

Newport CSO Stakeholder Workgroup: Meeting #1 Summary

Approved at April 20, 2011 CSO Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting.

ATTENDEES: See Attachment 1

DATE & PLACE: February 3, 2011 @ 3:00 PM; City Hall Council Chamber, 43 Broadway
Newport, RI

Welcome & Introductions

Julia Forgue introduced City and United Water staff as well as the CH2M HILL consultant team members. Each workgroup member introduced themselves.

Update on Consent Decree Negotiations

Joe Nicholson, City Solicitor, provided an update on the status of the CSO Consent Decree (CD) negotiations with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The litigation is still pending and EPA and the City of Newport are working cooperatively, they hope to come to a conclusion in the form of a long document. The draft CD mentions the CSO Stakeholder Workgroup.

Questions & Answers

Q: What is the time frame for the final consent order?

A: The City, CH2M HILL and City Solicitor have been working together with EPA and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management (RIDEM) and they hope to finalize a draft of the CD within a month and a half to two months.

Q: Have you negotiated the financial angle of the consent order?

A: It is still being discussed. There is a civil penalty component (fine) in the CD. There are also stipulated penalties if certain deadlines aren't met.

Stakeholder Workgroup Chartering

Becky Weig facilitated a chartering session to establish how the Workgroup would operate. This included the Workgroup's mission statement, membership, boundary conditions and operating guidelines.

Questions & Answers

Q: How should document review comments be submitted to the City, via e-mail?

A: The CSO project email address (newportcsoprogram@cityofnewport.com) should be used for questions and submitting comments about the project. Other issues will be discussed at the Stakeholder Workgroup meetings.

Overview of the Wastewater System and the CSO Program

Peter von Zweck presented an overview of the City of Newport's wastewater system and the CSO program. The overview included:

- History of the City's collection system
- How a combine sewer system operates
- Overview of the current wastewater system
- CSO program goals
- CSO program implementation approach
- Completed and on-going activities
- Key upcoming activities
- CSO System Master Plan
- How the CSO program affects rates

Questions & Answers

Q: Is the median volume shown on Slide 16 overall or just for CSO events?

A: The median volume shown is just for CSO events and is not related to regular dry weather flow.

Q: When was the Long Wharf CSO plugged?

A: About 3 years ago, there hadn't been an overflow there for an extended period of time.

Q: How long is it from when the sewage enters the collection system to when it reaches the treatment plant?

A: Approximately one day, but there is no exact answer for that right now. We will know better when the model calibration is completed.

Q: What is the possibility that system users would or could cut back their water usage when it is raining? Would this help reduce overflows?

A: This question can't be answered right now. More tools and data are needed to answer that specifically, but the rainfall has the largest affect on the system, not the everyday dry weather water use.

Q: What are the elements of the affordability analysis?

A: There has already been one affordability analysis, which was submitted in March of 2009 for the Wellington area. The question was added to the parking lot and more detail about the affordability analysis will be covered at the next meeting.

Q: Are there any incentives for the citizens of Newport to be proactive to remove illegal connections (sump pumps, roof drains, etc.) from the sewer?

A: There is an ordinance that prohibits these connections. The City is currently doing house to house inspections and some people don't even realize they have these connections. An incentive program is a cost that the City would have to fund, so it would have to be evaluated to determine if it makes sense financially.

Q: What is the quality control aspect of the CSO program? Is it third party or part of the contract? What's the cost of the quality control? What is the breakout percentage of quality control for planning, design, and construction?

A: The consultant, CH2M Hill is making sure we have all the right issues on the table. The costs could be 10-20% of the construction project. The engineers are responsible for the designs. Construction inspection can be done by the designer or a third party, but using the designer eliminates risk.

Q: How do you determine the portion of the capital investments attributed to the Navy and Middletown? When does their contract come up?

A: There are long-term contracts in place for the Navy and Middletown, the exact dates and details of this contract can be presented at a later meeting. The Navy has three connections to the Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) and two other connections to the system. Middletown has two connections to the system. Both pay a proportional share for the use of the treatment facilities.

Q: How many CSO events could you avoid if you cut off the Navy and Middletown connections? What are the CSOs costing us compared to how much they are contributing?

A: The contracts are long-term contracts and have been set up so that everyone pays their equitable share. This is also why the Navy and Middletown are participating in the Stakeholder Workgroup.

Q: How is the performance of the ongoing CSO program or the upcoming activities being measured?

A: Reduction in overflow is a good measure in the quality improvements. This will be addressed in further detail at a later time because benchmarks are needed to track progress.

Supplemental Environmental Projects (SEPs)

Becky Weig presented an overview of the SEPs the City is considering as part of the CSO program. These included:

- A pump out station at Ann St. Pier,
- Porous pavement pilot projects at 2 locations, Easton's Beach parking lot and the Mary St. parking lot, and
- A rain barrel program.

The Workgroup was asked to provide comments on the proposed SEPs and to suggest other potential SEPs.

Comments on Proposed SEPs

- Will there be some discussion on the geology of Newport? Soils are poor, might be helpful to discuss the quality of soils in Newport when considering porous pavement. There would need to be pre-design discussions and investigations.
- Environmentally how does porous pavement compare with asphalt? Is it environmentally friendly? The answer to this isn't exactly known at the moment. However, RIDEM does

encourage porous pavement as it allows the rainwater to infiltrate into the ground rather than runoff.

- The Pell Elementary School is using green construction methods. Have they been given this information regarding porous pavement? Julia Forgue has provided them with the information.

Other Proposed Potential SEPs

- A pump-out station at Fort Adams.
- Porous pavement at the Pell School.
- Use marsh restoration, shellfish restoration, eel grass, swales, or habitat restoration along with porous pavement at Easton's Beach as a demonstration project.
- An oil-water separators pilot project. This is not very effective for runoff on roadways.
- City street porous pavement demonstration, with porous sidewalks.
- Rain gardens as part of the current project on Broadway, such as at the corner of Marlborough and Broadway.
- A grey water or reuse system for residences as a demonstration project.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for April 7th at 3pm in the Council Chambers.

The Workgroup discussed future agenda topics. Suggestions were:

- Answers to parking lot questions.
- Overview of the metering program.

In the interim, Workgroup members interested in learning more about the CSO program can find data as well as minutes and agendas on the City's web-site.

Workgroup members were polled about interest in a tour of the WPCP and the CSO Facilities. Many members were interested and the City agreed to set up dates for the tours before the next Workgroup meeting.

Parking Lot:

The following questions were placed in the Parking Lot to be addressed at a subsequent meeting:

- How long does flow stay in the system before reaching WPCF?
- Can conservation of water during rain events affect overflows? Is there time to get the message out?
- What are the elements of the affordability analysis?
- Can the City provide incentives for residents to disconnect private I/I?
- What percentage of total program cost goes to QA/QC for each element (Planning, Design, and Construction?)
- Can the Workgroup learn more about the contracts for wholesale customers?
- How is CSO program performance measured? Are there benchmarks?

Attachment 1 – CSO Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting #1

MEETING DATE:	Thursday, February 3rd , 2011 @ 3:00 PM	
LOCATION:	City Hall Council Chambers – Newport, RI	
Name	Affiliation	In Attendance
Workgroup Members		
Justin McLaughlin	City Council	Yes
Ray Smedberg	Ad Hoc Committee	No
David McLaughlin (Alternate)	Ad Hoc Committee	Yes
John McCain	ALN	Yes
Roger Wells (Alternate)	ALN	Yes
Charles Wright	Beach Commission	No
Kathleen Shinnars (Alternate)	Beach Commission	Yes
Bill Riccio	Dept. Public Services	No
Eric Earls (Alternate)	Dept. Public Services	No
Paige Bronk	Dept. Planning	Yes
Bill Hanley (Alternate)	Dept. Planning	No
Tim Mills	Harbor Master	No
Mary E. Devers-Putnam	EPA	No
James Carlson	NSN	No
William Monaco (Alternate)	NSN	Yes
Jody Sullivan	Newport County Chamber	No
Ed Lopes (Alternate)	Newport County Chamber	No
Evan Smith	NCCVB	No
Cathy Morrison (Alternate)	NCCVB	No
Shawn Brown	Middletown	No
Tom O'Loughlin (Alternate)	Middletown	Yes
Eric Beck	RIDEM	No
Angelo Liberti (Alternate)	RIDEM	Yes
Jim Brunnhoeffler	RWU	Yes
B. Gokhan Celik (Alternate)	RWU	No
John Torgan	Save the Bay	Yes
Wendy Waller (Alternate)	Save the Bay	No

MEETING DATE:	Thursday, February 3rd , 2011 @ 3:00 PM	
LOCATION:	City Hall Council Chambers - Newport, RI	
Name	Affiliation	In Attendance
Tom Cornell	Resident	Yes
Stuart K. Mills, Jr.	Resident	No
Roger Slocum	Resident	Yes
Ted Wrobel	Resident	Yes
Other Attendees		
Julia Forgue	City of Newport	Yes
Ken Mason	City of Newport	Yes
Peter von Zweck	CH2M HILL	Yes
Becky Weig	CH2M HILL	Yes
Jim Lauzon	United Water	Yes
Frank Marinaccio	Dept. Public Services	Yes
Antone Viveiros	Middletown Council	Yes
Joe Nicholson	City Solicitor	Yes
Kathleen Papp	Newport County Chamber	Yes