

Water

June 9, 2021

2:00pm-3:00pm

Zoom



Agenda

I. Welcome and Introductions

- 24 attendees; 12 Camden residents/businesses

II. Hot Topics

III. Special Presentation

a. "Clean Water, Jobs, and Justice"— Andy Kricun and Tim Dillingham, Littoral Society

- The Problem:
 1. The stretch of the Delaware River from Philly down to Wilmington polluted due to combined sewer overflow
 2. This leads to polluted water flooding on streets and into people's basements
- Current solution: The Long-Term Plan includes upgrading the system, increasing and improving green/grey stormwater, etc. to improve water quality
- Question: can this be done sooner to restore this stretch to a recreational status?
- Road map aims to do just that by investigating:
 1. What methods of water pollution mitigation have already been set forth
 2. High impact actions
 3. The most feasible funding streams
 4. Methods not even found in the control plans
- Opportunity in Camden: looking at how water at Pyne Poynt Park can be improved via interventions at 36 and Farragut Ave. (the largest stormwater outflow)
 1. Options: green infrastructure, keeping sewers clean, redirect Pennsauken water, disinfection (costly)
 2. Also want to identify the funding to achieve that water quality improvement without worsening water rates for low-income communities
 3. Littoral Society is working to understand how to benefit the actual people in neighborhoods (economic, social improvements) at the same time though an interactive, collaborative process

b. Q&A

- This work can seamlessly plug into neighborhood plans for North Camden and Cramer Hill
- Camden Water Trail and Discover the Delaware could also tie in
- Considering brownfields in road maps?

1. Not explicitly, but this work goes hand in hand with green infrastructure projects well suited for brownfield sites
- Has this project investigated the logistical nature of recreation at this site? Besides boat launches, just accessibility of the water?
 1. The point of this project focuses more on water pollution than water access; logistical access is considered in the site prioritization process
 2. Once that is addressed, hopefully reducing the barrier will lead to greater potential
 3. Camden could consider something like a news system to let people know when the tides are right for swimming

IV. Flooding/CSO Mitigation

a. Current Issues

- Adopt-a-Drain program grant awarded to CFP
- Goal is to get residents to adopt the inlet near their homes and agree to clean out those inlets before storms (litter #1 cause of flooding in the city)
 1. Other cities have some art initiatives in water inlets- compelling case to reduce litter
 - a. Not a huge grant; maybe we can choose one to pilot as a demonstration project with art
 2. Bodegas generate a lot of trash that gets into inlets
 - a. Bodega owners can be targeted to be adopters--- maybe in conjunction with plastics ban programming too
 3. Can have conversation with PowerCorps about how to increase participation for this project
 4. Need non-puncturable gloves
 5. Maybe a way to leverage these funds: work with EMR and other big industries to weigh in with their resources available monetarily or otherwise
 - a. EMR can apply with CFP next time to reduce limitations
 - b. EMR can assist in a walking tour of waterfront south to see inlets there that are flooding

b. Key Next Steps

- Request from American Water info on inlet trash hot spots and street sweeper data
- People using Camden reports more for illegal dumping now, though there are a lot of social media posts about flooding
 1. How can that be wielded?

V. Drinking Water

a. Current Issues

- Camden Water Quality Investment: American Water
- Leading with Lead
 1. Amplified from Lead it Run campaign. This initiative encompasses other risk such as paint, soil, and water

2. The project focuses on the neighborhood level in East Camden; soon the project team will give away free water pitcher filters, lead paint abatement program, and other resources/giveaways
- b. Key Next Steps
 - Distribute postcard & brochure to residents
 - East Camden water filter and pitcher giveaway
 - Replace lead pipes like in [Essex County](#)? Use American Rescue Plan funds

VI. Community Access to Water

- a. Current Issues
- b. Key Next Steps
 - [Cramer Hill Waterfront Park](#) opening August 2021

VII. Additional Information/Resources

- a. Neighborhood plans found on [CRA's website](#)
 - All dated and being redone
 - If you want to stay informed through the neighborhood planning processes, email Meishka (meishka@camdencpinc.com) to get added to the mailing lists

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@coopersferry.com

Next Meeting: CCI Community Meeting, July 14th at 2 pm