



# Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee

## October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Meeting

### Tannersville SMP Office, Tannersville, NY

### MINUTES

**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  
Robert Janiszewski, Alt.

**Town of Windham**  
Steve Walker  
Wayne VanValin, Alt.

**Highway Superintendent**  
Erik Allen

**Educator**  
Vacant

**Fisheries Guide**  
Judd Weisberg  
Ron Urban, Alt.

**Greene County  
Legislators**  
Lori Torgersen  
Larry Gardner

**Members in attendance:** James Lawrence (Town of Ashland); David Kukle (Town of Hunter); Michael McCrary (Town of Jewett); Lynn Byrne (Education) and Beverly Dezan (Town of Lexington); Leigh McGunnigle and Bob Janiszewski (Village of Tannersville); Erik Allan (Highway Representative); Judd Weisberg and Ron Urban (Fisheries); Eric Dahlberg (Town of Conesville); Rebecca Wilburn and Val Reidman (Town of Gilboa); Lori Torgersen (Greene County Legislature); Joseph Farleigh (Town of Roxbury)

Others: Jeff Flack, Abbe Martin, Michelle Yost, Samantha Root, and Michelle McDonough (GCSWCD); Dave Burns (DEP); Joanne Noone (Conesville Resident)

Meeting chaired by Rebecca Wilburn.

1. April meeting minutes
  - a. **Resolution #8 of 2017** – motion to approve the minutes from the April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017 SWAC meeting. Motion made by David Kukle, seconded by Michael McCrary, all present in favor.
2. Abbe Martin presented the Schoharie Basin Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) Project Updates:
  - a. Education & Outreach
    - i. The EnviroScape watershed model was awarded in fall 2016 (round 14) and it reached all of the watershed schools (Hunter Elementary School, Hunter-Tannersville High School, Gilboa-Conesville Central School, and Windham-Ashland-Jewett) in its first winter/spring season. The model reached a total of 109 students in the Schoharie Watershed.
    - ii. The Hunter-Tannersville Student Photography Bus Tour was awarded in fall 2016 (round 14) and took place on Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017. There were a total of 9 photography students from Hunter-Tannersville High School who visited various watershed locations and displayed their artwork at the Mountain Top Library during Schoharie Watershed Month (May 2017).
    - iii. Schoharie Watershed Month was awarded in spring 2017 (round 15) and featured a variety of events throughout the Schoharie Watershed. These included an Arbor Day volunteer tree planting, student art exhibit, volunteer potting-up events, the annual Trout in the Classroom student trout release in Hunter, a book talk with Diane Galusha, the Invasive Species Day and lesser celandine pull at the Mountain Top Arboretum, "Hometown Habitat" film Q&A at the Orpheum, and the expanded KRT opening. These events reached a total of 244 participants.
  - b. Landowner Assistance
    - i. Batavia Kill Stream Restoration at Kastanis was awarded in spring 2017 (round 15). The project was designed to improve water quality by addressing streambank instability. A combination of rock structures and

bioengineering was used to restore approximately 4,000 feet of stream. The project was constructed in summer 2017 and bioengineering was completed in late summer into early fall 2017. The riparian buffer area was enhanced with native seed, shrubs, and trees. The buffer width ranges from 20-300 feet.

c. Highway & Infrastructure

- i. The County Route 2 Culvert on the Little West Kill was awarded in fall 2016 (round 14). This project improved conveyance and sediment transport to improve streambank and road stability. There is a new 3-sided culvert with wing walls (26'8" long by 16' wide). This culvert will accommodate 50-year and 100-year storm events.
- ii. The Mountain Top Sweeper & Vacuum Truck was awarded in SMIP rounds 1 and 12. The project partners were: Greene County Highway Department, Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC), Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District (GCSWCD), and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP). CWC awarded \$260,000 and SMIP awarded \$50,000. The truck is available for Greene County municipalities in the NYC watershed, including: towns of Ashland, Hunter, Jewett, Lexington, Prattsville, Windham, and Halcott, and the villages of Hunter and Tannersville. This truck increases the capacity of the mountaintop highway and maintenance program by reducing road abrasive material, sediment inputs, and water quality impacts to local waterways (including roadside ditches, streams, and catch basins).

d. Local Flood Analysis

- i. Conesville Local Flood Analysis was awarded in SMIP rounds 12 and 13 for a total of \$100,000. There were three study areas: Manorkill, Conesville, and West Conesville. The draft report was completed in April 2017.
- ii. Ashland Local Flood Analysis was awarded in SMIP rounds 13 and 15 for a total of \$64,880. Woidt Engineering & Consulting, P.C. is conducting the LFA. A public meeting is to be held in November 2017.
- iii. Schoharie Corridor Local Flood Analysis was awarded in SMIP rounds 14 and 15 for a total of \$170,000. Milone and MacBroom are conducting the LFA. The preliminary results of modeling and BCA have been presented to the flood advisory committee (FAC).
- iv. Question of whether or not there would be a compilation of LFA results was addressed. Each LFA is unique for each municipality. Where the LFAs align are in their recommendations for grants and programs.

3. Abbe Martin presented the SMIP Budget Update:

- a. Since the program started in 2008, there have been 15 rounds of funding with \$3,031,090.67 allocated for 71 projects. Most are complete, some are ongoing and some in-process. Break out as follows:
  - i. Landowner Assistance (9 awards): \$1,218,000.00
  - ii. Stormwater & Critical Area Seeding (4 awards): \$85,903.50
  - iii. Recreation & Habitat (8 awards): \$108,379.30
  - iv. Education & Outreach (22 awards): \$87,615.02
  - v. Planning & Assessment (5 awards): \$143,259.35
  - vi. Highway & Infrastructure (12 awards): \$735,331.00
  - vii. Flood Hazard Mitigation (11 awards): \$652,602.50
- b. SMIP Round 16 applications were submitted by September 15, 2017

4. Abbe Martin presented on the following Round 16 SMIP Applications:
  - a. **Education & Outreach**
    - i. **Environmental Awareness Movie Series at the Mountain Top Library**
      1. Funding Requested: \$500
      2. In-kind Contribution: \$240
      3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the level requested.*
      4. **Resolution #9 of 2017** – motion to approve request by Joseph Farleigh, seconded by Judd Weisberg, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$500 in funding for the Environmental Awareness Movie Series at the Mountain Top Library.
    - b. **Landowner Assistance**
      - i. **Batavia Kill Restoration at Red Falls – Phase 1**
        1. Funding Requested: Two applications for \$150,000 each
        2. In-kind Contribution: \$0
        3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the level requested.*
        4. **Resolution #10 of 2017** – motion to approve request by Lynn.Byrne, seconded by Eric Dahlberg, James Lawrence abstained, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$150,000 in funding for first application for the Batavia Kill Restoration at Red Falls – Phase 1.
        5. **Resolution #11 of 2017** – motion to approve request by Mike McCrary, seconded by Erik Allen, James Lawrence abstained, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$150,000 in funding for second application for the Batavia Kill Restoration at Red Falls – Phase 1.
    - c. **Planning & Assessment**
      - i. **Mountain Top Arboretum Education Center Rain Garden**
        1. Funding Requested: \$7,660
        2. In-kind Contribution: \$0
        3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the level requested.*
        4. **Resolution #12 of 2017** – motion to approve request by James Lawrence, seconded by Judd Weisberg, David Kukle abstained, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$7,660 in funding for the Mountain Top Arboretum Education Center Rain Garden.
    - d. **Highway & Infrastructure**
      - i. **Stream Crossing Design**
        1. Funding Requested: \$75,000
        2. In-kind Contribution: \$0
        3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the level requested.*
        4. **Resolution #13 of 2017** – motion to approve request by Judd Weisberg, seconded by Lynn Byrne, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$75,000 for the Stream Crossing Design application.
  5. Other Items
    - a. Schoharie Watershed Summit
      - i. The 2018 Schoharie Watershed Summit planning is underway
        1. Event will most likely take place in April 2018
        2. Credits will be available for planning and zoning board members.
    - b. SMIP Application Informational Session

- i. We are planning to host a casual SMIP Information Session in early February 2018 to assist those interested in applying for SMIP funding. Interested individuals are welcome to attend the training, which will be held in the Tannersville WAP Office. We are hoping to give individuals a chance to ask questions about SMIP, bring in application ideas to see if they might be eligible for future funding, and to learn more about how to fill out the SMIP funding applications. More information about this will be coming in an e-mail blast closer to the event date. Spread the word!
- c. Municipality Updates
  - i. Trout Unlimited update about fish crossing
    - 1. Cobleskill students received a \$4,000 grant to design four portable passage ways to improve fish passage through perched culverts.

*Next meeting: Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 location TBD*