Message

From: Walts, Alan [walts.alan@epa.gov]
Sent: 10/1/2020 1:22:21 PM
To: Suero, Maryann [suero.maryann@epa.gov]; Triantafillou, Kathy [triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov]; Kowal, Kathleen [kowal.kathleen@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Following up on Centreville

Fyi, and thanks for finding that opportunity Maryann!

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Walts, Alan
Sent: Thursday, October 01, 2020 8:22 AM
To: 'Davis, Christine L.' <Christine.Davis@Illinois.gov>
Subject: RE: Following up on Centreville

Thanks Chris, this was helpful for me anyway!

Our team saw a news article on the Unsewered Communities Planning Grant Program and thought this might be a good resource to let our Centreville partners know about. I thought you'd have a better sense of this; and also felt that Illinois EPA should have the first shot on communication for this state grant program. Please let me know what you think.

Best,
Alan

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Davis, Christine L. <Christine.Davis@Illinois.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 28, 2020 9:51 AM
To: mgeertsma@nrdc.org
Cc: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>; Kalila Jackson <kjackson@ehoc-stl.org>; asewell@earthjustice.org; Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>; mrock@earthjustice.org; Ospina, Natalia <nospina@nrdc.org>; Miles, Jim <Jim.Miles@illinois.gov>; Siders, Catherine <Catherine.Siders@Illinois.gov>; Pressnall, Chris <Chris.Pressnall@Illinois.gov>; Triantafillou, Kathy <triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov>; Sanjay.Sofat@illinois.gov
Subject: RE: Following up on Centreville
Importance: High

Meleah,

Please see Illinois EPA's update information (**bold red**) embedded in your email below.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jim Miles or myself.

Sincerely, Chris

Christine Davis

Manager, Watershed Management Section
Illinois EPA, Bureau of Water
1021 N. Grand Ave. East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276

christine.davis@illinois.gov

Desk line - 217.524.3036
General line - 217.782.3362
Fax - 217.785.1225

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From: Geertsma, Meleah <mgeertsma@nrdc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2020 2:30 PM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>; Kalila Jackson <kjackson@ehoc-stl.org>; asewell@earthjustice.org; Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; mrock@earthjustice.org; Ospina, Natalia <nospina@nrdc.org>; Miles, Jim <Jim.Miles@Illinois.gov>; Siders, Catherine <Catherine.Siders@Illinois.gov>; Davis, Christine L. <Christine.Davis@Illinois.gov>; Pressnall, Chris <Chris.Pressnall@Illinois.gov>; Triantafillou, Kathy <triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov>
Subject: [External] Re: Following up on Centreville

Thanks so much, Alan - looking forward to hearing the update from Chris, Jim, and Catherine. Please let us know if we schedule a call to discuss or if email suffices.

Best,
Meleah

From: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2020 1:15 PM
To: Geertsma, Meleah <mgeertsma@nrdc.org>
Cc: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>; Kalila Jackson <kjackson@ehoc-stl.org>; asewell@earthjustice.org <asewell@earthjustice.org>; Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; mrock@earthjustice.org <mrock@earthjustice.org>; Ospina, Natalia <nospina@nrdc.org>; Miles, Jim <Jim.Miles@illinois.gov>; Siders, Catherine <Catherine.Siders@Illinois.gov>; christine.davis@illinois.gov <christine.davis@illinois.gov>; Pressnall, Chris <Chris.Pressnall@Illinois.gov>; Triantafillou, Kathy <triantafillou.kathy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Following up on Centreville

Hi Meleah –

Thanks for your patience. I've copied our colleagues at Illinois EPA, who are in the best position to answer these questions. Chris Davis can speak to the watershed questions; and Jim Miles and Catherine Siders can speak to the findings from their field visit.

Best,
Alan

Director, Tribal and Multi-media Programs Office (TMPO)
U.S. EPA, Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-8894

From: Geertsma, Meleah <mgeertsma@nrdc.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2020 11:06 AM
To: Walts, Alan <walts.alan@epa.gov>
Cc: Nicole D. Nelson <nnelson@equitylegalservices.org>; Kalila Jackson <kjackson@ehoc-stl.org>; asewell@earthjustice.org; Debbie Chizewer <dchizewer@earthjustice.org>; mrock@earthjustice.org; Ospina, Natalia <nospina@nrdc.org>
Subject: Following up on Centreville

Hi Alan,

Thanks again for following up with our Centreville attorney team for an update on a possible "regional" approach to the flooding and sewage issues and enforcement progress towards bring relief asap for the residents. We have a few questions for you based on last Monday's discussion, as well as subsequent developments:

(1) **Watershed plan**. Can USEPA/IEPA clarify the potential sources of funding that you all envision the Heartland Conservancy pursuing for its Prairie du Pont and Judy's Branch proposal? **HeartLands Conservancy (HLC) submitted an application, on August 3, 2020, for the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Grant Program. Section 319 is the primary grant program that Illinois EPA uses to help support NGOs to develop watershed-based plans.** Also, given that we are not deeply familiar with watershed planning in Illinois, can the agencies explain the source of the process for carrying out the plan, as it was described to us on our Monday call? **Illinois EPA's website has a Watershed Based Planning page with information that can help answer Meleah's questions. The page also includes links to previously approved watershed based plans at the bottom of the page.** https://www2.illinois.gov/epa/topics/water-quality/watershed-management/watershed-based-planning/Pages/default.aspx **The page includes links to the USEPA watershed-based plan guidance found in Appendix C of the NPS Program and Grants Guidelines for States and Territories (4/12/2013). ** This is key to any plan being developed using Section 319 grant funds. The other primary document (link on same webpage) that helps guide Illinois EPA in watershed-based plan development is the Guidance for Developing Watershed Action Plans in Illinois. It provides a bit more insight regarding the diversity of Illinois' watersheds and their local planning groups. It also shows that although the end result (watershed-based plan) should be comparable – that the process used and people involved – needs to be adjusted to the local watershed to ensure that the local stakeholders are involved in the process. This helps to ensure that the plan has a chance to be implemented at the local, State, and federal level to address both local and State water quality issues. Illinois EPA does encourage local stakeholder groups to address issues over and above water quality. Many projects can be designed to address the nonpoint source pollution (mission of the grant funds) while also providing other local stakeholder benefits.** E.g., is/are there guidance or regulations defining the process? Is there a funding program that requires the watershed planning process to be structured in the manner described? **See ** above.**

(2) **IEPA field visit**. IEPA had staff in the field (Wayne Caughman) to investigate the water issues on Wednesday, August 5, with representatives from Centreville and the County. Can USEPA/IEPA provide us with an update on which local/county reps participated, what was found on this visit, and whether any action steps will be taken as a result of it? Are there any documents related to the visit, findings and/or action steps that are shareable with the public, and if so can the agencies send them to us or should we submit a FOIA request?

On August 5, 2020, Wayne Caughman (BOW/Collinsville) conducted an MS4 Inspection and Joe Stitely conducted a Sewer Collection System Inspection at the Village of Centreville. Present during the inspections were La Mar Gentry, Village Administrator, Corey Allen, Village Superintendent, and Norman Etling, St. Clair County Engineer. Wayne Caughman's finding can be found in his report titled "MS4 program eval-Centreville Aug 20". Joe Stitely's findings can be found in his report titled "Centreville Memo 080520" with supporting digital photos contained in "Centreville Photopages 080520". These reports and supporting document are available through the FOIA process. IEPA will continue to engage with Centreville officials and other community leaders in the area through regularly schedule inspections to determine what future steps need to be taken either though technical assistance or regulatory enforcement. The Agency's next onsite inspection will be with the City of East St. Louis.

Thanks so much,
Meleah

MELEAH GEERTSMA

Senior Attorney, Environmental Justice

NATURAL RESOURCES

DEFENSE COUNCIL

20 N. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 1600

CHICAGO, IL 60606

T 312.651.7904
F 312.332.1908
mgeertsma@NRDC.ORG
NRDC.ORG