

III. Discussion/Decisions

A. Guilderland 2012 membership

Guilderland will pay \$10,000 for 2012 and the full rate for 2013. Mayor McDonald moved to approve and Paul Reuss seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The pro-rated membership fee and related allocation of some of that money towards the Temp Help line required a budget amendment which had been previously approved by the Board by e-mail. That e-mail decision needed to be ratified. Mayor McDonald moved to approve and ratify that budget amendment decision. Glenn Hebert seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

B. Intermunicipal Agreement & Statement of Intent

All entities have approved the IMA. However, the Coalition still needs signature pages for Albany County and City of Albany and the Town of Bethlehem. Colonie is meeting next Thursday to approve.

Next Nancy needs the Statement of Intent from municipalities. Most have been submitted. There are no issues regarding membership for next year, but she would like to have all the forms in hand.

C. Proposed 2013 Coalition Budget

County Management and Budget has yet to finalize health insurance and pension costs. Once that information is provided, Nancy may need to adjust some of the Coalition budget lines related to fringe already approved at the June 15 Board meeting.

D. SUNY Albany and Coalition Contract

SUNY Albany requested some changes to the SUNY-Coalition contract, as indicated in the Board packet, and more recently proposed re-wording was sent back to SUNY for their approval, which is pending. These changes were presented to the Board. Mayor McDonald moved to approve. Paul Reuss seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

E. Coalition Reserve October Meeting Content

Nancy presented a proposed agenda and spreadsheet highlighting reserve related issues. The purpose of this October meeting is to address ongoing accounting issues associated with the Stormwater Coalition account. Sean intends to participate, along with County Management and Budget staff. Others from the Coalition Board are welcome to attend.

F. Stormwater Management Program (SWMP)

1. MCM 3,4,5,6 Implementation

Nancy explained that as SWMP tasks and related measureable goals become more explicit within the SWMP, municipalities may want to consider pooling resources to help implement select portions of their program, currently not part of the Coalition Work Plan or functions. IMA Section 4.2 makes that possible.

2. MCM 2 Partnerships

Nancy reiterated the need for performing SWMP tasks as the Annual Report format may change in response to legal challenges. DEC will be looking for numbers rather than written descriptions of activities.

Nancy suggested partnerships with non-profits such as Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy or universities such as SUNY that could provide support and possibly help finance the Coalition. The Coalition would need a memorandum of understanding with these entities to clarify roles. Potential income could result from subscriptions to AIMS or support from students.

G. Stormwater Utility District

Nancy has been discussing stormwater utility districts with Bob Feller. She drafted a document outlining the costs, legislative requirements, and administrative details required to adopt enabling legislation. The prospect of funding the legislative work using Regional Sustainability Plan grant money motivated her to reach out to Bob and others. Board members encouraged her to continue researching and advocating for enabling legislation, with the caveat that the state administration wants to reduce the number of local entities.

Doug Melnick explained that the Regional Sustainability Plan may be a limited source of funds. The Plan itself requires regional coordination across 8 counties and it's unclear how that coordination might proceed into the future.

Sean Ward explained that the counties have to think about what affects all counties equally, such as garbage. However, not all Counties contain MS4s or CSOs. Environmental groups have a keen interest in pursuing a utility district, and can pressure the state level to create a structure to enable such a district. An additional argument is that the most progressive regions have this kind of dedicated funding stream.

On another note Nancy also informed the group that:

1. Central New York Regional Planning Board requested a letter of support to fund the creation of a residential BMPs catalogue, a document we would be able to use as well;
2. She proposes changing the name of AIMS to Stormwater Web Mapper because it isn't restricted to Albany County anymore; and
3. Homeland Security is offering a grant to create a county tax map query tool.

Sean is nervous that the Coalition has not received reimbursement on outstanding grants. Therefore he would rather not become entangled in a new grant.

Finally, John Dzialo asked if the next meeting's January date is okay for the budget. Nancy confirmed that would be fine.

IV. Close of Meeting

Mayor McDonald moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:30am. John Dzialo seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

These minutes were approved at the January 18, 2013 Board of Directors Meeting.