

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WINDSOR INLAND WETLANDS & WATERCOURSES COMMISSION
TUESDAY APRIL 5TH, 2022 7:00PM

Online webinar, to join via computer please go to the link below
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85435818689>

Chairman Morando called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Chairman L. Morando, Vice Chairman Schibley, Secretary M. Towers (virtual), Commissioners; K. Elder, R. Williams, and S. Fraysier.

Also present was Wetland Agent, Chloe Thompson.

II. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS (3-minute limit on items other than Public Hearings)

No public communications

III. BUSINESS MEETING

a. MINUTES:

Commissioner Schibley made a **motion to approve the minutes as amended for March 2, 2022**
Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. **Vote 6-0-0**

b. OLD BUSINESS

• **Amazon Site Basin D Modifications - Tim Onderko, P.E., Langan Engineering**

Tim Onderko P.E., from Langan Engineering addressed the Commission and presented new plans and general updates for Basin D improvements. T. Onderko gave a brief overview of the events leading up to this presentation, including the issuance of a Cease and Correct from the Commission in September of 2021. Corrective actions previously approved by the Commission were detailed, and highlighted the need for additional efforts specifically for Basin D, as additional erosion occurred afterward in October of 2021.

T. Onderko explained that the current plan is to lower the basin depth by 2 feet, increasing the storage volume of the basin by 15%. This lower elevation is at the same elevation of the outfall pipe, which allows water to be released at a slower rate than previously designed. In addition to this, the underdrain within Basin D will be extended to promote drainage with the basin and allow for it to operate as originally designed, as a “dry basin”. The forebay will be stone armored to reduce chances for erosion.

T. Onderko then explained the other major modification; the discharge point/outfall for Basin D. The current 100 foot level spreader is going to be removed, and 400 feet of perforated pipe will be installed running north along the existing retaining wall. This pipe will bring the discharging water from the basin elevation, down to the same elevation as the stream reducing the likelihood for erosion, which directly

addresses the erosion issue around the level spreader observed in October 2021. All of this work will take place entirely on the Amazon site, and not fall on the abutting property, outside of the wetland and stream boundaries. T. Onderko explained that the presented plan is one of many troubleshooted designs that their team feels is best suited to alleviate the issue as a whole.

Commissioner Schibley asked how the size for the underdrain pipe was decided upon. T. Onderko stated that an analysis was run at multiple diameters, but the 6 inch underdrain pipe was the best size to reduce the volume of water entering the outlet control structure, thus reducing the discharge rate while still allowing for proper drainage. Increasing the diameter would not improve the drainage rate, and would only increase the discharge rate at the outfall. Commissioner Schibley stated that he wanted to ensure the stream was not being deprived of water by these efforts. T. Onderko stated that this is something their team as kept in mind, and they have been working with Dean Gustafson (PWS, All Points Technology) to stay within 10% pre and post construction for the volume of water being discharged to the stream to maintain natural conditions as closely as they can.

Commissioner Schibley asked T. Onderko if the new design is able to handle the storm events equivalent to or exceeding those taking place in the summer of 2021. T. Onderko said that this plan is designed for a 100 year storm within 24 hours, which is roughly 8 inches of rainfall; the storms from 2021 were roughly 5 inches of water within 24 hours.

Commissioner Elder asked T. Onderko if there was any concern with clogging within the new outlet control, and asked what the reasoning was behind bringing the new smaller 6 inch pipe down to the elevation of the 24 inch outlet, where the previous design had an 8 inch pipe that was about 6 inches higher than the 24 inch pipe. T. Onderko stated that this eliminates dead storage of water in the structure and will allow for the basin to drain entirely even if there is an issue with infiltration.

Commissioner Fraysier asked for clarification on a note on the site plans that reads, "Work within wetlands to be coordinated with All Points Technology". T. Onderko stated that this was added to ensure that Dean Gustafson (or other ATP staff) is present for any work conducted in close proximity to the wetlands to ensure proper protocol is followed. Commissioner Fraysier clarified that this note wasn't to allow work to be conducted within the wetlands. T. Onderko stated that this was simply to ensure efforts didn't unnecessarily expand into the wetlands. D. Gustafson added that this is an additional safety net to eliminate any confusion on where the true boundaries of the wetland or watercourse are during construction.

Commissioner Williams asked how long this work will take to complete. Brad Walthall (SPA Properties) stated that this will take roughly 6-8 weeks to complete entirely.

Commissioner Schibley asked Wetland Agent Thompson how the Commission should handle the approval of this proposal. W.A. Thompson stated that this could be approved by the Commission as part of the open Cease and Correct Order.

Commissioner Schibley asked Tom Cody, attorney for SPA Properties, would be comfortable with the approval of these modifications, subject to a final review of the technical details by town staff. Tom Cody explained and clarified the process of approvals and association with the Cease and Correct as well as the Stream Restoration Plan listed next on the agenda. T. Cody stated that an approval tonight would

allow work to begin significantly sooner as the Planning and Zoning Commission also requires a Site Plan Modification permit before work can be conducted.

Commissioner Schibley stated that if there are any significant modifications to the plan would then need to be re-presented to the Commission, and the technical staff review process only allows for minor adjustments. W.A. Thompson assured Commissioner Schibley that she understood.

Commissioner Schibley stated that the restoration plan to be presented in the next agenda item is likely to be affected by this change discharge point, and that this will need to be considered.

Commissioner Schibley made a **motion to approve of presented Basin D Modifications, Langan Engineering – Amazon Site Sedimentation (Cease and Correct Order issued 9/15/21) subject to technical review by Engineering Department and Wetland Agent.** Commissioner Towers seconded the motion. **Vote 6-0-0**

- **Application 22-102: 385, 389 & 445 River Street, Amazon.com Services LLC. – Stream & Wetland Restoration**

Dean Gustafson addressed the Commission as the environmental consultant, Professional Wetland Scientist, and Senior Wetland Scientist for All Points Technology working for SPA Properties. D. Gustafson explained that per request at the last meeting, the site plan includes the MDC hydrography depicting each tributary of the stream, not just the portions included in restoration efforts. D. Gustafson described the other changes to the restoration plan since the previous meeting, and stated that the property owner (Stosonis Family) was consulted and included on the discussions for some of the changes being presented.

D. Gustafson stated that the stream system will be reevaluated prior to work being conducted to evaluate the need for specific efforts. Recent on-site observations show a lack of deposited sediment and a well-established population of hydrophytic vegetation in the northern portion of the stream and sediment removal is not necessary, but will be monitored. Changes were expected to occur between fall and spring, and this observation supports the need for a re-inspection and reevaluation of what level of restoration is necessary in each stream segment. D. Gustafson reminded the Commission that in the fall, it was recommended that any area with less than 4 inches of accumulated sediment will not be excavated to limit the disturbance caused by heavy machinery.

D. Gustafson proposed that once All Points Technology has reassessed the entire restoration area as initially planned, an altered action plan would be submitted to Wetland Agent Thompson for review and the plan would then be able to be implemented immediately.

Commissioner Schibley asked D. Gustafson if the number of plantings would be reduced given the reduction in restoration area. D. Gustafson stated that there is no plan to reduce the number of plantings, and live plantings will still take place; the only action they are looking to reduce or eliminate in certain areas would be the excavation of sediment and use of heavy machinery. The plantings would assist the recuperating vegetative populations and aide in soil stabilization.

Commissioner Schibley asked what the status was of the sediment ponds and farm ponds on the Stosonis property, and added that a previous approval from the Commission granted them the ability to periodically maintain this without having to seek additional permission/approval other than that of the property owner. D. Gustafson stated that the ponds have been accumulating sediment, and excavation in the near future is necessary.

Commissioner Schibley asked D. Gustafson how the alterations to Basin D might affect the restoration efforts of this application. D. Gustafson showed on the map where the new outfall is being proposed compared to the existing location. Commissioner Schibley asked if D. Gustafson expected this change in location to alter the newly re-established, self-restored portion of the stream, and potentially cause more disturbance once the intake of water has shifted to the north. Commissioner Schibley added that the change in water influx may pose a new risk for impact and erosion. T. Onderko stated that this area of the stream has always experienced a concentrated in-take of water, as there was a farm pond feeding this portion of the stream even before initial construction on the site. D. Gustafson said their team is entirely comfortable with moving the discharge point to the northern location, and that this will result in additional erosion. D. Gustafson added that the likelihood for erosion has been significantly reduced by lowering the elevation to stream level and increasing water retention as T. Onderko presented. Commissioner Schibley stated that in addition to that concern, he wanted to highlight the fact that there is a potential to increase the area of impact should further failures occur, solely because of the outfall relocation, as a new portion of the stream is being subject to an additional volume water overall. D. Gustafson replied that he understands Commissioner Schibley's concern, and assured him that the drainage conditions are not going to be significantly altered post-construction, even if the discharge point is moved.

Commissioner Fraysier summarized and affirmed that all of the Commission's notes on the plan presented at the previous meeting were addressed appropriately in the revised plans submitted.

Commissioner Schibley asked when the Commission should expect the first report on the restoration efforts. D. Gustafson stated that a report will be submitted in December of this year, but they are planning on sending a synopsis of events transpiring within each stream segment, and are planning to keep in close contact with Wetland Agent Thompson throughout each construction stage. Commissioner Schibley restated that constant communication between the Commission, Wetland Agent Thompson and the abutting property owners is critical, and if any issues are to arise, all parties must be notified. D. Gustafson said he understood this.

Commissioner Schibley made a **motion to approve application 22-102: 385, 389 & 445 River Street, Amazon.com Services LLC. – Stream & Wetland Restoration.** Commissioner Fraysier seconded the motion. **Vote 6-0-0**

- **Application 22-103: 123 Great Pond Drive, VCP EPC, LLC. (Emhart Glass) – Solar and Battery Storage System**

Commissioner Fraysier recused himself from this application*.

Brad Parsons addressed the Commission as the P.E. from Verogy. B. Parsons stated that the wetland scientist was not able to conduct an additional site visit to provide the information requested by the Commission, and would therefore like to table this application until the next meeting.

Commissioner Schibley made a **motion to table 22-103: 123 Great Pond Drive, VCP EPC, LLC. (Emhart Glass) – Solar and Battery Storage System.** Commissioner Williams seconded the motion. **Vote 5-0-0***

Commissioner Fraysier was reseated for the remainder of the meeting.

- **Application 22-104: 171 Rainbow Road, Seneca LLC. – Slope Stabilization**

Antonio Senese from ServPro LLC, addressed the Commission as the project manager and gave a brief overview of the application presented last meeting as well as explaining the new plans provided to the Commission.

Commissioner Schibley asked how the material was going to be placed on the slope. A. Senese stated that all work will be conducted from the top of the slope on Mr. Donais' property.

Commissioner Towers asked Wetland Agent Thompson if she felt additional sediment and erosion controls were needed. Wetland Agent Thompson stated that she felt a single silt fence was sufficient.

Commissioner Schibley asked when the work was to begin. A. Senese stated that the homeowner is currently unable to live in the house because of the work needed, so they are looking to begin immediately.

Commissioner Schibley made a **motion to approve application 22-104: 171 Rainbow Road, Seneca LLC. – Slope Stabilization.** Commissioner Elder seconded the motion. **Vote 6-0-0**

c. NEW BUSINESS

- **Application 22-105: 311-315 Rainbow Road, Hamilton Sundstrand Corp. – Storm Drainage Updates**

Tristan Wallace, P.E. from Loureiro Engineering addressed the Commission as the Project Manager for this application. Alisa Morrison, P.E. from Loureiro Engineering, Senior Project Engineer was also present. A. Morrison explained that the site contains an access drive to a pump station that has experienced erosion during recent storm events, as Rainbow Road floods and inadvertently flows down the access drive. T. Wallace explained that there are two catch basins on either side of the driveway, but the system was overwhelmed this previous summer, and water has flowed over the curb as well as down the access drive. T. Wallace explained that the solution his team is proposing includes two double catch basins, a new discharge location and improvements to an existing outfall. Regrading would occur along the western side of the drive where there is currently riprap. T. Wallace described the general details of the project.

Chairman Morando asked where the water from the pump station originates from, that pumps water up to the facility over the town line in Windsor Locks. T. Wallace said he believes the pump station provides domestic water and fire water to the facility.

Commissioner Schibley asked if there was any damage to the existing headwalls. T. Wallace said it's not that the existing structure is damaged, but that they are looking to extend and improve the existing.

Commissioner Schibley asked if there was concern with erosion occurring at the discharge locations. T. Wallace stated that the existing soils and proposed infrastructure compensate for this and they do not have concerns with the potential for erosion.

Commissioner Elder noted that there was a discrepancy in the application versus the site plan detail in regard to the size of the riprap and asked T. Wallace to clarify this. T. Wallace stated that the riprap will be standard sized.

Commissioner Fraysier asked if it were possible for the work to not take place within the wetlands, perhaps by channelizing the discharge points to avoid having to do improvement work on the eastern outfall. T. Wallace stated that the channelizing of discharge points would increase the volume of water and increase the potential for erosion. T. Wallace added that the eastern discharge point is existing, and they're really only looking to improve that structure. Commissioner Schibley noted that piping underneath the drive may increase future wetland impacts should this need to be maintained as the drive would have to be cut into to gain access. T. Wallace added that the existing utilities would also be disturbed and need to be reconfigured if they were to run pipe under the drive.

Commissioner Fraysier asked when the wetland areas were delineated. T. Wallace stated that they were delineated in November of 2021.

Commissioner Towers asked if there was heavy machinery being used. T. Wallace said that heavy equipment will only be needed to place the riprap, and is expected to be used mainly by the roadway and in the upland review area.

Commissioner Fraysier stated that his questioning earlier was to see if alternatives were considered in the drafting of this plan. T. Wallace stated that they thought this was the most direct option, and the solutions to the issues they have should be relatively simple. This plan they believe is adequate to address the volume of water they experienced in the previous years' storm events.

Commissioner Fraysier asked if T. Wallace believes the existing headwall is operating properly. T. Wallace said that it is operating, but given the amount of water in this area, a larger plunge pool and scour hole would provide additional protection to the wetlands. Commissioner Fraysier asked if there was evidence of scour or erosion around this area. T. Wallace said that there is not a lot of evidence of erosion or scour, and most of the erosion is located on the western side of the drive.

Commissioner Fraysier asked what the functions and values were for the wetlands. T. Wallace stated that details of the wetlands are included in the wetland delineation report. Wetland Agent Thompson stated that a wetland delineation report was not included with the application. T. Wallace stated that this will be provided to the Commission.

Wetland Agent Thompson noted that the location of the underground pipes leading to the pump station are not depicted on the existing conditions site plan. W. A. Thompson added that after speaking with other town staff, she believes the water is actually being treated at the pump station and then sent back up to the facility to be treated again, rather than domestic and/or fire suppression water. W. A. Thompson explained that there was correspondence between the Engineering Department and Alisa Morrison in regard to testing the water to determine if there was a leak in the system as there was a discharge of water noted by town staff on a dry day in December of 2021. This discharge could be another source of erosion on the site, and therefore these efforts might not fully address the erosion and flooding issues occurring on-site. W.A. Thompson suggested adding the location of these pipes on the site plan so the Commission can fully consider the existing conditions. T. Wallace said he would gather more information on this matter and readdress this.

Wetland Agent Thompson stated that the application did not include stormwater drainage calculations, and this is required and must be submitted to the Engineering Department. T. Wallace asked what this report might include. W.A. Thompson said she would connect them with Adam Kessler, Asst. Town Engineer to get the specific details of what is required.

Chairman Morando asked what the age of the pump station was. T. Wallace said he was unsure, and would look into this.

Commissioner Fraysier stated that he was not satisfied with alternatives considered, and would like to see other options at the next meeting given the lack of erosion at the existing scour hole. Alternatives could potentially include measures that would eliminate wetland impact. T. Wallace stated that the options are limited given the topography and other on-site conditions. Commissioner Elder clarified and noted that in the cover letter, there was a brief mention of alternatives and that the Commission is looking to see this elaborated upon.

IV. AGENT REPORTS

Wetland Agent Thompson stated that she had received an update from the property owner at 145 Park Ave, where deposited organic waste was to be removed from the adjacent brook. W.A. Thompson showed the Commission photos, and it was determined the property owner had removed nearly all of the material, and the issue had been adequately addressed.

Wetland Agent Thompson presented two other potential wetland violations that she will be exploring further before issuing enforcement orders.

V. PETITIONS FROM COMMISSIONERS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Elder made a motion to adjourn at 9:47pm. Commissioner Towers seconded and it passed 6-0-0.

I certify that these minutes were approved on

Marlene Towers, Secretary
Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission