

Central New York Stormwater Coalition

Organizational Meeting – February 12, 2010

Present: Mark Cazzolli and Tony DeStefano, *Village of Solvay*; David Coburn, *Onondaga County*; James Conlon, *Town of Dewitt*; Jim Crow, *Village of Fayetteville*; Ron Russell, *Village of East Syracuse*; John Messere and Randall Shaw, *Town of West Monroe*; David Tessier and Doug Miller, *Town of Manlius*; Mark Territo, *Town of Clay*; Jerry Doolittle, *Town of LaFayette*; Jason Hoy and Claude Sykes, *Town of Van Buren*; Kathleen Bertuch and David Kubek, *Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board*.

Meeting Summary: CNYRPDB opened the meeting with introductions, and began the discussion by requesting input on what the participating MS4s at the table would like to see addressed by the Coalition (what are their needs and priorities)? Responses included the following: Interest in finding out how other MS4s are doing things; staffing shortfalls make it difficult to do more than the bare minimum because there is insufficient time; cost burdens are high; there is lack of awareness on the part of most other officials in the municipality, particularly elected officials in positions of high turnover; annual reporting is time-consuming and burdensome; a coalition may be critical in preparing for long-term requirements just making their way into the permits now; NYSDEC promotes formal collaboration and the coalition would be recognized as a strong effort toward regional compliance.

CNYRPDB pointed out that good cooperation already exists in large part for Minimum Control Measures (MCM) 1 and 3, and that compliance with MCM 2 is relatively straightforward; however, it was noted that sewershed mapping (MCM 3) is one of the most burdensome tasks and is not complete in several MS4s. CNYRPDB identified Minimum Control Measures 4, 5, and 6 as areas in which greater coordination and consistency in policies and procedures between MS4s are particularly needed and would lead to greater efficiency, making joint reporting possible down the line. However, several participants noted that local laws already define many of the procedures and that there are significant socioeconomic differences between various geographic areas. It was agreed that any coordinated procedures must be based on compliance and broad enough to account for differences in approaches between MS4s.

Having recently heard a presentation from the Chemung County Stormwater Coalition, it was suggested that it might be beneficial to invite a representative from the Monroe County Stormwater Coalition to address the group at a future meeting. The possibility of learning from the Phase I MS4s, which have a longer history, was also noted. There was also discussion of the role and degree of involvement by NYSDEC. It was agreed that important input was needed and desired from NYSDEC Region 7 and that they have been very supportive of the coalition and willing to help. It was also acknowledged that they would not be a voting member and would not be present at every meeting. However, early help from NYSDEC might be advantageous in understanding the permit changes, particularly those related to the Onondaga Lake TMDL.

It was determined that a Steering Committee should be formed to examine the immediate priorities of the Coalition, to define needed processes and procedures to coordinate under each MCM, and to begin to examine organizational structure. The Steering Committee would represent a cross-section of the

variety of MS4s (relative to type of municipality, population, geographic situation, etc.) The Steering Committee would meet before the next meeting and report to the larger group. Prior to the first Steering Committee meeting, it was determined that a survey of participating MS4s to prioritize the needs identified on the list "Issues facing all MS4s in the Syracuse Urbanized Area", prepared earlier by CNYRPDB, should be conducted through e-mail. The following volunteered to be on the Steering Committee: David Coburn, David Tessier, Tony DeStefano, Claude Sykes/Jason Hoy, and Jim Crow. It was determined that an additional elected official should be pursued to serve on the Committee. It was suggested that Mary Ann Coogan and Bill McConnell be asked if they were interested in participating.