



Schoharie Watershed Advisor Council Meeting

August 22nd, 2013

Schoharie Watershed Program Office, Tannersville

Member attendance: Rebecca Wilburn and Val Reidman (Gilboa); Mike Brandow (Conesville); Joe Farleigh (Roxbury); Judd Weisberg (Fisheries Guide, Lexington); Michael McCrary (Jewett); Erik Allen (Highway Superintendent); Leigh McGunnigle (Tannersville); Lynn Byrne and Beverly Dezan (Lexington); Liz LoGuidice (CGCCE); Ron Urban – President, NY Chapter Trout Unlimited.

Others: Jeff Flack, Michelle Yost, Abbe Martin, (GCSWCD); Dave Burns (DEP); Joanne Noone and Muriel Kilmer (Town of Conesville Recreation Committee)

Chairwoman Wilburn brought the meeting to order at 1:15PM.

1. **Meeting Minutes** from March 27, 2013 approved on a motion from Judd Weisberg, seconded by Mike McCrary with all present in favor.

2. **Status of Action Plan Summary**
 - a. Rebecca lead the discussion providing brief updates on the Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) projects that have been active or completed since the March 2013 SWAC meeting (handout provided at meeting).
 - *County Route 6 Slope Failure Stabilization Project*, Jeff F. updated:
 - i. Construction began early this month, project involves multiple components – upland stormwater, streambank erosion, buyout of home, stream channel elevation
 - ii. The project is 75% funded through Emergency Watershed Protection (federal program) and SMIP grants totaling \$225,000 were approved toward the 25% local match (under Landowner Assistance (\$150,000) & Highway/Infrastructure (\$75,000) categories),
 - iii. Project will cost approximately \$3,000,000; additional funding provided by NRCS EWP and DEP through West Kill contract monies
 - iv. Project is located near RAH Stables along Shoemaker Road and is approximately 2,400 feet in length
 - v. During Hurricane Irene, the stream dropped about 6 feet, causing the slope to fail and compromising Shoemaker Road. CR 6 is the only ingress & egress for approximately 100 upstream residents
 - vi. Project will raise the stream bed elevation and reinforce the toe of the bank
 - *Schoharie Watershed Month* (Education & Outreach) was held in May 2013
 - i. Michelle Yost provided a brief update on different activities throughout the month highlighting the Windham Path Opening and student art exhibit.
 - *Town of Hunter Land Use Regulation Review & Development Guidelines*
 - i. Since application was submitted, Town and consultant changes have precluded the Town from implementing project as originally envisioned
 - ii. The Town Plng Board was given a copy of the *Better Site Design Report*, a similar SMIP-supported project, to review other towns' recommendations for ideas for updating their local codes. They will determine whether they need to take this effort further using the SMIP grant but the full grant amount would not be needed.
 1. It was suggested to give the Town a deadline with an update whether they feel any SMIP funds are needed
 - *Manor Kill Acquisition Project* is complete

- *Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis – Lexington*
 - i. Request for Proposals (RFP) went out on July 10th, 2013
 - ii. Four responses were received on August 12th, 2013
 - iii. Milone and MacBroom, Inc. (MMI) had the lowest bid, \$49,850
 - iv. MMI has completed similar assessments within this region
 - v. A completed LFHMA allows communities to submit for funds to implement recommendations within the final report
 - vi. Lynn B. wondered about funding to implement recommendations; the analysis will describe funding opportunities that are appropriate for the community to submit for implementation dollars (federal, state, new CWC flood hazard program)
 - vii. Rebecca noted communities with completed studies will improve their ranking when submitting for certain funding opportunities
 - viii. Dave B. noted LFHMA is a prerequisite for grant money that will be made available in the mid-term FAD for flood mitigation (via CWC and SWCD contracts)
- *State Route 42 – Lower West Kill Stream Restoration*
 - i. Construction began August 2013
 - ii. Project involves development of a floodplain bench along the toe of the bank to stabilize the toe (slope failure is approximately 40 acres in size)
 - iii. Currently, funding is only available to treat the stream (not the upland slope)
 - iv. Stabilizing toe will minimize continuous slope erosion, thereby reducing the upland slope failure and sediment inputs
 - v. There may be funding available to treat the slope in the future, but for now the project only includes some riparian plantings
 - vi. Project costs are approximately \$1.6 million (NRCS 75%, SMIP & DEP contract funds 25%)
 - vii. Judd W. inquired about stability of the lower project reach to the next state bridge. This project was originally proposed for a longer stretch of stream; NRCS reduced the size of the project. As funding is available, Phase II (downstream of this project site to next state bridge) will be planned, but future funding is unknown

3. Budget Status

- Rebecca provided update on the status of the SMIP budget (handout provided at meeting).
 - \$1,876,038 of the \$2million has been allocated (providing proposed projects below are approved)
 - There are outstanding projects that may go over budget once constructed including Cranberry Road & Glen Avenue culvert replacements
 - i. There are two designs for Cranberry Road, both with similar cost estimates of approximately \$120,000; a design has not been chosen yet
 1. The available funding (SMIP & FEMA) totals approximately \$116,000
 2. Completion of this project may need additional funds
 - ii. Glen Avenue has been delayed for multiple reasons
 1. There is not enough SMIP funding alone (\$75,000 grant) to install a large enough culvert to pass the 100 yr. storm (site constraints exist as well). The village has FEMA and Empire State Devt funds as well for this culvert replacement, but FEMA is concerned the downstream culvert will become overwhelmed (no funds allocated to downstream culvert).
 2. Discussion on switching SMIP funds to the lower culvert with FEMA covering upper initial culvert was proposed but has not progressed.

3. It appears the village is leaning towards using current funds to focus on replacing the initial culvert (next to Camp Loyaltown entrance) as originally planned (too complicated to address both at the same time)
 4. Completion of this project may need additional funds
- iii. Mitchell Hollow Road
1. Design is complete
 2. Coordination with DOT essential for project construction
 3. Timeframe for construction unknown

- *Thermal Refuge Study* (round 1 Planning grant) – Lynn B. inquired where this stands. Abbe noted USGS has completed about 95% of GIS work to mask/mark the water-land boundary (generate water-surface polygons) in the Schoharie and West Kill study reaches. They needed to complete this before moving into analysis of the thermal data and development the final report. She’s been in contact with Barry Baldigo, USGS; they submitted a bill recently and they are reconciling tasks completed against invoices paid. Michelle suggested scheduling a habitat/recreation meeting in the Fall and inviting Barry to present the findings to date.

4. **Proposals – New flood hazard mitigation category added to Action Plan & one Rec/Habitat**

Proposal Rebecca reviewed applications for proposed SMIP projects (handout provided at meeting).

a. *Landowner Streamside Assistance Category*

- Barbara Rosentreter, Jewett
 - i. Joel DuBois conducted a site visit and advised the landowner about this program
 - ii. Project is located along County Route 17, along the East Kill in Jewett
 - iii. The application is incomplete and does not provide a description or proposed budget. A site visit by the technical team is needed to rank the project and advise the landowner how to proceed. Recommendation – incomplete application, need more information
 - iv. **Resolution # 2 of 2013** – A motion to request resubmittal from Joe Farleigh, seconded by Lynn Byrne, with all present in favor. Michael McCrary abstained.
 - v. This project may be more appropriate for the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Program or NRCS Watershed Protection Program.

b. *Recreation/Habitat Improvements*

- Conesville Town Park Community Enhancement Project (Joanne N. presented)
 - i. Goal is to improve uses of the town park including access to the Manor Kill
 - ii. Rehabilitation of the Town Park walking path (located on Rte 990V, next to firehouse) is the first project the Recreation Committee would like to complete.
 1. Existing path is overgrown with vegetation and in need of repair and maintenance (filter fabric was not used in past)
 2. Seeking funding for material costs for the path (~ 2,200 ft. in length)
 3. Pavilion floor surface will be removed from the project proposal
 4. Construction of the path will be achieved through the volunteer network that will be coordinated through the Conesville Recreation Committee.
 5. Committee has researched potential materials
 - a. Committee has ruled out oil & stone for the path
 - b. Committee would prefer to use the same material used to construct Windham Path, but cost may be too much
 - c. GCSWCD staff recommended that the project use a porous surface for path and suggested that rain gardens may be appropriate at this location and are eligible for SMIP funds.
 - d. Workout stations will complement the path (separate grant the town received)

- iii. Beverly D. noted what a thorough job the committee is doing reaching out to the community and requested a copy of a survey they used
- iv. Staff recommendation: GCSWCD and SCSWCD will assist the committee through the winter with ideas that may be appropriate for the park & SMIP support. Town to reapply with budget and project proposal when they are known
 - 1. **Resolution # 3 of 2013:** A motion to request resubmittal from Erik Allan, seconded by Judd Weisberg with all present in favor. Mike Brandow abstained.

c. *Hazard Mitigation*

- State Route 42 – Lower West Kill Stream Restoration cost share
 - i. Initial request from the Town of Lexington was \$150,000 which is the maximum amount available per project for stream restoration under the Landowner category
 - ii. Staff recommendation – given there is enough in the program balance increase funding by \$50,000 to \$200,000 to support the town’s local cost share
 - iii. Additional funding for the 25% match for this project will come from DEP contract funds.
 - iv. **Resolution # 4 of 2013:** Motion waive the \$150,000 cap made by Joe Farleigh, seconded by Judd Weisberg with all present in favor.
 - v. **Resolution # 5 of 2013:** Motion to fund at \$200,000 from Judd Weisberg, seconded by Val Reidman with all present in favor
- Town of Lexington Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis
 - i. If SWAC approves funding this project, the Lexington Town Board will need to approve hiring the consultant with the lowest bid, MMI (see details above).
 - ii. The 2014 contract between DEP & GCSWCD will have funding available for other communities to apply for LFHMA.
 - iii. Lexington has received a Long-Term Recovery Grant from NYSDOS which will be used in coordination with the LFHMA efforts.
 - iv. **Resolution # 6 of 2013:** Motion to approve funding for lowest bidder (\$49,850) from Erik Allan, seconded by Mike McCrary, with all present in favor.

5. **Upcoming Meetings**

- a. *Shandaken Tunnel SPDES permit meeting* – August 29th, 2013, Tannersville Program Office, 10:30am – 12:30pm.
- b. *Next SWAC meeting*, Wednesday, November 6th, 6pm, light dinner served

A tour of SMIP supported projects took place after the meeting and included:

- 1. The Mountain Top Library and Learning Center, Tannersville (Stormwater, CWC funded/Kim Ackerly joined the group)
- 2. Mountain Top Arboretum Outdoor Classroom, East Jewett (Education/Outreach), and
- 3. Vista Ridge, Apple Hill and Nikolaidis Landowner Assistance Stream Restoration Projects, Colgate Lake Rd., East Jewett.



SWAC visiting Mountain Top Arboretum Outdoor Classroom

Thanks to all for coming today!