

Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee meeting
Wednesday March 25, 2009, 4 – 6 p.m., WAP office, Tannersville

Attendance: Dennis Lucas and Paul Dibbell (Town of Hunter), Mike McCrary (Jewett), Rebecca Wilburn (Gilboa), Eric Allan (Ashland Highway Superintendent), Linda Kline (Village of Tannersville), Barry Baldigo (USGS), Ron Urban (Chairman, NYS Trout Unlimited), Dan Zielinski (Aquatic Biologist, NYSDEC), Jeff Flack, Carrie Miles, and Abbe Martin (GCSWCD), Michelle Yost (GCSWCD WAP), David Burns (NYCDEP)

1. Draft Action Plan Updates

- Michelle Yost provided an overview of the Action Plan updates (see handout), and then opened it up to the SWAC for their input, emphasizing identifying other partners (agencies, school groups, individuals,...) that could assist with projects.
- Highway and Infrastructure Improvements
 - Road Abrasives Program
 - Suggestion to include NYSDOT in SWAC and Highway subcommittee meetings.
 - Suggestion to review the NYSDOT data on alternative de-icing methods (Shandaken piloting use of liquid calcium carbonate).
 - Agreement from SWAC members that using higher quality material is preferred. Concern that it can be cost prohibitive for municipalities.
 - Suggestion to conduct an economic impact study to assess cost-effectiveness of higher quality road abrasives over time.
 - Question- what happens when there are no longer funds available to support a road abrasives program?
 - Street Sweeper with Vacuum
 - Some communities may not have a use for a new sweeper if they are not effective on Town type roads; useful mainly for hamlets or village areas where streets are compacted. Communities that collect post season material prefer to use the county vacuum sweeper as it is much more effective than older models, but because there is only one, scheduling and availability can be problematic.
 - Concern that saving the material for reuse isn't necessarily favorable due to the amount of debris/chemicals collected with the material.
 - May be used as fill.
 - Concern that brushing material off to the side of the road creates a problem with roadside ditches.
- Recreation and Stream Habitat Improvements
 - Increase Public Access to Watershed Streams
 - A local resource to consult with is Judd Weisberg, avid fisherman and guide. Suggestion to invite him to serve on habitat and recreation subcommittee.
 - Water Temperature Impacts on Fisheries Study
 - Barry B. shared the DEC's Water Quality Improvement Projects program maybe a source of funding for research and monitoring for needs identified here (USGS submitted for funds). Round available.
 - Promote Increased Recreational Use of Watershed Streams

- Suggestion to investigate potential to stock snow making ponds (existing and new one in Jewett if approved) and partner with ski mountains to organize derbies, share advertising as an alternative activity to offer. Would need to look at water quality and fish survivability in these ponds, and liability and public access issues.
- Suggestion to coordinate and add as project partners – Greene County Sportsmen Federation and Trout in the Classroom Programs.
- DEC supported stocking requires statewide decision making, not done regionally. Permits can be obtained for private stocking efforts, however, with less administrative processing.

2. Funding Categories and Caps

- David Burns provided the suggested funding caps to the SWAC. All were in agreement that the caps were appropriate and necessary. These can be adjusted if necessary, but will give the group a starting point.
 - Landowner Stream Assistance \$150,000
 - Creative Stormwater Practices & Critical Area Seeding \$50,000 (use as matching funds for the CWC stormwater programs)
 - Highway and Infrastructure Improvement \$75,000

3. SWAC Logo Design

- Suggested Individuals- Cindy, Allison or Marcy (Catskill Mountain Foundation)
- Contest with local schools, target ones with arts and business programs.

4. Barry Baldigo – Spotlight on United States Geologic Survey (USGS), agency that provides research services relative to water and other resources.

- Barry provided an overview of current projects that are being conducted by the USGS within the NYC WOH watershed. Sample of topics covered included – how acidity affects aquatic life, existing and projected temperature changes, infra-red survey documenting thermal refugia, implications of flood events on drainage, and effects of restoration projects on fish.
- Barry will forward his presentation and weblink for “streamstats” which provides data on streamflows, basin and climatic characteristics for use in water resource planning, management and permitting. Information has been improved to provide greater accuracy with modeling drainage areas and can assist with infrastructure and facilities planning. Streamstats website is http://streamstatsags.cr.usgs.gov/ny_ss/index.htm. The home site for the USGS is <http://ny.water.usgs.gov/>
- It was suggested Barry or someone from USGS present at the 4th annual Watershed Summit (1/23/09).

5. Meeting Schedule

- SWAC will now meet quarterly instead of bi-monthly. Future meeting dates to coincide with watershed tour and application process:
 - **June 20th**, Saturday, CD Lane Park, Maplecrest for the annual watershed tour and Brooks BBQ. Start time – 9 a.m. at the pavilion. Action plan updates provided then.
 - **September 23rd**, 7:00 pm. First round of applications to be reviewed.