

Newport Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Stakeholder Workgroup: Meeting #3

ATTENDEES: See Attachment 1

DATE & PLACE: July 14, 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. Geographic Information System (GIS)
 - b. Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP) Optimization Study
 - c. Capacity, Management, Operations and Maintenance (CMOM)
5. Next meeting information

Previous Meeting's Minutes

The minutes of the second meeting were approved.

Update on Parking Lot from Previous Meeting

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

The five parking lot questions were:

1. What are the number of CSO events over time?

There are a number of variables to take into account when evaluating CSO events over time such as, the number, duration and intensity of precipitation events, the time of year which affects the amount of runoff, whether there was frozen ground or snow pack which would lead to more runoff or if there is dry ground which would lead to more infiltration. Other important factors are whether the precipitation event is defined as a single event or two separate events and whether the collection system back to normal operating conditions from previous precipitation events. A graph showing the volumes and frequencies of CSOs since 2001 was presented.

2. What is the cost to fix the private defects versus the public benefits?

A graphic was presented showing that there are a wide range of costs depending on the type of defect and its location.

3. 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?

Ideally disconnections would be discharged to lawns and gardens to facilitate recharge. This is especially good for downspouts which is a major issue in Newport. There is a City ordinance (Chapter 13.08.120 - Use of public sewers) which prohibits these connections to the sanitary sewer.

4. What can private property owners do if the area is poor draining soil or there are not adequate catch basins?

This would be reviewed on a case by case basis, but this is not typical. Previous downspout disconnections have not caused flooding issues in the City. Other options presented were:

- a. Rain barrels for downspouts
- b. Rain garden
- c. Contact the City about catch basins

5. Can the City provide follow-up to technical agenda items as more information is obtained?

Yes. As more information is available technical topics can be revisited. All technical topics will be covered in the System Master Plan, which will be reviewed by the Stakeholder Workgroup in 2012.

GIS

Kris Andersen presented an overview of the City's GIS. Key topics presented included:

- What is GIS
- Benefits of GIS for utilities
- EPA Corrective Action Plan (CAP) requirements for GIS

- History of the City of Newport GIS for the collection system
- The path forward for the GIS
- Examples of how the GIS is updated
- Examples of map products created and the first GIS submittal to EPA.
- Benefits of the GIS to the City

Questions & Answers:

Q: What percentage of connected catch basins are identified in the GIS?

A: Don't have exact percentages, therefore this will be added to the parking lot for the next meeting.

Q: Could the Web Viewer be made available at the library?

A: Due to security, the Web Viewer cannot be made public, but anyone interested in seeing the GIS in more detail can contact the Department of Utilities.

WPCP Optimization Study

Dimitri Katehis presented an overview of the WPCP optimization study. Copies of the report were provided to stakeholder workgroup members prior to the meeting. Key topics presented included:

- WPCP overview
- Approach to the optimization study, including the possibility of implementing Chemically Enhanced Primary Treatment (CEPT)
- Findings of the study. Key findings were:
 - There are challenges to increasing flow to the plant, especially the 85% total suspended solids (TSS) removal due to the first flush of solids and then dilution effects during wet weather.
 - At this time, increases of flow to the WPCP are not feasible with only minor adjustments, but could be feasible with larger improvements to the WPCP.
 - These improvements will be evaluated as part of the SMP, but the City is budgeting for improvements to the headworks and disinfection systems.

Questions & Answers:

Q: Why is there no wet weather capacity rating on the headworks?

A: Headworks does not have a rated wet weather capacity because it works well during regular dry weather conditions, but does not protect the primary treatment process during wet weather.

Q: Is CEPT a long-term rather than short-term option?

A: It could be, but the solids handling system would need to be upgraded before implementing.

Q: Do metal salts become an issue with CEPT?

A: (answered by RIDEM) No, they do not impact the receiving waters.

Q: Is there a minimum daily flow that needs to be maintained at the WPCP?

A: There is no need for a minimum flow, but the City tries to operate the WPCP to minimize peaks.

Q: Is a potential option for sending more flow to the WPCP a waiver of the 85% TSS removal requirement during wet weather?

A: There is a basis for these types of waivers in other communities.

Q: Is there a preliminary estimate for the cost to repair the headworks?

A: This will be evaluated with the SMP.

Q: Are WPCP repairs budgeted?

A: Yes, many are budgeted under the United Water contract.

CMOM:

Tom Simbro of Wright-Pierce presented an overview of the City's CMOM program. Copies of the City's CMOM self-assessment checklist and CMOM CAP were provided to stakeholder workgroup members prior to the meeting. Key topics presented included:

- EPA history of CMOM
- Definition of an SSO
- Overview of the City's CMOM report
- Overview of CMOM CAP implementation progress

Questions & Answers:

Q: Does CMOM require ongoing reporting?

A: Yes, there are required annual reports.

Other Items:

Joe Nicholson, the City Solicitor, gave an update on the status of the CSO consent agreement, and made copies of the agreement available to the stakeholders.

Parking Lot:

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

- What percentage of interconnections between the storm and sanitary system are identified in the GIS?
- Are there storage options at the WPCP?
- Are there options for reducing the number of problem items entering the headworks?

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for September 8th at 3pm in the Council Chambers.

Attachment 1 - CSO Stakeholder Workgroup Meeting #3 Attendees

MEETING DATE:	Thursday July 14th, 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	NO
Chris Witt (Alternate)	Aquidneck Island Planning Commission	NO
Charles Wright	Beach Commission	NO
Kathleen Shinnars (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	NO
James Carlson	NSN	YES
William Monaco (Alternate)	NSN	NO
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	NO
Eric Beck	RIDEM	NO
Angelo Liberti (Alternate)	RIDEM	Bill Patenaude (fill-in)
Jim Brunnhoeffer	RWU	YES
B. Gokhan Celik (Alternate)	RWU	NO

MEETING DATE:	Thursday July 14th, 2011 @ 3:00 PM	
LOCATION:	City Hall Council Chambers - Newport, RI	
Name	Affiliation	In Attendance
John Torgan	Save the Bay	YES
Wendy Waller (Alternate)	Save the Bay	NO
Tom Cornell	Resident	NO
Stuart K. Mills, Jr.	Resident	YES
Roger Slocum	Resident	NO
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
Kris Andersen	Critigen	YES
Dimitri Katehis	CH2M HILL	YES
Tom Simbro	Wright-Pierce	YES