



Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee

October 26th, 2016 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
Don Murray, Alt.

Highway Superintendent
Erik Allen

Educator
Elizabeth LoGiudice

Fisheries Guide
Judd Weisberg

**Greene County
Legislators**
Lori Torgersen
Larry Gardner

Members in attendance: Eric Dahlberg (Town of Conesville); Val Reidman and Rebecca Wilburn (Town of Gilboa); Michael McCrary (Town of Jewett); Lynne Byrne (Town of Lexington); Bob Janiszewski (Village of Tannersville); Steve Walker (Town of Windham); Erik Allen (Highway Superintendent); Judd Weisberg (Fisheries Guide); Elizabeth LoGiudice (Educator); Lori Torgersen (Greene County Legislator)

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

Meeting chaired by Rebecca Wilburn.

1. SMIP Project Updates

- Jake Buchanan gave an educational presentation on the recent Schoharie Creek Streambank Stabilization and Riparian Restoration at Kozak Project. This project was partially funded through SMIP and partially through the GCSWCD/DEP Contract.
- Samantha Root gave an educational presentation on E&O updates
 - 7th Annual Schoharie Watershed Month (May 2016)
 - Stream Crossing Workshop (September 2016)
 - GCSWCD has copies of the PowerPoint presentations given at the workshop and can provide them to municipalities that were not able to attend.
- Michelle Yost gave a summary on Local Flood Analysis (LFA) updates
 - LFA program began after Hurricane Irene and is designed to use hydraulic analysis in conjunction with a community process to identify measures that will reduce flood elevations/damages at the community scale.
 - Funding available in our Stream Management Program budget to conduct Local Flood Analysis (LFA)
 - Based on what these studies show, if there are cost effective projects that would reduce surface water in population centers, the community has access to funds for the projects.
 - Completed LFAs in the Schoharie Watershed include Prattsville, Lexington and Windham with LFA's started in Conesville, Ashland, Hunter, Tannersville and Village of Hunter.
 - Outcomes of the LFAs can vary. Sometimes there may not be anything that can be done to offer relief for the community. On the other hand, in some communities, there is the potential for some really significant flood mitigation and then it is up to the community to determine if they would like to take advantage of the program.

- Windham, GNH relocation out of the floodway has been supported by the Town, and can be a showcase project for the Flood Hazard Mitigation program.
- SWAC has added a Flood Hazard Mitigation category to the Stream Management Implementation Program funding categories. More information may be found at <http://catskillstreams.org/lfa>
 - Rebecca Wilburn added that conducting Local Flood Analysis is critical for getting State and Federal matching funding.
- Abbe Martin gave a summarized presentation on two previously approved applications completed this year:
- Cranberry Road Culvert Replacement, Town of Hunter
 - The project resulted in replacement of an undersized and perched culvert that was causing up-and-downstream instability. The Town of Hunter and FEMA shared in the cost, and the GCSWCD provided construction oversight.
- Conine Recreation Field Fishing Gateway in Prattsville.
 - This project's primary goal was to improve access to the Schoharie Creek for fishing and other recreational uses.
 - The SWAC supported components of the park included signage, the material used along the streambank to prevent erosion and provide a location for fishing, the grading, tree planting and shrub clearing, and project installation.

2. Abbe Martin presented the budget updates:

- **SMIP Budget Update**
 - Since the program started in 2008, there have been 13 rounds of funding with \$2,543,242.67 allocated for 57 projects. Most are complete, some are ongoing and some in process. Break out as follows:
 - Landowner Assistance (7 awards): \$1,050,000.00
 - Stormwater & Critical Area Seeding (3 awards): \$72,285.50
 - Recreation & Habitat (8 awards): \$108,379.30
 - Education & Outreach (17 awards): \$75,315.02
 - Planning & Assessment (5 awards): \$143,259.35
 - Highway & Infrastructure (10 awards): \$626,281.00
 - Flood Hazard Mitigation (7 awards): \$467,722.50
 - SMIP Round 14 applications were submitted by September 15, 2016

3. Abbe Martin presented on the following SMIP Round 14 Applications:

- **Education & Outreach**
 - **Hunter-Tannersville Student Photography Trip**
 - Funding Requested: \$600
 - *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the level requested.*
 - **Resolution #6 of 2016** – motion to approve request by Steve Walker, seconded by Bob Janiszewski, all present in favor. Committee approved \$600 in funding for the Hunter-Tannersville Student Photography Trip.
 - **Enviroscape Watershed Education Model**
 - Funding Requested: \$900
 - *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the level requested.*
 - Lynn Byrne suggested purchasing two models for use by watershed schools.
 - i. Could be a very popular request from teachers/schools.

- ii. Samantha Root and SWAC members agreed to see how much use the first model gets and come back to SWAC in a future round to approve the purchase of more models as needed.
 - Samantha will reach out to the watershed schools ASAP to let them know that the model is available for use.
 - **Resolution #7 of 2016** – motion to approve request by Judd Weisberg, seconded by Erik Allen, all present in favor. Committee approved \$900 in funding for the purchase of an Enviroscape Watershed Education Model.
- **Landowner Assistance**
 - **Rion Stream Restoration Assessment and Design**
 - Funding Requested: \$18,000
 - In-kind Contribution: \$1,000
 - *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the level requested.*
 - **Resolution #8 of 2016** – motion to approve request by Liz LoGiudice, seconded by Lynn Byrne, all present in favor. Committee approved \$18,000 in funding for the Rion Stream Restoration Assessment and Design.
 - **Planning & Assessment**
 - **Assessing the Effectiveness of an Economical Fish-passage Device for Perched Culverts in the Schoharie Creek Watershed**
 - Funding Requested: \$65,914
 - In-kind Contribution: \$21,971
 - *GCSWCD staff recommendation to consider the cost of the project and that there may be alternative options to lowering the cost.*
 - i. Trout Unlimited, SUNY Delhi, or SUNY Cobleskill could be involved in the project.
 - 1. We could use high school or college volunteers for tagging efforts instead of USGS staff.
 - 2. SUNY Cobleskill has a fisheries program that could be interested in this type of work.
 - ii. The main cost for this project is in the research study. The actual culvert device is \$4,834.
 - The majority of SWAC Habitat and Recreation Subcommittee are in support of the project.
 - i. Lynn Byrne, a member of the SWAC Habitat and Recreation Subcommittee, does not support the project.
 - 1. Open to support other initiatives.
 - 2. This project is very costly and experimental
 - 3. There is a lot of data from NY and VT on this device and it has worked.
 - a. Bob Janiszewski asked the question of why this is listed as a study instead of a project.
 - i. Since USGS is the applicant, their primary focus is research.
 - b. If the data already exists, it could be considered a project to install the devices without the need for the study.
 - **Resolution #9 of 2016** – motion to table request by Judd Weisberg, seconded by Bob Janiszewski, all present in favor. Committee agreed to table the request for

the project “Assessing the Effectiveness of an Economical Fish-passage Device for Perched Culverts in the Schoharie Creek Watershed”, and send it back to the Habitat and Recreation Subcommittee to consider the options above.

- **Highway & Infrastructure**

- **County Route 2 Culvert Little West Kill**

- Funding Requested: \$100,000
 - In-kind Contribution: \$75,000
 - *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the level requested.*
 - Lynn Byrne asked the question about what standards Greene County Highway is required to follow for fish passage.
 - i. They must apply for permits which review aquatic passage (checked by GCSWCD and NYCDEP).
 - Erik Allen asked the question about whether or not there would be a chance of realigning the road and stream with the culvert replacement.
 - i. Yes, that is part of the process. Sometimes the culverts need to be lengthened to improve the alignment.
 - **Resolution #10 of 2016** – motion to approve request by Erik Allen, seconded by Steve Walker, all present in favor. Committee approved \$100,000 in funding for the County Route 2 Culvert (Little West Kill).

- **Recreation & Habitat**

- **Windham Path – Phase 3**

- Funding Requested: \$28,400
 - In-kind Contribution: \$166,800
 - Funding would go toward the construction of foot bridges, signage, and an educational kiosk.
 - *GCSWCD staff recommendation to work with the Windham Area Recreation Foundation (WARF) to close out Windham Path Phase 2 grant and resubmit application in next round.*
 - Application was not entirely complete. More application materials, and a new request, were submitted this afternoon with no time to be reviewed by staff or the Committee.
 - i. Map of the location of proposed bridges, kiosk and signage were requested for the Committee to review.
 - 1. Maps had been made by GCSWCD for the other two phases of the Windham Path project.
 - 2. GCSWCD is happy to continue to help with map development and support as needed for this Phase 3 project.
 - ii. According to Torgersen, the kiosk and signage will be placed on town owned land.
 - iii. It’s important for SWAC to have the details about what the funding request includes and additional information, such as location, design and materials, is needed for approval of the trail and bridge.
 - iv. Lori Torgersen confirmed that the close out information from the Windham Path Phase 2 project was provided to GCSWCD as of the date of this meeting.

- The next SWAC meeting is in April, since construction won't start before then, the GCSWCD staff can work with WARF to nail down the details for their application for Phase 3 and amend the application as necessary
- There is a \$25,000 funding cap on this category.
 - i. \$3,800 can come from Education & Outreach funding for kiosk and signage
 - ii. There is a question about whether or not this would require two separate applications if the funding is coming from two categories.
 1. The answer is yes, generally two applications would be needed when applying for funding from two different categories.
- SWAC could make a motion to approve \$3,800 for the kiosk (contingent on walking trail approval) and table the remainder of the funding request until another round when the complete application is ready to be submitted.
 - i. This would mean funding the development of a kiosk for a trailhead that doesn't exist and is not yet approved.
 - ii. The signage for the kiosk can be printed and used on display at the WARF February fundraiser (with appropriate acknowledgement on the display material).
- **Resolution #11 of 2016** – motion to split the funding sources into two categories and approve the \$3,800 in funding for the development of the kiosk and signage now (with Education & Outreach funding) with the installation of the kiosk being contingent on the approval of the trail and table the other parts of the project until the April SWAC meeting by Michael McCrary, seconded by Bob Janiszewski, Lori Torgersen abstained, all other present members in favor. Committee approved the request for a kiosk and signage to be developed now and tabled the remainder of the Windham Path Phase 3 application until April 2017.
- **Flood Hazard Mitigation**
 - **Schoharie Corridor Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis**
 - Funding Requested: \$100,000
 - In-kind Contribution: \$19,000
 - *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
 - Michael McCrary asked whether or not this category has a funding cap.
 - i. There is no funding cap for studies.
 - There is funding available for those who have completed these studies.
 - **Resolution #12 of 2016** – motion to approve request by Steve Walker, seconded by Bob Janiszewski, Michael McCrary abstained, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$100,000 in funding for the Schoharie Corridor Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis.
- **Innovative Stormwater (SW)**
 - **Kaaterskill United Methodist Church Stormwater/Rain Harvesting Project**
 - Funding Requested: \$28,929 (Round 14 \$15,311; increase of \$13,618)
 - In-kind Contribution: \$14,960
 - *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*

- This project was already approved in a previous round for \$15,311 and that quote was based on GCSWCD doing the work in-house. Changes in the plan, and need to connect to the NYSDOT drainage network, have caused a need for the increase in funding by another \$13,618 before the project goes out to bid in January or February.
- SWAC is voting on whether or not to approve the increase of \$13,618 for the project.
- SWAC does not have the stormwater category anymore because the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) handles this type of funding for the watershed.
- The funding for this project will come from the contingency funds.
- *Note: Following the meeting, it was realized that the funding requested was greater than what was presented to the SWAC. When the project goes out to bid and the actual costs of the project are known, there may be a need to seek approval for additional funding.*
- **Resolution #13 of 2016** – motion to approve request by Michael McCrary, seconded by Lynn Byrne, all present in favor. Committee approved the increase of \$13,618 in funding for the Kaaterskill United Methodist Church Stormwater/Rain Harvesting Project out of the contingency funds.

4. Other:

- Update on Schoharie Watershed Summit 2017 Planning
 - First planning committee met on October 19th, 2016.
 - Summit date will tentatively be scheduled on a Saturday in March.
 - Summit theme is shaping up to be about climate change, drought, extreme weather events, etc.
 - Looking for good keynote speakers.
 - If anyone knows any dynamic speakers who can discuss the topics listed for theme possibilities, please let us know.
 - Several planning committee members will be attending the Catskill Environmental Research and Monitoring (CERM) conference and scoping out presenters at that event.
 - Next planning committee meeting on Wednesday, November 16th, 2016.
- Municipality Updates
 - No updates mentioned.

Next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 26th, 2017. Location to be determined. Round 15 SMIP applications due on March 15th, 2017.