

Meeting Minutes
Dredging of Delaware and Raritan Canal
New Jersey Water Supply Authority
Meeting with Millstone Byway Group
April 18, 2017

ATTENDEES

Patricia Kalleser – D & R Canal State Park
Vicki Chirco – D & R Canal State Park
Linda Barth – D & R Canal Watch
Bob Barth – D & R Canal Watch
Suzanne Ochse – MVP Coalition
Robert Von Zumbusch – KHS, KGA, FPNL, MPC, MVPC
Julie Shelley – New Jersey Water Supply Authority (“NJWSA”)
Sharmila Rahman – NJWSA

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

To update stakeholders the status of the “Dredging of Delaware and Raritan Canal” A copy of the meeting agenda and sign-in sheet are attached to this memo.

DISCUSSION

All the attendees were introduced. Julie Shelley from NJWSA described and presented the logistics and current timeline of the dredging project, including maps, photos of equipment to be used, and samples of the signage to be displayed throughout the project area.

- 10.5-mile section of the Canal between Kingston & East Millstone will be dredged to restore carrying capacity of the Canal
- 6 “reaches” accessed by 5 different access areas, all within the Park, all on the non-towpath side of the Canal
- Hydraulic dredging is the method. Slurry will be piped by floating pipes to staging area for dewatering. Water will be returned to the Canal, material will be trucked offsite for beneficial reuse. Dewatering will occur either with belt filter presses or geobags
- Two stages – current plans. Anticipate finalizing timeline in the next few months.
 - Tree trimming: late Fall 2017 – early Spring 2018
 - Submerged aquatic vegetation & in-water debris removal: July 2018
 - 3 dredging seasons: July – December 2018, 2019, 2020
- Plan to advertise for bids this summer
- Beneficial reuse site has been identified but agreement not yet finalized, expected to be finalized by this summer

- D&R Canal Commission, Historic Preservation Office and Army Corps of Engineers approval have been received. Freshwater Wetlands and Flood Hazard Area permits are in review at NJDEP. Underwater archaeology survey and Phase 1B reports were completed as part of the permitting process. A full time archaeologist will be onsite during mechanical removal of submerged aquatic vegetation and debris.
- Working hours 7:00AM-6:00PM, M-F, 9:00AM-6:00 Sa-Su (only with Authority approval). Trucking hours on Canal Rd 9:00AM-3:30 on weekdays only.
- Staging area for dewatering is owned by NJWSA. House is privately owned. NJWSA possesses an easement on driveway leading to its staging area behind the house. Somerset County also possesses an easement on the driveway. At the conclusion of the dredging project, NJWSA will sell the property to Somerset County for park land.
- Towpath may be periodically closed to facilitate refueling of booster pumps along the Canal (very minimal)
- Parking will be limited at access areas when they are in use
- Areas 1 & 5 are the largest – assembling pipe & mobilizing dredge
- 98 trees will be removed and 137 will be planted at Blackwells Mills
- Contractor instructed to avoid Canal Day in October at Area 5
- Signage will be erected at 18 points along the project to inform the public
- <http://www.njwsa.org/Canal%20Dredging%20Project.htm> Will post all planned towpath closures there.

Following are the questions that have been raised by the attendees:

Bob Barth (questions and statements are from Bob Barth)

- 1) Question- How will the dredging cut be controlled so that the clay liner at the bottom of the Canal does not get damaged?

Answer (Sharmila) - Hydraulic dredge (equipment) has been upgraded with lots of modern technology. The dredge that will be used be outfitted with HYPACK, or a similar control system, that allows the operator to visualize, in real time, the position and depth of the cutter head. The use of these control systems greatly reduces dredging outside of the designed dredging limits. This method of hydraulic dredging also allows for greater control of material removal and will provide better accessibility along the edges and in tighter spaces. Dredging depth accuracy of +/- 3 inches is achievable.

- 2) Question-How will the stone armor wall along the Canal will be protected and is there insurance?

Answer (Julie) – The work shall follow the dredging template (5 feet offset from the both stone armored walls (embankment) and 10 feet offset from the canal structure) to avoid damaging the stone armor along the canal. The dredging contractor is required to maintain insurance for the project.

- 3) Question – Will NJWSA select a contractor who is familiar with similar (for example canals and historical structures) kinds of projects?

Answer (Sharmila) - Yes. We are prequalifying the contractors and are evaluating their experience with similar projects.

- 4) Question – Who is the Cultural Resource Consultant?

Answer (Sharmila) - Jesse Walker from the URS Corporation.

- 5) Statement- Please contact the archaeologist who worked on the NJWSA's previous dredging project in the 1980s.

Answer (Sharmila) – the NJWSA has all reports from the previous dredging project and its consultants have reviewed them.

Suzanne Osche (questions and statements are from Suzanne)

- 1) Question- How the road cut will be repaired?

Answer (Sharmila) - We are going to apply for a “Road Opening” permit to Franklin Township. And will restore the road according to the permit requirements.

- 2) Question- Please describe the access area and staging area location

Answer (Julie) – Described all the access areas and the location of the signage at 18 different points along the canal.

- Access Area 1 – John Flemer Preserve at Route 27
- Access Area 2 – pedestrian bridge near Little Valley Stables
- Access Area 3 – near Smith House at Griggstown Causeway
- Access Area 4 – near North Brunswick Treatment plant at bend in the road
- Access Area 5 – East Millstone Park

Vicki Chirco (questions and statements from Vicki Chirco)

- 1) Question - How the signage will be installed?

Answer (Julie) – Freestanding signs have concrete block footers that will be buried. Other signs will be installed in kiosks or attached to existing structures like hand rails.

- 2) Question – Where are the artifacts that have been collected from Phase IB investigation?

Answer (Julie and Sharmila) – We will look into it and get back to you.

3) Question- Will the Access areas will be restored?

Answer (Sharmila) - Yes. It will be regraded but the actual elevation will not be changed by adding more material, due to permit restrictions.

Statement – Please provide us all the archeological reports.

Robert Von Zumbusch (questions and statements from Robert)

1) Question – Will NJWSA representatives attend another meeting with a Canal Historic Group immediately prior to the start of the dredging?

Answer (Julie and Sharmila) – We will discuss internally and get back to you.

D&R Canal State Park – Millstone Valley Scenic Byway Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:00am
145 Mapleton Road Princeton, NJ 08540

Agenda

1. Millstone Valley Byway Area
 - a. Rutgers Landscape Students
 - b. NJWSA – Dredge Tree Planting (BWM)
2. NJWSA – Dredge – Tree Removal at Staging Areas (5)
3. Weston Mill Dam Removal
4. Events along Byway?

5. NJDOT/DRCC Bridge Meeting

6. NJ History Fair Saturday, May 13th at Monmouth Battlefield State Park

Next meeting on _____ June _____ at 10am. NJWSA will be in attendance.

April 18, 2017

D&R Canal Dredging Project Update

Millstone Byway Group (D&R Canal State Park office)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Email address</u>
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