



South Wilmington PLANNING NETWORK

William Swiatek, WILMAPCO
Chair

February 12, 2013

Semia Hackett, DART
Vice Chair

Dr. Robert Scarborough
Program Manager

Ken Davis,
Southbridge Civic Association

Delaware Coastal Programs
5 East Reed St., Suite 201
Dover, DE 19901

Councilperson Hanifa Shabazz

Veronica Oliver,
Executive Director
Neighborhood House

Dear Dr. Scarborough:

Rosa Rivera, CEO
Henrietta Johnson Medical Center

The South Wilmington Planning Network (SWPN) would like to express our strong support and endorsement of the proposal by the Delaware Coastal Programs for a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Project of Special Merit. The completion of the proposed project—South Wilmington Wetland Modeling to Incorporate Sea Level Rise into Green Infrastructure Planning—is vital to the City of Wilmington, Delaware's plans to create a restored South Wilmington Wetland that should help to reduce flooding in the Southbridge neighborhood.

Charles A. Madden
Executive Director
Wilmington HOPE Commission

The SWPN is a coalition of about 40 government, nonprofit, and private agencies who work with residents to improve quality of life in the impoverished Southbridge section of Wilmington. We seek to do this primarily by implementing the 2006 South Wilmington Neighborhood Plan, prepared by the South Wilmington SAMP workgroup.

Dr. Milton Delgado,
Nemours Health and Prevention
Services

Membership:

AIDS DE
Brandywine Counseling and
Community Services
Bridge-To-Employment Program
Children and Families First
Christiana Care Center for
Community Health
City of Wilmington Parks and
Recreation
Clean Air Council
Delaware Center for Horticulture
Delaware Children's Museum
Delaware Nature Society
Department of Natural Resources
and Environmental Control
Eastside Community Schools
Elbert Palmer Elementary School
Ezion Fair Baptist Church
First State Community Loan Fund
Habitat for Humanity
King Center
Learning Link of Delaware
Mt. Joy Church
New Calvary Baptist Church
NOR Enterprises
One Village Alliance
Urban Promise
Westside Family Healthcare
Wilmington Housing Authority
Youth Academy

The effects of sea level rise, on top of an antiquated drainage system, are contributing to the frequency and severity of the flooding in Southbridge. Many residents here are low-income and do not carry flood insurance – resulting in home and property damage they can ill afford. In addition, the community's elderly and disabled residents have limited means of evacuating when unexpected flooding occurs, as it did on December 21, 2012.

The construction of the South Wilmington Wetland should make a meaningful difference in the flood events in Southbridge. This proposed hydrologic study is key to making sure it is designed properly, and designed to last. We strongly support your efforts to seek NOAA funding for this important study.

The SWPN can assist you with this project by ensuring that our partners are aware of its progress and communicating messages about flooding and flood abatement to community members. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns. I can be reached by telephone at: 302 – 737 – 6205 x 113, or electronically at: bswiatek@wilmmapco.org.

Sincerely,

William Swiatek, AICP
Chair