

Urban Water Partnership Meeting
Caño Martín Peña, San Juan, PR
November 29, 2016
Meeting Notes

I. Participants

Refer to Attachment 1 for list of participants.

II. Welcoming remarks

Ingrid Vila, Urban Water Ambassador (UWA) and Judith Enck, Region 2 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator offered welcoming remarks to meeting participants. Judith Enck encouraged participants to stay after the Urban Waters meeting as EPA would be announcing the award of two important initiatives for the Caño Martín Peña: Smartgrowth Implementation Assistance project and the construction of a Rain Garden Green Infrastructure project in the Albert Einstein Public School.

III. Urban Water Work Plan Progress and Outlook

Ingrid Vila presented results on first year outputs for the the Urban Waters Work Plan for the Caño Martín Peña which was approved by partners on July 2015. The Work Plan continues to serve as roadmap for work being conducted. Please refer to the following link for the Caño Martín Peña Urban Water Work Plan:

https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-08/documents/martinpena_workplan.pdf

Results from work performed during the first year as per outcomes defined in the Work Plan were presented. A summary is provided below:

Total expected outputs from CMP Urban Water Work Plan (Year 1)	25	
Output achieved (Yes/Yes-In progress)	20	80%
Output not achieved (No)	5	20%

Ingrid Vila noted that outputs not achieved are mainly due to problems associated with Puerto Rico's fiscal situation and constraints in the capacity of agencies to develop projects or fund initiatives.

IV. San Juan Bay Estuary Update

Brenda Torres, Executive Director for the SJBE offered a brief presentation on the San Juan Bay Estuary Program and the importance of the ecosystem restoration of the Caño Martín Peña for the overall health of the estuary. She also presented the Education Guide to the Caño Martín Peña, a booklet designed and developed by the SJBE for children to learn about the SJBE and the CMP. Mrs. Torres also mentioned the activities carried out under the San Juan Bay Estuary Program's Water Quality Monitoring Protocol and that such protocol includes two monitoring stations in the Caño Martín Peña.

V. Enlace Update

Lyvia Rodríguez, Executive Director for Enlace provided an update highlighting that important progress regarding the Ecosystem Restoration had been made and that allows to continue moving forward, setting new benchmarks. She mentioned the importance of the UN Habitat Award which was conferred to the Caño Martín Peña Community Land Trust. She also mentioned some setbacks such as the CMP not being selected for a Promise Zone designation (Housing and Urban Development program) and that fiscal issues have also delayed infrastructure development schedules.

VI. Office of Research and Development

Evelyn Huertas from EPA presented a review of the various projects being developed by the Office of Research and Development which include continuing work on isotope analysis, as well as temporal-spatial analysis of mosquito breeding habitat, arbovirus health risk, and vector mitigation.

VII. Buena Vista Santurce Storm Sewer, UW Small Grant

Carlos Muñiz from Enlace presented a summary of the Storm Sewer System Community Planning Project for Buena Vista Santurce, developed under an Urban Water Small Grant. The objective was to provide a conceptual design for a new stormwater collection system (SWCS) for the Buena Vista Community located in Santurce Ward, North of CMP in San Juan, Puerto Rico. For this purpose Enlace contracted the consulting services of Germán Torres Berríos & Associates to prepare a Conceptual Design by evaluating different alternatives for the project development.

After evaluating various alternatives, the study proposes the development of an internal gravity collection system towards three smaller new stormwater pump stations with a common detention pit under Peripheral Avenue.

The recommended alternative also includes green infrastructure controls that are proposed to help capture, store and infiltrate part of the runoff and to attenuate peak flows generated from this highly developed area. Estimating that approximately 1,000 gallons of water are collected by half of the total structures on the community (487), approximately 487,000 water gallons may be intercepted, resulting in 26 to 34% of the total rain received over the surfaces occupied by residences inside the community.

VIII. Green Infrastructure Initiative

As a result of discussion held during meetings of the Urban Water Green Infrastructure Subcommittee, the Municipality of San Juan (MSJ) initiated the development of Green Infrastructure Guidelines to promote the adoption of green infrastructure alternatives and provide best practices to employ.

Cristina Ramírez from the MSJ provided an overview of the content of the guidelines and indicated that they are still in a preliminary stage and will continue to be developed in the upcoming months with the intention of being adopted by municipal ordinance.

IX. Final discussion

A brief discussion with the group was held on recommended strategies for promoting the CMP Ecosystem Restoration with the incoming administration (state and federal). Judith Enck suggested repackaging the project as a job creating infrastructure project.

The meeting concluded with a recognition to Judith Enck from G-8 Community members for her work and dedication to the Caño Martín Peña during her tenure as Regional Administrator for EPA.

X. Next meeting

The next meeting will be during the first semester of 2017.

Attachment 1 – Sign-in sheet

URBAN WATER PARTNERSHIP MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET			
UW Location: Caño Martín Peña, San Juan, PR		Meeting Date: November 29, 2016	
Meeting time: 10:00am - 11:30am		Place/Room: Rainforest Room, EPA Offices, Guaynabo, PR	

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