



John S. Truhan Consulting Engineers, Inc.

## Metedeconk River Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan

### Meeting Minutes

Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting 3: July 13, 2011

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The third Metedeconk River Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting was held at Brick Township's Civic Plaza Recreation Center on July 13, 2011 between 1:00 and 4:00 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 status update. Following introductions by the attendees, Mr. Karl indicated that the purpose of the meeting was to finalize the goals and objectives of the Metedeconk River Watershed Protection and Restoration Plan that were originally set in January 2010 at the project kick-off meeting. These goals and objectives can now be revisited and/or refined based on the findings from the visual assessments (Task 2) and technical analysis (Task 3) tasks. Reports for both tasks were finalized, incorporating all comments received from the Steering Committee and Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The final reports have been posted to the project eRoom. Once the goals and objectives are finalized, the project team will work toward developing management strategies that can be used to support the objectives of the project.

Dan O'Rourke, Project Manager for CDM, provided a brief summary of the technical analysis and Visual Assessment Project Plan (VAPP) that was conducted and documented in the Task 2 and Task 3 reports. Mr. O'Rourke noted that the major findings of the two task reports were the following:

- Impervious cover has increased from 12% to 15% from 1995/1997 to 2007;
- Total flow of the Metedeconk River remains steady, but baseflow component is declining;
- Agricultural (and private) water use should be further investigated, more specifically to determine if there is a significant number of users which use less than 100,000 gallons per day;
- Based on a water quality analysis, primarily from data provided by BTMUA, an increasing trend in nitrogen, conductivity/TDS is observed. Additional findings regarding water quality are as follows:
  - Additional monitoring on tributaries would be beneficial
  - Groundwater quality data are needed
  - TMDL strategies should be implemented
- Coordination of potential projects and stormwater management measures with surrounding municipalities, agencies and programs (NJDEP, USGS, BBP, Ocean County, others) is encouraged;

- Maintenance of stormwater management infrastructure is of concern and ordinances vary between townships;
  - There is an abundance of antiquated stormwater infrastructure.
- Funding mechanisms for maintenance of stormwater infrastructure should be identified;
  - Stormwater maintenance programs should be developed and implemented.
- Expansion of sanitary sewers should be encouraged in areas served by old/failing septic;
- In general, all municipalities have implemented required stormwater plans and ordinances;
- Impervious cover continues to increase and LID development should be implemented to the fullest extent practical;
- Riparian buffers are in decent shape, though there are opportunities for restoration in some areas;
- Smaller tributaries are more sensitive to local development and runoff than larger river branches;
- Very few obvious pollution sources identified in the stream visual assessments;
- Trash and floatables is a major problem and numerous cases of dumping have been documented;
- Lakes are suffering from problems with water quality, sedimentation and nuisance aquatic plant growth - lake management/restoration would be beneficial; and
- Addressing stormwater-related problems should be a high priority

Following a review of the major findings, Dr. Mark Maimone, the Project Director from CDM, lead a discussion on the goals and objectives of the plan. The original goals and objectives were revisited individually and the Stakeholders were asked if they should remain as originally documented or if they should be refined. Refinements/suggestions from the project Steering Committee were included and agreed upon or altered by the Stakeholder Committee as appropriate.

The final goals and objectives that resulted from this meeting's discussion are attached.

The meeting closed with an announcement that the final goals and objectives will be e-mailed to the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. The committee will have time to review the final goals and objectives and a brief period of time will be allotted to make any last and final refinements. The next meeting will involve a summary of the management strategies that will be developed in accordance with the goals and objectives for the plan.

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

cc: Stakeholder Advisory Committee Distribution

## Final Goals and Objectives for the Development of a Metedeconk River Watershed Protection Restoration Plan

Goal		Objective
1	Provide a sustainable water supply to the human population while maintaining natural water regimes	Improve natural freshwater flows
		Promote water conservation and implement water re-use demonstration projects (i.e., fully functioning with educational components) on priority properties (e.g., golf-courses and other public facilities)
2	Maintain Category 1 designation and eliminate water quality impairments	Reduce stormwater flow via implementation of projects on public and/or priority facilities and redevelopment projects
		Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, pathogens, tds and tss
		Implement TMDLs (reference current 303d list and develop priority implementation schedule with NJDEP and USEPA)
		Prevent habitat loss and support habitat restoration within riparian buffers to preserve and improve regional biodiversity
		Address data gaps for groundwater and tributary water quality within the Metedeconk River watershed
		Protect and restore critical wildlife habitat and natural lands identified by NJDEP, Trust for Public Land, Rutgers University, Ocean County Natural Lands Trust and others (e.g., riparian areas, forested areas, etc.)
		Minimize health risks to recreational contact water users from pathogens (i.e., make pathogen-impaired waters a priority for TMDL implementation)
		Improve soil health for biological, chemical, and physical function; implement demonstration projects on public and/or priority properties
		Identify multiple sources of funding for implementation of the plan
3	Support the health of the Barnegat Bay	Reduce nitrogen, phosphorus, pathogens and tss
		Reduce stormwater runoff to the bay
		Improve passive recreational access
		Protect natural shoreline buffers and open space; implement buffer setback
4	Improve the water quality of watershed lakes	Reduce pathogen and phosphorus inputs
		Address invasive plant species (i.e., identify priority species and develop management plans) and sediment accumulation (e.g., reduce stormwater runoff and protect shoreline buffers)
5	Promote Education and Outreach Regarding Watershed Impacts from Growth	Enlist involvement and support of all levels of government, specifically municipal and/or county planning and zoning boards and environmental commissions, stormwater coordinators, DPWs, etc., for sustained effectiveness in managing watershed resources
		Identify and encourage Low Impact Development standards appropriate for the Metedeconk basin
		Promote cooperation among the development community, such as board of realtors, shore builders assoc., etc., involved in watershed development
		Promote cooperation among various regulatory agencies involved in watershed resources and development
		Support Smart Growth standards and promote municipal participation in Sustainable NJ
		Support open space planning and preservation (work with towns and Green Acres to develop a plan for headwater protection)
		Work in concert with the Barnegat Bay Partnership and other organizations involved in education and outreach to: (1) expand the public's understanding of the watershed, (2) encourage public participation and support of improving watershed health, and (3) promote public involvement in restoration activities.
		Increase public understanding of the Metedeconk watershed and the role the public plays in its health
Involve stakeholders in defining problems, objectives and solutions		

**Metedeconk River Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan**

**Stakeholder Advisory Committee  
Meeting**

**Brick Township Civic Plaza Recreation Center**

**July 13, 2011**

**AGENDA**

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|----------------|---|
| 1:00 - 1:15 pm | Introductions ( <i>BTMUA</i> )                                |
| 1:15 - 1:45 pm | Summary of project Task 2 & 3 findings ( <i>CDM</i> )         |
| 1:45 - 3:45 pm | Watershed plan goals and objectives discussion ( <i>CDM</i> ) |
| 3:45 - 4:00 pm | Wrap up and next steps ( <i>BTMUA/CDM</i> )                   |

**Metedeconk River Watershed Protection & Restoration Plan  
Stakeholder Advisory Committee Meeting  
July 13, 2011**

**SIGN-IN SHEET**

	Name	Affiliation	Telephone	Email
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