

### Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 October 2013

Subject: WRE 12-01 – Potomac Ridge Retrofits  
Public Meeting

Attendees: MCDEP Project Engineer – Paul Bogle (PB)  
MCDEP Project Planner – Darian Copiz (DC)  
BH/BC JV Project Manager – Doug Streaker (DS)  
CPJ Design Engineer - Jeff Blass (JB)  
*See Attached for Resident Attendees*

Venue: Travilah Elementary School

---

At the meeting, DC presented background information on why Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is proposing to retrofit the facilities was presented. Site specific goals and details were presented by JB for the four pond retrofit sites (see power point slide show for more details)

#### Comments:

##### Pond 10847 – Proposed Dry Retention Pond with Bioswale between Saddlevue Drive and Mustang Hill Lane

- Adjacent homeowner commented that he regularly has water problems in his basement and expressed concern about a wet pond making his situation worse.
  - Dry pond recommendation will not negatively impact basements due to minimal changes to the water surface elevations
- Homeowner also commented that wet ponds would decrease property values due to safety concerns from families looking to buy in the neighborhood.

##### Pond 1876 – Proposed infiltration basin/dry retention pond along Dufief Mill Road

- No comments by homeowners about infiltration basin and dry detention proposed

##### Pond 10887 – Proposed Wet pond w/ possible bioretention off of Grey Colt Drive

- JB stated willow tree is required to be removed due to MD 378 compliance.
- Homeowner questioned if retrofit would make 100yr water surface elevation (WSEL) any worse.
  - JB replied that 100 year WSEL might increase in the pond but would remain off of private property. However, 100 year WSEL would not be made significantly worse downstream of the pond.
- Homeowner question of how much area would have permanent pool.
  - JB replied the downstream half of the pond would have a permanent pool and noted that the edge would align with the 4th or 5th house (approximately) on Saddlevue Drive. On closer review, the answer is mostly like to align with the 2nd or 3rd house.
- Homeowner asked how deep additional excavation would be.

- JB replied that excavation depth would depend on the site but the range of additional depth would be between 0 and 4 feet.
- Homeowners raised questions about the ponds attracting more geese and deer.
  - DC's answer included fringe plantings help keep geese out. Geese tend to prefer open areas with short vegetation to see predators
- Homeowner asked if deer will be pushed out into residential properties.
  - DC's answer was that not significant amount of the deer's grazing area would be taken up by pond, thereby not having a significant impact on the number of deer entering residential properties.
- Per JB, the existing asphalt path along the embankment will be replaced in kind with the pond retrofit work.
- Will retrofit project clean up the downstream channel, removing the downed trees?
  - DEP will investigate channel, but likely not part of project except for immediate outfall (approximately 50 LF downstream of the end wall). After the meeting, the property in question was determined to be owned by WSSC (L. 6465/F.84).
- Homeowner expressed concern that an adjacent neighborhood (Natia Manor immediately to the southeast) has caused some issues of saturation within the facility.

#### Pond 10891 – Proposed Wet Pond w/ bioretention terrace off of Appaloosa Way

- Bioretention on the slopes of the pond in three areas is proposed and is limited to smaller drainage areas.
- JB noted that this pond was found upon inspection to have a subsurface pipe feeding a constant base flow into the riser. This would be removed and the groundwater would end up supplying the wet pond.

#### General Comments

- Mosquitos concerns were expressed by multiple homeowners.
  - DC answer included predator introduction, maintaining conditions for predator survival. DS pointed out that the two proposed wet pond sites have standing water in concrete swales which is a greater breeding ground for mosquitos than wet ponds would be. DEP performed a field analysis of over 300 stormwater facilities and found only 2 facilities had only a population of mosquitos. These two facilities were inoculated with predators of mosquitos. During the study, DEP found that majority of the mosquitos were in areas where there were no predators such as wheel barrows, kids toys, gutters on homes, flower pot trays, etc. There will be predators of the mosquitos brought with the wetland plants.
- How long will construction take?
  - JB noted that three months is anticipated but weather delays, stream closure and construction season could affect that schedule. JB commented that although inconvenient, summer allows for the quickest, easiest construction.
- How will kids be kept out during construction periods?
  - Per JB, orange construction safety fence will be placed around the perimeter of the site.
- How will kids be kept out of permanent pools? General concern for public safety was an issue brought up several times.
  - All permanent pool areas will have a flat safety bench around the perimeter of the pond, with densely planted vegetation. This will eliminate a sudden drop off into the pond, and the dense vegetation will deter kids from entering them. DEP will also post warning signage around pond. DC commented that if HOA prefers the ponds to be fenced, the fences would be the responsibility of the HOA although.
- Does county dredge pond periodically? What parts of the pond does County maintain?
  - Structural maintenance including dredging is the responsibility of the County while trash pickup and vegetation maintenance including mowing is the responsibility of the landowner (HOA). This is consistent with the current agreements of which the HOA is party to.
- Homeowner asked for examples of wet ponds within residential community, preferably nearby. And to provide photos for website.
  - JB mentioned several ponds in Gaithersburg that were recently retrofitted.
- Resident stated that aeration via fountain is done at nearby wet pond. Will it be needed here?
  - No, due to groundwater inflow circulating water through pond.
- Homeowner asked what criteria was considered to determine viability of dry to wet conversion?

- JB replied that groundwater influence, geometry of site, and SWM Requirements were the chief factors in this determination.
- Question regarding configuration of riser to maintain permanent pool.
  - Low flow pipe will be located at permanent pool elevation, above bottom of pond. Additional openings above low flow will effectively pass larger storms through pond safely.
- How much say does the HOA have in the process?
  - DEP easement provides legal ground for retrofit, but DEP wants to received communities buy in on the proposed design.
- Followup question regarding what the process for public comment would be.
  - DEP and HOA replied that comments could be conveyed through the HOA or directly to DEP through DC or DS.
- Several homeowners noted that kids use the existing lawn space as recreational area.
  - Feedback from HOA regarding the location and extents of areas to remain as maintained grass will be obtained and incorporated into design.
- Homeowners asked what additional liability the community would take on from a conversion from a dry to wet pond.
  - This question was not thoroughly answered at the meeting. Follow by MCDEP found that in another similar case, an HOA received feedback from their insurance provider that the conversion from a dry to wet pond will not add additional liability to their insurance. DEP encourages the HOA to follow-up on this as well.
- Homeowner expressed concern about water stagnation.
  - JB explained how groundwater would continually feed the wet ponds and noted that if stagnation becomes a concern during the design process, the proposed wet ponds be re-considered.
- Homeowner asked what the fall-back position for MCDEP would be if the HOA would not be in favor of a wet pond.
  - JB explained that dry ponds with enhanced swales/channels and bioretention would be the most likely second option.

#### Action Items

- DEP will provide all of the presentation items to the HOA in electronic format, as well as post onto the DEP website.
- DEP will provide photos and locations of wet ponds within residential communities that would be similar to the proposed wet pond proposed
- DEP will investigate the downstream channel of 10887 to determine if there is a need for removing downed trees.
- DEP requests that the HOA provide comments by October 28<sup>th</sup> (approximately 2 weeks) and submit all comments in writing to MCDEP. Let us know if that is too quick.
- Additional questions can be directed to Doug Streaker of the Montgomery County MS4 Program (240) 499-8531 at any time.