

**Long Term Control Plan**  
**Coney Island Creek Public Meeting No. 2**  
**Summary of Meeting and Public Comments**

On April 20, 2016 DEP hosted the second public meeting for the water quality planning process for the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) of combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in Coney Island Creek. The two-hour event was held at the New York Aquarium's Education Hall in Coney Island, Brooklyn. DEP presented information on:

- Addressing previous public comments received regarding: evaluation of alternatives that will make the Creek safe for fishing and swimming; concerns about legacy contamination in the Creek; elimination of illicit discharges; and assessment of Green Infrastructure in the vicinity of the Creek.
- Recent investments and ongoing construction within the Coney Island Creek watershed.
- NYC Green Infrastructure program.
- Results from LTCP sampling program.
- Evaluation of potential alternatives.

Four breakout sessions were then held to further discuss:

- Public concern and interests in CSO control
- Water quality classifications and uses
- Green Infrastructure and municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) program, and
- Water rates and affordability.

The event finished with DEP providing a summary of discussions held during the breakout sessions, the ongoing LTCP public participation program, the next steps for the LTCP, and a brief question and answer session. The presentation and breakout session poster boards can be found at <http://www.nyc.gov/dep/ltcp>.

Approximately forty people from the public attended the event, as well as representatives from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The following summarizes the questions and comments from attendees, as well as responses given.

**Q: An attendee asked if the issue has been addressed at Ave. V Pump Station where dry weather discharges were occurring.**

**A: DEP responded that there was a rare issue caused by an electrical problem within the Variable Frequency Pumping, but it is resolved now.**

Q: An attendee asked whether the new construction on Neptune and Mermaid Avenues and 33<sup>rd</sup> and Bayview is related to a DEP project.

A: DEP stated that yes this is correct. DEP is currently installing storm and sanitary sewers, as well as trunk and distribution mains in this area.

Q: DEP presented a slide on Legacy Industrial Contamination and environmental dredging that was conducted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). An attendee asked where the dredged material was transported to.

A: DEP responded that there are strict regulations as to where materials can be disposed. There are several different facilities depending upon the type of contamination. A public meeting attendee stated that he believes the material was treated on site.

Q: An attendee asked for confirmation that DEP was referring to the site of the former gas tanks.

A: DEP responded yes, the project was related to the former Brooklyn Borough Gas Works site at the head end of Coney Island Creek.

Q: An attendee asked how stormwater flow can be tracked in the sewer.

A: DEP responded that a dye study is conducted in order to determine the flow. In the past, smoke testing was used in the sewer pipe.

Q: An attendee asked what the status of the water quality is now compared to the goals that DEP has set for the future.

A: DEP responded that this question will be discussed later in the presentation.

Q: An attendee asked if any studies were ever conducted regarding retention time at different parts of the Creek.

A: DEP responded that retention time is a part of the model used for Coney Island Creek. However, the retention time is not a variable that is typically looked at but can be generated.

Q: An attendee asked if the DEP speaker is referring to the 2009 HydroQual model and if sampling has been done since that study.

A: DEP responded that the 2009 HydroQual model was the starting point. Additional sampling was done in 2015 to add data and evaluate the model.

Q: An attendee asked if there are any plans for the Pump Station located at W. 24<sup>th</sup> Street near the Mark Twain Junior High School.

A: DEP responded that this is a former fire control Pumping Station and New York City is looking into potential uses of it.

Q: An attendee commented that new developments are being constructed on the east side of Coney Island Creek. The attendee stated that these developers should provide shoreline access points for the public and that by not doing so an opportunity was missed.

A: DEP responded that the comment will be taken into consideration.

Q: An attendee expressed concern about new developments and additional stormwater runoff that could contribute to CSOs. The attendee asked if DEP is taking these developments into consideration.

A: DEP responded that any new development in the CSO area has to comply with the 2012 stormwater rule which greatly increased how much runoff new development must control onsite. For the Long Term Control Plans the DEP model is based on future projections (year 2040) from City planning that takes into consideration the flows and loads with future development.

Q: An attendee asked what the purpose of the vertical and horizontal storage tanks/pumping stations and where do they pump to, Avenue V?

A: DEP responded that both a vertical shaft and a horizontal tunnel are types of CSO storage that will hold the CSO until the storm is over. The mixture of stormwater and sanitary flow is then pumped to Avenue V during dry weather and then to the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Q: An attendee asked how deep vertical shafts and horizontal tunnels go.

A: DEP responded that the horizontal tunnels can be 40 to 80 feet deep while vertical shafts are often 100 feet deep.

Q: An attendee expressed concern about observing a truck dumping possible food products into the water recently. Is there a direct number to call regarding the issue?

A: DEP responded that DEC should be contacted though 1-8844-DEC-ECOS or 1-844-332-3267 and that it is always good to inform several parties. DEP asked to contact them as well and they will speak with DEC regarding the issue.

Q: An attendee asked how the storage tanks and tunnels are to be constructed.

A: DEP responded that they are looking into the topography of Coney Island. The terrain has some construction challenges but DEP believes that it could be possible. DEP has reached out to a consulting company that specializes in tunnels to see what is viable or not.

Q: An attendee asked if DEP has established a timeline as to when the vertical tunnel construction will start.

A: DEP responded that right now they do not even have a recommendation from the consulting company, and DEP is still evaluating their options. DEP also reiterated that the most cost-effective CSO project was already implemented with

the construction of the Ave. V pump station upgrade. CSO volumes were reduced by 69% as a result of the project.

### **Breakout Session Questions**

Following the presentation, 4 breakout sessions were convened throughout the room for 30 minutes to allow for more detailed discussion surrounding the following topics:

- CSO controls
- Water Quality Classification and Uses
- Green Infrastructure and MS4
- Water Rates and Affordability

### **Breakout Session Summaries**

#### **CSO Controls**

Approximately 11 individuals visited the CSO controls breakout session hosted by Jim Mueller. The following topics were discussed during the session:

- Bending wire heights
- Illegal discharges
- Separate sewer system
- Diminishing returns for additional CSO control
- Continue to focus on illicit discharges
- Source control as a part of Toolbox option
- Educational programs along the Coney Island Creek
- Source control for existing MS4
- Relocation of stormwater discharges
- Fecal/Enterococcus ratio
- Impact of stormwater on flooding
- Illegal curb cuts and impervious pavement within private properties
- CSO control before and now

## Water Quality Classification and Uses

Approximately 10 individuals visited the Water Quality Classification and Uses breakout session hosted by Keith Mahoney and Lily Lee. The following topics were discussed during the session:

- Sampling program and remediation of dry weather sources
- Floatables control within the Creek
- Coastal barrier and how it can affect the water quality
- MS4 program
- Capping off all MS4 outfalls
- Dissolved oxygen attainment within the Creek
- Illicit discharges to the Creek and ways of preventing it
- Oyster shelling program within the Creek
- Grant programs available within the Coney Island Creek watershed

## Green Infrastructure and MS4

Approximately 9 individuals visited the Green Infrastructure and MS4 breakout session hosted by Mikelle Adgate. The following topics were discussed during the session:

- What is MS4 and how it can be connected with Green Infrastructure Programs
- Why Green Infrastructure was not included in LTCP for Coney Island Creek
- How many Green Infrastructure Programs are feasible within Coney Island Creek watershed
- What is bioswale and how bioswale implementation can help the community
- Impact and limitations of groundwater towards Green Infrastructure projects
- Green roofs as a part of Green Infrastructure Program
- What public spaces can be used for Green Infrastructure and MS4
- Public and Privet Grant Programs
- MS4 as a new initiative to expand Green Infrastructure opportunities within the Creek
- Funding allocation for CSO and MS4
- Possibility of waterborne insects within Green Infrastructure Programs and MS4 (Zika Virus)

## Affordability

Approximately 3 individuals visited the Affordability breakout session hosted by Sangamithra Iyer. The following topics were discussed during the session:

- Cost funding and schedule for CSO projects
- Funding schedule for each project
- Home Water Assistance Programs
- Water and sewer rates