

**SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Report No. 316**

**A RESTORATION PLAN FOR THE ROOT RIVER WATERSHED**

**Appendix F**

**SEWRPC MEMORANDUM REQUESTING  
STORMWATER AND FLOODING INFORMATION FOR  
RACINE COUNTY WITHIN THE ROOT RIVER  
AUGUST 5, 2011**

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# SOUTHEASTERN WISCONSIN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mr. David Prott, Director of Public Works, Racine County  
Mr. Mark H. Yehlen, Commissioner of Public Works/City Engineer, City of Racine  
Mr. Michael Hayek, Village Engineer, Village of Caledonia  
Ms. Kathleen Trentadue, President, Caledonia Stormwater Utility District Commission  
Mr. William D. Sasse, Director of Engineering, Village of Mt. Pleasant  
Mr. Mark Janiuk, Administrator, Village of Sturtevant  
Mr. Mark Osmundsen, Director of Public Works, Village of Union Grove  
Mr. Thomas P. Lembcke, Chair, Town of Dover  
Ms. Karen Dubiel, President, Dover Stormwater Utility District Commission  
Ms. Jean M. Jacobson, Chair, Town of Norway  
Mr. Gary Kastenson, Chair, Town of Raymond  
Mr. Paul E. Ryan, President, Raymond Stormwater Utility District Commission  
Mr. James E. Moyer, Chair, Town of Yorkville  
Mr. Steve Nelson, Chair, Yorkville Stormwater Utility District Commission

**FROM:** Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission Staff

**DATE:** August 5, 2011

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR STORMWATER AND FLOODING INFORMATION FOR RACINE COUNTY AREAS WITHIN THE ROOT RIVER WATERSHED**

The Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission is working with Racine County, Root River watershed municipalities, the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. (SWWT), and the Root-Pike Watershed Initiative Network to prepare a restoration plan for the Root River watershed. The scope of work for that plan is attached. The plan will address the entire Root River watershed, including areas in Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, and Waukesha Counties; however, Racine County has provided funding targeted specifically for an evaluation and characterization of the extent of flooding and stormwater drainage problems in the portion of the watershed in Racine County and for consideration of the status of Horlick dam.

The scope of flood mitigation planning activities to be undertaken for the watershed restoration plan was established based on priorities determined by Racine County, information that the County staff provided regarding the location of flooding problems, and the level of funding provided by the County. The plan will address the status of Horlick dam, will include review and mapping of identified flooding problems in Racine County, will characterize the nature of reported flooding problems to the degree possible, and will recommend priorities and levels of funding for future study of case-by-case alternatives to mitigate specific high priority flooding and stormwater management problems. A complete description of the

flooding component of the plan is provided on pages 7 and 8 of the attached June 15, 2011 SEWRPC Staff Memorandum.

We have begun an inventory of flooding- and stormwater management-related information for each of the municipalities in Racine County that are within the Root River watershed (see Table 1 attached to this memo for a listing of electronic documents we have obtained and Map 1 in the enclosed June 15, 2011 SEWRPC Staff Memorandum). To assist with our inventory, and to provide a full understanding of the nature and severity of flooding and stormwater management problems that have been experienced we are requesting that you supplement that list by providing information on flood hazards to habitable structures due to the overflow of streams onto the adjoining floodplain; overtopping and flooding of roadways and railways and the resulting damages and interruption of traffic; and stormwater flooding of buildings, which occurs when rainfall and/or snowmelt runoff traveling from the land surface toward streams cannot be safely conveyed and stored by the stormwater management system.

In 2009, when we were preparing SEWRPC Community Assistance Planning Community Assistance Planning Report No. 266, *Racine County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update: 2010 - 2015*, (2nd Edition), we interviewed representatives from the City of Racine, the Villages of Caledonia, Mt. Pleasant, Sturtevant, and Union Grove; and the Towns of Norway and Raymond, regarding Countywide flooding and stormwater problems in their communities. Now, we are looking to obtain more-specific information for areas within the Root River watershed only, as listed below, including maps and reports, where available.

Information for the Root River watershed portion of your communities (Map 1) that would be useful includes:

- Locations of flooding or stormwater management problems affecting habitable buildings, and attribution of the source (either stream flooding or stormwater) and the cause (e.g., obstructions in channel, restrictive hydraulic structures, extreme rainfall). If maps showing specific flooded buildings or generalized areas of flooding are available, that information would be very helpful.
- Number of habitable buildings affected by flooding or stormwater problems,
- Depths of flooding experienced at buildings,
- Description of the nature of structure flooding (e.g., basement flooding, first floor flooding),
- Available flood damage cost determinations (by event), including flood response and cleanup costs, if available,
- Locations of flooding of roadways and railways, and descriptions of the nature of the flooding (e.g., maximum depth of flooding, approximate length of roadway or railway affected, duration of flooding, road closures),
- Dates on which flooding or stormwater problems occurred, and any local rainfall or snowmelt observations,
- Measures that are proposed, or are being implemented, to address flooding and stormwater problems,

- Copies of pertinent reports, studies, and ordinances, and
- Additional pertinent information that you may want to provide.

We understand that all of the above information may not be available for each community, but our goal is to develop as comprehensive an inventory as possible. We also note that, as shown on Map 1 in the attached June 15 Staff Memorandum, only very small portions of the Village of Sturtevant and the Town of Norway, and a relatively small headwaters portion of the Town of Dover, are included in the Root River watershed. While those municipalities may not have information to report, we wanted to be sure that they were aware of this planning effort and to offer them the opportunity to provide information.

Thank you for your past assistance in characterizing flooding and stormwater problems, and for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or desire a meeting to discuss the requested information, please contact Michael G. Hahn, SEWRPC Chief Environmental Engineer (*mhahn@sewrpc.org*, (262) 547-6722, extension 243). Please provide available information to Mr. Hahn by September 2, 2011.

\* \* \*

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Enclosure (#156234)

cc: Mr. James A. Ladwig, Racine County (w/enclosure)  
Ms. Julie A. Anderson, Racine County (w/enclosure)  
Mr. Christopher Magruder, MMSD (w/enclosure)  
Ms. Susan S. Greenfield, Root-Pike WIN (w/enclosure)  
Mr. Jeffrey Martinka, SWWT (w/enclosure)

**Table 1**

**FLOODING AND STORMWATER MANAGEMENT DOCUMENTS FOR RACINE COUNTY  
ROOT RIVER WATERSHED COMMUNITIES**

Community	Document
City of Racine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flood Response Plan, Spring Flood Control, prepared by Earth Tech, Inc. (August 2003)</li> <li>• Stormwater Utility Manual</li> <li>• Stormwater Utility Brochure</li> <li>• Stormwater Utility Non-Residential Customer List</li> <li>• Memo: Root River Flood Stage Relationship Study (2009)</li> <li>• Journal Article: Incorporating Education and Outreach of a Storm Water Outfall Impacting Recreational Water Quality at Public Beaches (Julie Kinzelman, Jaren Hiller)</li> </ul>
Village of Caledonia	--
Village of Mt. Pleasant	--
Village of Sturtevant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 21-Stormwater Management Services Ordinance</li> <li>• Chapter 15-Erosion Control and Post-Construction Storm Water Management</li> <li>• “Changing the Way We Manage Stormwater” Brochure</li> <li>• Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permit No. WI-S050075-1</li> </ul>
Village of Union Grove	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post- Construction Storm Water Management Zoning Ordinance (2009)</li> </ul>
Town of Dover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stormwater Utility District Commission Ordinance</li> </ul>
Town of Norway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land Disturbance and Erosion Control Ordinance (2011)</li> </ul>
Town of Raymond	--
Town of Yorkville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Article IV Stormwater Utility District Ordinance</li> </ul>

Source: SEWRPC.