



Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee

October 24th, 2018 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); Eric Dahlberg (Town of Conesville); Rebecca Wilburn (Town of Gilboa); Michael McCrary (Town of Jewett); Beverly Dezan (Town of Lexington); Robert Janiszewski (Village of Tannersville); Steve Walker (Town of Windham); Judd Weisberg (Fisheries Guide).

Others: Jeff Flack, Samantha Root, and Michelle McDonough (GCSWCD); Dave Burns (DEP);

Meeting chaired by Rebecca Wilburn.

1. April meeting minutes
 - a. **Resolution #12 of 2018** – motion to approve the minutes from the April 25th, 2018 SWAC meeting. Motion made by Michael McCrary, seconded by Steve Walker, all present in favor.
2. Schoharie Basin Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) Project Updates for 2018:
 - a. Education & Outreach
 - i. Continued use of the EnviroScape® (funded in Round 14) at watershed schools has reached approximately 85 students so far in 2018
 1. Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School visit in April 2018
 2. Hunter Elementary School visit in May 2018
 - ii. 9th Annual Schoharie Watershed Month (funded in Round 17) reached approximately 147 attendees in 2018 with the following events:
 1. Annual Student Art Exhibit
 2. "Spring in Spruceton" Photography Walk with Francis X. Driscoll
 3. Mountain Top Library's Eco-Friendly Story Time & Craft Hour
 4. Hunter Elementary School's Trout in the Classroom Release
 5. Mountain Top Arboretum's Invasive Species Day
 6. Hunter Branch Rail Trail Educational Walk & Talk
 7. Mountain Top Arboretum's Volunteer Appreciation Day and Native Shrub Planting
 8. Mountain Top Arboretum's Bog Tour
 - b. Landowner Assistance
 - i. Kastanis (funded in Round 15)
 1. Batavia Kill stream restoration project
 2. Project Goals:
 - a. Reduce impacts from fine sediment loading.
 - b. Reduce bank migration and provide lateral stability.
 - c. Provide a healthy riparian buffer.
 - d. Reduce impact on aquatic and terrestrial habitat.
 - e. Improve aesthetic values of a natural stream channel.
 3. Project updates for 2018:

- a. High amount of rain in 2018 was good for the plants at the site; but not good for construction.
 - b. Japanese knotweed treatment undertaken in 2017 and again in 2018 has, so far, been even more successful than anticipated.
- c. Planning & Assessment
 - i. Mountain Top Arboretum's Rain Garden
 - 1. Trees and shrubs are planted
 - 2. Herbaceous plantings will be planted in spring 2019
- d. Highway & Infrastructure
 - i. County Route 2 Culvert on Tributary to Little West Kill (funded in Round 17)
 - 1. Design complete, but too late in year to purchase prefab culvert. Construction to begin in 2019
 - ii. County Route 78 Culvert on Tributary to East Kill (funded in Round 17)
 - 1. Design at 60%; Construction to begin in 2019
 - iii. A question regarding the consideration in County Route 56 for a future project was addressed. It is expected be completed through New York State Rising in 2019.
- e. Recreation & Habitat
 - i. Ashland Town Park (funded in Round 13) enhancements
 - 1. Grading
 - 2. Planting in 2019
 - 3. Knotweed control
 - a. Mechanical control
 - b. Following up with herbicide treatment for JKW control
 - ii. A question about the impact of runoff into the stream after an herbicide treatment was addressed. When completing herbicide treatments, technicians use a type of Round Up which is more suitable for riparian zones. Also, they do as much spot spraying of individual plants as possible and avoid spraying herbicide before expected rainfall. The district has recently been averaging approximately 2 gallons of herbicide per year.
- f. Flood Hazard Mitigation
 - i. Manor Kill Floodplain Enhancement (funded in Round 17)
 - 1. The house was removed this past summer through CWC, which allowed for MMI to conduct additional soil testing
 - 2. Some PCB contaminated soil was found
 - 3. The design is at the 60% stage
 - ii. LFA Updates
 - 1. Prattsville – *completed*
 - 2. Lexington – *completed*
 - 3. Windham – *completed*
 - 4. Tannersville – *completed*
 - 5. Conesville – *completed*
 - 6. Ashland – *in progress*
 - a. Final draft has been submitted, reviewed by the committee, and is now in finalization.
 - 7. Hunter – *in progress*
 - a. Final draft has been submitted, reviewed by the committee, and is now in finalization.
 - 8. Jewett – *TBD*
 - iii. A question regarding why Jewett is still TBD was addressed. Jewett does not have a hamlet area that is adjacent to the stream and a considerable amount of area has been restored already.

3. SMIP Budget Update

- a. Since the program started in 2008, there have been 17 rounds of funding with 86 awards allocated, totaling \$3,844,545.17. Most are complete, some are ongoing, and some are in-process. Break out of funds allocated to date are as follows:
 - i. Education & Outreach (26 awards): \$91,935.89
 - ii. Landowner Stream Assistance (12 awards): \$1,668,433.60
 - iii. Highway & Infrastructure (16 awards): \$916,233.72
 - iv. Stormwater & Critical Area Seeding (4 awards): \$83,132.00
 - v. Planning & Assessment (6 awards): \$140,161.49
 - vi. Recreation & Habitat (10 awards): \$120,726.94
 - vii. Flood Hazard Mitigation (12 awards): \$823,921.53
- b. Questions
 - i. SMIP Round 18 applications were submitted by September 15, 2018.
 - ii. There was a question about the funding cycle. There is a five year funding cycle which is based on the contract with the NYC DEP.
 - iii. There was a question concerning what SWAC members could do to encourage more applications. SWAC members should inform their municipalities, including town boards, about the funding opportunities available. Potential applications are actively sought out through Stream Feature Inventories, which are completed annually on streams throughout the Schoharie watershed, distributed outreach materials, and the SMIP Information Session completed in February 2018.
 - iv. A question regarding the outreach to landowners for the Landowner Assistance category was addressed. GCSWCD responds to individual landowner complaints, follows up with onsite inspection, and makes recommendation to submit an application, if suitable. Sometimes, landowner property issues do not rank high enough on the SMIP project rating system to qualify for funding. GCSWCD may also reach out to individual landowners, if there is a potential project discovered during the Stream Feature Inventories.
 - v. There was a question about whether the funding cap for each category is a program cap or self-imposed by SWAC and whether SWAC members can vote to increase the cap of a category to move funds. The funding cap for each category is self-imposed by SWAC. The funding cap on a category can be increased through a vote. This situation has happened in the past, most recently in the Hunter Corridor LFA.

4. Round 18 SMIP Application:

- a. **Recreation & Habitat**
 - i. **Hunter Brook Fishing Access and Habitat Enhancement Project – Phase 1**
 1. Funding Requested: \$25,000
 2. In-kind Contribution: \$25,000 plus an additional \$15,000 in other grants
 3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
 4. **Resolution #13 of 2018** – motion to approve request by Judd Weisberg, seconded by Bob Janiszewski, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$25,000 for the Hunter Brook Fishing Access and Habitat Enhancement Project – Phase 1.

5. Other Items

- a. SWAC Reappointment Letters for 2019
 - i. The SWAC reappointment letters for 2019-2020 term will be going out in December 2018

1. Municipalities have until March 2019 to reappointment new SWAC representatives or continue to have the same representatives appointed
 - b. Questions
 - i. There was a question about how sub-committees for Highway are formed. Individuals from the towns are informed and those interested can volunteer to be part of the sub-committee.
 - c. Municipality Updates
 - i. Town of Windham: An expansion of the recreational trails in Maplecrest, adjacent to the Batavia Kill, is expected to continue.
6. Motion to adjourn made by Eric Dahlberg, seconded Beverly Dezan, all other present members in favor.

Next meeting: Wednesday, April 24th, 2019 location TBD