

Agenda

- 1) Introduction of new members (10 min)
- 2) Environmental Review of GI Program (15 min)
- 3) Sub-committees (45 min)
 - a. Green Jobs
 - i. Kick Off a Sub Committee
 - b. GI Costs/Benefits
 - i. Kick Off a Sub Committee
 - c. Technical Advice and Research
 - i. DEP Research Agenda
 - ii. TAC Recommendations
 - iii. Data Sharing
 - iv. Literature Review
 - d. Education/Engagement
 - i. Volunteerism
 - ii. Competitions (branding, design, other)
 - iii. Academic institution engagement
 - iv. Other
- 4) Updates (20 min)
 - a. Green Roof Tax Abatement
 - b. GI Webmap
 - c. LTCP
- 5) Walk to 4th Avenue and Dean Street

Summary Minutes

Environmental Review of GI Program

Terrell Estes, DEP Director of Wastewater Review and Special Projects gave an update on the CEQR Review of the Green Infrastructure Program:

- DEP conducted a programmatic review to assess the environmental impact of area-wide implementation
- March 8th - Environmental Assessment Statement was released and covers the GI Program through 2015
- May 23rd – Negative Declaration published
- June 22nd - Negative Declaration considered final and effective if no substantive comments were received

Steering Committee members raised concerns regarding the process of the review. Committee members requested to be notified earlier in the process for all future reviews (whether programmatic or conducted for individual projects). DEP agreed to notify the Steering Committee sooner on any further environmental review.

Creation of Working Groups

DEP proposed to initiate working groups around specific topics, particularly green jobs, research, cost/benefit, and education and engagement. The Committee had a robust discussion on all of the topics and agreed that the working groups would be desirable. Suggestions for other working group topics were encouraged. DEP suggested that a representative would sit on each of the working groups to support facilitation and information sharing.

Green Jobs

DEP and the Steering Committee agreed on the importance of using existing programs and workforce development groups to create jobs related to the design, construction and maintenance of green infrastructure. The Steering Committee suggested that DEP look at the Office of Environmental Remediation's internship program as a model for matching interns with skilled workers. DEP will follow up with OER to explore opportunities for jobs related to green infrastructure. Steering Committee members identified several topics for the *Green Jobs Working Group* to consider, for example:

- Creating connections for contractors and workforce development groups together
- Creating partnerships between multiple players to administer maintenance: city and community organizations, volunteers and maintenance jobs, etc.
- Reaching out to the existing labor force and people who are currently trained for green infrastructure related jobs
- Supporting locally owned businesses
- Identifying additional funding streams and policy issues related to funding maintenance with capital dollars.

Green Infrastructure Costs/Benefit

DEP and the Steering Committee discussed the costs and benefits related to the green infrastructure program. The group identified several topics for the *GI Costs/Benefit*

Working Group to consider, for example:

- Identifying and evaluating costs per green infrastructure strategy
- Checking on performance issues and design elements through design review of specific GI strategies and using existing materials like the High Performance Landscape Guidelines as a model for cost/benefits analysis
- Determining how costs are calculated and the ancillary benefits of green infrastructure
- Researching what other GI programs are doing to develop benchmarks
- Providing feedback to DEP on cost reports throughout the year
- Researching costs and opportunities related to private investment

Technical Advice/Research

Sri Rangarajan DEP Director of Water Quality Planning and Analysis briefed the Steering Committee on the Agency's creation of a Research Agenda. DEP also explained that there are current discussions regarding an RFP for research and data analysis. DEP and Steering Committee members identified several topics for the *Technical Advice Working Group* to consider, for example:

- Monitoring across time and scale is essential to a successful cost-benefit analysis
- Focusing on gathering NYC specific data and developing information at the local scale
- Ensuring that long term monitoring does not occur in a vacuum but that work can be shared with other cities and vice versus
- Tracking gross green space lost to development and the net increase of impervious area

Education/Engagement

DEP and the Steering Committee discussed the opportunities to educate and engage local communities about green infrastructure. Steering Committee members identified several topics for the *Education/Engagement Working Group* to consider:

- Fostering successful coordination between DEP, private partners, and communities
- Creating innovative branding that will engage people outside of the stormwater community. Understanding the difference between promotion and integration and advancement
 - e.g. "Bioswale" vs. "Sponge Park" – using terminology to explain the strategies more effectively
- Broadening the constituency so that New Yorkers can advocate for the NYC Green Infrastructure Plan and PlaNYC post the 2013 election
- Understanding volunteerism – the work involved in organizing volunteer efforts and the type of contribution received from these efforts. Further discussion on harnessing volunteers around green infrastructure is needed.

Updates

Green Roof Tax Abatement

Rob Crauderueff from the SWIM Coalition explained that SWIM had met with representatives from DEP and the Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability regarding the Green Roof Tax Abatement. He will provide an update at the next meeting.

Long Term Control Plan

DEP announced the LTCP Kick-Off Open House on June 26th at the Newtown Creek Visitor Center. The Steering Committee asked DEP to explain why the Kick-Off was being held at one location rather than multiple locations around the city. The Steering Committee also raised concerns about the Visitor Center and its accessibility to public transportation. DEP informed the Steering Committee that many other meeting locations/formats had been discussed and tried in the past and that this model appeared to be the most effective for the upcoming meeting.

Update: The LTCP Kick-Off meeting was held the night of June 26th and approximately 60 people attended. DEP and DEC announced the publication of the draft Public Participation Plan which is now available on the DEP website:

http://www.nyc.gov/html/dep/html/cso_long_term_control_plan/index.shtml

Attendance

Larry Levine, NRDC
Philip Musegaas, Riverkeeper
Rob Crauderueff, SWIM Coalition
Jason Schwartz, Partnerships for Parks
Lucian Reynolds, TreesNY
Omar Ferilla, Green Workers' Cooperative
Esther Siskind, Solar One
Tim Eaton, Queens College

Angela Licata, DEP Deputy Commissioner for Sustainability
Terrell Estes, DEP Director of Wastewater Review and Special Projects
Sri Rangarajan, DEP Director of Water Quality Planning and Analysis
Margot Walker, DEP Director of Green Infrastructure Partnerships
Sarah Bloom, DEP Intern, Green Infrastructure Partnerships
Mikelle Adgate, DEP Project Manager, Green Infrastructure Partnerships

Observer:

Paul Kenline (NYS Department of Environmental Conservation)