

DATE	Tuesday, October 20, 2014
LOCATION	Somerset Town Hall 4510 Cumberland Avenue Chevy Chase, MD 20815
SUBJECT	Public Outreach Meeting
ATTENDEES	Thirty-nine residents, Somerset Town Council members, community officials, and representatives from environmental groups and housing associations were in attendance. Refer to the sign- in sheets for details.

**The Special Session Public Outreach Meeting was held by the Somerset Town Council and the Following WSSC and Contract personnel Served as Panelist and Observers:**

Jon-Edward Thorsell - (WSSC)	Marie Brady - O'Brien & Gere
Christopher Caro - Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC)	Will Weaver – Angler Environmental
Demar Stephenson - (WSSC)	Sean Merryman – AM Liner
Susan Donnally - O'Brien & Gere	Bipin Pokharel – PEER Consultants, P.C. (PEER)
Chris Kreigner - O'Brien & Gere	Jean Swan-Ambrose – PEER

**Introductions (7:30 pm)**

Mr. Jeffery Z. Slavin (Somerset's Mayor) introduced personnel from the design team for the Little Falls Basin and the Town of Somerset Sewer Repair, Replacement and Rehabilitation (SR3) Program. Mr. Slavin asked each attendee to introduce him/herself and to say the name of the street on which they reside. WSSC and O'Brien & Gere representatives were asked to introduce themselves followed by the general contractors (AM Liner and Angler Environmental). Angler Environmental and AM Liner have been contracted by WSSC to perform the sewer replacement/rehabilitation and stream restorations for the Town of Somerset.

Following introductions, Mr. Slavin directed the audience to the items on the agenda and outlined what would be discussed throughout the session. Mr. Slavin stated that the focus of the presentation will be based on the list of questions previously submitted by the attendees. He emphasized that the goal of this session is to address all questions before the meeting adjourns. Mr. Slavin asked Mr. Richard Charnovich, the town's manager to continue the session by addressing the items on the agenda. Mr. Charnovich introduced Ms. Susan Donnally who was asked to provide a brief overview of the proposed project.

**Overview of Proposed Project**

Ms. Donnally explained that WSSC is under a Consent Decree to repair the sewer systems in 24 sanitary sewer basins within WSSC's service area by December 2015. She explained that the Consent Decree was issued by the USEPA to WSSC and requires them to upgrade their sewer collection system to minimize sanitary overflows. Ms. Donnally said that the Consent Decree was enacted on December 7, 2005. She directed the attendees to where they can find a copy of the Consent Decree on WSSC's website. She also indicated that she had a copy of the Consent Decree with her and they were welcome to briefly review it at the end of the session.

Ms. Donnally stated that this is the third public outreach meeting held by WSSC/OBG for the Little Falls Basin. This meeting would focus on the proposed works scheduled strictly for the Town of Somerset for the work scheduled within the Town's parkland. Ms. Donnally stated that the proposed work in the Town of Somerset includes:

- Steam restoration (two [2] streams will be restored)
- Manhole protection - armoring
- Manhole rehabilitation - lining
- Pipeline protection - armoring
- Pipeline replacement
- Pipeline rehabilitation - lining (trenchless rehabilitation technique)

Ms. Donnally also provided the residents with a brief history of the coordination between WSSC and the Town of Somerset, that began 18 months ago. She also noted that an evaluation had previously been done by WSSC and O'Brien & Gere to relocate the existing sewer from the area within the Town's parkland to the Warwick Ave. This result of that evaluation was that the design would not work from a hydraulic standpoint – the existing inverts would not match up and the homes with basements on Warwick Place would not be able to drain by gravity into the new system. In addition, WSSC and O'Brien & Gere have met multiple times with the Town Manager, Town Custodian, and Town arborist through the past 18 months to facilitate discussions on the proposed access and work within the Town's limits.

### Attendee Questions and Comments

At the conclusion of the overview by Ms. Donnally, Mr. Slavin directed the session towards the pre-written questions beginning with question Number #2 since the subject matter of question #1 was discussed during Ms. Donnally's presentation. The questions and comments are presented below:

#### KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

No.	Question	Response
1	<b>What are WSSC's obligations under the court order and provide citations to the judicial proceedings and settlement agreement.</b>	<i>Ms. Donnally addressed WSSC's obligations under the Consent Decree during her presentation/overview of the proposed project.</i>
2	<b>Please discuss the full extent of access options that could and are being considered for use on this project?</b>	<i>Ms. Donnally discussed each access point listed above in regards to the following issues: (a) environmentally sensitive areas; (b) total environmental impact; (c) limit of disturbance; (d) staging areas; (e) size of access path to accommodate construction vehicles; (f) impact to traffic. Listed below are the general considerations for selecting the proposed access road:</i>
	<b>Wisconsin Avenue</b>	<i>This alternative includes egress directly off of Wisconsin Ave, just south of Dorsett Avenue. The contractor would have an ample turning radius to enter going southbound on Wisconsin Ave, thereby minimizing the traffic impacts on Wisconsin Ave during equipment and material delivery. It allows access to all of the assets to be replaced, as well as to the areas where stream restorations are to take place. The Town Council requested that WSSC consider a modified alternative to enter just south of the river off of Wisconsin Ave, where there are fewer tree impacts.</i>
	<b>Dosert Avenue</b>	<i>This alternative includes access from Dorset Ave, between 4516 and 4518. There is an existing 20-foot wide County public easement in this area. It was determined, after the stream restoration work was added to this contract, that this access could not be used due to physical limitations – the street is too narrow and the houses are too close together to allow for egress of the required equipment.</i>
	<b>Warwick Place</b>	<i>This alternative includes access from Warwick Place, from 5703. There is an existing 20-foot wide County public easement in this area. It was determined, after the stream restoration work was added to this contract, that this access could not be used due to physical limitations – the street is too narrow and the slope is too steep to accommodate the required construction equipment.</i>
	<b>Somerset House</b>	<i>This alternative includes access from the Somerset House, which is south of the site. This alternative had previously been</i>

## KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

## No. Question

## Response

	<p><i>evaluated by O'Brien &amp; Gere, but was not put into further consideration due to physical limitations – the access would be through a gated community with narrow streets and there is a retaining wall at the potential access point. Also, there is a steep slope that would need to be graded and an additional stream crossing would be required. The Town requested that WSSC put this option back into consideration and provide a more detailed evaluation to the Council.</i></p>
<p><b>Area near Town pool parking lot. Additionally, please describe the proposed access road and why it is proposed on the north side and not south side, of the stream.</b></p>	<p><i>This alternative would require access from the Town of Somerset's private pool parking lot. There is an existing gravel path that was previously used to facilitate a stream restoration project. The access path is narrow and flanked by a forest conservation easement on each side. In order to use this path, additional clearing would be required, that would infringe on the FC easement. This access route would also require an additional stream crossing. In addition this would require extensive shut down of the pool parking area for a 6 month period. During that time, truck traffic would have to traverse the narrow town streets to make deliveries, etc. This option was deemed the most disruptive to the community and not put into further consideration. The Town requested that WSSC put this option back into consideration and provide a more detailed evaluation to the Council.</i></p>
<p><b>3 What are the agencies other than the Town of Somerset WSSC needs to get permitting/approval from for the parkland sewer work, tree removals, restoration, etc.? Please explain the process WSSC is undertaking to obtain the approvals?</b></p>	<p><i>The following regulatory agencies were contacted to fulfill permitting and other environmental requirements:  <b>All required permits have already been obtained:</b>  A forest stand delineation (FSD) and Forest Conservation Plan (FCP) were conducted and approved by MDNR in accordance with the Maryland Forest Conservation Act. An FSD is an assessment of the vicinity of the proposed work site to include sensitive areas, limit of disturbance and the forest community that may be impacted during construction. The design team has completed a FCP– The FCP outlined how the remaining forest within the construction area will be conserved. The team provided specific plans to MDNR for retaining and protecting forested areas, conducting restoration seeding/planting, and maintenance of restored area for a period of two (2) years.  <b>Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) and Montgomery County Department of Public Works and Transportation</b> – To address traffic control plans and permits in order to minimize impact to traffic.  <b>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers &amp; Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)</b> –Requested joint federal and state permit application for the alternation of any floodplain, waterway, tidal and non-tidal wetlands. This authorized the stream and floodplain impacts associated with project.  <b>Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)</b> – To obtain general permit for stormwater management associated with construction activities.</i></p>

## KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

No.	Question	Response
		<p><b>Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC)</b> – For permission and coordination with the MNCPPC in order to access park property.</p> <p><b>Maryland Historic Trust</b> – To investigate cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed work areas.</p>
	<p><b>Follow up Question:</b></p> <p>Does your tree permit allow you to cut down more trees than are specified on your permit?</p>	<p>No. The construction contractor will maneuver the access road to save as many trees as possible. In addition, the contractor accompanied by MNCPPC will conduct a walk through and survey of the site prior to construction of the access road.</p>
	<p><b>Follow up Question:</b></p> <p>Is root damage to the existing trees being considered?</p>	<p>The construction contractor in conjunction with WSSC is planning to construct padded mats consisting of poly liners and 12-inch of mulch in order to minimize damage to the work area and to protect the root zones of the vegetation in the vicinity of the proposed work areas. In addition, WSSC will utilize walk-behind equipment whenever it is possible.</p>
4	<p>Does WSSC intend to work on the entire length of the sewage pipe or only on the specific points where the repairs are to be made? Have any alternative techniques been considered to complete the work?</p>	<p>The displayed drawings show where the proposed work will be performed. WSSC intend to use trenchless technologies where possible. It was noted on the plan where open cut vs. trenchless work will be done.</p>
5	<p>Please describe the proposed pumping unit near Dorset Avenue and explain what it will do and for how long it will be there?</p>	<p>WSSC is planning to use a temporary by-pass pumping unit and above ground by-pass flexible hose between 4516 and 4518 Dorset Ave during the replacement of the downstream pipe behind these homes. The bypass pump is used to pump sewage from one manhole to another manhole during sewer line repair.</p>
6	<p>Where are materials planned to be stocked piled and can you provide a general estimate of the frequency of material deliveries?</p>	<p>The staging area will be accessed from Wisconsin Avenue and it is currently within the limit of disturbance (LOD). Multiple pieces of equipment will be used during construction to facilitate the sewer rehabilitation and stream restoration. The size of the excavator will be approximately 12 to 14-foot wide and weighs approximately 80,000 to 90,000 lbs. Tractor trailers will need to access the site in order to deliver and pick up equipment and materials to the site. Additionally, approximately 1,500-2,500 tons of stone of various size will be required to complete the stream restoration work. The size of the stockpiles will vary. The purpose of the stockpile are is to minimize traffic disruption due to constant egress of delivery vehicles of Wisconsin Ave.</p>
	<p><b>Follow up Question:</b></p> <p>How would you prepare the staging area for stockpiling?</p>	<p>The stage area will be prepared and constructed in a manner similar to the access paths consisting of padded mulch mats and poly liners.</p>
	<p><b>Follow up Question:</b></p> <p>Why is Somerset House access not being considered as a staging area?</p>	<p>As previously discussed, the access from Somerset house was not put into further consideration for multiple reasons. However, WSSC will re-evaluate this option and provide additional information to the Town Council</p>
7	<p>What is the proposed duration of the</p>	<p>The duration of the proposed project is scheduled for six (6)</p>

## KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

No.	Question	Response
	project from when it starts to when the restoration of the impacted areas is completed?	<i>months from the start of construction.</i>
	<b>Follow up Question:</b> Are you sure that this project is going to last only six months? The Willard Avenue project in Chevy Chase has been going on for more than two (2) years now.	<i>The work on Willard Avenue in Chevy Chase was not a WSSC project and included multiple utility owners installing underground utilities. The work in the Town's park is only WSSC sewer repairs.</i>
8	Please describe in detail the experience of the chosen contractor for a project such as this?	<i>Angler Environmental has performed environmental consulting and ecological restoration for the past 15 years. They have completed numerous stream restoration projects, including several for WSSC. Additional information on Angler's past work will be provided to the Town Council for consideration.</i>
	<b>Follow up Question (directed to Angler Environmental):</b> How often do you do this type of project?	<i>Angler has restored several miles of various streams in the past several years. Stream restoration work is their specialty.</i>
	<b>Follow up Question:</b> Is there any nearby stream that you have worked on so that members of the community can visit to observe your stream restoration work?	<p><i>One of the closest streams that Angler has restored is located in the Cabin John Basin. It is located off River Road and Clara Baton Parkway. The Town Council was invited to go visit and WSSC indicated they would provide photos to the Council.</i></p> <p><i>In addition, Angler has completed the following similar projects that the Town Council or residents may wish to visit:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Cypress Creek:</i></b> 27 McKinsey Road, Severna Park, MD 21146. The access route utilized is near this address, and is behind a Shell gas station. Follow that path down to the stream.</li> <li>• <b><i>Northwest Branch Package 2 Site 1</i></b> - 592 Scott Drive Colesville, MD – terminal end of Scott Drive, walk down small hill. Work was completed both upstream and downstream.</li> <li>• <b><i>Northwest Branch Package 2 Site 2</i></b> - NWB Golf Course – Layhill Road – From Bridge just downstream of Layhill road to approximately 500' upstream of intersection with access road.</li> <li>• <b><i>Northwest Branch Package 1</i></b> - Intersection of Norwood and Norbeck Road. From Norbeck Road traveling east, stop before intersection with Norwood, go down slope and project is downstream from there for 2,000+LF.</li> </ul>
9	Please describe in detail the restoration plan for the trees, and other vegetation and how the temporary road will be restored to existing condition?	<i>The Forest conservation plan (FCP) submitted to MDNR described in detail restoration planting for trees and other vegetation. For this project WSSC has been directed to perform restoration planting with a maintenance clause for two years and also a pay a fee through its "fee in Lieu" agreement through MDNR. In accordance with the FCP WSSC will be planting 350 trees per</i>

## KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

No.	Question	Response
		<i>acre. Seventy five (75%) of the trees planted will have to survive in accordance with the FCP. It is anticipated that approximately 96 trees will be removed during construction in the Town of Somerset. WSSC will replace these trees by planting and seeding methods using the same species or similar trees with the same representative characteristics for woody plant and under story.</i>
	<b>Follow up Question</b> The money that WSSC intend to contribute through the Fee-in Lieu agreement is it given to the Town of Somerset?	<i>No. Funds contributed through this agreement go to the State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources.</i>
10	The trees/plants/grass, vegetation, etc. that will be planted when the project is complete, how will it be maintained, and who will maintain it?	<i>The trees and vegetation will be monitored and maintained for a period of two years or to the end of the second growing season (whichever is later). It will be monitored by WSSC or WSSC's contractors.</i>
11	How is the project supervised during construction and during completion of the restoration work to ensure it is completed according to the eventual approved plan?	<i>WSSC's System Inspections Group (SIG) will supervise the project. In addition, environmental monitors will be on hand to enforce environmental controls.</i>
12	Concerning that which will be replanted, please describe in detail how the size and type of trees are chosen and how they will be maintained?	<i>The FSD completed for the project site assessed the vegetative character of the wooded area. The proposed restoration planting and seeding has been developed to be consistent with the existing forest community. The selected tree size (number 2 container) is based on typical planting sizes that are commonly available. Invasive species will not be replanted. In order to minimize the impact to trees in the work area, the goal of WSSC and the contractor is to utilize access paths with less resistance. Pre-construction site walk through the proposed work area will determine whether small trees versus larger trees will be removed. The Arborist will also participate in the pre-construction walk through.</i>
13	Please discuss the work that will take place around the waterfall on the parkland?	<i>The Exposed manhole and exposed pipe in this area will be armored. The contractor will return the area to its natural condition once construction is complete.</i>
14	Can WSSC define the actual easement parameters in summary?	<i>WSSC maintains one easement in the Town of Somerset – It is located at the end of the County's public 20-foot wide easement between lot 9 and 8 on Dorset Avenue and extends to WSSC's sewer main located near the stream. WSSC has the right to access and maintain the pipelines within that easement.</i>
15	Please describe the specific areas where the stream restoration work will take place and what will specifically be done?	<i>The stream restoration will be performed where there are exposed pipes in or close to the stream bed. The extent of the restoration will depend on the stream hydraulics. Detailed plans for the stream restoration have been provided to the Town of Somerset.</i>

## KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

No.	Question	Response
1	How many trees will be removed if Somerset House or Dorset Avenue access route option is reconsidered?	<i>As indicated in previous responses, this option was removed from consideration prior to the detailed tree impact evaluation. The Town Council requested a detailed tree impact plan for this option. WSSC agreed to provide that.</i>
2	What will happen to the Owl which is known to be present in the proposed work area?	<i>There will a progression of work for the proposed project in the area. It is likely that wildlife will migrate as the construction progresses. WSSC has an inspection program set up for construction that includes environmental monitoring.</i>
3	Did this project come under National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	<i>This project is not triggered by NEPA since no federal properties will be impacted.</i>
4	Could you provide more information about the by-pass pump and by-pass line?	<i>An 8-inch by-pass line will be used with a low flow pump. The pump will be located in discreet locations such that the impacts to the residents are minimized. The pump will be programmed to cycle on and off as required.</i>
5	What is the timeline for the use of the by-pass pump?	<i>The bypass pump system will be active during the replacement of the pipeline that is currently exposed in the stream. The length of time is estimated to be approximately 1-2 weeks.</i>
6	Where did the property lines shown on the plans originate?	<i>The property line shown on the design plans are based on WSSC's Geographic Information System (GIS). The construction limits will be based on a surveyed property line completed by the Contractor.</i>
7	Was the Wisconsin Avenue access path picked before all the other access path options were considered?	<i>O'Brien &amp; Gere and WSSC considered 3 alternate access paths prior to the determination of which access path is the most feasible. The alternate access paths were evaluated based on constructability, environmental impacts and community impacts</i>
8	Why didn't WSSC inform the council and the resident before selecting an access route? No notices were provided to the residents. Residents within 200' feet of the chosen access path should have been notified.	<i>Two public meetings were held for the Little Falls basin. WSSC has also been coordinating with the Town of Somerset for the past 18 months. At the request of the Mayor and Town Council, WSSC will provide an additional evaluation for the access routes and include evaluations for the routes from the Somerset House and the Pool parking area. Notices were also posted in newspapers in accordance with state and federal regulations. Property owner notification will be provided as a courtesy prior to the beginning of construction.</i>

**Action Items**

Per the request of the Mayor and Town Council, WSSC will provide a detailed evaluation of the access roads, including 3 additional alternatives – Wisconsin Ave south of the current access route; Somerset House and Somerset Pool.

Another Town Council Meeting will be required to present the findings from the evaluation and potentially another special session will be held for the residents to discuss the alternatives.

**End**

At the end of the session Mr. Slavin thanked each and every one for attending the meeting and stated that he hoped that each attendee has gotten most of their questions answered during the session.

**Meeting Adjourned (10:20 pm)**

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