



**Town of Greenwich
Flood and Erosion Control Board
December 15, 2008 Workshop Minutes
3:00 pm – DPW Commissioner’s Office, Greenwich, Connecticut**

Those attending: Anthony M. Macleod (Chairman), Edward Schmeltz, Aubrey Mead, Jr., Amy Siebert, Dave Thompson, Scott Marucci, Denise Savageau (Conservation), Mike Chambers (IWWA) and Cindy Baumann, CDM.

A workshop was held to discuss capital project prioritization and potential approaches to rate and rank possible stormwater management and drainage network improvements.

CDM presented project ranking information gathered from other towns across the United States that have created stormwater capital improvement plans, including Austin TX, Lincoln NE, Portland OR, Concord NH, Fulton County GA, and three FL locations – Jacksonville, Volusia County, and Daytona Beach. This information showed how utilities have used a variety of criteria including public safety, traffic impacts, level of service / capacity factors, water quality, constructability, and cost effectiveness.

The group discussed several aspects of stormwater and drainage projects:

- Design standards vary based on project type: Closed drainage networks in New England are typically designed to meet a 10 year storm standard, with ConnDOT requiring a 25 year standard where piping / culverts cross under roadways. Riverine / open channel standards vary. Federal agencies (e.g. the Army Corps, FEMA) typically require design to a 100 year standard in riverine systems if their funding is involved.
- Hierarchy of needs: Determining flood plain work versus drainage network priority is difficult. Given flood plain definitions are available, should a Town use local funds to address homes in known flood plains or seek federal assistance for such areas? Should local funds be used to raise private homes or buy them out, as may be done with federal funding?
- Changes to the environment / local landscape: Should urban / more developed areas be channelized or not? Such work creates significant change to the landscape.

CDM was asked to take the Concord NH example, which included a point system for property/traffic impacts, pipe size, percent undersized, recurrence of the problem, pipe age, stream impacts, constructability, and potential road projects and link this with the Town’s CIP categories to develop a possible draft approach for Greenwich projects. The group wanted to emphasize the importance of public safety, as well as identifying in some way the impacts to an area based on its land use (e.g. developed vs. undeveloped areas).