

Green Creek Restoration Project

Public Meeting #2

August 25, 2016, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Attendees

- Cape May County: Brian O'Connor, Planning; Kent Schellinger, Engineering; Leslie Gimeno
- Louis Berger: Jennifer Brunton; Amber Inggs
- Approximately 25 Public Stakeholders

Key Discussion Points

Green Creek Restoration Project Update

- Cape May County gave an introduction to the proposed project. The public was encouraged to be involved throughout the meeting and continue to be involved throughout the project cycle.
- Louis Berger proceeded to provide a description of the underlying processes causing the habitat degradation and threatening the marsh, review project goals and the project process, describe the alternatives evaluated, presented results from hydrologic and hydraulic analyses, and explained possible paths forward for the project.
- Following the presentation, the attendees were encouraged to ask questions.

Stakeholder Concerns/Comments

A summary of general concerns and comments raised during the public meeting are provided below.

- *Proposed Sluice Gate*
Comments and questions regarding the project alternative results were raised. Questions included:
 - Have these been done before?
 - Will the water be displaced into communities north and south of the project site?
 - Why not another gate/design?The County and Louis Berger reiterated how the proposed sluice gate would function (i.e., the sluice gate would only close for storm events; ~3x per year). The County also provided local examples where sluice gates were effectively functioning.
- *Permitting & Constraints*
The question was raised whether there are constraints to implementing this project and if permits are required. There were also concerns with the amount of time it would take to construct the project, as well as the source of financial support for the project. The public was reminded the budgeted task take the project through preferred alternative identification and permit application submittal. The next steps have too many unknowns to answer the question definitely.

- *Alternative Design*

US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) questioned the preferred alternative, suggesting an alternative design without structural measures. The suggestion included raising the marsh elevations and adding a berm to surround Green Creek marsh. Project options were discussed and the USFWS was encouraged to submit a drawing of their design to the County and Louis Berger to consider whether the suggestion would meet project goals.