

Hanwell Working Group Meeting

Sept. 25th 2007

Present: Serge Levesque Reade Moore Muriel Weadick
Chris Weadick Colleen Adams Krystal Desjardins
Peter Michaud Ed Cochrane Tony Hetherington

Non WG attendee: Frank Jardine

Guest Presenter: Paul Campbell, Engineer with the Green Infrastructure Branch, of the New Brunswick Dept. of Environment

Meeting started at 7:50 pm

Dallas introduced Paul Campbell, engineer with the with the Green Infrastructure Branch, of the New Brunswick Dept. of Environment, who was there to speak to concerns regarding the Wastewater system in Birchwood Estates Subdivision. Paul is a Planner and Engineer and he works with Municipal and Rural Infrastructure Fund and the Provincial Subdivisions.

Mr. Campbell stated that the Birchwood Estates Subdivision and Wastewater facility was approved in the 70's around the time "urban sprawl" started to emerge. He said today this system would never be approved. Originally the system was a trickling filter but in 1999 a Rotating Biological Contractor was added; however, the operation has been spotty. One of the issues is that roof and footing drains are being fed into the sewage lines and causing overflows during heavy rains.

WG member: asked "wouldn't more rain dilute?"

Mr. Campbell: Mr. Campbell stated that the amount of increased water is causing the discharge to overflow the plant before it has time to be treated. Mr. Campbell said he went out to the stream that the plant discharges into and witnessed some green algae, duckweed and odour. Mr. Campbell said it would be helpful for him to get the issue addressed if the group could define the problem.

WG member: said that they used to notice beavers and geese in the area but he doesn't see them there anymore

WG member: said they have noticed that in other areas, as well, like around the tower lake area.

WG member: said that wetlands are well protected today and that he has worked in places with no septic and very high water usage that were required to spend a lot of money to correct their facility. Usually the Department of Environment should be the watchdogs and protectors of the public from things like this. It is odd that here we have the Dept. of Env. owning one of the largest sources of pollution in the area. WG member said he has knows people that require a UV filter for their water. He has his water tested and in June a bacterial hit was noticed, for the first time. It scared him so he decided to take it further. When he read about the money available for the water system in the newspaper, he felt it was time to press the issue.

Mr. Campbell: There is money available with the gas tax and often the answer is simple spend more money and fix the problem but they first need to define what the issue are and what the affects have been.

WG member: the wetland being used as a treatment system is on someone else's land.

WG member: speaking from our committee (LSDAC) we see two major problems in the area, failing sewage system and septic systems and spills. And if there is money available we should study and fix the issues.

WG had discussion regarding the plume of Hydrocarbons that has been moving through the ground for the last 10 years from spills from private gas stations. The parties have been tied in litigation and result is work is not being done to address the problem while the plume is spreading.

Dallas: I'm not sure who in gov we could contact to press the issue, as I don't know if there is a specific gov. department or agency responsible for it.

Mr. Campbell: said he will look into but he is not sure who would be responsible in the public sector.

WG member said someone should just clean it and hand the bill to the parties responsible.

Dallas: I would like to focus on what Mr. Campbell can do or suggest to address the issues relating the wastewater facility while he is here.

Mr. Campbell: Adding environmental policies to your plan that encourages gov. to act would be helpful for us to try to obtain funding. Also polices addressing the protection of the wetland would also be recommended. Mr. Campbell said we have a difficult case, but perhaps an engineered wetland could be established or some other option found. Mr. Campbell said the money was probably announced for the water system and not the wastewater system

because the wastewater system was improved in 1999. It just hasn't worked very well for issues already discussed.

Dallas and the group thanked Mr. Campbell who said he would take the issues back and try and find a resolution. He said he would be willing to comeback and report to the group.

Dallas said the group will have the draft before the next meeting. Dallas said he is working on the commercial and industrial zoning section. He passed around some a map showing GIS points and a corresponding list from the windshield survey of the commercial and industrial area.

Dallas said that at the last meeting he said he would contact someone in the mini or modular home industry to get some info on Garden Suites and typical mini home size. Dallas circulated some information he received that showed floor plans for Garden Suites and mini homes. The sizes vary from 560 sqft to 756 sqft for Garden Suites or Starter homes. The agency said that they do not sell many of them, perhaps one per year. The larger mini homes tend to sell at a much greater rate. Floor plans of 4 typical mini homes were provided all at a length of 74 sqft and an area of 1166 sqft. The group discussed it and decided upon a maximum area of 900 sqft (84 sqm).

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Next Meeting: October 16th, 2007