

Central New York Stormwater Coalition Meeting – July 13, 2010

9:00 AM, Onondaga County Department of Water Environment Protection

Present: Claude Sykes, Jason Hoy, *Town of Van Buren*; Anthony DeStefano, *Village of Solvay*; David Coburn, Paul Legnetto, *Onondaga County*; Bernard English, *Town of Salina*; Ron Ryan, *Town of Onondaga*; James Conlon, *Town of Dewitt*; Mark Territo, *Town of Clay*; David Tessier, Doug Miller, *Town/Village of Manlius*; Ronald Russell, *Village of East Syracuse*; Wayne Dean, *Town of Cicero*; Dick Donovan, *Village of Minoa*; Doug Fisher, *Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District (OCSWCD)*; Ellen Hahn, *NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)*; Kathleen Bertuch, David Kubek, Kay Wakeman, *CNY Regional Planning & Development Board (CNYRPDB)*.

Meeting Summary:

David Kubek (CNYRPDB) began the meeting with a brief summary of the June 16 Steering Committee meeting.

Paul Legnetto (OCDWEP) gave a presentation on the County's method for completing storm sewershed mapping using the USGS "Streamstats" program, which allows the user to delineate a watershed and then download a GIS shapefile of the delineated area, which can be superimposed on existing outfall data to determine surface sewershed boundaries. Ellen Hahn (NYSDEC Region 7) indicated that the County's protocol meets the basic minimum requirement for MS4s to make progress on sewershed mapping on an annual basis. In order to truly complete the mapping, however, subsurface connections and tie-ins would need to be field-verified and the shapefile of the sewershed delineation adjusted accordingly. Sewershed mapping must be completed in the new permit cycle (concluding 2015).

Kathleen Bertuch (CNY RPDB) indicated that EPF funds can be used to perform basic GIS sewershed mapping (surface features only) as per the County's protocol using the USGS Streamstats program. Total staff time available is approximately 300 hours between August 1 and December 31, 2010. MS4s must request this assistance from CNYRPDB by July 30th. Based on the list of MS4s responding, equal time will initially be allotted to each to ensure that the process is equitable. Should the initial mapping be completed before December 31 and in less than 300 hours, any remaining time will be reassigned to MS4s in need of additional mapping time due to a significantly high number of existing outfalls.

Doug Fisher (OCSWCD) gave a brief summary of OCSWCD's program to perform inspections of construction sites for SPDES permit compliance for municipalities. OCSWCD will be giving a presentation to the Town of Onondaga to arrange a potential contract for the Town to utilize the services described in OCSWCD's proposal. OCSWCD has also had discussions with Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District about the possibility of performing inspections on their behalf in Oswego County MS4 areas. The program will be of great benefit to municipalities that do not have engineers on staff and potentially will greatly reduce cost. It is not intended to replace engineering consultants, but to improve the efficiency of inspections to avoid wasted efforts. The outcome is that savings are passed on to the developer, since in many municipalities, site owners pay fees for engineering services completed by the MS4.

Kathleen Bertuch (CNYRPDB) stated that CNYRPDB is planning to continue the stormwater public education and outreach program for a third year. CNYRPDB will evaluate the results of the education

and outreach survey (in progress until July 31) before releasing the new proposal (expected August 2010). The current (Year 2) stormwater public education contract ends August 31, 2010.

David Kubek (CNYRPDB) briefly discussed the Municipal Facilities Assessment Survey that has been distributed to all MS4s in the Coalition. The survey, which is voluntary, can be completed either online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/mfs or in hard copy, and takes about five minutes to complete. The purpose is to assess availability of equipment and facilities necessary for stormwater pollution prevention and evaluate possible opportunities to loan or share equipment and facilities. The survey is not intended to commit any municipality to enter into an agreement, but rather to simply explore possible options. It was noted that formal agreements are ultimately necessary for these types of arrangements, including the potential need to share operators and the requirement to include certificates of insurance. David Coburn (Onondaga County) noted that if a piece of equipment is widely needed by many MS4s, the Coalition could seek to jointly purchase it and share it among the participants.

David Kubek and Kathleen Bertuch (CNYRPDB) discussed the schedule for developing an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) to formalize the Coalition. It was noted that based on the recommendation of the Steering Committee, a Draft IMA was developed and distributed to the Committee members for review. CNYRPDB will revise the IMA and discuss it further at the next Steering Committee meeting to be held in late July. Following the meeting, CNYRPDB will make additional revisions and present the IMA to the full Coalition at a meeting in August. Additional revisions will be made at the recommendation of the full Coalition. The IMA will then be circulated to all Coalition MS4s to resolve any issues and pursue adoption by December 31, 2010.

The opportunity was provided to raise other issues and questions. David Coburn (Onondaga County) suggested that attention be given to the Onondaga Lake watershed retrofit requirements currently pending the developing TMDL for Onondaga Lake. He recommended that either a representative from the East of Hudson effort or NYSDEC Central Office be invited to a Coalition meeting to discuss the requirements. Ellen Hahn (NYSDEC) strongly recommended having Ron Entringer (NYSDEC) attend a meeting to provide additional information on the retrofit requirement. It was noted that Onondaga Lake watershed's situation differs from that of the East of Hudson watershed in that much of it is rural, so more land is available for water quality improvements. It is not known whether retrofits would be allowed outside the designated urbanized area or what degree of benefit such retrofits would have in reducing the overall phosphorus load. Two other MS4 permit requirements were also mentioned as meriting consideration by the Coalition: the future Numeric Effluent Limitations being considered by EPA for construction sites (may require turbidity monitoring by both developers and MS4s) and the current permit requirement for MS4s to perform modeling to ensure No Net Increase in Pollutants of Concern for 303(d)-listed watersheds.

Dick Donovan (Village of Minoa) indicated that he wanted to make sure that the benefit of the Coalition would extend to non-Onondaga Lake watershed MS4s as well, enough to justify participation, since there was significant discussion relative to Onondaga Lake. It was noted that other programs being developed by the Coalition, including education and outreach, outfall inspections, sewershed mapping, construction site inspections, and municipal facilities assessment were open to all MS4s in the region and could benefit all. Also, a unified voice to NYSDEC in policy matters would improve the ability of every MS4 involved in the Coalition to influence new regulations. However, complexities such as unequal participation in

certain Coalition programs (e.g. those related to Onondaga Lake watershed) will have to be addressed through the fee structure in the Intermunicipal Agreement.

Doug Fisher (OCSWCD) suggested that the Coalition continue to seek input from other existing Coalitions (e.g Monroe County and Oneida County) that have successfully navigated the formation process. Representatives indicated that they would be interested in seeing a presentation by another Coalition at a future meeting.

Doug Fisher (OCSWCD) also announced that OCSWCD is still holding contractor trainings through Syracuse Builders Exchange, whom they should contact if interested. Ellen Hahn (NYSDEC) reminded participants that contractors should be asked to show the card proving that they had completed the 4-hour training as required, and that sites could be shut down if they were unable to produce such proof.