

Title of Project: West Warwick Stormwater Utility Implementation and Hardig Brook Restoration Project

NEI Job Code: 315-002

Project Code: 2014-021

Contractor: Town of West Warwick

Contact: Ernest Zymyslinski, Town Manager, (401) 822-9219, ezmyslinski@westwarwickri.org

Project Period: 11/03/2014 to 6/30/2018

Final Report: 5/31/2018

- **Synopsis of overall project: goals, approaches, timetable:**

The goal of this project is to improve water quality related to nutrients in Hardig Brook and Greenwich Bay by establishing sustainable funding for stormwater management with a focus on green infrastructure retrofits in the Town of West Warwick (Town). Greenwich Bay and Hardig Brook are listed as impaired for bacteria and both were the subject of a total maximum daily load study developed by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) in 2005. Nutrient impacts are also apparent in these waters as evidenced by fish kills (e.g., August 20, 2003), recurrent low dissolved oxygen levels in summer months, and observation of elevated nutrients (e.g., an EPA study in 2010 found levels of total nitrogen consistently above 900 ppb, which is significantly above EPA's recommended maximum concentration of 710 ppb, at two sampling stations in Hardig Brook).

Achieving West Warwick's goal of water quality improvement through comprehensive stormwater management is not practicable without extensive technical analysis, infrastructure design work, a dedicated budget, and significant public support. To address these issues the Town plans development of a stormwater utility and implementation of a capital infrastructure improvement plan. The project also includes a significant public involvement process.

This project represents the third phase of a three-part planning initiative. Planning for the utility began in 2013 with a first phase feasibility study. Second phase stormwater utility budget-level planning is scheduled to start in spring of 2015 pending a contract from the Bays, Rivers, and Watersheds Coordination Team (BRWCT). This project is for Phase 3 and will complete technical analysis and design work. Specifically, Phase 3 will include final planning and adoption of the proposed stormwater utility. At completion of Phase 3, the Town intends to have adopted a stormwater utility ordinance, have begun billing landowners, and to have begun construction on key infrastructure improvement identified in its 5-year implementation plan.

- **Task List and Status:**

- Task 1 – Develop Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (complete – See attached)
- Task 2 – Public Involvement (complete – See attached)
- Task 3 – Utility Technical Analysis and Program Implementation (complete – See attached)
- Task 4 – Structural BMP Design Work (90% complete – See attached)

- Task 5 – Structural BMP Permitting (90% complete)
- Task 6 – Structural BMP Implementation for one catchment (not complete)
- Task 7 – Measure and Document Results (complete – See attached)
- Task 8 – Quarterly Reports (complete – see attached)
- Task 9 – Final Reports (complete)
- **Summary of Activity this Quarter:**
 - A public workshop was held at the Town Council meeting held on April 24, 2018. The purpose of the public workshop was to present the potential town wide storm-water management district and a summary of work completed to date. It included a presentation and overview of the need for a town wide district, priority infrastructure improvements, anticipated operational costs, and a proposed administrative approach.
- **Problems Encountered:**
 - Construction of the structural BMP (Task 6 and portion of Tasks 4 and 5) will not be completed. The Town does not have the financial resources to undertake the project due to budgeting issues. As a result, the Town will be unable to utilize the funding dedicated toward that task.
- **Changes Anticipated:**
 - None
- **Summary of activities planned in the next project period:**
 - Task 8 – Finalize final report.