

**CMOM & PPII Working Group Meeting  
Oneida County Sewer District  
March 24, 2015**

**I. Repair and Rehab Progress to Date**

A sewer rehabilitation and repair progress summary was distributed to the working group members. A total of approximately 58 miles of sanitary sewer pipes and 1,345 manholes have been rehabilitated from contracts 2-8 throughout the Sauquoit Creek Pump Station basin. I/I removal as a result of sewer rehabilitation will be determined using data provided by flow meters that were installed in January 2015.

**II. CMOM Findings**

Three recent events were described to the working groups to reinforce the importance of CMOM programs.

- a. During flow metering site visits, a significant fats, oils, and grease (FOG) buildup was discovered in one municipality. This buildup was most likely from a combination of root intrusion into the sewer line, as well as FOG discharge from restaurants upstream. As a result, that municipality had to hire a contractor to remove the blockage and clean the sewer line, leading to significant costs incurred by that municipality's ratepayers. This project could have potentially been mitigated had regular manhole and FOG inspection programs been implemented in the municipality.
- b. Another significant problem was discovered in a second municipality following the review of flow metering site reports. During this review, it was discovered that a section of sanitary sewer contained only a small amount of clear water, when higher levels of wastewater were anticipated to be present. Upon further investigation, it was found that a sewer line running under a streambed had been broken for some time, resulting in the wastewater discharging into the stream. The municipality immediately took action to rectify the situation; however, site and project challenges resulted in costly repairs. This event highlights another project that regular inspection could have potentially mitigated.
- c. A CMOM inspection and maintenance initiative helped to identify a third project, in another municipality. Through televising, a break in an 8-inch sewer pipe was discovered. This break occurred directly over a culvert, allowing wastewater to flow from the sanitary sewer to the storm sewer. While the inspection program properly identified the break and allowed for repair, it is unknown how long the pipe had been broken, highlighting the importance of prioritized and

regularly scheduled inspections.

Each scenario discussed demonstrated the benefits – environmental and financial – to implementing and adhering to a regular CMOM program.

### **III. Voluntary Inspection Progress**

Working group members were asked to report progress on voluntary private property inspections. Because of the busy and cold winter, most municipalities stated that they were unable to complete any of the private property inspections. Those municipalities that made progress include:

#### **a. Village of New Hartford**

Distributed door tags to Hillside Gardens, Huntington Place, and Colonial Drive.

#### **b. Village of Holland Patent**

Materials were distributed and letters were mailed to village residents.

#### **c. Town of Deerfield**

Published article in town newsletter to prepare residents for early spring inspections.

Questions were raised regarding who is responsible for private property inspections within each municipality and what authority inspectors had. Working group members were reminded that it is the municipalities' responsibility to assign an inspector to the project. It was previously noted that inspectors should have a level of municipal authority, as well as the ability to effectively engage with community members and a working knowledge of plumbing and drainage systems. Additionally, inspections should be carried out in pairs to ensure safety and thoroughness.

Working group members were also reminded that, while the Oneida County Sewer Use Ordinance provides the blanket authority for inspection, the group was directed in 2014 to work with their municipality's legal counsel to determine if any additional modifications to local laws were necessary. It was agreed that additional clarification would also be sought from the County Attorney.

Additional blank inspection forms will be made available online (at [SewerRepairOCSD.org/steering-committee/documents-and-handouts](http://SewerRepairOCSD.org/steering-committee/documents-and-handouts)).

#### **IV. Training Needs**

Working group members participated in a discussion to identify training opportunities and expert speakers for 2015.

Due to recent emergency repair projects involving asbestos cement pipes, the group agreed it would be a good idea to incorporate an asbestos awareness program into a training session. Confined space awareness and traffic safety were also topics discussed previously, though it was noted that this training, as well as other topics, are being included in the Oneida County Highway Supervisor Association's training day on April 14.

#### **V. Operation Ripple Effect Earth Day Celebration**

Working group members were invited to attend and promote the Operation Ripple Effect Earth Day event on Saturday, April 18 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jay-K Lumber in New Hartford. The goal of the event is to bring awareness and inspire residents and business owners to complete simple projects, like rerouting downspouts, installing a rain barrel, and planting a rain garden. Working group members were asked to distribute and hang up promotional flyers in public spaces, such as town halls, libraries, etc.

#### **VI. Next steps and task assignment**

Working group members were asked to:

- a. Hang up flyers at municipal offices, public spaces (libraries, etc.)
- b. Continue or begin voluntary private property inspections
- c. Attend the Operation Ripple Effect™ Earth Day event: 4/18 from 10a-1p at Jay-K Lumber in New Hartford
- d. Attend the Full Steering Committee meeting: 4/22 at noon, Marcy Town Hall