



Subject	Meeting Minutes - Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #2
Meeting Date	April 26, 2016
Time	6:00 pm – 8:00 pm ET
Location	Little Ferry Borough Hall, 215 Liberty Street, Little Ferry, NJ 07643
Attendees	Attendee list available, <i>for internal use only</i>

- The PowerPoint slide presentation utilized at the meeting is attached to the meeting minutes (see **Attachment 1**).
- A CAG meeting packet was provided to all attendees and is also attached to the meeting minutes (see **Attachment 2**).
- Introductions – Linda Fisher, NJDEP Project Manager, started the meeting by thanking the CAG members for their responses to Questionnaire #1. She provided an update on NJDEP’s efforts to work with the Department of Public Works (DPW) in each town to identify Project Area ditches; current efforts are focused on those ditches draining to Berry’s Creek in particular. The objective of this CAG Meeting is to obtain input on local flooding issues/concerns.
- Ms. Fisher concluded her meeting introductions and informed the attendees that the objective of this CAG Meeting is: (1) to obtain input on local flooding issues/concerns; and (2) to give CAG members an opportunity to introduce themselves. Meeting attendees proceeded to provide their name, town/affiliation, and any other relevant information.
- Mr. Christopher Benosky, AECOM Project Manager, provided an overview of the current project status since the last CAG meeting on March 23rd. This included reviewing the status of the alternatives development, data gathering efforts, and the ongoing drainage study, which has focused on existing pump stations, tide gates, and ditches.
- Mr. Brian W. Boose, AECOM NEPA Team Leader, provided the status of the Notice of Intent (NOI), Public Scoping Document (PSD), and the Public Scoping Process. He also provided a detailed overview of responses to Questionnaire #1.
- CAG members were requested to provide suggestions on: (1) potential public meeting venues; and (2) methods of announcement that could be used for holding and notifying the public of future meetings. The following ideas were provided:
 - Vineyard Church, Teterboro
 - TJ Sokol Hall, Main Street, Little Ferry
 - Use of signage in front of buildings
 - Use of town websites



- Little Ferry and Moonachie school flyers
 - Use of Nixel system for calls, texts, and emails
- A dedicated email address at rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov will be used to receive all public input throughout the duration of the Project.
 - Mr. Boose provided an overview of the Break-out Session. The objective of this workshop is two-fold: (1) to validate (and supplement) existing data as mapped by AECOM (i.e., ditches, tie gates, pump stations) as shown on large maps provided at the meeting for each town; and (2) to identify specific locations of local flooding within each town, including frequency and nature of each location prone to flooding. This information will be used in further developing and refining Alternative 2, the local drainage improvement alternative.
 - Meeting attendees were directed to Break-out Session tables based on their respective town. Individuals with information on more than one town were directed to share their input at all relevant tables.
 - To facilitate the data gathering process, meeting attendees were asked to identify the location of local flooding concerns on the appropriate town map using colored dots. The following four categories of flooding hazard were considered: Regular Rainfall Events (Red), Heavy Rainfall Events (Yellow), Major Storm Events (Green), and Other Issues/Concerns (Blue).
 - **Tables 1 through 4** below provide a summary of the input received from the meeting attendees for Moonachie, Carlstadt, Little Ferry, and Teterboro, as generated during the Break-out Session. This summary is for informational purposes only; statements have not been field verified. No data was gathered for South Hackensack; CAG members representing South Hackensack were not in attendance at this meeting. A copy of the maps used during this workshop showing the results of this exercise are included in **Attachment 3**.

Table 1. Borough of Moonachie

No.	Category	Location	Notes
1	Red	Austin, Sales, Spruce, and Helen Streets within the Metropolitan Mobile Home Park; from Caesar Place and Spruce/Sales Street	With 2 inches of rain, constantly running 3 pumps. Water comes from East, South, and West. Current owner has been there two years, and flooding has increased over that time.
2	Yellow	Jackson Place and Jubilee Place intersection (from ballpark and roads)	Lincoln Place Pump Station (2 pumps) put in ~ 18 months ago. Effectiveness still to be determined.
3	Red	Ballpark from parking lots	Clogged ditch at ballpark for 14 years. Floods parts of streets near Lincoln Place Pump Station.



No.	Category	Location	Notes
4	Green	West Riser Tide Gate	At Moonachie Avenue
5	Green	At private home (basement)	Groundwater comes up in basement during heavy rainfall (~3-4 inches deep)
6	Green	Theresa Court	Heavy rain, flooding along fenceline at industry; and along sewer easement. School yard floods after regular rainfall.
7	Green	Sands Creek	Corrugated pipe is full/clogged; down to Daniel Street and Henry Street.
8	Green	State Street	Heavy rain flooding.
9	Green	Grand Street	Flooding during continuous rain.
10	Green	Commercial Moonachie	Heavy rain flooding; drains with no outlet; needs to be cleaned out.
11	Green	Albert Street	Storm sewer does not drain.
12	Green	Sova Place	Heavy rain flooding.
13	Green	Jackson Place Ditch	Floods into Vanguard Mobile Home Park due to poor maintenance.
14	Green	Jefferson and Edison	Heavy rain flooding.
15	Green	Concord/Anderson Intersection	Needs cleaning. Heavy rain flooding.
16	Green	Woodridge and Park Avenue	Heavy rain flooding.
17	Green	Capital and State Streets	Heavy rain flooding.
	Other Notes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ A ditch has not been mapped south of Moonachie, south of Metropolitan Mobile Home Park. ✓ New homes are being proposed on a small wooded lot north of Moonachie in Little Ferry; concerns about increased impervious surfaces. ✓ A ditch has not been mapped in the northeastern section of Moonachie that drains to Losen Slote – might be named Sands Creek (see map). Clogged pipes exist along the length of this Sands Creek. ✓ Levees in Moonachie failed in 1989/1990. ✓ Inflow/Infiltration problems exist in sewer infrastructure throughout Moonachie. 	

Table 2. Borough of Carlstadt

No.	Category	Location	Notes
1	Blue	Washington Avenue near Commerce Road	Ponding.
2	Red	Commercial Avenue	Regular flooding at Commercial Moonachie/Carlstadt Ditch.



No.	Category	Location	Notes
3	Red	Commercial Avenue	This location was suggested by Linda Fisher as a problem area identified by a local business owner.
4	Yellow	Commercial Avenue Extension	Roadway flooding.
5	Yellow	Commercial Avenue Extension	Black arrows included as extensions of this point towards Moonachie Avenue.
6	Red/Yellow	Secaucus	Flooding on Meadowlands Pkwy by the hospital.

Table 3. Borough of Little Ferry

No.	Category	Location	Notes
1	Blue	Near Kinzley Street and Alsan Way; East Riser Ditch culvert	There are discrepancies with the Little Ferry boundary. This is an ongoing issue in one neighborhood in South Hackensack that is actually part of Little Ferry. The Little Ferry boundary follows Losen Slote, Kinzley Street, 1 st Street, and Millo Court.
2	Blue	East Riser Ditch culvert	The East Riser Ditch culvert is “rotted out” leading to flooding at the end of 1 st Street and Kinzley Street all the time because Losen Slote does not drain in this area. The water level was above the Losen Slote pump station.
3	Red/Blue <i>(3 total dots, 2 red, 1 blue)</i>	Bergan County Utilities Authority (BCUA) property	An open drainage ditch from the Hackensack River occurs within this property that drains to Mehrhof Pond (former clay pit, very deep). This area is flood prone (red dots) – 6 inches of water during a typical storm. There is a breach at the Mehrhof Pond end of the ditch (blue dot).
4	Red/Blue	2 nd ditch north of 1 st ditch from Hackensack to Maiden Lane	Both dots label pump station failures. Pump station at the end of this ditch fails occasionally (blue dot). It has old equipment and culverts have collapsed. During a nor’easter, the water is up to DePeyster Creek (red dot).
5	Green/Red/Blue <i>(4 green, 2 red, 1 blue dots)</i>	Main Street (up to Garden Street)	During Irene, Sandy, and nor’easters, this area is underwater (see green dots labeled Sandy and sandy breach, one red labeled Main Street, one unlabeled red dot, one blue dot is labeled pump station). The Main Street pump station on the old Tilcon property (on the Hackensack River) is a problem during Spring tide (otherwise it works “pretty good”). The Main St. pump station was eroded and breached from Sandy.



No.	Category	Location	Notes
6	Green	Redneck Street between Sylvan Avenue and Main Street	Green dot labels with arrows pointing toward the Hackensack River. During Irene, flood water covered the area from the Hackensack River, up to and beyond Redneck Street.
7	Red/Blue (5 red, 3 blue)	DePeyster Creek behind the industrial buildings on Gates Road; DePeyster Creek to Louis Creek	Property being filled next to the Louis Street ditch and DePeyster Creek pump station. Fill is approximately 15 feet high and runs into ditch on north side of property and has filled in ditch. The fill has protected residential properties to the west of the commercial area from recent flooding. Construction of warehouses will occur on the fill site. Two of the red dots represent vacant buildings that are regularly flooded. Blue dots represent flood gate, spring tide, and creek to Louis Street ditch. Industrial Avenue flooding is a regular occurrence and blocks street access to the commercial buildings. Businesses have moved because employees cannot obtain access which has led to many vacancies. There has been a loss of ratables for the municipality. During spring tide, the industrial area floods from the Hackensack River through the industrial park, up to Washington Avenue.
8	Blue	Losen Slote	Large sections of the Losen Slote has been encroached upon due to filling by property owners in their backyards. It has decreased from 15-20 feet wide to 3 feet wide in some areas.
9	Blue (4 blue)	Intersection of East Riser Ditch, Little Ferry, and South Hackensack borders	Blue dots include a pump station, stream capacity issue, and 1 st time flooding issue starting now. The South Hackensack Route 46 pump station has a large capacity with 3 screw pumps, but does not alleviate flooding. It was designed to pump out this area. It should have never been put there. It pumps to the East Riser Ditch, but is not effective at high tide. East Riser Ditch does not have the capacity to handle the flow. The Teterboro pump station operation is essential for the South Hackensack Route 46 pump station to work. Homes on Couchon Drive are flooding from the Route 46 pump station. Need a new pump station down at the other end over Moonachie Avenue at the tide gate on Berry's Creek.



No.	Category	Location	Notes
10	Blue (4 blue)	Nature preserve, Birch St Park, adjoining to Losen Slote Creek Park.	There is a five acre contaminated tract along the Losen Slote near Mehrhof Pond. A commercial site off of State Street was pumping TCE into the Losen Slote and contaminated the groundwater. The location is a nature preserve (Birch Street Park which adjoins the Losen Slote Creek Park). As part of the cleanup, they have been installing sheet pile across the Losen Slote, which has led to sediment build up.
11	Blue	Open Space adjacent to Mehrhof Pond	Two BCUA security fences bisect the natural area adjacent to Mehrhof Pond, prohibiting public access, but the public doesn't want to lose the open space. Mitigation funding is available for Little Ferry to turn the BCUA property into park land. Mitigation is for the new tower at Teterboro airport. There are 800-1000 Little Ruddy Ducks in Mehrhof Pond.
12	Green/Blue	Old Mosquito Commission Dyke	The Old Mosquito Commission Dyke (blue dot) was overtopped and broke through at BCUA (green). Led to water flowing through the breaks during spring and full moon tide, and water pouring through the BCUA access road culvert. Breaches have been repaired; the dyke requires more frequent inspections through the use of drones.
14	Green/Blue	Area near Birch Street and Lamker Court	County installed new drainage pipe at Birch Street Park (blue dot) that was broken; there is now a water filled depression in place of the heavy equipment. The 2 green dots have arrows depicting the direction of flood waters in this area and the blue dots are labeled pipe excavation and Birch Street Park.

Table 4. Borough of Teterboro

No.	Category	Location	Notes
1	Green	Couchon Drive adjacent to the Airport	No flooding occurred during Sandy, but water rose out of the ditch and flooded the area up to Couchon Drive during Irene. No nuisance flooding during minor storm events has been observed in this area.

- In addition to the specific flooding concerns identified by location, the CAG members provided the following general comments:
 - Moonachie: Three years ago, \$1.4 million was spent on the West Riser Tide Gate. Currently, the lack of maintenance causes flooding and failure to discharge at low tide.



Improvements to the operation of this tide gate are critical to the whole area. Similarly, the East Riser Tide Gate is not maintained. Both of these tide gates are critical to the entire area and specifically affect Moonachie, Little Ferry, and Teterboro. Mobile home parks in the area also suffer from flooding due to tide gate failures. Current piping from mobile home parks is buried. The Losen Slote Pump Station located near Carol Place is considered critical infrastructure; it currently leads to flooding in nearby church (former Melnor) parking lots.

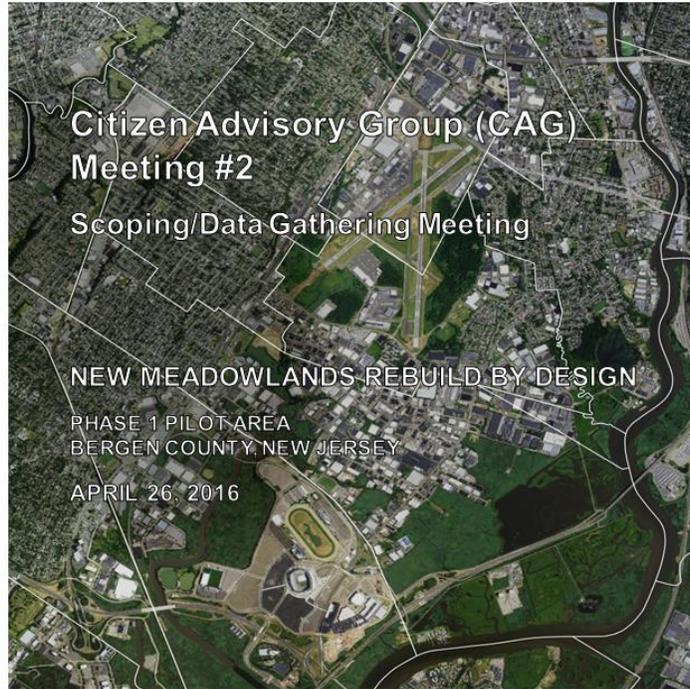
- South Hackensack Township: The triangular section of South Hackensack (that is disconnected from the main section) was formed due to a surveying error when the original Lodi Township was divided into towns; it was not included in the Little Ferry or Moonachie municipalities.
- Teterboro: The South Hackensack pump station on East Riser Ditch near the intersection of Route 46 (on the eastside of the Airport) would be better situated further south because the pump station appears to cause local flooding in the area. This ditch needs to be cleaned out and widened to its original dimensions. It used to be cleaned out every two years by the Mosquito Commission, but regular maintenance has ceased. Remediation work is underway on Losen Slote in Little Ferry near Capital Drive. Residents have observed steel cofferdam pilings being placed in Losen Slote and excavation activities occurring; there is concern that these pilings are causing a sediment build up in Losen Slote that could lead to future flooding.
- Little Ferry: Drainage easements are no longer recognized, making enforcement of illegal filling and encroachment of Losen Slote difficult. Willow Lake Park has been filled in by “anything they could get their hands on”. Midnight dumping occurred, including the burial of 55-gallon drums that ignited and burned in front of the high school.
- After the Break-out Session, Ms. Linda Fisher reviewed upcoming activities and critical schedule dates. The next CAG meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 17, 2016.
- Prior to closing the meeting, Mr. Boose asked the CAG members if they had any further suggestions or information that they would like to share with the group. The following suggestions/information were provided:
 - Consider a semi-circle (round table) format for the next CAG meeting.
 - A New Meadowlands Coalition Meeting will be held on May 4, 2016.
 - Consider doing a field trip for a future CAG Meeting to assess shorelines; four pontoon boats are available that support up to 15 people (total 60 people).
 - *Moonachie Messenger* was an effective tool for making folks aware of public involvement opportunities; several attendees learned of this CAG meeting through this newsletter.
 - The following suggestions were also made to address flooding concerns:



- Reinforce the Kane Mitigation Bank Dike: It currently has buckets of soil as a barrier and the adjoining commercial area has suffered from flooding. To do so, consider putting sheet pile into the dike, drive the sheet pile down the center of the Mosquito Commission Dyke, run it around BCUA to Route 46. This material is used as bulkhead at the Jersey Shore.
 - Construct a surge gate across Hackensack River.
 - Ditches in the area are being encroached upon and are being filled and/or reduced in size. Some ditches have been reduced from 10' wide to 2' wide. The towns should be clearing these ditches and maintaining the easements, but the towns have stated that they will not enforce the easements. In the past, Little Ferry was drained by ditches. However, they are currently filled and culverts are broken, which results in a lot of localized flooding.
 - Before an increase in development in the 1950-60s, there were open ditches along every road. These open ditches have been replaced with underground pipes that are undersized and of unknown condition, with potentially many failed sections. Now local roads convey the stormwater instead of the infrastructure.
 - Tide gates are stuck in the open position by debris, and there appears to be a lack of maintenance and repair by the municipalities, along with illegal fill/encroachment into the Losen Slote. Losen Slote is proposed for dredging in the near future. Permits are in place, but there has been a delay (possibly due to contaminated sediment).
- Based on the closing discussion, it was determined that the next CAG meeting should cover the following three items: (1) review/discussion of the Preliminary Draft Public Scoping Document to facilitate CAG members' review; (2) a round table discussion of the findings generated during this Break-out Session; and (3) further discussion/determination of venues and other logistics related to the upcoming Public Scoping Meeting and Public Scoping Process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm ET.

Attachment 1. Power Point Slide Presentation (as delivered)



Agenda

- 1 *Project Status Review and Meeting Objectives*
- 2 *CAG Member Introductions*
- 3 *Status of the Project*
- 4 *Status of the NEPA Process*
- 5 *Responses to Questionnaire #1*
- 6 *Workshop Structure*
- 7 *Workshop – Break-out Sessions*
- 8 *Reconvene and Review*
- 9 *Questions and Answers/Closure*



1

Project Status Review and Meeting Objectives

Linda Fisher, NJDEP Project Manager

- NJDEP appreciates the CAG Responses to the Questionnaire!
- The Project will focus on reducing flood risk
- We will have about \$110M to build the Project after all analyses are complete
- Status of Project Area Ditch Mapping Exercise
- Draft Citizen Outreach Plan posted to Project website
 - ✓ Website: www.rbd-meadowlands.nj.gov
 - ✓ E-mail: rbd-meadowlands@dep.nj.gov
 - ✓ **Accepting comments through May 6, 2016**
- **Meeting Objective:** Obtain CAG Input on Local Flooding

2

CAG Member Introductions

CAG Members: Please introduce yourselves

- Name
- Town and/or Affiliation
- Length of Residency
- Ideas/Concerns/Area(s) of Expertise

3 Status of the Project

Christopher Benosky, Vice President, AECOM

- Current Project Status/Goals (update since March 23, 2016)
- Status of Alternatives and Data Gathering
- Status of Drainage Study

AECOM



5

4 Status of the NEPA Process

Brian W. Boose, AECOM NEPA Team Leader

- Status of the Notice of Intent
- Status of the Public Scoping Document
- Status of the Public Scoping Process

AECOM



6

5 Responses to Questionnaire #1

- Purpose & Need*
- Flooding Problem Areas*
- Alternatives*
- Locations of CAG and Public Meetings*
- Next CAG Meeting and Format*
- Stakeholders
- Best Local Newspapers
- Newsletter Location
- Other Suggestions

* = Addressed in this meeting.

6 Workshop Structure

- Break-out Session tables
- Google Earth
- Dots and maps
- Facilitator/recorder at each table
- Photos to central table
- About 1 hour to share your concerns, ideas, and locations

7 Workshop – Break-out Sessions

We welcome and need your input!

AECOM



9

8 Reconvene and Review

- Table-by-Table Summary and Review/Discussion
- Next Steps

AECOM



10

Next Steps

NJDEP/AECOM Upcoming Activities

- Prepare Meeting Summary for this meeting, including consolidating data
- Continue developing:
 - Initial Alternatives
 - Feasibility Study
 - Draft Public Scoping Document
- Finalize the Citizen Outreach Plan, including responding to comments on the Draft and posting the Final to the website (May 2016)
- Provide CAG with Preliminary Draft Public Scoping Document for review and comment over a 15-day period (May 2016)
- Prepare for Public Scoping Period and Public Meeting
- Implement Public Involvement Plan, including website, newsletter, etc.
- Prepare for next CAG Meeting in May 2016 (approx.)
- Publish the NOI in June 2016

Next Steps

CAG – Call to Action

- Review and comment on Meeting Summary for this meeting
- Review and comment on the Draft Citizen Outreach Plan
- Share information from this Meeting with friends and neighbors
- Educate constituents on the project and NEPA Process
- Build interest in the Project
- Assist in disseminating information concerning the Public Scoping Process and Meeting
- Review the Preliminary Draft Public Scoping Document over a 15-day period; provide comments in May 2016
- Continue obtaining information, ideas, and potential concerns from constituents

Next Steps

Critical Schedule Dates (approximate)

- **Late May – early June** – Publish NOI
- **At NOI Publication** – Make Available Draft Public Scoping Document
- **Mid-May** – CAG Meeting #2b – Scoping/Data Gathering 2.0 (tentative)
- **Mid-June** – Public Scoping Meeting (tentative)
- **Mid-July** – CAG Meeting #3 – Screening Criteria/Metrics (tentative)
- **Mid-August** – CAG Meeting #4 – Alternatives Screening (tentative)
- **Mid-September** – CAG Meeting #5 – Alternatives Analysis (tentative)

Key Contact Information and Communication

Name	Affiliation
Alyson Beha	HUD Region II Senior Regional Planner
Linda Fisher	NJDEP Project Team Manager
Alexis Taylor	NJDEP Outreach Team Leader
Christopher Benosky	AECOM – Project Manager
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The NJDEP will be the key agency responsible for receiving, publicly distributing (including via the CAG), and coordinating all information relative to this NEPA process

Open Group Discussion

- Additional thoughts on the CAG Questionnaire #1
- Next CAG Meeting logistics
- Other concerns and ideas

Thank you!

Attachment 2. CAG Meeting Packet #1 (provided as handout at meeting)



CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING #2 PACKET

Scoping/Data Gathering Meeting

NEW MEADOWLANDS REBUILD BY DESIGN

PHASE 1 PILOT AREA
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

April 26, 2016

Prepared By

AECOM

Hackensack River

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Português العربية Kreyòl ગુજરાતી Italiano Polski
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List of Acronyms

CAG	Citizen Advisory Group
CDBG-DR	Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESC	Executive Steering Committee
HUD	Department of Housing and Urban Development
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NJDEP	New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
OSC	Outreach Subcommittee
ROD	Record of Decision

Agenda

Scoping/Data Gathering CAG Meeting

6-8 PM, April 26, 2016
Little Ferry Borough Hall
215 Liberty Street
Little Ferry, NJ 07643

- **Welcome**
- **Project Status Review and Meeting Objectives** – Linda Fisher, Project Team Manager, Rebuild by Design New Meadowlands, NJDEP
 - Obtain CAG Input on Local Flooding
 - Draft Citizen Outreach Plan, accepting comments through May 6, 2016
- **CAG Member Introductions**
- **AECOM Presentation** – Christopher Benosky, Vice President, AECOM
 - Current Project Status/Goals – update since March 23, 2016
 - Alternatives, Data Gathering, Drainage Study
- **Status of NEPA Process** – Brian W. Boose, AECOM NEPA Project Manager
 - Questionnaire Responses
 - Workshop Portion of Meeting Overview
- **Break-out Sessions** (approximately 1 hour)
- **Reconvene and Review**
- **Q&A/Closure**

1.0 Power Point Presentation

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION



**Citizen Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting #2
Scoping/Data Gathering Meeting**

NEW MEADOWLANDS REBUILD BY DESIGN
PHASE 1 PILOT AREA
BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

APRIL 26, 2016

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1 Project Status Review and Meeting Objectives

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Brian W. Boose, AECOM NEPA Team Leader

- Status of the Notice of Intent
- Status of the Public Scoping Document
- Status of the Public Scoping Process

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- Purpose & Need*
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9 Questions and Answers

Open Group Discussion

- Additional thoughts on the CAG Questionnaire #1
- Next CAG Meeting logistics
- Other concerns and ideas

10 Closure

Thank you!

Español 中文:繁體版 Việt-ngữ 한국어 Tagalog
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www.renewjerseystronger.org

2.0 Responses to CAG Questionnaire #1

CAG Questionnaire #1: Responses Gathered - as of 4.26.16

A. TECHNICAL QUESTIONS.

1. **Purpose and Need.** As discussed at the CAG meeting on March 23, 2016, the NJDEP is focused on reducing flooding within the project area. Is that the proper focus for this analysis (v. “Connect” and “Grow” concepts from the initial RBD concept design)? Are there other Needs we should be addressing here, within the framework of the RBD competition?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Reducing flooding is correct focus for purpose and need; consider roadway improvement integrated with flood protection (\$\$ from DOT/FHWA?); smaller flooding events are more important to address, as is existing local flood protection infrastructure. Incorporate renewable energy and existing habitat/wetlands management plans, plus recreation and quality of life considerations. Don't create walls and barriers in community.

Commenter 1: I would like to see forward planning for a roadway along the riverfront from NJ Route 3 North to connect with NJ Route 46 then continuing north and connecting with US RT 80, possibly continuing further to connect to NJ RT 4. This would accomplish many benefits; some of them are by eliminating flooding for many towns, as well as providing better traffic flow from the RT 3 Sports Complex, (stadium, racetrack, arena, and the American Dream project). This would also remove the daily truck traffic that passes very close to the two Elementary schools in Little Ferry. The safety of the children crossing this roadway as well as the very disturbing noise level in the classrooms, and the air pollution from the high volume of traffic that passes very close to both of these schools. This could be a multi-phase project, first sheet piling along the Pier head and Bulkhead line. (No ROW acquisition required), including Tide gates and Archimedes screws instead of pumps as they do not clog. Best of all, the roadway would be funded mostly by the Department of Transportation Federal funds and possibly some NJDOT money. This would provide a permanent solution to the Regions problems.

Commenter 2: We need to put more emphasis on restoring wetlands to alleviate flooding.

Commenter 3: What happens if water is released from Oradell Dam and a wall has been placed at the river edge?

Commenter 4: Clearly there are flooding problems that need to be addressed; I don't have an opinion as to the best methods for this. I have doubts whether “grow” is appropriate, with or without a dike or “green infrastructure,” given the long term flooding hazards, sea level rise, and increasing precipitation. Other than that, I feel strongly that biodiversity issues, and possibly renewable energy capture/generation, should be considered in concert with flood defenses as I've commented previously on this project.

Commenter 5: I agree with this geographically limited scope, given the limited grant funds available at this time. I also agree with starting work under the “Protect” concept from the initial RBD concept.

Commenter 6: Would agree that reducing flood risks is the proper focus (as opposed to connect and grow). Would also suggest that, within the scope of the RBD mandate, having a focus on 10 year storm/SLR as well as 100 year flooding issues would be beneficial.

From our perspective we would be very interested in plans that had co-benefits that helped meet the goals of the NY NJ HEP Action Plan. This includes reducing storm water and nutrients in the Hackensack River and tributaries through storm water controls and best practices; restoration efforts that advance the Hudson Raritan Estuary Comprehensive Restoration Plan, including advancing projects identified on the map at <http://www.harborestuary.org/watersweshare/>; and increased public access to the River (see existing access to the River and HEP guidelines at <http://www.harborestuary.org/prs.htm>).

Commenter 7: Yes; protection is the proper focus; the communities are well developed already, as is all of Bergen County (and indeed, I would argue, most of New Jersey); growth would most likely be a burden, rather than an opportunity. We really need a definition of *connection* in this context. We certainly need to avoid physical barriers being created that would create disconnecting neighbors and communities, and to ensure that the project does not protect some residences and businesses at the expense of others. I could see advantages in minimizing traffic and congestion, but otherwise we are pretty well connected physically. Communities must remain connected to waterways and natural features; we cannot be burying brooks and building structures to make them inaccessible for recreation and even simple scenic benefits. Whatever amenities are included should enhance community-building, help towns and neighborhoods grow in quality of life and create healthier opportunities, not expand buildings, hard infrastructure, and increase population counts and ratables.

Flooding risk has a large impact on the area; although naturally Sandy brought new concerns about devastating huge storms, which we realize are likely to increase in frequency, what is most wearing is the smaller fluvial flooding that has become an ever-more-present problem as there is less open space and more development (some would say overdevelopment). Ensuring that communities can quickly return to normal after those midsized floods is particularly crucial to quality of life; current flood-control features are not all well-maintained and in operating condition; the state's ability to pull these local features together under one regional umbrella could be very helpful in a practical sense; also, municipal government would both feel an obligation and have reassurance that costs will be shared, making these efforts and their maintenance easier politically. Real estate values should be stabilized with more assurance that the impact of small/midsized floods will be less disruptive.

Commenter 8: [No comment].

2. **Flooding Problem Areas.** Please identify areas (and infrastructure) within your community that are particularly problematic and result in flooding. Please provide (attach) maps and photographs, if possible. Also, do you have any suggestions to address these areas?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Metropolitan Mobile Home Park (Austin Street), Vanguard Mobile Home Community, and Liberty Street; all areas in Little Ferry with the exception of Summit Circle, Redneck Avenue and parts of Franklin Street; avoid levees; focus on smaller-scale flooding; focus on LMI areas; consider integrating better transportation corridors with flood reduction measures.

Commenter 1: See Attachment [at end of this document].

Commenter 2: **Metro Mobile Home Park.**

Commenter 3: **Summit Circle, Redneck Avenue, parts of Franklin Street** were the only areas not inundated by the storm surge this time.

Commenter 4: I can't answer these questions; local people know much more about flooding than I do. My expertise lies more in the biological resources area. However, **dikes and levees are tricky to design and maintain**, and if this option is chosen it will be challenging from all perspectives.

Commenter 5: I would look to input provided by municipal staff, local residents and stakeholders and elected officials for this. My understanding of local needs is not nearly as detailed as what you'll get directly from them!

Commenter 6: [No comment].

Commenter 7: **Liberty Street** is the main, even sole, route for traffic between Routes 46, 80 3. Currently, semi-trucks rumble past schools, where there are crossing guards all day because of the dangers of students crossing such heavy traffic. Better transportation options—not big bus storage—might be considered, with the caveat that that does not simply mean a bigger, higher, disconnected roadway. Carlstadt's flooding was concentrated in an area with 900 businesses, but the residential area was not flooded. **Metropolitan and Vanguard manufactured-home communities** not only had severe flooding, but because of their being privately-owned land (not by homeowners themselves), a large percentage of undocumented residents, pre-existing problems of environmental degradation and poverty effects, and a feeling, accurate or not, of powerlessness and apathy by municipal government, it was and remains hard to get services to residents and participation from them in public meetings and programs. Everyday flooding is on everyone's mind; each storm brings trauma-related reactions to residents.

Commenter 8: I own **Metropolitan (mobile home) Park** and we do have a flooding issue that occurs on **Austin St.**, which is 3' above sea level. The surrounding factories' storm run-off runs through the metropolitan park and due to that, we back up with a rain over 2", especially with a full moon, and have to pump.

3. **Alternatives.** Based on the information provided at the CAG meeting on March 23, 2016 (see provided CAG Meeting Packet), do you concur with the three broad alternatives as presented and discussed? Are there any other broad alternatives we should be considering at this early phase?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Improve and maintain existing flood control infrastructure (less red tape); relocate residences and businesses; increase upstream storage capacity; generally prefer Alternative 2 (or 3), not 1; protect wetlands; seek interagency cooperation/collaboration; examine property values and flood insurance rates; consider setting up a resilience district funded by reduced insurance rates to fund O&M.

Commenter 1: YES

Commenter 2: [No comment]

Commenter 3: Sorry to say if the **flood gates, creek cleanings, extra pump stations we allow to be maintained cleared and less red tape before the storm we would have been in better shape.**

Government red tape kept these preventative measures from occurring.

Commenter 4: Not sure. It may not fall into the three big approaches category, but with regard to fluvial flooding, there should be **consideration of increasing the capacity of the Oradell Reservoir and other existing or potential storage areas upstream?** "Green infrastructure" is always a good idea, but since most of the study area is only a meter (roughly) above sea level, there isn't much head (elevation difference) for draining water to the estuary, and **pumping would be expensive and subject to failure** when it's needed most. It might make sense to **relocate some of the development** out of the flood prone areas, but this is challenging socially and economically, and there isn't a lot of space available nearby. Nonetheless, this needs to be considered because if sea level rise predictions are accurate (e.g., 1 meter or more this century), **eventually relocation will probably be necessary unless residences and business can coexist with a high risk of failure of flood defenses.**

Commenter 5: Yes, agreed. Particularly interested to review **solutions proposed to address both coastal and fluvial/precipitation-based flood** hazards.

Commenter 6: Would concur with the three alternatives, in particular **Alternative 2 and 3 appear to have the greatest potential for achieving the goals of the project within the specified timeframe as well as potentially realizing the co-benefits described above.**

Commenter 7: Without more details that we can bring to our constituents, we really cannot answer this question accurately.

We believe that it is crucial to ensure that **wetlands are protected**. Most residents do not want a complete, large-scale Alternative 1 with tall infrastructure/walls along the river; **most are looking at more of the Alternative 2 smaller projects**, yet even small projects can have huge impacts that need to be considered to avoid unintended consequences. There is a great deal of concern about water being

trapped inside a high berm; despite assurances, nobody believes that a wall will not flood the other side of the Hackensack River, e.g., Ridgefield Park, etc.

Will there be a CAG chairperson/cochairperson, and if so, what process will be used and how will that affect the process?

When cleaning waterways is discussed, does that mean removing debris or cleaning up toxics, i.e., working with EPA and superfund money? Various projects and programs need to be connected, rather than working in silos: RREM, EPA, this project, etc., all need to be connected. Spending millions of dollars to raise houses when others are not and are presumably to be protected by this project is a disconnect. Flood-mitigation projects should be talking to each other and be looking for efficiency by each agency/project taking a part of a larger solution.

In our work at the Long-term recovery Committee, we have met people who missed the RREM deadline because of circumstances beyond their control, such as a late substantial damage letter, who have spent all of their insurance money, and only now are they being asked to raise their house. In one case, this would cost of \$200,000, yet the current value of house is \$180,000—and if they do not raise the house, they will lose their CO on Oct. 29, 2016. If the New Meadowlands project will protect that house, a moratorium until we connect those dots and determine the real need is needed. Whereas it is always **important to have interagency cooperation in recovery projects**, in a situation such as this, the lack of coordination that we have seen could be devastating to a family's financial future—and we are sure that there are others in similar situations.

We also ask that you consider how the New Meadowlands project affects **future value of land and homes, and consider whether future reductions in flood insurance or other contributions by building owners can provide additional sources of funding for the specific pieces of the current project**. An example of this concept was raised in Hoboken; they considered **creating a resilience district to use future discounts on flood insurance for businesses as a source of income for collective flood-protection** costs. Any such effort would obviously require a great deal of creativity and investment, and would need a lot of public thought and discussion, but it could be worthwhile to consider for the Meadowlands.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

B. CAG COMPOSITION AND LOGISTICS QUESTIONS.

4. **Locations of CAG and Public Meetings.** Please suggest a location for future CAG and Public Meetings. Would it be preferable to rotate meetings within each involved town?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Meeting locations should be consistent and accessible by public transportation; public documents should be in English, Spanish, Korean, and Italian.

Commenter 1: I agree.

Commenter 2: Moonachie or Little Ferry is fine. Better to be consistent with locations.

Commenter 3: Town Halls/ Civic Centers/ Senior Centers.

Commenter 4: Doesn't matter to me as long as the meetings are in the general area of the project.

Commenter 5: I defer to needs of community-based CAG members on all things related to ideal mtg logistics.

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: Yes, I think meeting locations should be rotated. Public meetings especially need to be accessible by public transportation [note that buses on Liberty St. toward Hackensack stop by 7 p.m.]. This is also true for CAG meetings; I would hate to see someone not join the CAG because of transportation issues, so if those meetings are not transit-accessible, easy carpooling systems should be considered to ensure equal access—perhaps we could set up a page on sharetribe.com, or another such site; how to reach out to those who might be interested but have not signed up because of transportation issues is unclear—maybe an inquiry to the NJDEP list (full list, not CAG) would be helpful? Certainly all are welcome to post such requests on our New Meadowlands Coalition Facebook page—and to check there for folks needing rides. Public meetings should have a Spanish-language interpreter and materials provided in Spanish, Korean, and Italian as well as English.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

5. **Next CAG Meeting and Format.** Would you be interested in/support another CAG meeting (perhaps in mid-April) in advance of the mid-May Public Scoping Meeting (and CAG Meeting) to discuss and further develop alternatives and purpose/need? If so, please identify the best date, time, and location. Also, please specify the preferred format of that next meeting - presentation, round table, work groups, etc.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Yes to another CAG meeting in April (various dates); Round Table; more interactive; better organized; more collaborative.

Commenter 1: Yes, anytime is good for me at the present time.

Commenter 2: Tuesdays or Thursday or Friday nights work. **I think the first meeting was very disorganized.** Who are CAG members? Who are just from public [illegible] working groups? **Round table.**

Commenter 3: First there was a **lack of introduction of the members** in attendance as [sic] may inform the public when we get a more clear picture working together.

Commenter 4: It seems there is a lot of discussion that was not fully supported at the first meeting. If there are enough people who want an April meeting I'm available the evenings of 13, 15, 18, 20 April. I suggest using a Doodle poll to set a date.

Commenter 5: See response to #4 [aka defer to needs of community]

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: Yes, **though I am planning a meeting for residents on April 13th to educate community residents as requested,** so that date would not work. Best for me personally would be evenings of April 12th, 15th, 21st, or 22nd, though I might be able to make certain other evenings. Late afternoon/early evenings on Sundays (other than the 17th) are also generally good. **It would be good to bring whatever information we get from our meeting back to the CAG and to discuss reactions to COP and scoping documents.**

I would like to see a very interactive format; a chance to **get to know fellow CAG members, plan coordinated communications strategies**—my constituents overlap with those of other CAG members—how can I avoid duplicating efforts and yet ensure that all are reached? Working with other CAG members to plan **public meetings such as the one that the New Meadowlands Coalition (NMC) is planning for the 13th would be easier and reach a greater number than the NMC alone.**

Will there be community members acting as chairperson and cochairperson of the CAG?

Commenter 8: [No comment]

6. **Stakeholders.** Please suggest other stakeholders (by name, e-mail, and area of interest/expertise) within your communities that we should contact directly as part of the public outreach process.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Include BCUA representative; Meadowlands hydrology experts; USACE; ELM Group; NJ Audubon' Bergen County's Flood Management Coordinator; MERI; Sustainable Bergen; Bergen Grassroots (see named individuals and contact data below).

Commenter 1: Most likely a representative of the Bergen County Utilities Authority, as they are right on the Hackensack River. A member of the **BCUA is George Zilocchi who lives in Little Ferry. His e-mail address is: gsp538@aol.com**

Commenter 2: [No comment]

Commenter 3: [No comment]

Commenter 4: There are few people who have worked on Meadowlands hydrology. **Kerry Donohue (ACOE) and Franco Montalto (eDesign Dynamics) come to mind. "Franco Montalto" <fmontalto@edesigndynamics.com>; I don't have Kerry's contact info. ELM Group, who is working on the Berry's Creek mercury situation, should be represented ("Michael Firth" mfirm@elminc.com). I was surprised that MERI didn't have a presence at the CAG meeting. Does NJ Audubon** have a representative on the CAG?

Commenter 5: I recommend you invite the following individuals (or representatives/delegates) to participate: **Bergen County's Flood Management Coordinator**, Betsy Stagg (based out of OEM) <http://www.co.bergen.nj.us/CivicAlerts.aspx?AID=70&ARC=95>

Elizabeth (Betsy) Stagg PE, PP, CFM
Bergen County Flood Management Coordinator
Bergen County Office of Emergency Management
285 Campgaw Road
Mahwah, NJ 07430
201-785-5748
stagg@bcoem.org

Dr. Francisco Artigas of the **Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute**
<http://meri.njmeadowlands.gov/francisco-artigas/biography/> - bio
<http://meri.njmeadowlands.gov/francisco-artigas/> - contact info

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: We have found that Facebook works well to get messages out. E-mail is useful but limited; door-to-door flyering, Little Ferry town hall light board, etc., are also helpful. Although I cannot give names of L-TRC clients, I can give them your name to contact. Also, I would suggest including Jaklin Girgis of **Sustainable Bergen** (Jaklin.girgis@yahoo.com) and Chuck Powers of **Bergen Grassroots** (chuck@bergengrassroots.org).

Commenter 8: [No comment]

C. PUBLIC OUTREACH QUESTIONS.

7. **Best Local Newspapers.** Please identify the best local, general circulation newspapers that would reach the most members of the project area communities, including English, Spanish, and Korean newspapers. Please identify each newspaper's name and language. Please identify any additional languages you think should be addressed to capture all community members.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Record, Northjersey.com, North Jersey Media, The Gazette (Moonachie), Hackensack Chronicle, Little Ferry Local, South Bergenite, Ridgefield Park Patriot, Teaneck Suburbanite*), Patch. INCLUDE ITALIAN LANGUAGE.

Commenter 1: North jersey media Group. The Record Newspaper, NorthJersey.com

Commenter 2: The Record.

Commenter 3: Record

Commenter 4: No opinion.

Commenter 5: [No comment]

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: The Record, North Jersey Media (Hackensack, countywide); North Jersey Media weekly shoppers (contact information for many of the local papers may be found here:

http://www.njpa.org/njpa/member_newspapers/njmg_community_newspapers.htm; particular recommendations include The Gazette (Moonachie), Hackensack Chronicle, Little Ferry Local, South Bergenite, Ridgefield Park Patriot, Teaneck Suburbanite*), Patch.

Italian is the most important additional language. (There are many people who speak Italian only or predominantly Italian, as exemplified by an incident at the RIC when one Italian-speaker at the Recovery Information Center came for assistance and someone who spoke Italian coincidentally walked in; otherwise, not sure how we could have assisted unless that person could return with a translator.)

*There are a number of papers listed on that page with which I am not familiar; please check them ALL for relevance, remembering that this project will affect not only the towns formally included, but also up- and downstream neighbors and those across the river.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

8. **Newsletter Location.** Please identify location(s) within your community where hard copies of newsletters should be distributed in bulk. We are looking for those select locations that would reach the most citizens.

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Little Ferry 7/11; Hackensack Shoprite; Andy's Deli; Town Hall(s); Post office, library, grocery stores (particularly Korean-language materials at the local HMart), school backpacks; Family Success Center in Little Ferry, doctor's offices, manufactured-home communities' offices/laundry rooms (both Metropolitan and Vanguard, English and Spanish), convenience stores, Recovery Information Center (St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 31 Chamberlain Ave, Little Ferry).

Commenter 1: Little Ferry 7-11 & Hackensack Shoprite

Commenter 2: Andy's Deli

Commenter 3: Town Hall

Commenter 4: I don't know.

Commenter 5: [No comment]

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: Post office, library, grocery stores (particularly Korean-language materials at the local HMart), school backpacks (local school systems send materials home via folders in students' backpacks and they have included Sandy-recovery materials in this system; these materials need to be multilingual, whether the backpacks are real or electronic), borough hall, Family Success Center in Little Ferry, doctor's offices, manufactured-home communities' offices/laundry rooms (both Metropolitan and Vanguard, English and Spanish), convenience stores, Recovery Information Center (St. Margaret of Cortona Church, 31 Chamberlain Ave, Little Ferry). Spot checks should be made to ensure that the materials are actually distributed as planned and replenished as needed.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

D. OTHER SUGGESTIONS.

9. **Other Suggestions.** Based on what you have heard so far, do you have any other initial thoughts, concepts, concerns, issues, or ideas you would like to discuss/explore further?

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS: Lots of work, little \$\$; protect and avoid wetlands (anticipate large impacts to biodiversity due to levees); levees/dikes can fail; projects should be well-integrated; the planned revocation of Certificates of Occupancy on 10.29.16 should be revisited.

Commenter 1: Please refer back to Question 1.

Commenter 2: [No comment]

Commenter 3: My concern is lots of work and lack of funding to do the project after the plans are pulled together.

Commenter 4: Everyone should read this paper by van Baars on historical dike failures in the Netherlands: [_http://www.ewa-online.eu/tl_files/_media/content/documents_pdf/Publications/E-WATER/documents/8_Historical_Dike_Failures.pdf](http://www.ewa-online.eu/tl_files/_media/content/documents_pdf/Publications/E-WATER/documents/8_Historical_Dike_Failures.pdf). The analysis of causes of failure is important. Also, I am particularly interested in the positive and negative effects of the proposed dike/levee system on biodiversity, which need in-depth data collection and planning, with a broad taxonomic approach and a focus on species that are Meadowlands specialties, rare, habitat specialists, or of other particular value. The issue Bill Sheehan raised at the CAG meeting about wetland mitigation is a very important one, inasmuch as mitigation projects are not only difficult to find space for but projects at other sites in the Meadowlands have not had good long-term success for a variety of reasons. Biodiversity and mitigation issues have not been met head-on in the Meadowlands, and the proposed New Meadowlands project, however it's implemented, will have very large impacts on biodiversity. Simply reflexively killing nonnative plants and planting native plants, or creating habitat for common animals, is not enough, especially if wetland is being filled or otherwise compromised for the dike. I'm prepared to discuss the biological issues in detail, as well as the problems associated with wetland mitigation, "enhancement," and "restoration."

Commenter 5: [No comment]

Commenter 6: [No comment]

Commenter 7: Different projects should connect/interact to ensure consistency. There should be follow-through so that requirements do not conflict and so that extensive construction/mitigation efforts are not made obsolete by this project or others.

We call for a moratorium on the scheduled revocation of Certificates of Occupancy from unraised properties on Oct. 29 2016. As mentioned in my reply to Question 3, above, we have seen situations in which homeowners acted early and are faced with an unexpected need to raise their homes need; if informed of such a requirement in a more timely fashion, they would likely have made different choices. In addition, just what protection the New Meadowlands project will provide remains unclear; until that is known, floodplain determination is subject to change, and consequent CO requirements are equally

indeterminate. Until the long-term requirements are clear, it is premature to enforce the revocation of these certificates; we ask that the various agencies work together to consider the complete picture of protection and requirements before any such enforcement actions are taken.

Commenter 8: [No comment]

Note to CAG Members: Public Scoping Document. Please be prepared to receive, review, and comment on the Preliminary Draft Public Scoping Document. This Document should be made available to you in early April, with comments due in two weeks from receipt.

Attachment

From Commenter 1, regarding Question 2 about problem flooding areas: 6 Photos

Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



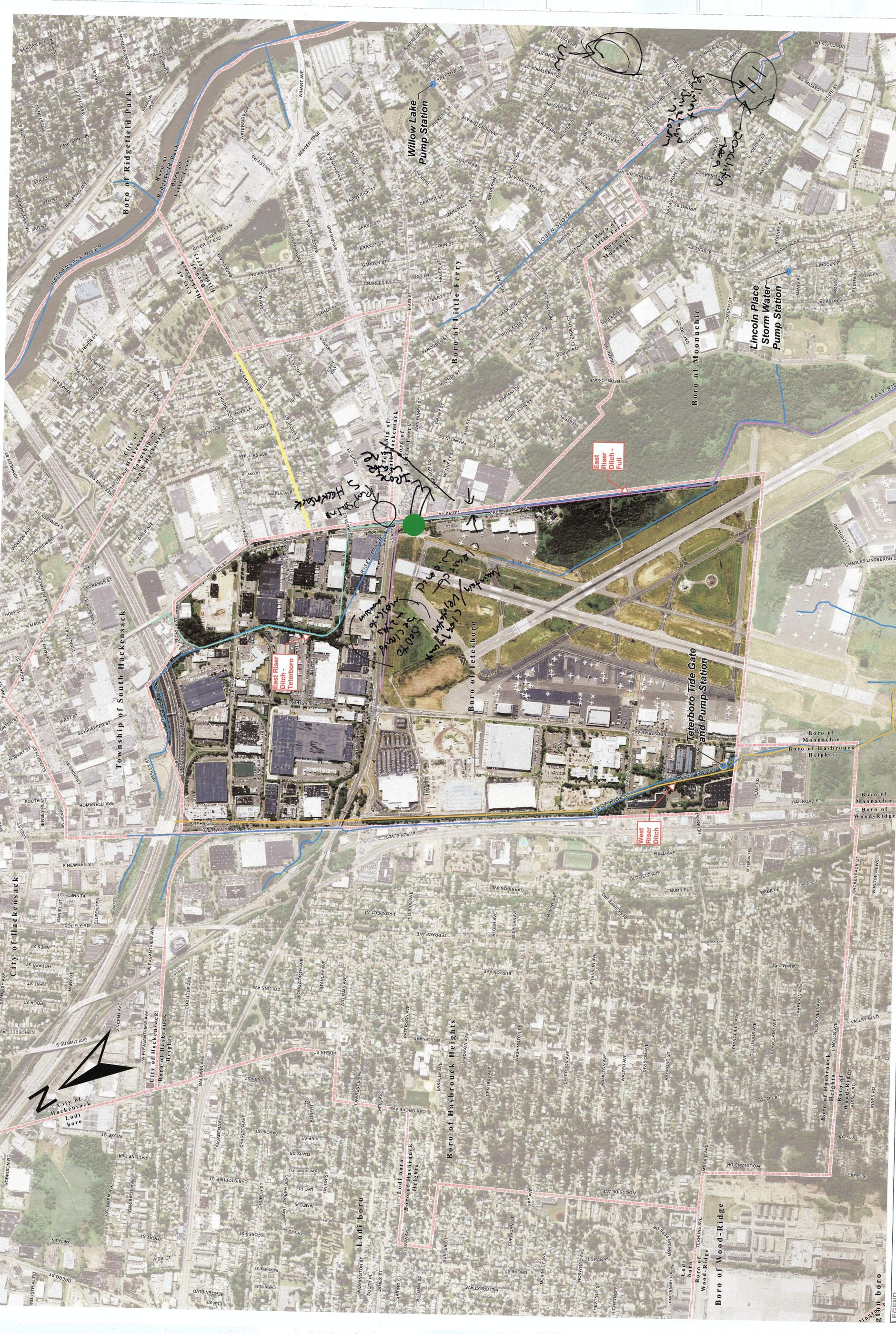
Photo 5



Photo 6



Attachment 3. Maps of Towns and Notes from Break-out Session



NEW MEADOWLANDS REBUILD BY DESIGN
BORO OF TETERBORO
FIGURE 3
CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

LEGEND

● Regular Rainfall Events
● Heavy Rainfall Events
● Major Storm Events
● Other Issues/Concerns

Ditch Survey Published April 26, 2016
 Interpreted from Topographic Data
 Data Obtained from New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA)

Pump Station
 TSS Gate
 Waterway
 Legacy Area
 Ditch Survey Published April 26, 2016
 Interpreted from Topographic Data
 Data Obtained from New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA)

East Riser Ditch - Full
 East Riser Ditch - Teterboro
 West Riser Ditch

0 500 1,000 Feet



LEGEND

- Boundaries: City of Hackensack, Bogota Boro, Boro of Ridgefield Park, Boro of Little Ferry, Boro of Teterboro, Boro of Hasbrouck Heights, Boro of Lodi, Boro of Moonachie
- Data Obtained from New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority (NJSEA)
- Interpreted from Topographic Data (NTSD)
- Pump Station
- Underside Gate
- Watercourse

Regular Rainfall Event (Red circle)

Heavy Rainfall Event (Yellow circle)

Major Storm Event (Green circle)

Other Concerns/Issues (Blue circle)

0 500 1,000 Feet

NEW MEADOWLANDS REBUILD BY DESIGN

TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH HACKENSACK

FIGURE 6

CITIZEN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

DATE: 02/09/2016