

Water

May 10, 2023

2:00pm-3:00pm

Zoom

Notes

I. Welcome and Introductions

- Opening Question: If you came to the summit, what was one thing you enjoyed and one thing you'd change
 - If you didn't make the summit: What prevented you from going?
- Enjoyed:
 - Energizing speakers
 - Bus tour to WFS
 - Energy on the bus tours
 - Thrilled to have opportunity to present
 - Getting to know people/ connecting
 - Student plant station
 - Opportunity to sponsor
 - Picture frames for awards were a nice touch
 - Cool to hear from American Water
- Disliked:
 - Would love to see examples in other cities
 - Other places with barriers to progress
 - Wanting to go on both field trips
 - Wished it was longer
 - Ran out of vegetarian sandwiches
 - Prep the youth for their panel better
 - Want to go to both tours
- Why couldn't go:
 - Having a baby
 - Busy

II. Opening Conversation

- CCMUA updates
 - State and Harrison
 - Drexel: adapters are up and running/ Cramer Hill Flood Sensors
 1. Defaulting finding sensible locations
 2. Ultrasonic sensor that senses depth of water or anything else in the street
 3. Went through a series of tests in their lab
 4. In addition to 2-3 already installed, just added 6 more around Harrison Ave./ Kroc Center
 - a. Also around Von Nieda Park
 5. 2 gateways to receive the data at Kroc and Boys and Girls Club

- 6. Modelling
 - a. Potential precipitation/ SLR impacts of climate change in Cramer Hill
 - b. Toying with it in Harrison Ave. now
- 7. What led to the sensor: NSF grant
 - a. Real time storm cleaning ahead of storms
 - b. Could have an app with alerts based on their locations
 - c. Once up and running, people using the app would get paid
 - d. Connect with adopt-a-drain folks to start with
 - e. Working on legal clearance now, cleared that with Drexel
 - f. Now small scale pilot of the app
 - g. No timeline currently
 - h. Need to sort out once that all comes down
- Street flooding project: any other areas to put sensors in? Kaighn avenue floods a lot also Admiral Wilson Blvd.
 - 1. Plans to expand later
 - 2. More to come in the later with new funding sources
- o Community Garden Water containers and pallets (Kelly Drums)
- o [US Water Alliance](#): DRB Regional Cohort update
 - Back in 2018, 2 year process to identify priority areas
 - 1. Resiliency
 - 2. Lead education
 - Now trying to to understand how engagement can be woven into
 - Identified strategies to move forward, communications is a big one
- o Spill impact on water quality?
 - No impact
- o Upcoming I Paddle Events
- o Purchase of Pyne Poynt/ Sadler's Marina; article linked [here](#)

III. **Today's Focus: Litter, stormwater data (DPW, AW)**

- o Discussion on the large amount of water bottles that AW removes from the Streets and collection system.
- o Analysis of the volume of plastic water bottles removed from the City
- o Removed about 8.2 million bottles from streets and sewers in Camden which equates to roughly 2 bottles per person per week
- o Trying to put together a letter that notes this information and describe the impact of bottles on the sewer
 - If we pickup 2 bottles/ week, we could eliminate this issue
- o When sewer collects debris, contributes to street flooding
- o Want to reduce this issue
 - Graphic idea- can be a sticker to put on the trash can?
- o Talley of dollars spent on bottles
 - Combine with "trust the tap" campaign
- o Where does plastic go

- landfill
- May 20th- big community clean up in WFS
- Update on the Stormwater Utility Feasibility Study underway led by the City with HRG as lead consultant
 - Work ongoing
 - Preliminary report due end of next month to look at historical data to look at preliminary
 - City has a grant to look into combined sewer system to charge people based on impervious property
 - Transfer liability to large properties like the parking authority to pay a proportional share compared to just water use
 - In addition to water/sewer bill- proposing bill for another?
 1. Sewer cost collection go down in half
 - Corporations can also reduce fees by adding rain gardens
 - Rate has been the same for 10 years in City (2/3 of city)
 1. East Camden/ Cramer Hill is under NJ Am water- rates set by NJ board of public utilities
 2. City's sewer system handles both stormwater and sewer water
 - a. Feasibility study would have parking lot properties pay more for stormwater
 - Haddon Ave. Kaign Ave. to separate the sewer lines
 1. Those are happening, yes
 2. Instead of doing that everywhere (because its 2 billion), looking into GSI and Grey stormwater inf.

IV. Additional Information/Resources

- <https://www.nj.gov/drbc/public/outreach/camden.html>
- Urban Waters is sending out an RFP for community organizations doing EJ work in Camden. If you're interested in getting the RFP please email me ERossetti@DelawareEstuary.org
- Thank you to all who participated in and supported the 2023 Camden Environmental Summit; please complete the feedback survey [linked here](#)
 - And check out the summit recap video linked [here!](#)
- DRBC Camden Community Day: June 7th 2:30-6:30 @ Rutgers Campus Center
- Submit Your US Water Prize [Nominations](#) by May 31. Potential nominees:
 - public official, nonprofit, public/ private sector org., or an artist or culture bearer
- Jersey Water Works and Lead-Free NJ Joint Membership Meeting: [Register here](#)
 - Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 9:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m
 - Rutgers University, New Brunswick College Ave Student Center

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: All Working Group Meeting, June 7th 1 pm- 2:30 pm in person Rutgers
Camden Campus Center (326 Penn St. 08102)*