

Water

July 13, 2022

2:00pm-3:00pm

Zoom



CAMDEN
COLLABORATIVE
INITIATIVE

Notes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- 15 attendees; 7 Camden residents/businesses

II. Hot topics

- “Rowan University Project on Plastic Pollution in Camden with Citizen Science”- Eli Moore (Rowan University, Dept. of Environmental Science)
 - Investigating Plastic Cycling in Camden County
 - It is a threat to ocean wildlife and humans (including toxicity)
 - Microplastics detected in urban waterway and stormwater
 - Sources: larger plastic products (e.g., bottles), clothing (fibers), nurdles (pellets used in industry), personal hygiene products
 - Accumulates along built structures, and fragments through abrasion, turbulence, producing secondary microplastic fragmentation
 - Currently studying plastics accumulation at dams at Evans Pond, Hopkins Pond, Wallworth Lake areas on Cooper River
 - Research questions:
 1. Do human-built structures enhance fragmentation?
 2. Will increased precipitation and extreme weather due to climate change exacerbate plastic waste transport and fragmentation through enhanced runoff, river flow, and turbulence along human-built structures?
 - WISPER: Waterway Identification of Spoliation (pollution) Plastic for Environmental Remediation
 1. Analyzed collected plastic waste with infrared spectrometry
 - a. Most fragmented plastic waste particles are Styrofoam, which is highly reactive and toxic to humans and other organisms
 2. Citizen Science component: identify all plastic waste along Cooper River and other waterways (including Newton Creek)
 3. **Go.rowan.edu/wisper** app allows survey info input for a location
 - a. Location
 - b. Type of plastic
 - c. Number of pieces
 - d. Optional comment or email
 - e. Click submit
 4. App submissions allow researchers to know where the plastic is, what kind of plastic is there
 - a. in order to know where to retrieve it
 - b. in order to characterize the threat to the environment on data
 - Is there a way to link the amount of trash/ impact of trash to climate change other than more coming due to rain events?

1. Will perform collections/ observations after rain events to see how that impacts the distribution of plastics
 2. Track timing of observations with extreme weather events
- Questions/ comments on “We Live Here” Artist Collective’s presentation on their Resilience Public Art Project creating artwork around Camden storm drains to bring attention to Climate Change’s impacts
 - Installation currently at Litwin Market (801 Elm Street); others pending review
 - Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study Updates- Jim Hopkins (Buchart Horn), Orion Joyner (City of Camden)
 - Fred suggested CCMUA (and Delaware Riverkeeper Network) could offer examples of green infrastructure successes for a GI tour later down the line
- III. Flooding/CSO Mitigation**
- Current Issues
 - CCMUA NOAA/ NFWF funded projects: Living shoreline along back of CCMUA plant awaiting final paperwork before proceeding; flood monitoring devices on 12 devices throughout the city
 - US Water Alliance’s One Water [Summit](#) (Sept. 13-15 in Milwaukee)
 - Key Next Steps
 - Drexel presentation once their work with CCMUA is wrapped up
- IV. Drinking Water**
- Current Issues
 - American Water Updates: foundation still open to receive [grant applications](#)
 - Key Next Steps
- V. Community Access to Water**
- Current Issues
 - Center for Aquatic Sciences [Calendar](#); Connect the Lots [Calendar](#)
 - "The Search for the Cooper River" [expedition](#) share out; will be on National Geographic in a couple of years
 - Delaware Riverkeeper Network is looking for transportation (12-passenger van) from Cooper Waterfront Homes to Ben Franklin Bridge for community to get birds eye view of water from bridge
 - Key Next Steps
- VI. Additional Information/Resources**
- The [EJ Rule proposal](#) is open to public comment. Submit comments [here](#).
 - Funding available from Urban Water Delaware Estuary [mini grant opportunity](#); could fund resident led projects

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

Next Meeting: CCI Water Working Group Meeting, July 13th at 2 pm