



Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting

March 26th, 2014

Jewett Town Hall

Member attendance: Rebecca Wilburn (Gilboa); Eric Dahlberg and Bill Federice (Conesville); Judd Weisberg (Fisheries Guide, Lexington); Michael McCrary (Jewett); Erik Allen (Highway Dept. liaison); Lynn Byrne and Beverly Dezan (Lexington); Liz LoGuidice (CGCCE via conference call); Don Murray and Robert Pelham (Windham); David Kukle (Hunter).

Others: Timothy Cox (CWC); Jeff Flack, Michelle Yost, Abbe Martin, (GCSWCD); Dave Burns (DEP); Jim and Joanne Noone (Town of Conesville Recreation Committee); Ron Urban (President, NY Chapter Trout Unlimited); Sarah Killourhy (Town of Hunter Planning Board Chair)

Chairwoman Wilburn brought the meeting to order at 6:15PM.

1. **Meeting Minutes** from December 4th, 2013 approved on a motion (**Resolution # 1 of 2014**) from Mike McCrary, seconded by Lynn Byrne with all present in favor.
2. **Town of Hunter Land Use Regulation Review & Development Guidelines**
 - a. David Kukle provided an update on the status of this project
 - Following a change in municipal officials, and due to time constraints of the IDA (original consultant for project), this project was delayed; however, interest in moving forward remains
 - IDA is no longer available to complete the project, the Town of Hunter is interested in working with a new vendor and has identified Delaware Engineering as a possible consultant for completing the project
 - Dave noted it is time for the town to do a thorough review and update local codes given some development projects that have tested the town's purview involving site plan and comprehensive growth
 - In order to move forward, the town is requesting an extension
 - b. SWAC discussion:
 - Michelle Yost pointed out that the Hunter corridor study (which Delaware Engineering assisted with) has relevant information that relates to this project and would be used
 - The original timeline for the project was 14 months, the Town plans to set a similar timeline, possibly sooner (within one year)
 - Current contract (\$35,000 grant) will need to be extended, not modified as the deliverables are the same and there is no additional funding requested. Town can do a no cost time extension with a review of the scope of work
 - **Resolution # 2 of 2014** – Mike McCrary made a motion to extend the contract, seconded by Erik Allen, with all present in favor. David Kukle abstained.
3. **Town of Conesville Walking Path**
 - a. Bill Federice noted the Town of Conesville is still interested in advancing the application
 - b. They are working on cost estimates and hope to have something complete to present to the Town Board in approximately 30 – 60 days
 - c. Joanne N. presented the plans for the Path at a previous SWAC meeting with the Committee endorsing the concept.

4. Local Flood Analysis – Windham

- a. Town of Windham with GCSWCD assistance submitted an application for \$33,860 to conduct a Local Flood Analysis of its population centers and to coordinate with the NY Rising Community Reconstruction program
- b. Jeff F. provided summary of project plans
 - The FEMA Floodplain model will be used to conduct a Local Flood Analysis (LFA) for approximately 15 miles along the Batavia Kill, from Windham to the Maplecrest flood retention structure, including three hamlets – Windham, Hensonville and Maplecrest
 - Windham was identified under the state’s Community Reconstruction (CR) program during a second round of funding following Hurricane Irene and will receive up to \$3million for planning and project implementation. That planning will commence within the next 1 – 2 months.
 - In the Schoharie basin, Prattsville is the only other community in the CR program
 - The goal is to integrate the CR program initiative with the LFA engineering tool
 - i. The CR program identifies project ideas first and then runs them through the model to see if they would be good projects based on flood reduction and cost/benefit
 - ii. The LFA process shows all potential flood reduction options first and through a process of elimination based on community input and cost/benefit feasibility, projects are then identified. Doing the LFA geographically vs. project-based is preferred as it identifies the realm of flood reduction alternatives for a targeted area
 - iii. GCSWCD has a consultant on board doing Lexington’s LFA and is proposing to add Windham to that contract to commence the study soon to coincide with the CR program initiative
 - iv. Milone & MacBroom (MMI) will do the first cut for Windham’s LFA and the CR consultant (hired by NYSDOS) will likely do successive rounds of modeling to choose feasible solutions and prioritize based on community input
 - LFA runs multiple storm events through the model, up to the 100 year flood, and then inputs mitigation options (e.g., enlarge bridge or culvert restriction) to see impacts and quantify how much surface water may be reduced at different flows at specific locations.
 - The proposal requests \$33,860 to fund first round of modeling, data collection and identification of potential mitigation alternatives for Windham’s study area. Other components in the scope of work will be picked up by the CR consultant.
 - **Resolution # 3 of 2014** – Lynn Byrne made a motion to approve funding for the Windham LFA, Mike McCrary seconded with all in favor
- c. Flood Hazard Mitigation was added to SMIP categories and GCSWCD will facilitate LFAs in Hunter and Tannersville in the future. The studies not only identify a range of potential projects that quantify objective flood reduction using hydraulic data, they are also intended to provide communities better leverage when applying for funding from local, city, state and federal grant programs.

5. Schoharie Watershed Month (Education and Outreach)

- a. Application submitted on behalf of the SWM Planning committee for \$2,485 of the \$3,735 budget to offset costs associated with the month’s activities.
- b. Michelle summarized SWM, an annual E/O program on watershed resources and activities
 - There is a calendar of events for the month that includes a range of activities:
 1. Student Art Exhibit, Hunter Gallery
 2. Community of Windham Foundation Avella memorial

3. Arm of the Sea Theater performance, *City That Drinks the Mountain Sky* – Prattsville, May 10th
4. Rain Garden workshop, May 10th, Tannersville
5. Schoharie Reservoir Interpretive Bus tour, May 31st with two guides
6. Kayak and canoe rentals, May 31st
7. Mrs. Puddleducks program for kids

- Most of the funding is needed for advertising expenses
- **Resolution # 4 of 2014** – Judd Weisberg made motion to approve funding SWM application; David Kukle seconded; all in favor

6. Highway & Infrastructure

- a. Glen Avenue (Village of Hunter) and Cranberry Road (Town of Hunter) are both in final design, both projects to be constructed this coming field season
- b. SMIP grant and FEMA & NY Empire State Devt funds will be used to cover project costs. The Town of Hunter is doing work in-house and funding amount should be enough.
- c. Glen Avenue
 - The Village's engineer has been waiting for FEMA decision on funding. GCSW is recommending constructing the original culvert this season, between the SMIP grant and ESD funds there should enough funds to pass the 100 yr. storm. If additional funds are needed, a request will be made
 - FEMA concern with lower culvert capacity, the Village can apply to SMIP in the future to upgrade that culvert
 - Site has a sewer line presenting installation challenges (max. depth 1 foot)
 - Delaware Eng., the Village engineer, is waiting for cost of pre-cast culvert for price change, but that shouldn't push it over the budget
 - The question whether the tributary is a regulated stream was raised, and Dave B. commented he believes it is, and that brook trout inhabit the upstream reach. The stream has a steep gradient and perched culverts present natural fish passage barriers

7. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- a. Additions with flood hazard mitigation, specifically conducting LFAs, were highlighted in yellow in the original MOU and handed out at the December 2013 meeting.
- b. Jeff and Michelle have reviewed with Mountaintop Supervisors and Mayors Association and will review with town boards this year (Windham done in February).
- c. Municipalities will be asked to renew for another five years. By renewing, communities are eligible to apply for the SMIP program.

8. Action Plan

- a. Updates will be complete by May 15th
- b. Dave provided summary of Action Plan
 - Previous FADs had the USEPA identifying projects, with DEP working with contract agencies for design, permitting, landowner agreements, etc. – this was not a workable format
 - 2007 FAD moved to the Action Plan format which is a two year work plan
 - Action Plan (AP) includes all projects, not only SMIP funded projects
 - AP is updated every two years for the regulators and agency updates are done yearly
 - AP has multiple sections including current projects, completed projects, on-going projects, and executive summary
 - Rebecca suggested dropping completed projects after 3 years and put in an archive document, or remove them during renewal of MOUs or FAD cycle. There was agreement on removing after the three years.
 - A copy of the updated Action Plan will be sent to the committee when it is completed

9. General Announcements from members

- a. Lexington Farmers Market, every other Saturday, 10AM-12PM, pavilion next to Municipal hall. Check this out if you haven't yet!
- b. Lexington Tree & Shrub pick up April 19th, organizing pickup order through GCSWCD, write Lexington on top if you are interested in joining.
- c. Use Watershed Post & Facebook to post events

10. NEXT meeting : June 25th, location TBD

- a. Dave Kukle questioned could the town send a proxy in place if the primary and alternate representative are not available to attend a SWAC meeting. Yes they can if the municipal board approves the proxy.
- b. SWAC meetings have typically been scheduled around grant timelines, February 1 and August 1, along with additional ones in between as needed. That schedule will continue for now with a June 25th quarterly meeting scheduled as well.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Judd Weisberg, seconded by Mike McCrary with all present in favor.