



John S. Truhan Consulting Engineers, Inc.

Metedeconk River Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan

Meeting Minutes

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 2: April 27, 2011

The second Metedeconk River Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee was held at Ocean County College in Toms River, New Jersey on April 27, 2011 between 9:00 and 12:00 PM. A copy of the meeting agenda and sign-in sheet is attached.

Robert Karl, Project Manager for BTMUA, opened the meeting with a brief project description and status update. Following introductions by the attendees, he provided an overview of the Metedeconk River Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan and the specific tasks outlined in the project scope of work.

Dr. Stan Hales (Barnegat Bay Partnership) made some additional opening remarks and encouraged people to attend the State of the Bay meeting on May 12, 2011 as well as the Barnegat Bay Festival on June 5, 2011.

Following Dr. Hales' comments, R. Karl presented the findings of the Stream Visual Assessments, which are documented in the Stream Visual Assessments report (Task 2). The purpose, objectives and general approach to conducting the assessments were discussed. Maps were displayed showing the locations and scores of the assessment sites. Major findings of the assessments were summarized. Riparian buffers are largely intact, though there are opportunities for restoration in some areas. Smaller tributaries tended to be more sensitive to local development and runoff-related problems than the larger river branches. There is an abundance of antiquated stormwater infrastructure, including direct outfalls, drainage ditches and detention basins, which present significant issue for Metedeconk River flow and water quality. Some stormwater infrastructure is in poor condition. Direct stormwater discharges to the river were found at 68 sites (82%), and 117 storm outfalls and 24 drainage ditches were cataloged. Detention basins were located in close proximity to 20 assessment sites. Overall, very few obvious pollution sources were identified during the assessments, and stream impairments appear to be caused primarily by stormwater/nonpoint source pollution. Trash and floatable debris throughout the watershed is a major problem, and numerous cases of dumping were documented. Utility facilities located near waterways are in good condition and tend to be very well maintained, and no leaking sanitary sewer infrastructure was discovered. Observations of lakes that were located near assessment sites reveal that many are suffering from problems with eutrophication, water quality, sedimentation and/or nuisance aquatic plant growth, and lake management/restoration would be beneficial.

Photographs from several assessment sites were reviewed to show some examples of the major findings. Ultimately, there are many opportunities for improving conditions in the watershed and addressing stormwater-related problems should be a high priority.

Dan O'Rourke, Project Manager for CDM, provided an overview of the technical analysis that was conducted and documented in the Technical Analysis report (Task 3). The technical analysis began with a review of previous studies involving the Metedeconk watershed over the past 10 years. Updated information on land use/impervious cover, stream flow, water use and supply, water quality trends, TMDL's and surface water quality standards impairments was presented. Impervious land cover continues to be a major concern for the watershed, and is potentially resulting in reductions in baseflow and increased pollutant loading to the Metedeconk River. Water quality analyses were undertaken using BTMUA's water quality database as well as other sources of available data for the watershed (e.g. USGS). The visual assessment data were integrated into the analyses, as were the latest available 2007 land use/land cover data issued by NJDEP. Based upon the results of the Task 3 analysis, the list of project objectives can be refined by the watershed stakeholders.

Eileen Althouse (CDM) presented findings from the integration of the stream visual assessments and water quality data. The visual assessments serve as an indicator of the condition of the watershed at the tributary level. Lower visual assessment scores are associated with more intense land use and degradation in water quality along tributaries in many cases. Although Metedeconk River water quality sampling stations are primarily located along the main stems of the North and South Branches, water quality degradation along particular stream reaches (for example, between sites NK and NG on the North Branch) shows some correlation with a reduction in visual assessment scores along the tributaries discharging to that reach. In addition to the water quality evaluation, the visual assessments can be used to identify potential areas for mitigation projects or stormwater best management practices, and several examples were presented.

Municipal information, including planning, zoning, stormwater management plans and other water resources-related ordinances, was evaluated and summarized by John S. Truhan Consulting Engineers (JST). John Truhan (JST) provided an overview of the findings by municipality. It was emphasized that although all municipalities are in compliance with the NJDEP Stormwater Rules, there are opportunities for improvement, such as ensuring adequate design and performance standards and long-term maintenance of stormwater basins.

A discussion period followed the presentations. The comments that were discussed include:

- There is a need to coordinate the Metedeconk Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan with the numerous other plans that involve the watershed (e.g. growth, transportation, water supply, etc.). Some coordination is occurring between municipal planning and the sewer service/wastewater management planning.
- Addressing water supply issues in the watershed through such things as water conservation and reuse programs should be a priority in the Metedeconk plan.
- Ocean County Engineering Department's stormwater restoration/retrofit work was discussed, and several sites identified as Metedeconk restoration targets are already being targeted by Ocean County – the project team will coordinate its watershed restoration efforts with those of Ocean County.

- A question was brought up concerning the sustainable yield of the watershed – this issue should be addressed in the updated NJ Water Supply Plan (scheduled for release in the near future).
- The vulnerability of BTMUA's water supply intake to salt water intrusion was raised and briefly discussed.
- Training programs or development application checklists should be made available to municipal planning boards to ensure that future development decisions are made with consideration of water resources and potential impacts to them.
- It was suggested that fees on housing transactions may be a means of funding watershed protection and restoration (including stormwater restoration) projects.
- A question was raised as to whether it would be feasible to rely on water treatment plants to treat stormwater from areas that are contributing major pollutant loads.
- It was suggested that the project team contact Ocean County Department of Health to obtain a database of septic sites and private wells to address this potential data gap.
- A pending development in Lakewood on Lanes Mill Road was brought up and briefly discussed – Ocean County Engineering offered to provide information it had available on the project.
- Most watershed stakeholders felt that the eRoom that was set up to disseminate information is working acceptably (via show of hands) and the project team will make alternate arrangements to get information to those individuals who are not comfortable with this approach.

The meeting closed with a reminder for the Stakeholder Advisory Committee to check the eRoom for the deliverables and submit comments on the draft reports by May 15th. The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for mid to late June and will likely be hosted by Howell Township. The next meeting will involve hearing extensively from the watershed stakeholders as we work to finalize the goals and objectives for the plan.

A copy of each presentation given at this meeting has been posted to the project eRoom.

cc: Stakeholder Advisory Committee Distribution

Metedeconk River Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting

Ocean County College
Arts & Community Center (ACC) Theatre

April 27, 2011

AGENDA

9:00 - 9:15 am	Introductions (<i>BTMUA</i>)
9:15 - 9:30 am	Project overview/update (<i>BTMUA</i>)
9:30 - 10:00 am	Stream Visual Assessments – Project Task 2 (<i>BTMUA</i>)
10:00 - 10:45 am	Watershed Technical Analysis – Project Task 3 (<i>CDM</i>)
10:45 - 11:15 am	Watershed Technical Analysis, Municipal Section (<i>J.S. Truhan</i>)
11:15 - 11:30 am	Summary of findings (<i>CDM</i>)
11:30 - noon	Discussion and next steps (<i>CDM</i>)

**Metedeconk River Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan
Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting
April 27, 2011**

SIGN-IN SHEET

	Name	Affiliation	Telephone	Email
1	CLEMENS BREMER	P.P. BEACH	732-892-3134	CJBREMER@BELLATLANTIC.NET
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16	Jennifer Nobleyas	NJDEP	609-633-0733	Jennifer.Nobleyas@dep.state.nj.us
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