REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS



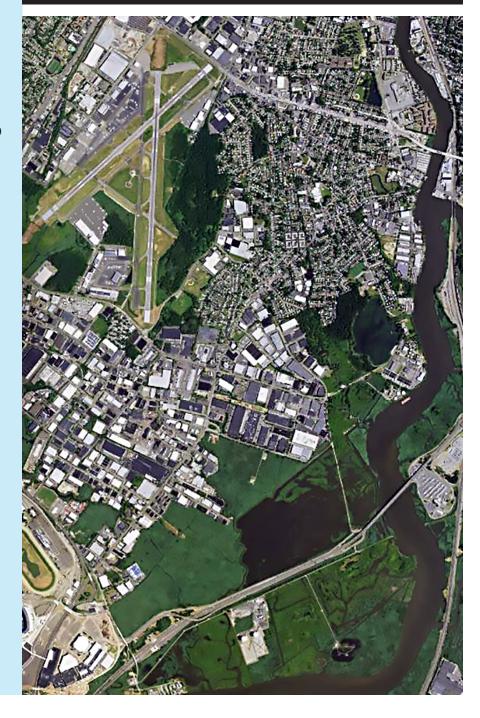
October 24, 2016

FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT

Boroughs of Little Ferry, Moonachie, Carlstadt, and Teterboro, and the Township of South Hackensack in Bergen County, New Jersey

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP (CAG) MEETING #5

ECOLOGY AND DRAINAGE BASIN OPPORTUNITY AREAS











Español 中文:繁體版 Việt-ngữ 한국어 Tagalog Português العربية Kreyòl ગુજરાતી Italiano Polski www.renewjerseystronger.org





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1.0 List of Acronyms and Glossary

List of Acronyms

BCR Benefit/Cost Ratio

CAG Citizen Advisory Group

CDBG-DR Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery

EFH Essential Fish Habitat

EIS Environmental Impact Statement

HUD Department of Housing and Urban Development

NEPA National Environmental Policy Act

NJDEP New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

RBD Rebuild by Design

RBDM Rebuild by Design Meadowlands





Glossary

Bioretention - is the process in which contaminants and sedimentation are removed from storm water runoff. Storm water is collected in treatment areas which often include landscape vegetation

Bioswale - a vegetated landscape swale that removes silt and pollution from surface runoff water, usually with gently sloped sides

Easement - the right to use and/or enter onto the property of another without possessing it

Encumbrance - an encumbrance is property which may be owned by one entity but other entities may have a right to or legal liability on the property

Filter strip - a flat vegetated area that removes pollutants from storm water as the storm water moves across as sheet flow. Filter strips are between 25 and 100 feet long

Fluvial Park - a public park with various ecosystems, especially related to wetlands and river ecosystems, with varying elevations and habitats. During a flood event the park can handle water inundation

Permeable Paving - a type of paving that allows rainwater to filter through the surface into a water catchment base, often created with interlocking paver tiles or a porous material surface

Public Realm - publicly owned streets, pathways, right of ways, parks, publicly accessible open spaces and any public and civic building and facilities

Rain Garden - a planted depression in a garden that absorbs rainwater runoff from impervious areas such as roofs, driveways, walkways, parking lots, and lawn areas

Runnel - a designed and landscaped channel that directs and assists the flow of rainwater

Widening Ditch – (3) Main ways to improve the ditches; daylighting and increasing habitat and vegetation, extending the ditch to connect to riparian corridor, and filling the ditch with aggregate, but expanding habitat above





2.0 Agenda

6-8 pm October 24, 2016

Learning Center Room, 4th Floor One Bergen County Plaza Hackensack, NJ 07601

Project Website
www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov
Project email
rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov

Welcome

Presentation

Opening Remarks (15 Minutes)

Agenda (Linda Fisher, NJDEP)

Project Status Update and Project Process (Chris Benosky, AECOM)

What We Learned from CAG #4 (10 Minutes)

General Comments, Alternatives, & Site-Specific Feedback (Susan Bemis, AECOM)

Project Area Ecology (40 Minutes)

Project Area Ecology (John Rollino, AECOM)

Drainage Basin Opportunity Areas (20 Minutes)

Storm Water Improvements within Sub-basins, Drainage Zone Areas (Michael Vecchio, HDR) What Could These Look Like? (Susan Bemis, AECOM)

Next Steps & Q&A/Closure (15 Minutes)

Next Steps (Chris Benosky, AECOM)

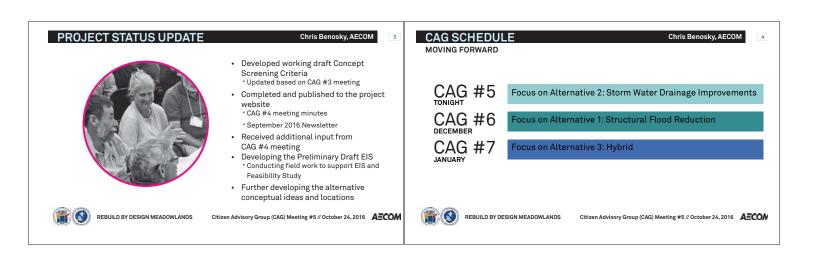
Question and Answers

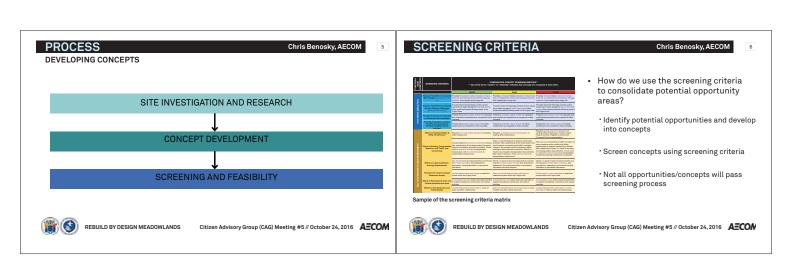




3.0 Power Point Presentation







WHAT WE LEARNED FROM CAG #4 MEETING

Susan Bemis, AECOM



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GENERAL - CAG #4 COMMENTS REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS

INVEST

· Address frequent flooding from rain fall events. Utilize the most immediate and cost efficient option(s) for protection from storm surges.

EXAMINE

- Potential water displacement towards
- neighboring communities.
 Holistic solution.

Long-term maintenance of proposed project infrastructure is a concern: Who maintains and for how long?

DISCUSS AND CONSIDER

• Opportunities for private land acquisition during the concept development process.

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ALTERNATIVE 1 - CAG #4 COMMENTS

STRUCTURAL FLOOD REDUCTION



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WATERFRONT ACCESS

Access to the Hackensack River needs to remain a priority.

PROTECTION OF WETLANDS

Emphasize wetland and biological resources protection + enhancement.

MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Consider minimal footprints.

DEPLOYABLES

Maintenance and operations of deployables are a concern.

PRIORITIZE FLOOD PROTECTION

General interest in flood protection incorporated with public benefit, but flood protection is the main objective.

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ALTERNATIVE 2 - CAG #4 COMMENTS

STORM WATER DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS



en street example



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Improve current systems, including ditches and

· Potential to install backflow preventers.

CONSIDER VARIOUS ENGINEERING IMPROVEMENTS

- Green rain gardens, permeable paving, bioswales, among other green infrastructure elements.
- · Grey pump stations, increase flow capacity of drainage basins, and detention basins.

OPEN SPACES

CURRENT SYSTEMS

· Enhance the performance of existing open spaces.

NATURAL CONDITIONS

Return developed areas to natural conditions and find opportunities for enhancement.

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ALTERNATIVE 3 - CAG #4 COMMENTS Susan Bemis, AECOM



NO ADDITIONAL DEVELOPMENT Development has displaced natural habitat and systems.

Improvements should not be used to generate or promote new development.

POLLUTION + CONTAMINATION

- Understand and consider pollution issues associated with Berry's Creek.
- Consider a tide gate at Paterson Plank Road.

GREEN + GREY INFRASTRUCTURE

Utilize a combination of both to get the most benefit.

HYBRID SOLUTION



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SITE-SPECIFIC - CAG #4 COMMENTS TETERBORO AIRPOR

Susan Bemis, AECOM

MEHRHOF WETLAND ZONE
Area immediately north of Meh
wetland zone could be a good I
for recreational paths.

LOSEN SLOTE



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PATERSON PLANK ROAD



PROJECT AREA ECOLOGY

John Rollino, AECOM



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PROJECT AREA ECOLOGY



The Project Area contains natural areas surrounded by suburban, industrial, and commercial development. Several of these natural areas have not been intensively studied to date by others.

The ecological studies being conducted by AECOM will be used to support the NEPA analysis, regulatory agency consultations, and associated permitting.



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PROJECT AREA ECOLOGY

PRELIMINARY DATA



Foreground) Birds and marshes along the Hackensack Background) NJ Turnpike Bridge



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collection will be supplemented with previous and ongoing studies (e.g., Fisheries Inventory of the Hackensack

River, FAA Wildlife, etc.)

As part of the EIS, the field data

Members of the project team have past experience conducting studies for the NJSEA (formerly HMDC) (e.g., Secaucus High School Site) and/or other multiyear studies (Empire Tract)



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BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

PRELIMINARY DATA



Biological resource studies (ongoing) include:

· Habitat mapping and evaluation

· Wetland delineation

· Botanical inventories

· Wildlife studies:

· Avifauna (birds) · Benthic Invertebrates

• Fish

• Herptofauna (Reptiles and Amphibians)

Mammals

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BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: GOALS

PRFI IMINARY DATA



Categorize habitats, flora, and fauna, and conduct ecological evaluations in support of a NEPA-level analysis.

John Rollino, AECOM

Identify high-value ecological resources and provide input into planning process in order to minimize impacts to greatest extent possible.

Identify and develop opportunities to increase ecologic value of the Project Area post project construction.



PRFI IMINARY DATA



Project Area ~5,800 acres.

~4,000 acres are commercial, industrial, and residential.

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~1,800 acres are "natural areas" parcels with vegetated communities.

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- Scientists traversed the Project Area on foot and identified "natural areas."
- Aerial images of the Project Area were used as a background on hand-held
- Natural areas were sketched in tablets and inputed as a GIS file.
- ~ 400 habitat polygons and shoreline developments (~1,800 ac).
- Each natural area was given an alpha-numeric code, based on its geographic location.

MAPPED DATA COLLECTION

PRELIMINARY DATA



- upland/waterbody/etc. Covertype – herbaceous, forested,
 - deciduous, etc. Ditch/drainage present/adjacent – Y/N
 - · Disturbed Y/N
 - · Dominant species species identified
- · Habitat Community floodplain forest, urban woodlot, common reed marsh.



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ECOLOGICAL EVALUATION

PRFI IMINARY DATA



Low value wetland



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·Using US Army Corps of Engineers "Evaluation of Planned Wetlands (EPW)" methodology.

John Rollino, AECOM

- •EPW mathematically scores wetlands on a number of functions (sediment stabilization, wildlife habitat, water quality, etc).
- Through computation, scientists assess "health" of existing wetlands and calculate the "Functions and values" of mitigated wetlands.
- ·Using site-specific information gathered from studies, habitats are being coded based on ecological value and function.

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WETLANDS PRFI IMINARY DATA





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- Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act: Wetlands are "areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bogs, and similar areas."
- · Freshwater Wetlands: The "three parameter approach." Wetlands under normal conditions have hydric soils; dominance of hydric vegetation; and presence of hydrology.
- · Tidal Wetlands: Use elevation data too (e.g., Spring high tide line).

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SOILS: UPLAND AND WETLAND

PRFI IMINARY DATA

 Upland soils Note brown color loose friable texture.

 Wetland soils Note dark black color, mucky appearance, obvious saturation. Changes in soil are a result of anoxic conditions.









· Bog Iron

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DELINEATED LINE

PRFI IMINARY DATA



During a wetland delineation, scientists note soil characteristics, hydrology, and vegetation. These observations allow for the delineation (i.e., delineated line) between uplands and wetlands.

John Rollino, AECOM

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WILDLIFE STUDIES

PRELIMINARY DATA



- Birds, reptiles/amphibeans, fish, benthic invertebrates, and mammal studies occur seasonally (summer completed).
- · Additional studies for birds weekly during summer, fall, and spring. Specialized nesting study in spring.
- Other specialized studies vernal pools, nocturnal species/activity, game cameras.

BIRDS

PRELIMINARY DATA



- At 10 locations throughout the Project Area, scientists conduct morning and/or evening studies.
- All birds sighted are counted. Activity is noted, as well as direction and distance from scientist.
- Data allows for the creation of a spherical histogram to be overlaid on habitat mapping data to determine site usage.



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BIRDS PRELIMINARY DATA



- · To date, over 70 bird species identified.
- Majority of sightings were very common species: European starlings, mourning dove, ring-billed gull.
- · Habitats in which birds sighted:
 - 7.07% Open Water
 - 19.87% Structure
 - 21.80% Upland
 - 51.33% Wetland

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sted cormorant flying above Hackensack River

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BIRDS

PRELIMINARY DATA

American Crow American Goldvinch American Kestrel American Redstart American Redstart
American Robin
American Tree Spari
Bald Eagle Barn Swallow Belted Kingfisher

Blue Jay Brown-headed Cowbird Bufflehead Canada Goose Carolina Chickedee

Great Blue Heror Carolina Wren Cedar Waxwing Chimney Swift Common Grackle Common Yellowthre Domestic Goose Double-crested Cor King Bird Downey Woodpecker

Eastern Pheobe European Starling Field Sparrow Fish Crow Grav Catbird Great Black-backed Gull

Northern Flicker Northern Harrie Great Egret Herring Gull Northern Mockingbird House Finch Osprey House Sparro Kinglet sp.

Ovenbird Palm Warbler Peregrine Falcon Red Tail Hawk Red Winged Blackbird Red-bellied Woodpeck Ring-billed Gull Little Blue Heror Mallard Marsh Wren Rock Dove Mourning Dove Rufous-sided Towhee Northern Cardina

Snowy Egret Song Sparrow Sparrow sp.
Spotted Sandpiper
Swallow sp.
Tree Swallow

Water Thrush White-breasted Nuthatch Wood Duck Yellow Rumped Warble

Yellow Warbler Yellow Throated Warbler



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FISH AND BENTHIC INVERTEBRATES John Rollino, AECOM

PRFI IMINARY DATA



- Sampled from 9 different locations in the Project Area using fish traps.
- Fish identified to date include: bluegill, pumpkinseed, catfish, carp, goldfish, mummichogs, and mosquitofish.
- Species common to disturbed environments.



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MAMMALS

PRFI IMINARY DATA



Mammal survey locations occur throughout Project Area in a variety of representative habitats.

snow tracking.

Bats studied with night vision scopes, meters, and ultrasonic microphones that capture bat echolocations.

Mammals surveyed through game

cameras, presence identification (tracks

and scat), nocturnal surveys, and (soon)

Game cameras stationed throughout the Project Area in a variety of habitats.

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John Rollino, AECOM





MAMMALS

PRELIMINARY DATA

Big Brown Bat (Eptesicus fuscus) Cat (Felis silvestris catus) Chipmunk, unknown species Grey Squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis) Groundhog (Marmota monax) Little Brown Bat (Myotis lucifugus) Muskrat (Ondatra zibethicus)

Opossum (Didelphis virginiana) Rabbit (Sylvilagus floridanus) Raccoon (Procyon lotor) Rat (unknown species) Red Fox (Vulpes vulpes) Skunk (Mephitis mephitis) White-tailed Deer (Odocoileus virginianus) MAMMALS PRELIMINARY DATA Using a meter with ultrasonic microphone, scientists record bat echolocations. Analyzing timing, kHz, and other factors, scientists can identify what species are REBUILD BY DESIGN MEADOWLANDS Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #5 // October 24, 2016 A=COM



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ECOLOGICAL ENHANCEMENT

PRELIMINARY DATA



- Using existing data collected to identify potential areas to avoid and enhance.
- Using ecological value calculation methods (e.g., EPW, IVA, etc.) and other metrics, it is possible to quantify impacts and ensure that enhancement would provide a net ecological benefit.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS





- Many Project Area habitats are home to invasive species and other stressors.
- Studies to date have shown aquatic fauna affected by contamination south of Moonachie Ave.
- Many small waterways are polluted and stressed, often due to previous engineering projects and efforts.
- To date, data has shown that developed industrial / commercial areas have limited ecological value to fauna.



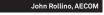
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PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS





- The Proposed Project presents a unique opportunity to reduce flooding and simultaneously improve habitat values and functions.
- Improvements could include, but are not limited to:
 - New marshes along the Hackensack
 - Upgrades of streams daylighting, select plantings, fish habitat improvements.
 - · Invasive species removal.



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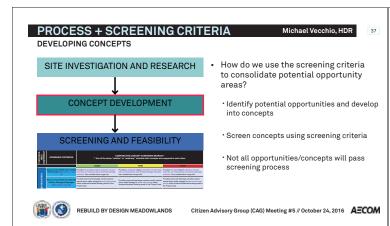
DRAINAGE BASIN OPPORTUNITY AREAS

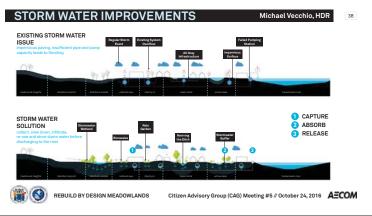
Michael Vecchio, HDR



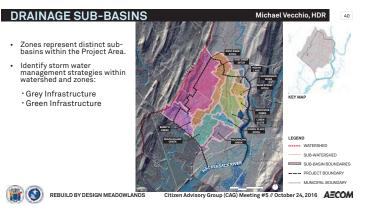
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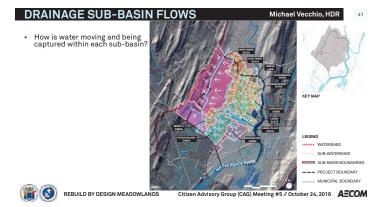


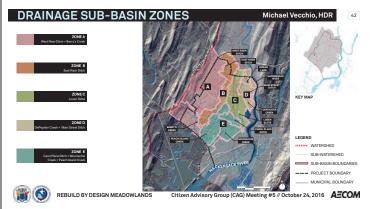










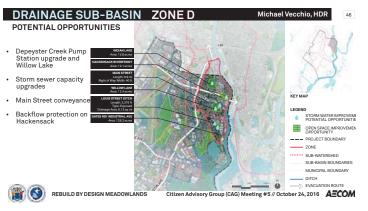












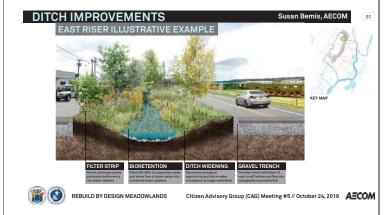












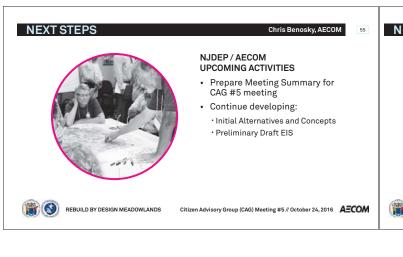


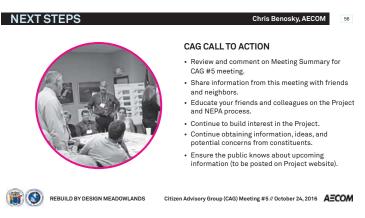












THANK YOU!









6.0 Personal Notes

