

Borough of New Stanton
Borough Council
Public Hearing Minutes of Meeting
August 1, 2017

Attendance

Council members: Dean Clark, Brandon Clawson, Linda Echard, Scott Sistek, Tom Smith, and Tom Theis. Mayor Nicholas DeSantis. Others: Borough Engineer Emil Bove, Borough Solicitor John Campfield and, and Borough Manager Jeffrey McLaughlin.

Call to Order

President Scott Sistek called the Public Hearing regarding the NPDES Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Pollution Reduction Plan to order at 6:45 PM. He then turned the meeting over to Borough Engineer Emil Bove.

Emil reviewed the Pollution Reduction Plan (PRP) the purpose of which is to reduce the amount of nutrients flowing into Tributary #2 of Sewickley Creek, which runs along Westinghouse Drive, under Center Avenue and along Wentsler.

He stated that the DEP is requiring a 5% reduction in nutrients within 5 years. The nutrients enter the stream via sediment.

Emil said that the plan had been advertised and the hearing would meet the DEP's requirement. The plan can be commented on for 30 days after the advertising date and will be submitted to the DEP after that period on September 16, 2017. The submittal must include all comments that are received and answers to those comments.

Emil then reviewed the maps in the PRP. The first map shows the EPA-designated Urbanized Area which consists of 1,245 acres. The second map he reviewed shows the MS4 Planning Area which consists of a 615 acre watershed that flows into the impaired stream. 369 acres of the MS4 Planning area are in the Urbanized Area the balance is in the non-urbanized area. This effects the calculations. Also, the acreage of certain properties is allowed to be deducted from the acreage upon which the calculations are based including the Turnpike, PennDOT right of ways, and the UPS property. Based on these calculations, the borough has to reduce the amount of sediment going into the tributary by 25,429 pounds per year for 5 years, to achieve the 5% goal. The DEP allows for several different ways to achieve this goal, the most cost effective way of which is through stream bank restoration. 600' linear feet of stream bank would need to be restored with either vegetation and/or stone (i.e., rip-rap). Emil stated that in using the DEP's figure of \$47 to remove one pound of sediment, the cost for remediation would equal \$1.2 million. Emil feels that the work can be done much more cheaply. He also estimated a cost of \$25,000 per year to maintain the work once it has been completed.

Councilman Tom Smith stated that nutrients come off of the Turnpike. Emil said that the Turnpike is supposed to clean the nutrients from the road. The borough is not paying to clean up the sediment from the Turnpike. That area has been removed from our calculations. Tom asked if the \$1.2 million would come from the taxpayers. Emil stated that that the borough could partner with the Sewickley Creek Watershed Association or the Westmoreland Conservation District to apply for grants. In lieu of grants he suggested the PennVest Loan Program. If these avenues fail the cost would be \$264 per tax parcel per year. Tom said that the taxpayers' burden is increasing: higher school taxes and PA license plate fees have gone up and the Greensburg-Hempfield Library Association is seeking higher taxes to pay for their facilities. Emil suggested bringing this to the attention of state legislators.

Councilmember Dean Clark asked how the areas were laid out. Emil said it was a function of DEP and EPA requirements.

Solicitor John Campfield said that the borough is under a general state permit. Emil said we do not meet the requirements to get an individual permit nor do we want an individual permit.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Scott asked the audience if they had any comments or questions.

Mr. Robert Fox who owns a farm on Broadview Road asked if his farm was in the area. Emil said a small portion of it was in the watershed area. Mr. Fox stated that he received a \$100 check from PennDOT for sediment reduction from his farm. He asked if that would impact this program. Emil said that there are no credits given for other programs. Mr. Fox said that this should have been taken into consideration and that one agency probably doesn't know what the other is doing.

Adjournment

Scott asked if there were any other comments. There being none, the public hearing was concluded at 7:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey McLaughlin
Secretary