



CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED
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FINAL REPORT

NEIW PCC Job Code:	0357-004-001
Project Code:	LS-2022-075
Contractor:	Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York
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Project Period:	07/15/2022 – 06/30/2023
Date Submitted:	February 16, 2023
Date Approved:	June 30, 2023

THE NORTH COUNTRY STORMWATER TRADESHOW AND CONFERENCE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH EVENT

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This is an EPA funded project.

This project was funded by an agreement awarded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency to NEIWPC in partnership with The Lake Champlain Basin Program.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference is an educational event for municipal employees, engineers, landscape architects, and other stormwater professionals. The event has been hosted and organized by the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York (CWICNY) for 17 years. The event was held in person for the first time since 2019 with nearly 100 attendees and presenters from state agencies, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, and local municipalities. Thirty seven (37) attendees received continuing education credits from the Practicing Institute of Engineering (PIE), 13 received CPECS credits (certified professional in erosion and sediment control), 11 received credits for municipal planning board and zoning board of appeals training, and seven (7) code enforcement officers were in attendance.

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1. PROJECT SYNOPSIS

The North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference is an educational event for municipal employees, engineers, landscape architects, and other stormwater professionals. The event has been hosted and organized by the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York (CWICNY) for 17 years.

CWICNY is a local watershed group comprised of members from five soil and water conservation districts, five county Water Quality Coordinating Committees and the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board (LCLGRP). Through the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference, CWICNY strives to provide an educational opportunity for all interested stakeholders throughout the watershed to attend and learn about new topics of interest in water quality, stormwater management techniques and best practices. Each year, attendees are eligible for continuing education credits through the Practicing Institute of Engineering (PIE) as well as credits for CPESC certification.

The 2022 Tradeshow was held at the Great Escape Lodge in Queensbury, New York and organized by a committee comprised of CWICNY members. Assemblyperson Matt Simpson (NY – 114) welcomed attendees with a keynote address that highlighted the need to develop projects, programs, and partnerships to address a changing environment that has seen significant storm events. The keynote speaker was followed by six presentations to round out the day:

- **Stormwater Management** – Doug McCluskey, Western Erosion Control & Stormwater Specialist, Team EJ Prescott
- **Up a Notch: Lake George Standards & Applications (Good & Bad)** – Joe Thouin, Environmental Analyst, CPESC, Hydrologist, Lake George Park Commission
- **Membrane Application & Consideration for Stormwater Treatment** – Wes Alexander, Business Development Director, Membrane Specialists, LLC
- **A Comparison of Stream Flow Prediction Methods** – Paul Guillet, Engineer and Certified Floodplain Manager, LaBella Associates
- **Drone Uses** – Rob Powers, Engineering Manager, D.A. Collins Companies
- **Environmentally Sound Natural Surface Trail Design & Construction** – Steve Ovitt, Chief Operating Officer and Owner, Wilderness Property Management/ WPM Trails

Approximately 100 people attended the conference including eight vendor/sponsors, and six presenters from State agencies, and private engineering and consulting firms. Thirty seven (37) attendees received continuing education credits from PIE, 13 received CPESC credits, 11 received credits for municipal planning and zoning board of appeals training and seven (7) Code Enforcement Officers were in attendance.

2. TASKS COMPLETED

The tasks completed were outlined in the project workplan as follows:

Task 1. Secure location for conference – After receiving three quotes from venues, the Great Escape Lodge in Queensbury, New York was selected for the 2022 Conference.

Task 2. Solicit session topics for conference – Project solicitations were circulated to various stormwater professionals in the region – six sessions were secured with presenters from State Agencies, and private engineering and consulting firms.

Task 4. Secure continuing education credits for qualifying presentations – Application forms for continuing education credits were completed and submitted to the Practicing Institute of Engineering (PIE) for review and accreditation.

Task 5. Create conference materials including agenda, session descriptions and presenter biographies – materials created and distributed to registrants.

Task 6. Hold Conference – Conference was held at the Great Escape Lodge on October 20, 2022.

Task 7. Project Evaluation – An evaluation form was circulated to all attendees for their review of the Tradeshow and suggestions for future improvements.

Task 8. Complete quarterly – Reports were completed on a quarterly basis throughout the life of the project.

Task 9. Approved Final Report. This final report was completed at the culmination of the project.

3. METHODOLOGY

Not applicable.

4. QUALITY ASSURANCE TASKS COMPLETED

This project did not require a QAPP.

5. DELIVERABLES COMPLETED

Deliverables completed include conference registration forms and attendee materials including a conference agenda, registration list, session descriptions and presenter biographies, as well as the conference attendee evaluation form and summary of responses. All deliverables are included in the Appendices of this document.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Project accomplishments include hosting a successful in-person event despite a 2 year hiatus. The 2022 North Country Tradeshow and Conference hosted nearly 100 attendees with six presentations from representatives from state agencies, and private engineering and consulting firms. Thirty seven (37) attendees received continuing education credits from PIE, 13 received CPESC credits, 11 received credits for municipal planning and zoning board of appeals training and seven (7) Code Enforcement Officers were in attendance.

An evaluation form was distributed for attendees to share feedback with CWICNY. Questions were intentionally broad and asked attendees to identify what presentation topics they liked and if there were any topics, they would like to see at future tradeshow.

Evaluation Results:

- Approximately 36% of attendees returned the evaluation form.
- Overall, attendees were satisfied with the event and appreciated that they were able to receive credit for professional development.
- Attendees liked the variety and length of the course offerings.
- The trail design and drone usage courses received the most positive feedback.
- Course suggestions for next year include: NYSDEC stormwater permit updates, stormwater project case studies, and a presentation of a ten-year review/lessons learned of the Schoharie stream restoration project.
- A few attendees suggested starting the event later in the day to better accommodate travel.
- Respondents felt that they learned the most from Stormwater Management and Up a Notch: Lake George Standards presentations.

In the future, additional questions will be added to the survey in order to better evaluate attendee's preferences and ensure that presentations align with the educational needs and desires of stormwater professionals in the region.

Future North County Stormwater Tradeshow and Conferences will be planned and implemented with an expanded curriculum based on changing stormwater management best practices, and emerging issues and priorities in order to continue to support the implementation of NEIWPC's Strategic Plan by conducting **trainings** that serve water quality professionals in the North Country Region and designing an event that fosters **connections** of water quality professionals and stakeholders across the region.



Photo 1: Steve Ovitt, WMP, presents at the 2022 North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference

7. REFERENCES

Not applicable.

8. APPENDICES

Appended Documents:

- Conference Registration Form
- Conference Materials
- Conference Attendee List
- Conference evaluation form