

Meeting Summary
Livingston County Phase II Permit Effort
Meeting Summary
January 3, 2003

Welcome

Brian Jonckheere welcomed all the communities to the second watershed group meeting. Introductions were made around the room.

There was brief discussion about whether or not Deerfield Township and Fowlerville need to be invited to participate in the group. HRC and Livingston County will follow up on this and report back to the group.

Review of Permit Requirements

Bill Stone reviewed the materials in the information package distributed. The meeting summary from the December 6, 2002 meeting is in the package and Bill asked communities to let him know if they have comments on it.

Bill reminded the group that at the December 6th meeting, Cheryl Bartley of MDEQ encouraged the communities to pursue the watershed permit rather than the jurisdictional permit.

Bill met with Cheryl Bartley in late December to present the proposed watershed boundaries for the two groups – the Shiawassee and Chain of Lakes Huron groups. Cheryl approved the proposed boundaries, and asked that the communities submit their permit applications as a package rather than individually. She also indicated that Marion Township will have to obtain its own permit.

Kathy Fraser was present on behalf of the Oakland County Drain Commissioner. She indicated that Oakland County is interested in coordinating watershed efforts with Livingston County where possible.

Bill reviewed the information that the communities need to provide to HRC for the permit applications. The communities must provide the information by the next meeting in order to meet the March 10th deadline.

There were numerous questions about nested jurisdictions and how to determine if a nested jurisdiction needs permit coverage. HRC offered to develop a guidance document for the communities to help them make this determination. HRC will transmit the guidance to the communities during the week of January 6th. It's important to note that the guidance may not be officially endorsed by MDEQ.

Bill also indicated that after submitting the permit applications on March 10, the communities will need to start developing their IDEP and PEP

Watershed vs. Jurisdictional Permit Options

Tom Biasell, the Director of Public Services for Farmington Hills spoke about his perspectives on the watershed-based permit. Tom described how he started into the process believing that his community had very little water quality impact because they did not have combined sewer overflows (CSOs), that the problems in the Rouge River were other communities' fault. However, through the watershed planning process he learned that his community did have issues to address such as failing septic systems, excess fertilizer usage, and excessive flow and erosion. Farmington Hills realized that one of the key benefits of the watershed approach was being required to work with neighboring communities on a "macro" rather than "micro" scale. Tom also pointed out that savings can be realized in the areas of IDEP and PEP by working together and sharing costs. Tom indicated that the biggest challenge of the permit process was MDEQ – that it was tough to get answers from MDEQ staff; that answers often conflicted; that staff shortages prevent MDEQ from participating fully; and that often MDEQ just doesn't know the answers.

The Army Corp of Engineers is a potential source of funding assistance for the watershed group. The Corp has funding that can be used to assist the watershed group with developing the watershed management plan. The program requires 35% local matching funds.

Contract and Cost Allocation

The meeting package contains an amended Intergovernmental Agreement for the communities to review. Brian indicated that the agreement needs to be amended to incorporate Marion Township, now that we know that the township must obtain a permit. In addition, it may be amended to incorporate Deerfield Township and Fowlerville.

Hamburg Township and Green Oaks Township reported that their boards had approved the agreement.

Livingston County will e-mail the final agreement next week. Brian asked that communities be prepared to sign the agreement by the next meeting.

Hamburg Township indicated that they are still undecided about whether they will apply for the watershed or jurisdictional permit. However, even if they apply for the jurisdictional permit, they will participate in the watershed group.

Other/Miscellaneous

A question came up about MDEQ's review and/or approval of the subwatershed plan (SWMP) and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Initiative (SWPPI). MDEQ will review and comment on the subwatershed plan, but they won't approve the plan with regard to meeting permit requirements. MDEQ will review and comment on each permittee's SWPPI, and then approve the SWPPI. After MDEQ approval, the SWPPI becomes an enforceable document. (MDEQ will review and approve the SWMP if requested relative to 319 grant funding requirements.)

Brian had hoped to have Janis Bobrin, Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner, speak at today's meeting about the county's perspective on the jurisdictional and watershed approaches, but she was unavailable. Brian will ask her to attend the next meeting.

Wrap-Up

The next meeting will be Friday, February 7, at 9:00 a.m. at Green Oak Township. Agenda items will include:

- Status of application information from individual communities
- Status of Intergovernmental Agreement
- Resources available through the individual communities (GPS, street sweepers, web-servers, etc.)
- Draft IDEP
- Draft PEP
- Update on Deerfield Township and Fowlerville participation
- Janis Bobrin, Washtenaw County Drain Commissioner (guest speaker)

Friday, February 7, 2003

9:00 a.m.

Green Oak Township Offices

Meeting Attendees

Brighton Township – Marcia Strong
Genoa Township – Kelly Kolakowski
Green Oaks Township – Bill Desmond
Green Oaks Township – Mark St. Charles
Hamburg Township – Howard Dillman
Hamburg Township – Pat Hagman
Hamburg Township – Simon Ren
Hartland Township – Douglas Kuhn
Hartland Township – Rolly Olney II
Howell – Jeff Prince
Howell – Ervin Suida
Howell – Terry Wilson
Marion Township – Bob Hanvey
Oceola Township – Bill Bomber
Pinckney – Michele Bury
Pinckney – Diane MacDonald
Pinckney – Dave Marshall
Tyrone Township – David Kuzner
Tyrone Township – Terry Lee

Livingston County DPH – Jennifer Kramer

Livingston County Road Commission – Steve Wasylk

Livingston County Drain Commissioner – Brian Jonckheere

HRWC – Chris Riggs
MSU Extension – Michael Gaden
Oakland County Drain Commissioner – Kathy Fraser
SEMCOG – Amy Mangus

HRC – Bill Stone
HRC – Margie Synk Kuhn
HRC – Jon Booth
HRC – George Hubbell