



Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee

Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee Minutes

April 22nd, 2015

Round 11 SMIP

Member attendance: William Federice & Eric Dahlberg (Conesville); Steve Walker (Windham); David Kukle and Anthony Coiro (Town of Hunter); Lynn Byrne & Beverly Dezan (Lexington); Mike McCrary (Jewett); Joseph Farleigh (Town of Roxbury); Elizabeth LoGiudice (Educator); Val Riedman (Gilboa); James Hitchcock (Greene County Legislator); James Lawrence (Ashland)

Others: Jeff Flack, Michelle Yost, Abbe Martin (GCSWCD); Dave Burns (DEP); Joanne Noone (Conesville resident)

First order of special business in the absence of Chair, Rebecca Wilburn: Mike McCrary (Town of Jewett SWAC representative) was appointed Chair Pro Tem for April 22nd, 2015 meeting. Motion made by Steve Walker, seconded by David Kukle, all present in favor.

Meeting minutes from December 16th, 2015 SWAC meeting were approved. Motion made by Eric Dahlberg, seconded by Lynn Byrne, all present in favor.

Proposals Submitted and Decisions Made

For more information on each proposal, see the Summary of Round 11 Applications or the individual applications (distributed prior to the meeting).

• **Education and Outreach**

- Platte Clove Schoharie Stream Restoration Education – refer to CSBI for a planting project with signage. An educational workshop is being planned for Schoharie Watershed Month to discuss factors influencing trout habitat changes in the upper headwaters of the Schoharie.

For vote:

- Town of Lexington Watershed Awareness Workshops for Children
 - Lynn Byrne presented the proposed workshops and described programs that the instructors have provided at the Mountaintop Arboretum and Agroforestry Center.
 - Liz LoGiudice endorsed the programs that have been produced by these instructors, considers them to be high quality educational programs.
 - Multiple SWAC members suggested they aim for participation of children from neighboring communities; hope to see participation around 20 children.
 - Insurance will be under the town's policy
 - Mike M. suggested having measurable outcomes to document programs like this. Jeff F. noted the close out report summarizes the outcomes of all projects.
 - Future requests of this nature should have more specificity with the budget for personnel (examples to be provided)

Town of Ashland
James Lawrence

Town of Conesville
Eric Dahlberg
Bill Federice, Alt.

Town of Gilboa
Val Riedman
Rebecca Wilburn, Alt.

Town of Hunter
David Kukle
Anthony Coiro, Alt.

Village of Hunter
Michael Tancredi
Alan Higgins, Alt.

Town of Jewett
Michael McCrary
Jim Pellitteri, Alt.

Town of Lexington
Lynn Byrne
Beverly Dezan, Alt.

Town of Prattsville
Kory O'Hara

Town of Roxbury
Joseph Farleigh
Tom Hynes, Alt.

Village of Tannersville
Leigh McGunnigle
Chris Hack, Alt.

Town of Windham
Steve Walker
Don Murray, Alt.

Highway Superintendent
Erik Allen

Educator
Elizabeth LoGiudice

Fisheries Guide
Judd Weisberg

**Greene County
Legislators**
James Hitchcock
Larry Gardner

- Schoharie Watershed Month 2015 – yearly watershed activities and programs throughout May; budget supports costs for 7 – 10 events hosted by organizations, municipalities, and individuals.
- **Resolution # 1 of 2015** – motion to approve request for both Education and Outreach applications by Val Riedman, seconded by Liz LoGuidice, all present in favor. Committee approved funding the Town of Lexington Watershed Awareness Workshops for Children at an amount of \$3,000, and Schoharie Watershed Month at an amount of \$2,300.
- **Landowner Assistance**
 - Town of Ashland Batavia Kill Flood Control – Site Stable. The flooding concerns of the applicant will be reviewed during the Local Flood Analysis for Ashland.
 - Manor Kill Stream Restoration – full channel stream restoration project adjacent to Conesville Town Park. Project will be combined with previously approved application for the Conesville Town Park Community Enhancement Project.
 - P. Nichols (SCSWCD) assisting and coordinating with MMI on design and permitting.
 - Project also involves one parcel that is privately owned. Town currently coordinating landowner agreement.
 - **Resolution # 2 of 2015** – motion to approve request by Steve Walker, seconded by Jim Lawrence, all present in favor. Committee approved funding \$150,000 for this project.
- **Planning & Assessment**
 - No applications submitted.
- **Highway Infrastructure**
 - South Gilboa Road Stormwater Mitigation Project – Schoharie County Department of Public Works, MMI and NYSDOT are coordinating for implementation of this project.
 - Conducting a pipe study to determine the appropriate type of culvert for the site. Discussion on cost of different size culverts, roadwork and lifespan of whatever size culvert is chosen. SCSWCD and GCSWCD working with Schoharie County DPW and DOT to arrive at an acceptable solution.
 - DOT offered to do construction for the county and is expected to cover the cost of the roadwork. **Resolution # 3 of 2015**- motion to approve request by Jim Lawrence, seconded by Eric Dahlberg, all present in favor. Committee approved funding up to \$100,000 for this project.
- **Recreation and Habitat**
 - Town of Lexington Riverfront Access Park
 - The proposed enhancement of two parcels, acquired through the FEMA buyout program, requires FEMA approval. Town is requesting approval to develop park uses consistent with open space (town submitted DEC Smart Growth grant in January, waiting for decision)
 - Staff recommendation – resubmit application once the Town of Lexington receives necessary approvals from FEMA for park like amenities on the buyout parcels.

- Proposed project involves expanding small town park to two buyout parcels to expand public uses and outdoor recreation -
 - Discussed potential of funding portions of the project
 - Concern about adding structures in the floodway – fencing, pergola, kiosks, etc. may all be compromised during a flood while also posing a potential danger by obstructing flow and causing an accumulation of debris
 - Need to be cautious setting a precedent through SMIP of allowing structures in the floodway, where velocities are strongest
 - Committee supports the town’s goal of enhancing this part of its hamlet, however, there was considerable discussion on creating parameters of what the program would and would not fund because of proximity to the floodway and floodplain. Suggestions for this application include:
 1. Using a kiosk GCSWCD has from another project as a test to see how it does in future flood events
 2. Mowed path is preferred over using material that may be mobilized during a flood or that creates an impervious surface adjacent to the stream
 3. Consider moving park amenities to the property associated with the Waste Water Treatment Facility (next to post office and out of floodplain)
 4. Using vegetative plantings instead of fencing to border the park.
 - Goal is to provide community with access to the stream
- **Resolution # 4 of 2015-** motion to approve request, contingent on FEMA approval and more information on location of fencing, by Joseph Farleigh, seconded by Jim Hitchcock, all present in favor.

- **Other Items**

- Committee discussed the eligibility of project components for SMIP funding
 - Obstructions in floodway or floodplain
 - Suggestion to refer applicants to DEC and FEMA regulations rather than writing our own.
 - Impervious surfaces –
 - rolled and packed or graded gravel considered impervious surfaces
 - Type of allowable materials for streamside trails
 - Staff will develop guidance on allowable materials for trail surfaces in floodplains, which should be pervious because water quality protection and improvement are the basis for SMIP funds
 - Suggestion to refer to FEMA requirements for appropriate trail materials and allowable uses in a floodplain vs. floodway. In general staying out of the floodway is a good rule of thumb.

- Assurances of maintenance on municipal parks over the long term is needed, e.g., the Lexington Riverfront Access Park will be maintained by town of Lexington.
- Committee prefers to review each application individually over developing specific criteria that would be eligible
- Funding caps for Flood Hazard Mitigation Category:
 - Implementing a cap of \$150,000 for floodplain reclamation projects that have been recommended in a Local Flood Analysis. **Resolution # 5 of 2015**- motion to approve request by Lynn Byrne, seconded by Eric Dahlberg, all present in favor.
 - Implementing a cap of \$100,000 for public infrastructure projects that have been recommended in a Local Flood Analysis. **Resolution # 6 of 2015**- motion to approve request by Lynn Byrne, seconded by Val Riedman, all present in favor.
 - Mike M. inquired why these caps were chosen. Dave B. and Michelle responded they are consistent with general costs for these types of projects and it allows the program to leverage other funding sources, such as through CWC's Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program. Caps can always be changed by a vote of the committee if found to be inadequate.
- Windham Local Flood Analysis Change Order: GCSWCD requested that Milone and MacBroom Inc. (MMI) expand the LFA to include a Benefit Cost Analysis, comparative depth grid and flood extent mapping for proposed alternatives, and for MMI participation in ongoing committee and public meetings.
 - The original application (resolution #3 of 2014) did not include these components because it was assumed the NY Rising process would cover them. The NY Rising plan was on an expedited review and integrating the LFA process did not work.
 - **Resolution # 7 of 2015**- motion to approve request by Jim Lawrence, seconded by Steve Walker, all present in favor. Committee approved \$24,600 in increased funding for Windham LFA.

*Next meeting October 28th, location to be determined.
Round 12 SMIP applications due on September 15th, 2015.*