

## Water

January 12, 2021

2:00pm-3:00pm

Zoom

### Notes



#### I. Welcome and Introductions

- 23 attendees; 9 Camden residents/businesses

#### II. Hot topics

- Sustainability Ordinance: how it is used by the planning board (Dr. Williams, Director of Planning for Camden City)
  - How it works:
    1. Implemented via the Zoning Code
    2. When someone applies for site plan/ etc., Zoning Board has a pre-application meeting to go through requirements
      - a. Based on the type of development, they may do a different type of review
      - b. They alert the developer about what will be asked of them
    3. The ordinance requires EIS or traffic analysis no matter the size of the plan proposed
    4. The ordinance itself is vague and leaves the planning board and the developer to make up and address specific sustainability goals
  - Thoughts on edits/ additions to the ordinance:
    1. Want it to clarify specific metrics behind goals so there is less wiggle room
      - a. Ex: Redevelopment of the waterfront, may fit the sustainability ordinance but does not acknowledge environmental justice issues; this could be addressed with new rules
    2. Ordinance is from 2015, would need data to support any adjustments to keep in line with climate change (ex: [NJDEP Climate Change Report](#))
    3. Look to Newark's sustainability ordinance which supposedly has bit more "teeth" than Camden's: <https://ecode360.com/36713878>
  - The ordinance does cover stormwater; CCMUA does outreach to upstream communities on their stormwater management which has an impact on Camden's
- Fred Stein, Delaware RiverKeeper Network (DRN) Citizen Action Coordinator: update on a new effort DRN and partners have launched on the new LNG train routes
  - DRN is working in opposition to plans for trains carrying liquified natural (LNG) extracted from wells in PA through Camden (amongst other cities and towns) by train and by truck
    1. In court fighting currently
    2. Pipeline and hazardous material administration: approved the LNG to go from PA plant to NJ
  - Train route approved by DOT across Delair Bridge then on freight tracks (Conrail) through Camden to the Gibbstown facility
  - Transporting LNG was banned for decades due to public dangers
    1. DOT considering rescinding rule to allow LNG on rail ways

- DRN will be doing public forums and outreach to neighborhoods this goes through. Get in touch with Tracy Carluccio: [tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org](mailto:tracy@delawareriverkeeper.org)
    1. cell: 215.692.2329
  - [Interactive map](#) of impacts, disproportionately low-income folks of color
  - Power plant in south Camden would not be supplied by this
  - What would be most impactful/useful from the CCI and residents?
    1. 2 dozen municipal resolutions passed against this effort, adding Camden would be great
    2. Petition for individuals to sign coming soon
  - Any effect on upcoming Camden-Glasboro line? Likely not.
- Molly Riley, Water Quality Coordinator for NJ League of Conservation Voters:  
Stormwater utilities in Camden
- Stormwater is a pressing issue for Camden and everywhere else where flooding is an issue; stormwater utilities seek to address the current deficit for a long-term funding source to address flooding using an incentive structure
  - Incentive structure: to reduce one's stormwater fees, you can reduce your impervious area, make green infrastructure, etc. ... then you get credited
    1. This system reduces fees for homeowners and businesses with a small footprint; it increases fees for properties with park parking lots, for example
  - Councilwoman Boucher has been a [big champion of NJ Future](#)
  - Camden City just put together an RFP with the city engineer for a stormwater utility feasibility study to be released to bid for consultant services soon
    1. Will take some time, want it done right
  - Stewardship training could be potentially funded by a stormwater utility if the city wanted to craft the credit program aspect to do so; fees can pay to train residents and/or they can get credits for their stormwater fees

### III. Flooding/CSO Mitigation

- Current Issues
- Scott Schreiber: CCMUA 3-part update
    1. Long Term Control Plan (LTCP)
      - a. Submitted in October of 2020 to NJDEP
      - b. 2 things need to happen:
        - i. CCMUA needs a permit to start phase 1 (first 5 years)
        - ii. Need to negotiate the full LTCP, will be a lengthier process (could happen during phase 1 implementation)
    2. FEMA: in a survey phase with four potential projects on the table
      - a. Pennsauken disconnect: already got a grant, will award to design engineer in January
        - i. Will be out for construction in early 2023 for 2-year construction process
      - b. I-676 stormwater project: divert stormwater from 6-76 onto green and grey infrastructure
      - c. Harrison Ave. & State St. project: complete street design to mitigate flooding
      - d. Port roads: separate 80 acres of impervious area

3. Look ahead to other areas of the city to collect more data via a new public facing app to replace Camden Reports (pilot phase now)
  - a. NJ Am. Water, CCMUA, Camden City, and the public can all use the new app to report on flooding
- Adopt-A-Drain Website is live, pitching the project at community meetings
  1. Will look to hold community events in the Spring/Summer
    - a. An option: Trails day April 23<sup>rd</sup>: NJ Tree Foundation, could have some overlap for promoting Adopt-A-Drain

Key Next Steps

#### IV. Drinking Water

Current Issues

- Camden Water Quality Investment: American Water updates
  1. Last month released a [report](#) for want needs to be standards
  2. Nearing completion on PFAS project in Parkside
- *Leading with Lead* continuation in Cramer Hill neighborhood: Spring/ Summer 2022 filter/ pitcher giveaways

Key Next Steps

#### V. Community Access to Water

Current Issues

- Concerns for community gardener's access to water: want to balance environmental justice with ability to track how much water is going where
  1. The City wants to understand unaccounted for water outside of metered water
  2. Looking to gain some insight, considering a hydrant meter program
  3. Currently, one would need to get application to use a hydrant officially
    - a. Maybe the application could ask to specify use such as for a community garden
      - i. Need more clear communication with residents about hydrant use
    - b. Need to connect with community gardeners to discuss needs
      - i. Include American Water in these discussions

Key Next Steps

#### VI. 2022 Water Working Group Work Plan

Revisit [2022 Water Working Group Action Plan](#): goals, strategies, objectives

- ALL CCI MEMBERS: Fill out this [Form](#)

#### VII. Additional Information/Resources

Erica Rossetti: [Urban Waters](#) Coordinator at Partnership for the Delaware Estuary (program includes Camden)

- They have some funding and capacity to get funding for projects like pollinator gardens, green infrastructure, etc.
- Great partner in Camden for stewardship, research, etc.
- seminars:
  1. Email: [ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org](mailto:ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org)

Watershed Ambassador Program:

- Want to do more raingardens

- Cleanups, outreach, education; currently a lot of events outside the city
- February 26, Pyne Poynt Park clean up event; flyer to come

DISCLAIMER: This is a summary of the meeting and is based upon the written notes and memory of individuals from Cooper's Ferry Partnership and members of the CCI Core Team. The notes are intended to capture only the main points made in the meeting, and they reflect comments on work-in-progress. The notes do not imply a specific opinion or commitment on the part of any individual or organization represented at the meeting. Report any corrections to [camdencollaborative@camdencpinc.com](mailto:camdencollaborative@camdencpinc.com)

*Next Meeting: CCI Water Working Group Meeting, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm*