Final Report

for Fish Passage Improvement

> on Town Brook

Town of Stamford

Delaware County, New York

by Scotty Gladstone, Stream Program Coordinator Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District 44 West Street, Suite 1 Walton, NY 13856

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Project Site Description

Town Brook is located in the Town of Stamford, Delaware County, New York, and is within the New York City water supply watershed (see Maps 1-3 in Attachment B). The site is near the stream headwaters with a drainage area of 1.6 square miles. The stream here flows through two active dairy farm pastures. Both producers have buffered their respective stream reaches through the United States Department of Agriculture's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). (CREP pays for the installation of livestock exclusion fencing and plant materials to buffer streams flowing through agricultural lands. It also provides for annual per acre rental payments for 10-15 years).

The downstream location is readily accessible, is a public fishing stream and is currently used for education and outreach tours. The site will continue to be used for research and educational purposes. Data obtained from post-construction monitoring of both locations will be highlighted during future education and outreach events and will also be shared with those entities that will find it useful.

Project Background

In 2004 the Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District (DCSWCD), under contract with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), constructed a full-scale demonstration stream restoration project on the downstream farm. The project consisted of stream re-alignment, establishment of adequate floodplain and installation of in-stream rock structures to maintain grade control and pool locations, and to reduce stream sheer stress on the banks.

Post-project evaluations led to some concerns with fish passage at some of the rock crossvane structures (A rock cross-vane is a U-shaped structure that ties in at the top of both stream banks with its apex, or throat, at the approximate stream bed elevation in the stream center, upstream from the stream bank ties. The arms actually slope upstream in a downward direction toward the throat). The project design vertical drop from the throat rock to the water surface below the throat rock was within current regulatory standards. However, natural stream adjustments at four rock vanes resulted in vertical distances that exceeded the preferred threshold for migrating fish. The first solution was to cut notches in the throat rocks of the rock cross-vane structures. During 2005 DCSWCD, NYCDEP, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service evaluated the project and decided more was needed. Various methodologies to mitigate the issue were subsequently discussed and evaluated.

This project reach begins at the outlet of a 95" x 67" corrugated metal pipe arch culvert under the Davis Road Town Highway, which is also the property boundary between the two farms owned by the David Post and John Palmatier families, respectively. High flow events in late 2004 and in 2005 created unraveling of the stream upstream of the culvert on the Palmatier property. There was a potential risk that the stream would rechannelize, compromising the town highway, the CREP buffers and pastureland on both farms. This area was also contributing excessive sediment to the New York City water supply system.

Project Description

The goal of the involved parties is to improve fish passage at four rock cross-vane structures in the upper part of the project reach on the Post farm. It was agreed to retrofit the four cross-vane structures with a cross-bar structure. The cross-bars were placed at approximately one-half the length of the cross-vane and at approximately one-half the elevation between the stream bed at the cross-bar location and the elevation of the throat. This created two smaller pools with a shorter jump height for migrating fish. Rocks on the downstream most rock cross-vane in the original project reach that were dislodged by the June 27, 2006 flood were re-positioned.

To mitigate the upstream situation on the Palmatier farm the goal was to stabilize the stream bed and banks immediately upstream of the culvert. This was accomplished by slight re-alignment of the stream, armoring the stream bed and banks, and installing a rock cross-vane structure to prevent future head-cutting.

The project will be monitored for five years using the existing monitoring protocol developed during the original project implementation of the downstream location. Additional monitoring cross-sections were established to monitor project effectiveness.

Work Performed

<u>Post farm</u>: Site was de-watered by pumping around the work areas. Cross-bar structures were placed at the top three cross-vanes and at the double cross-vane as shown on sheet 2 - 4 of the project drawings entitled "David Post Stream Retrofit" and according to the attached specifications (Attachment D). Gravel backfill was placed behind the cross-bars to seal voids and create the second pool. The left arm downstream most cross-vane was repaired by re-setting the dislodged rocks.

<u>Palmatier farm</u>: Site was de-watered by pumping around the work area. A rock crossvane structure with cross-bar was constructed on sheets 3 - 5 of the project drawings entitled "John Palmatier Streambank Stabilization" and to the attached specifications. The streambed was re-aligned and re-shaped as shown on sheets 2 and 3 of the project drawings and per the specifications. The streambed and streambanks were reinforced with stone fill and live stake vegetation installed as shown on sheets 3 - 5 of the drawings and according to the specifications (Attachment E).

Project Benefits

- The high quality of New York City's drinking water supplies will be ensured by minimizing sediment and pollutant delivery to the Cannonsville Reservoir by decreasing erosion and deposition.
- The improved and new structures will simultaneously optimize fish passage.
- Establishment of vegetation on streambanks will reinforce the soil with a good root system and provide shade for aquatic fauna.
- An opportunity to further advance the water quality and aquatic habitat benefits of geomorphically designed and constructed stream projects.

Conclusion

Streams are an ever changing part of nature. Erosion, deposition, meandering and flooding are all natural variables in a stream system. These variables rely on and affect each other and are in equilibrium in a stable system. When outside influences such as man's intervention upset one of these variables, one or more of the remaining variables will compensate or may even become exacerbated.

In the case with the lower project location, a project constructed in 2004 to demonstrate a full geomorphic stream restoration has functioned well hydraulically but some fish passage impediments were created. Although the rock cross-vane with cross-bar is currently an accepted practice it is not always necessary to construct the cross-bar component. However, since rock is sized large enough to withstand high flows situations like were created by using large rock in smaller streams can lead to fish passage impediments such as encountered at the David Post project location. As part of the learning experience, this information can be used when preparing future designs and in the education and outreach process.

At times streams adjust beyond some the boundaries we have created for them. In the case with the upper project location, the stream had migrated to a position so that it was no longer in good alignment with a large town highway culvert structure. In such situations it is necessary to assist the stream in order to prevent potential or further private and public property damage.

Geomorphic design and implementation principles and practices take advantage of the natural function of streams. By mitigating an unstable stream situation using these techniques and continuing to monitor there effectiveness, the chances of successful stream mitigation projects can be increased.

Attachment A

Budget

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				Units	ΓS	ΓS	SJ	ΓS	Ч	ΓS	ΓS	
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Palmatier							
Bid Item					T.C. Briggs		
No.		Units	Estimated Quantities	Estimate			
-	Mobilization & Demobilization	ГS		\$3,600.00	\$3,500.00		
N	Pollution Control	ГS		\$2,959.00	\$2,200.00		
m	3 De-watering	ГS		\$6,424.00	\$4,000.00		
4	t Geotextile	ГS		\$1,171.00	\$800.00		
ω)	Erosion Control Material	ΓS		\$1,092.00	\$4,050.00		
9	Stream Channel Excavation & Grading	ΓS		\$3,864.00	\$9,000.00		
2	Rock/Cross Vanes	ц	50	\$11,100.00	\$7,250.00		
ω	} Rock Riprap	SF	1,600	\$8,118.00	\$12,800.00		
0	I Live Stakes/Posts (Do week of Nov 13)	LS LS		\$792.00	\$1,500.00		
10) Seeding & Mulching	ΓS		\$2,700.00	\$3,500.00		
Mod #1	Expand scope of rock cross-vane	ΓS		\$2,320.00	\$2,320.00		
			Total Bid Price	\$44,140.00	\$50,920.00	\$0.00	
		L					

\$75,310.00 \$5,092.00 <u>\$1,500.00</u> \$68,718.00

> Less 10% Palmatier Less Incomplete Work Invoice 1 Total

\$82,780.00

Totals

H:\Working Data\Projects\Archive\Town Brook\Palmatier\Bidding_contract\Post-Palmatier_ Bid_Tabulation.xls

Attachment B

Maps

Delaware County SWCD John Palmatier and Dave Post Projects

Map 1 County Location Map



D:\gisprojects\twb\demo\SDWA_Map1.mxd

Delaware County SWCD John Palmatier and Dave Post Projects

Map 2 Town Location Map



Delaware County SWCD John Palmatier and Dave Post Projects

Map 3 John Palmatier and Dave Post Location Map



Created by DCSWCD 1-17-07 D:\gisprojects\twb\demo\SDWA_Map3.mxd Attachment C

Photographs



Photo 2: Looking upstream at Cross Vane 1 after retrofit. H:\Working Data\WestBranch SCMP\Projects\Town Brook\Dave Post\2006_Fish Passage Refit\Photos\2006\Post_Before_After_v2.doc

Post Retrofit Project Before and After Photos



Photo 4: Looking upstream at Cross Vane 2 after retrofit. H:\Working Data\WestBranch SCMP\Projects\Town Brook\Dave Post\2006_Fish Passage Refit\Photos\2006\Post_Before_After_v2.doc

Post Retrofit Project Before and After Photos



Photo 6: Looking upstream at Cross Vane 3 after retrofit. H:\Working Data\WestBranch SCMP\Projects\Town Brook\Dave Post\2006_Fish Passage Refit\Photos\2006\Post_Before_After_v2.doc

Post Retrofit Project Before and After Photos



Photo 8: Looking upstream at double Cross Vane after retrofit. H:\Working Data\WestBranch SCMP\Projects\Town Brook\Dave Post\2006_Fish Passage Refit\Photos\2006\Post_Before_After_v2.doc



Photo 10: Looking upstream at the end of the project area after construction. H:\Working Data\WestBranch SCMP\Projects\Town Brook\Dave Post\2006_Fish Passage Refit\Photos\2006\Post_Before_After_v2.doc



Photo 2: Looking downstream from upper portion of project site after construction. H:\Working Data\WestBranch SCMP\Projects\Town Brook\Palmatier\Photos\Palmatier_before_after.doc

Palmatier Before and After Photos



Photo 4: Looking upstream from Davis Road after construction. H:\Working Data\WestBranch SCMP\Projects\Town Brook\Palmatier\Photos\Palmatier_before_after.doc

Attachment D

As-built Project Drawings and Project Specifications -Post Farm



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2	No 1 DE-C-SCMP-001a	Title	Title	Approved by	ater Conservation District it Street IY 13856	ridor Management Program s Co., NY	Sheet	tream Retrofit	· / / / /









Vane

(2)

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Proposed Plan View

Vane @ 2+40



Proposed Profile





Attachment E

As-built Project Drawings and Project Specifications -Palmatier Farm



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SITE MAP















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Existing Ground

> _ Erosion Control Material

Cuts

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Elev=10;

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3. The bank key for all rock structures will be a minimum of seven feet (7) in length, unless otherwise determined by the engineer. The construction of all structures will be done in the presence of the engineer or his designee. 2. The size and placement of scour holes will be determined by the engineer. See construction specifications.

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Construction Notes



