

Neshanic Project Team Meeting

12 December 2006 @ SBWA

Present: Ellen Cronan, Kathy Hale, Christine Hall, Bill Kibler, Chris Obropta, Zeyuan Qiu, Dana Ronyack, Dan Van Abs, Nick Zripko.

Absent: Dean Bryson, Bill Honachefsky, Katherine Axt & Chris Testa

1. Minutes from the 9 Nov 06 meeting were accepted with no changes.
2. E. Coli Stressor Identification. Per Chris O., the monitoring group is modifying the stressor ID for TMDL work and that has not been shared with watershed groups. Each group is using is for different goals. We should use the EPA standard ID for our own goals. Rutgers is planning training on this and will create a working group of these type of issues. Per Nick Z., the EPA Protocol may be modified but the modifications must be documented. The DEP Bio group has been pulled off this to work on C1 streams instead.
3. Not all subcontracts have been signed and all partners should coordinate with Michael Liska.
4. The official starting date of the project is 1 Oct 06. Quarterly reports are due 31 Dec 06. NJIT has purchased a server for the Neshanic project and are working on getting a student helper for data management.
5. The next steps are determining sampling sites based on access, safety and wadeability. The lab must be determined, Rutgers lab is not yet certified but should be by Mar 07. Chris T., Zeyuan Q. and Chris O. need to determine what data already exists in the watershed. Letters have been sent to the four municipalities and a committee meeting should be planned for mid-Feb 07. A draft work plan needs to be sent out to the team with maps and then will be submitted to DEP.
6. The team reviewed a map of the watershed highlighting all road crossings. There are 136 crossing identified. The road crossings will be reviewed to determine sites for Stream Visual Assessment Protocol. The areas will be checked against present data on farmland assessed lots.
7. North Jersey RC&D is continuing their River Friendly Farm program in the Neshanic area. The criteria have been modified and some changes need to be made with regard to irrigation. There are seven target farm applications in the Neshanic. The plan is to use orthophotography to label fields as to crop type and then ground check the data with drive-bys. Initially a single farm will be used as a test case and the project will expand out. The overall goal is creating change in management practices.
8. Public relations were discussed with regard to DEP requirements for this project. All press releases need to be checked by Nick Z. and Zeyuan Q. before they are submitted to the media. DEP will provide basic information which must be included in all press releases.
9. Task Review:
 - a. Task 4: The preliminary map of stormwater infrastructure is complete per Chris T. Per Chris O., the final report needs to include the type of BMP and discuss how well the BMP performs and whether retrofit is possible. Associated costs should be included to help plan the necessary work. Information with regard to land use, soil type, habitats and town sensitivities should also be included. It was noted that there are 7,000 inlets in Raritan Twp alone.
 - b. Task 5: Details of this task will be reviewed in the new year by Chris T.
 - c. Task 6: There is concern that there will be poor correlation of the models to the subwatershed level, this is being seen in the Cohansey. Specific farm data will be needed per crop for accuracy.
 - d. Task 7: The SWAT model is running but has not been calibrated. It will be calibrated to the USGS flow gauges and good data should be available in the 2nd quarter of 2007. There is concern that the SWAT model

will be inconsistent with the TMDL analysis. This issue has come up in the Passaic. It was noted that the SWAT model will be used primarily for determining sites for management practices.

10. The Bureau of Environment, Assessment and Restoration of DEP was to be a part of this team but per Nick Z. they may not be in a position to assign staff to the team.

11. It was noted that Rutgers has received funding to work on BMPs specifically for horse farms and we may be able to use this work in the Neshanic.

12. Further discussion was put on hold until the system is on-line.