

## Newport CSO Stakeholder Workgroup: Meeting #2

ATTENDEES: See Attachment 1

DATE & PLACE: April 20, 2011 @ 3:00 PM; City Hall Council Chamber, 43 Broadway  
Newport, RI

### Welcome & Introductions

Julia Forgue introduced City staff as well as the CH2M HILL consultant team members. As there were a number of new workgroup members in attendance, each workgroup member introduced themselves.

### Overview of Agenda

Becky Weig of CH2M HILL provided an overview of the agenda and asked if there were any questions before moving forward. A summary of the agenda follows:

1. Approval of previous meeting's minutes.
2. Follow-up on Parking Lot items
3. Overview of the CSO Program schedule
4. Key Meeting Topic(s)
  - a. Metering Program
  - b. Infiltration /Inflow Investigations & Removal
5. Next meeting information

### Questions & Answers:

Q: Are there any updates on the CSO litigation?

A: The litigation is still pending and in negotiation, no updates are available.

### Previous Meeting's Minutes

The minutes of the first meeting were approved.

### Update on Parking Lot from Previous Meeting

Updates and answers to the seven parking lot items from the previous meeting were presented.

The seven parking lot questions were:

1. How long does flow stay in the system before reaching WPCF?
2. Can conservation of water during rain events affect overflows? Is there time to get the message out?

Results of some system flow data analysis were presented showing that the system response to rainfall does not allow sufficient time to implement water conservation during rain events.

3. What are the elements of the affordability analysis?

The list of elements from the EPA's *Combined Sewer Overflows – Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and Schedule Development* was presented.

4. Can the City provide incentives for residents to disconnect private I/I?

It was presented that there is an ordinance prohibiting these connections, but if there were to be an incentive program it would need to be funded through sewer rates and this option can be evaluated as part of the System Master Plan (SMP).

5. What percentage of total program cost goes to QA/QC for each element (Planning, Design, and Construction?)

A graphic showing typical Program cost breakdown, including QA/QC costs on the range of 10-15% of total program costs was presented.

6. Can the Workgroup learn more about the contracts for wholesale customers?

The dry weather flow allocations for each wholesale customer as well as the City of Newport were presented.

7. How is CSO program performance measured? Are there benchmarks?

The benchmarks set by the National CSO Control Policy were presented.

### Questions & Answers:

Q: What are the number of CSO events over time? Have they decreased?

A: The number and volume of CSO events for the past 10 years is posted on the City's website. Tracking over time requires looking at a number of factors, such as rainfall frequencies, volumes and if storage facilities are completely empty from previous events. This item will be added to the Parking Lot for additional discussion at a future meeting.

### Metering Program

Bill McMillin presented an overview of the metering program. Key topics presented included:

- Elements of the metering program
- Purpose of the metering program
  - Characterization
  - Support modeling

- Support future planning
- Scope and details of the metering program
- Uses of the data and preliminary results
- Metering next steps

### Questions & Answers:

Q: Does the City still do spot inspections for those who have an industrial discharge licenses?

A: Yes, the City does have an industrial pretreatment program, and this is one of the main sources to identify the significant users.

Q: Is CH-14 a place?

A: CH-14 is the number of the meter, the plot shows exactly the measurements at that particular time and location where the meter is.

Q: Is salinity testing part of the metering program?

A: We added it into the program, and more information will be given in the next few slides.

Q: What is the percentage of infiltration through sewer manholes during rainfall events?

A: This will be discussed in the next agenda item on Infiltration/Inflow Investigations.

Q: Is it reasonable to expect there are meters that monitor particular users?

A: Yes, and actually there are 3 meters that are monitoring flow from Middletown and we have been doing this during the past year. Meters can be left in the system afterwards depends on what the city wants to do.

Q: Do you have a sense of how well the measurements obtained match the model?

A: Actually, we'd rather the model match the data. The model is still being calibrated, and sometimes we have to change the calculation of the data such that the model itself represents how the system reacts in reality. Bill McMillin explained how this was applicable with the unique shape of the Thames St. Interceptor as an example.

Q: Do you plan on re-installing the meters after the construction project/replacement on Thames St is done?

A: Yes, a slide with a photo of the post-replacement meter in the Wellington Avenue Interceptor was shown as an example.

Q: In the system, where is the salinity testing conducted?

A: There is no testing conducted in the system, but it is tested for at the treatment plant.

Q: What rainfall data is used for Newport?

A: The rainfall gauges available are located in Newport Airport, Kingston and Providence. Newport Airport tells us rainfall over Middletown.

Q: If a public rainfall gauge is to be selected, will the one in Newport Airport be the choice?

A: Based on locality, it is much closer than Providence. As a matter of timing, volume of rainfall may match up pretty good, but for hourly or 15-min rainfall, there may have more variations involved (e.g. intensity).

Q: Are the system defects letting sanitary sewage out of the pipes?

A: This is unlikely as these pipes are not under pressure, like water distribution pipes.

Q: Does CH-25 include flow from Middletown?

A: No, flow from Middletown connects to the sewer system near Thames & America's Cup.

Q: Do you have a sense on areas with highest infiltration/inflow flow on the map?

A: The areas that are highlighted in red represent these areas.

Q: On the Hydraulic Model, do you make assumptions on long term cycles/winters, temperature and frozen precipitation?

A: We look at what a typical year usually is. We have historical rainfall from Kingston that goes back to the 1940s and rainfall at Kingston goes back to the 1800s.

Q: Do we look at the water content of the biggest snowfall vs. water content of the biggest rainfall?

A: 12 inches of snow is approximately 1 inch of rainfall, the storm in June 2010 was around 2 inches of rainfall which is equivalent to about 2 feet of snow, but the state of the ground needs to be taken into account as well as whether the snow melts right away.

### **Infiltration / Inflow Investigation & Removal:**

Katie Chamberlain presented an overview of the I/I field investigations program. Key topics presented included:

- Purpose of the I/I investigations
- Types of system defects - public and private
- Types of I/I investigations
- Typical I/I investigation findings
- Overview of previous I/I investigations and on-going follow-up from that work
- The different types of I/I investigations between the Wellington CSO and Washington CSO catchment areas
- Progress of current I/I investigations
- Preliminary results of I/I investigations
- Next steps for the I/I investigation program

The Workgroup was asked what types of public outreach and education materials would be useful to improve understanding, inspection rates and disconnection rates for the field investigations program. Suggestions were to be sure to show the magnitude of the problem. Some members responded that the recent direct mailings had been very effective as well as possibly bill stuffers.

### **Questions & Answers:**

Q: During inspections, what if people only unplugged the sump pump connection and leave the possibility to connect it back to the sewer (through covers on pipes)? Are there any ordinances if they get caught for the second time?

A: Inspection crews have come across "disconnections" like this. What we can do for now is to advise the residents that this is not acceptable. Residents who are not responsive will

get a second certified mail letter asking them to fully disconnect, and if they still do not comply and disconnect the defects, the City will send them to the municipal court.

Q: Regarding the Results shown on slide 43, are these measurements instances or flows?

A: These flows are calculated. The number of defects in the buildings are counted along with their tributary area to calculate flow for a set rain event; therefore these numbers show the flow contributions of a particular kind of defect under the same rain event.

Q: What is a dye test?

A: It is a method to confirm whether potential defects are connected to the sewer; it involves putting dye into the defect and see where it shows on the street – sanitary sewer or storm sewer.

## Parking Lot:

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

- What are the number of CSO events over time?
- What is the cost to fix the private defects versus public benefits?
- What is the point of insisting on private defect disconnection if the stormwater is then routed to a public connection? What is the public policy about these disconnection requirements?
- What can private property owners do if the area is poor draining soil or there are not adequate catch basins?
- Can the City provide follow-up to technical agenda items as more information is obtained?

## Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for July 14<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the Council Chambers.

# Attachment 1 - CSO Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting #2 Attendees

MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, April 20 , 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	YES
David McLaughlin (Alternate)	Ad Hoc Committee	NO
John McCain	ALN	YES
Roger Wells (Alternate)	ALN	NO
Tina Dolen	Aquidneck Island Planning Commission	YES
Chris Witt (Alternate)	Aquidneck Island Planning Commission	NO
Charles Wright	Beach Commission	NO
Kathleen Shinnors (Alternate)	Beach Commission	NO
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. Dever-Putnam	EPA	YES
James Carlson	NSN	YES
William Monaco (Alternate)	NSN	NO
Jody Sullivan	Newport County Chamber	YES
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	NO
Jim Brunnhoeffter	RWU	YES

MEETING DATE:	Wednesday, April 20 , 2011 @ 3:00 PM	
LOCATION:	City Hall Council Chambers - Newport, RI	
Name	Affiliation	In Attendance
B. Gokhan Celik (Alternate)	RWU	NO
John Torgan	Save the Bay	YES
Wendy Waller (Alternate)	Save the Bay	NO
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	NO
Peter von Zweck	CH2M HILL	YES
Becky Weig	CH2M HILL	YES
Jim Lauzon	United Water	YES
Katie Chamberlain	CH2M HILL	YES
Bill McMillin	CH2M HILL	YES