

Delaware Township Stormwater Committee Minutes
June 28, 2022 meeting

Roll Call

Present: Gary Hinesley, Leslie Sauer, Valerie Tucci

New member attending for the first time: Debbie King

New business:

NJDEP/ RGGI Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

Natural Climate Solutions Grants – Blue and Green Carbon Projects

Old business:

Grant updates and monitoring of reconstructed embankment at 208
Lower Creek Road.

New business and old business were discussed altogether.

Discussion:

Debbie King has volunteered to be a member of the Stormwater
Committee. The Committee welcomed her to her first meeting.

Natural Climate Solutions Grants: Ms. Sauer thinks this grant may not
be a good fit for Delaware Township, as it mentions urban areas. Mr.
Hinesley pointed out that Sergeantsville and the Rose Brook watershed
are urban areas, considering that the watershed area is more than 10%
impervious cover. Members of the Committee agreed to go ahead with
filling out a grant application, as an exercise that may prepare the
Committee for other grant applications.

Lower Creek Road embankment reconstruction: Members discussed the
condition of the plantings: the willow stakes look healthy, the trees do
not. The grass looks brown; no one is sure what species of grass or trees
was planted.

The bank is eroding. Neighbors are saying the Township plans to put boulders in the creek alongside the bank; those same neighbors say they don't expect this will do much good; they know the Township put boulders along the creek bank just upstream from the Covered Bridge; those boulders are now in mid-stream because the bank washed away behind them. Nevertheless, some neighbors are a little desperate to see the Township try just about anything that might buy a little time.

Overall, the Stormwater Committee sees evidence that the engineered solution may not be durable or be able to sustain the road. The Committee sympathizes with the Township Engineer, he has a difficult task. Leslie Sauer is a retired landscape architect; in her experience it is standard practice to ask the engineer for an assessment of his concerns with regard to the project. The 1-year anniversary on September 1 is approaching; the Stormwater Committee suggests this would be an appropriate time for an assessment.

Other grants: Ms. Sauer mentioned the EQIP grant, which funds the planting of native grasses on farmland to sequester CO₂ and infiltrate stormwater. She said Alix Bacon of NJCF is working with some farmers in the Lockatong- Wickecheoke watersheds to plant 100 acres in native grasses. Ms. Sauer plans to plant 30 acres on her family's farm.

The Watershed Institute, the Natural Resources Defense Council and the Xerces Society may also have mini grants.
The search for grants continues.

The Committee discussed ways to impound stormwater before it reaches the washout site at 208 Lower Creek Road. County Road 604 between Rosemont and the Covered Bridge dumps stormwater into a stream on the former Pierman farm, which enters the Wickecheoke Creek just opposite 208 Lower Creek Road. Land along this stretch of CR604 could be planted in native grasses where there is a willing owner.

Meeting adjourned.