

**PPII Working Group Meeting  
Oneida County Sewer District  
June 3, 2014**

**I. Public Education/Outreach**

Public education efforts to date for Operation Ripple Effect™ were reviewed. Activities included:

**a. Newsletters**

Newsletter articles were submitted to the towns of Deerfield, Frankfort, Marcy, Schuyler, and Whitestown; and the villages of New York Mills and Yorkville. Working group members were asked to confirm the dates of their next newsletters so additional articles may be submitted.

**b. Presentations**

Many public education presentations have been given so far this year. Groups have included the League of Women Voters; Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority, Cornell Cooperative Extension and Oneida County Soil and Water staff; and residents of New Hartford's Sherrill Lane and Schuyler.

**c. Displays**

A number of businesses have posted Operation Ripple Effect™ public education displays. Participating businesses include Benson's Farm and Garden, Candella's Greenhouse and Farm, Jay-K Lumber, Lowe's Home Improvement (North Utica), The Mum Farm, and River Road Farm and Greenhouses.

Working group members suggested reaching out to the following businesses for participation:

- Marcy
  - Greenscapes
  - Kinney's Greenhouse
- New Hartford
  - Blooms by Bogner
- New York Mills
  - Worosylo Greenhouses
- Paris
  - Michael's Greenhouse
- Outside of the district
  - North Star Orchards
  - George's Farm Products, Inc.

- Massoud's Tree Farm

## **II. Revised Website Design**

Working group members were presented with the next evolution of rippleeffectocsd.org. It was suggested that links should be added to the "Reclaim" section of the website that list where rain barrels may be purchased. It was reported that rain barrels have been seen at Jay-K Lumber and Home Depot. It was also suggested to add a link to download the Cornell Cooperative Extension's directions for building a rain barrel.

## **III. Project Updates**

### **a. Sherrill Lane and Willow Brook Lane**

The Sherrill Lane study received a fair amount of feedback from residents regarding their homes. The town of New Hartford is extending the volunteer survey area to Hoffman Road, Bolton Road, and Root Street. The feedback from this survey will be used to help identify a solution to flooding and backup issues in these neighborhoods.

In Paris, no surveys have been received from residents on Willow Brook Lane. Next steps may include a hand-delivered letter to each home to encourage participation.

### **b. Whitesboro Street and Edwards Street**

A working group member asked about recent flooding issues in the neighborhood of Whitesboro and Edward Streets in the Village of Yorkville. It was explained that smoke testing had led to the discovery of an apparent direct source of inflow into the sanitary sewer system. As a result, this connection has been sealed, preventing storm water from running into the sanitary sewer. In addition, cameras revealed significant amounts of grease in the sanitary lines on Edwards Street and West Whitesboro Street. Grease presence would have diminished the capacity of the sewer, thus potentially leading to overflow and flooding problems. It was noted that both of these areas especially need neighborhood participation to reduce this problem.

### **c. Sump Pump Connections**

A working group member asked what protocol is taken when an illegal sump pump connection to the sanitary system is identified through a routine codes inspection. It was recommended to first check the town's ordinance. Sump pumps connecting to the

sanitary sewer are illegal as outlined in the Oneida County Sewer Use Ordinance. Further, it was recommended to inform the property owner of the illegal nature of the connection, document the connection, and share the information for data-collecting purposes. No further enforcement action was recommended at this time.

**d. Flow Meter Locations**

Working group members were informed that the flow metering project is going out to bid and is expected to be completed by late August. Flow monitors will be installed to collect data at strategic locations throughout the collection system. A total of 59 meters are planned to be installed.

**IV. Next steps and task assignment**

Working group members were asked to identify one or two people as designated inspectors for the voluntary inspection program. The consultant team would conduct training for these individuals; however, the inspectors would be responsible for completing the actual home inspections. The following skills and experience will be required for inspectors whether they be full- or part-time employees or student interns:

- Computer literacy for utilizing the required software
- Knowledge of plumbing and drainage systems
- The ability to identify sump pumps, roof leaders and other drainage connections, as well as how to determine where the water is directed

**V. Next meeting:**

**At noon on Tuesday, July 15 at the Whitestown Community Center** (next to the ice rink at 1 Championship Way in Whitesboro).