

## Central New York Stormwater Coalition Meeting – May 6, 2010

### 9:30 AM, Salina Town Hall

Present: Jason Hoy, *Town of Van Buren*; Anthony DeStefano, *Village of Solvay*; David Coburn, Paul Legnetto, *Onondaga County*; Jason Perkins, Bernard English, George Keeler, *Town of Salina*; Sean McNamara, *Town of Onondaga*; James Conlon, *Town of Dewitt*; Mark Territo, *Town of Clay*; David Tessier, *Town/Village of Manlius*; John Williams, *Village of Camillus*; Ronald Russell, *Village of East Syracuse*; Jim Crow, *Village of Fayetteville*; Mike Donegan, *Town of West Monroe*; Wayne Dean, *Town of Cicero*; Kristy Harris, *CHA LLP*; Mark Burger, *Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District*; Ellen Hahn, *New York State Department of Environmental Conservation*; Kathleen Bertuch, David Kubek, *Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board*.

Meeting Summary: CNYRPDB opened the meeting with introductions, and began by summarizing the results of the “priority issues survey” distributed in February. It was noted that the survey provided limited insight into the immediate needs facing the Coalition. CNYRPDB spent additional time reviewing past Annual Reports to determine both areas of progress and areas where MS4s are struggling. Using the survey and annual report review, CNYRPDB identified several areas of need where the Coalition could have an impact as the basis for the agenda of the Steering Committee meeting held April 9, 2010.

One of the observations that emerged from the Steering Committee meeting was that the degree to which participating MS4s are taking advantage of municipal training opportunities available through the CNY RPDB’s public education and outreach program varies. MS4s may be unaware that *active participation* in the activities that are part of the program is both necessary for compliance and a prerequisite to claiming such activities on the Annual Report. It was noted that there would be benefit to establishing a central point of contact for public involvement and participation activities taking place throughout the Syracuse Urbanized Area (SUA), in an attempt to coordinate them with regional stormwater education efforts and incorporate these activities into the annual report.

Discussion then ensued about the possibility of CNYRPDB conducting a voluntary “services assessment survey” relative to Pollution Prevention and Good Housekeeping. The survey would seek to assess Personnel needs and form the basis for developing an inventory of equipment and services available/needed by MS4s. It was noted that some MS4s are successfully sharing equipment through both formal and informal arrangements. It was suggested that the survey could be used to compile existing formal Intermunicipal Agreements governing the sharing of equipment and/or staff between MS4s in the SUA. Overall survey results could be used to develop a “wish list” for equipment/services not currently available, for which a joint grant application could be submitted. CNYRPDB will prepare a draft survey and distribute to the Steering Committee for review prior to distribution.

Ellen Hahn (NYSDEC Region 7) discussed sewershed and system mapping requirements to provide clarification on the exact expectations under the new permits. All MS4s were required to have made significant progress with sewershed mapping as of March 9, 2010. Sewershed mapping must be completed in the new permit cycle (concluding 2015). System mapping is *not* explicitly required at this time. It is *expected* that efforts will be made to commence system mapping as needed to track down illicit discharges, and where funding is available to do so. The goal is to establish the area *draining to each individual outfall*. This includes mapping of discharges originating outside the urbanized area boundary,

if they enter the urbanized area. The process for sewershed mapping was outlined as follows: 1. preliminarily delineate sewersheds to the extent possible using digital elevation model (DEM) data; 2. resolve the boundaries with in-field corrections or via other data so that they reflect subsurface connections. Onondaga County volunteered to demonstrate its method for defining sewershed boundaries at a future meeting. CNY RPDB suggested that it may be possible to use remaining EPF funds to advance a regional sewershed mapping program and will contact NYS DEC to discuss. It was noted that in addition to securing approvable match, there are contract reimbursement issues that will have to be resolved between the grant sponsor, NYS DEC and CNY RPDB.

The Steering Committee's recommendation to develop arrangements for a shared inspector to work on behalf of the municipalities relative to active construction sites for erosion and sediment control/stormwater management issues was discussed. Potential benefits include improved consistency from one municipality to the next and *reduction* of costs associated with inspections. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) would be an appropriate agency to undertake this work, due both to their technical expertise (numerous CPESC-certified staff) and to the potentially lower cost at which they would be available. Mark Burger (Onondaga County SWCD) expressed an interest in providing these services and agreed to prepare a formal proposal for services that will be discussed at a special meeting. CNY RPDB will contact the Madison and Oswego SWCD offices to gauge their interest.

The inspection contractor would report back to the MS4s code enforcement officers for enforcement action or pursuit of identified violations. Initially, the inspection contractor would pursue individual agreements with MS4s to complete the work beginning this construction season. Once the coalition is formalized through an Intermunicipal Agreement, a single contract between the coalition and the contractor could be established. Fee structures for inspection services would be determined prior to contract and in consideration of many factors to be determined. The Coalition would also touch base with other Districts, particularly Madison County SWCD, who also have experience in this work. The possibility of Onondaga County SWCD contracting to do the work for Oswego County was also discussed.

It was noted that a similar arrangement could be worked out for inspection of post-construction stormwater management practices whereby the inspection contractor would make recommendations to MS4 highway departments for maintenance, removing the burden and part of the cost on the MS4s to repeatedly inspect ponds and other permanent facilities.

CNY RPDB noted that in order to meet the anticipated schedule for formalizing the Coalition, it is necessary to begin drafting language for an Intermunicipal Agreement now. CNYRPDB will begin the task of compiling language for review and input from the Steering Committee with the intent of presenting a full draft to the MS4s in early fall. Municipalities will have the opportunity to review and discuss the draft individually and collectively. CNY RPDB will work with the Steering Committee to respond to comments and make revisions. MS4s will be responsible for conducting their own legal review of the final Intermunicipal Agreement before adopting the coalition in late 2010/early 2011. Anyone interested in collaborating on the development of the Intermunicipal Agreement should contact CNY RPDB.