CSO Long Term Control Plan Development
Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting 2
Thursday, March 13, 2008
10:00am

1. Welcome and Introduction

In Attendance: Mike Miller, APJVT; Dan Durfee, APJVT; Harry Adalian, City of Rensselaer representative; Bob Wolfgang, City of Albany representative; John Mazinello, developer; Mark Kestner, Town of Brunswick consulting engineer; Neil Bonesteel, City of Troy; Gerry Moscinski Rensselaer County Sewer District; Paul Penman, Town of Bethlehem; Jim Horton, APJVT; Bryan McBride, APJVT; Rich Lyons, Albany County Sewer District; Timothy Murphy Albany County Sewer District; Catina Mavodones, Albany Melrose Neighborhood Association; Paul Murphy, City of Watervliet representative; David Ball, Town of Waterford; Nick Ostopkovich, City of Watervliet; Andrea Dzierwa, NYSDEC Region 4; Richard Thyrring, Town of Waterford; Andrew Gilchrest Esq.; Chretien Voerg, Town of Colonie; Cheryle Webber, NYSDEC; Rebecca Troutman, Riverkeeper; Warren Lavery, Albany Water Board; Nancy Heinzen, Albany County Water Quality Coordinating Committee; Garry Nathan, City of Cohoes; Marybeth Pettit, City of Rensselaer; Laura DeGaetano, Albany County Water Quality Coordinating Committee; Linda VanDerHeide, Rensselaer County Planning; Phil Hansen Albany Rowing Center; Daniel Brown, Village of Green Island representative; Sean Ward, Village of Green Island; Deborah Shannon, CDRPC; Leif Engstrom, CDRPC; Rocco Ferraro, CDRPC.

2. Overview of 1st CAC Meeting

Since the last meeting, the three addendums to the work plan have been submitted to DEC. Two of the three plans have been approved; the third one is currently under comments. Once all three are complete, the work plan will be ready to implement.

At the first meeting, Cheryl Webber from DEC gave the overview of the CSO requirements and presented the draft scope, which has been approved by DEC, and the Public Participation Plan was reviewed. All documents are on the website together with the approved work plan and agenda. Please contact Leif Engstrom at CDRPC if there are any questions.

Ray Rudolph reported that there are about six tasks in progress at this time in order to document all the existing conditions. Those six tasks are: Public Participation Plan; Mapping, Database & Digitizing; Receiving Waters Condition Assessment; CSS Monitoring; Combine Sewer System (CSS) Modeling; and Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) Wet-Weather Capacity Study.

3. Project Update – Albany Pool Joint Venture Team (APJVT)

a. CSS Mapping, Database, and Digitizing

Mike Miller demonstrated the Google 3D based interactive database that will be used to manage the data from the four main tasks: Receiving Water Assessments; Monitoring; Modeling; and the WWTP work. The database includes the six pool communities, with the land area divided into sewershed classification areas. Early fieldwork has been done to verify all of the CSO control structures. There are 92 permitted structures within the six communities.

Mike Miller used to City of Albany's Big C overflow that handles approximately 5200 acres of combined sewer area to highlight the capabilities of the software. Within the Big C, there are links to other major data such as field data that was compiled as well as comment sections and sketches with measurements and photos.

This database has the ability to sort by municipality, type of structure, or any field that is included in the database. The database has become a very important tool with the critical information readily available for moving forward on this project. Mike anticipates this will be available to the sewer districts and Pool communities when the database is complete.

Brian McBride interjected that the Google 3D platform will allow anyone to use the database without the need for specialized software.

b. Receiving Waters Condition Assessment

Greg Daviero discussed the progress on the receiving water and the combined sewer monitoring activity.

The Receiving Water Conditions Assessment involves sampling the Hudson River, the Mohawk River, and many of the tributaries. Sampling will be done under dry and wet weather conditions. The dry weather sampling will begin in May and 15 samples will be taken throughout the summer at all the sampling locations. In addition to the dry weather sampling, four wet weather samplings will occur at the same locations. The wet weather sampling is a bit more involved than dry weather; samples need to be taken before the rain event, and over the course of the rain event.

The samples will be taken to the lab for bacterial analysis within 6 hours. There is a holding time at the lab of 6-8 hours. Many things will be happening simultaneously. The analysis is a very complex project.

Greg Daviero went over the locations where sampling will take place. For example, transect #1 sampling will be from the Mohawk River coming into the pool community

region. This sampling will be done off of the Route 9 Bridge. The communities and municipal employees will be assisting with the sampling as well as traffic control.

In addition to transects at the river, tributaries will also be sampled throughout the communities. There are also beach sites that are farther downstream where shoreline samples will be taken.

Transects 5-10 will be taken from a boat in the Hudson River. Transects have typically been chosen at bridge sites to ensure consistency in locating the sampling area. These transects are all downstream of the dam in the City of Troy.

Data will be collected during dry and wet weather to see the impact of the combined sewer on the river. By capturing certain regions where there are discharges, we can see what communities may be impacting the river and where the discharges and pollutants are within the River.

The sampling timeframe is from May 2008 through September 2008. The river is very accessible during that time and this is also the time of year when the anticipated usage of the river is at it's highest. Other data will be used to calibrate a model of the collection system. Historical rainfall data will be applied to that model to show the how the system might behave in similar storm events. Then improvements will be looked at and how that might have performed if the improvements were made previously.

c. CSS Monitoring & Sampling Plan

The Combined Sewer System Monitoring plan was submitted February 1, 2008 and has not yet been approved. The intent is to capture the behavior of the combined sewer system and to develop enough data to calibrate a hydraulic model of the sewer system. In developing the plan, the first part is to understand which parts of each community drain and where they end up and discharge. The challenge was to identify where to place flow monitors and where to collect water quality in order to best characterize how these systems operate.

There are many sewersheds that are very small and similar in each community and the plan is to place a temporary flow monitor on each one for a 12 week period beginning May 1. In the City of Albany, the Big C captures the majority of the City and represents approximately 75% of the total sewershed. The other communities do not have such dominant sewersheds. At least one flow monitor will be placed on a sewershed in each community. There are 25 flow monitors within the communities however they are not all being applied to the sewersheds. Some flow monitors are going to be dedicated to the interceptor. The meters will be there to capture flow of a sewershed and hydraulics in the interceptors.

There are many areas where samples will be taken throughout the communities. There are four more sampling teams that will be deployed for the collective systems. Those

samples will be taken from the sanitary sewer systems that will characterize how that system behaves during the storm event. Sampling will be done during four wet weather events.

Nancy Heizen inquired what is meant by a wet weather event? The sampling will not be done during large storm events. Samples will be taken during more frequent occurring wet events because we are getting overflows even in smaller storms.

d. CSS Modeling Plan

The treatment capacity studies are underway. There are three treatment plants: Albany South Plant, Albany North Plant and the Rensselaer County Sewer District, which takes flows from the City of Troy and City of Rensselaer. Each of the three facilities will have their own model, however Rensselaer County will have two models for flows from Troy and Rensselaer and other communities that are also tied into it.

The project is looking at the treatment plants for efficiencies; to treat as much wet weather flow through the treatment plants to reduce the costs of creating satellite treatment systems. The treatment capacity studies at each of the three plants are underway looking at both hydraulic capacity as well as process capacity.

The Albany County North Plant is the largest of the three plants and has it's own model under development. The Rensselaer County Sewer district has flow coming in from the City of Troy from the north and south. Rensselaer comes in and discharges to the Hudson River on the South end of the plant. The City of Troy has 47 different overflows from the North end of the City to the South end of the City. Most of the overflows north of the dam are submerged. Many of have a tie-gate valve in the regulator structure that opens when there is a discharge occurring.

The City of Troy has an overflow point at almost every east-west street running through the City. The flow monitoring data will be used to calibrate and show how the system reacts during a rain event and what kind of rain event it takes to affect an overflow.

Nancy Heinzen inquired what is included in the models once the baseline data is received. The model gets developed and calibrated which allows a look at all historical weather and do a continuous simulation of a five year period to see what happens during certain weather events. The model helps look at control alternatives and size those different treatment processes.

4. Schedule Update

The project schedule for 2007 was primarily preparation work. This year is development of the platform of the project and problem identification, and 2009 will be problem solving. It is very critical getting into the River early spring this year so the project is not delayed by a year.

The first general information meeting is scheduled for March 31, 2008 at HVCC with three more scheduled thereafter. Presenters will go through the public participation process letting the public know how to contact representatives for this project. DEC will do a presentation as to why this CSO project has begun. The meeting will give the public basic information about CSOs, the status of the project at this time and the timeline for the project.

It is very important to reach out to all state and federal representatives and their staff to participate in the public meeting. It is also important that this education outreach reach out to all stakeholders and constituencies for this project.

A flyer for the public meeting will be sent out to the six pool communities soon after the meeting and should be posted and distributed throughout each community. CDRPC will be putting out press releases and meeting with the editorial boards of the Troy Record and the Times Union to get as much public outreach as possible. There was a two part piece on Channel 6 News about the CSO Project which also announced the public meeting. The flyer for the public meeting will be posted on CDRPC website.

The next Citizens Advisory Committee meeting will be after the sampling of the river has been completed. There are six more meetings scheduled and those dates will be available once more information becomes available.

The PowerPoint presentation from this meeting will be available on CDPRC's website. Most of the information is within the approved plans that have been submitted and reviewed by DEC. The monitoring plan will not be posted at this time as final details are still being worked on.