



# Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee

## April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 Meeting

### Mountain Top Arboretum, Tannersville, NY

### MINUTES

**Town of Ashland**  
James Lawrence

**Town of Conesville**  
Eric Dahlberg  
Bill Federice, Alt.

**Town of Gilboa**  
Rebecca Wilburn  
Val Riedman, Alt.

**Town of Hunter**  
David Kukle  
Sean Mahoney, Alt.

**Village of Hunter**  
Benjamin Sommers  
Alan Higgins, Alt.

**Town of Jewett**  
Michael McCrary  
Jim Pellitteri, Alt.

**Town of Lexington**  
Lynn Byrne  
Beverly Dezan, Alt.

**Town of Prattsville**  
Christine Owad

**Town of Roxbury**  
TBD

**Village of Tannersville**  
George Bain Jr.  
Robert Janiszewski,  
Alt.

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

**Highway &  
Infrastructure  
Subcommittee**  
Erik Allan

**Education &  
Outreach  
Subcommittee**  
Connor Young

**Members in attendance:** James Lawrence (Town of Ashland); Eric Dahlberg (Town of Conesville); Rebecca Wilburn (Town of Gilboa); David Kukle (Town of Hunter); Sean Mahoney (Town of Hunter); Lynn Byrne (Town of Lexington); Beverly Dezan (Town of Lexington); Christine Owad (Town of Prattsville); George Bain Jr. (Village of Tannersville); Robert Janiszewski (Village of Tannersville); Steve Walker (Town of Windham); Erik Allan (Highway Superintendent); Connor Young (Educator); Judd Weisberg (Fisheries Guide).

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

Meeting chaired by Rebecca Wilburn – motion made by David Kukle, seconded by James Lawrence, all present in favor.

1. October meeting minutes
  - a. **Resolution #1 of 2019** – motion to approve the minutes from the October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 SWAC meeting. Motion made by James Lawrence, seconded by Steve Walker, George Bain abstained, all other present members in favor.
2. SMIP Project Updates:
  - a. Education & Outreach
    - i. Continued use of the EnviroScape® (funded in Round 14) at watershed schools reached approximately 85 students in 2018 at the following schools:
      1. Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School visit
      2. Hunter Elementary School
    - ii. 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Schoharie Watershed Month (funded in Round 17) was a success in May 2018.
    - iii. Purchase of the Ward's® Stormwater Floodplain Simulation System (funded in Round 17) was completed in 2018 and the model is now ready to be used in school visits & outreach events.
    - iv. Environmental Awareness Movie Series at the Mountain Top Library (funded in Round 16) was completed in 2018.
    - v. Bowery Creek Training Facility Curriculum Development for Onsite Field Trainings (funded in Round 15) is currently in-progress.
  - b. Highway & Infrastructure
    - i. Mountain Top Highway Ditch Stabilization Program (funded in Round 12) is still active
      1. Continue the \$50,000 fund through SMIP to utilize more substantial treatments in steeper terrain.
      2. GCSWCD continues to work with highway departments to vegetate highway ditching.
        - a. In 2018, 53 sites were treated in the Schoharie watershed totaling 12.3 miles.
    - ii. Hunter Wetlands Leachate Treatment System Remediation

*A program of the  
Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District and NYCDEP*

1. Hunter Wetlands Leachate Treatment System Remediation – Engineering (funded in Rounds 13 & 15)
2. Hunter Wetlands Leachate Treatment System Remediation – Implementation (funded in Round 15)
- iii. County Route 2 Culvert on Tributary to Little West Kill (funded in Round 17)
- iv. County Route 78 Culvert on Tributary to East Kill (funded in Round 17)
  1. Question:
    - a. David Kukle - What is the plan for access to the primitive camp up CR 78 while the project is ongoing?
      - i. Jeff Flack - The plan is to temporarily bypass the site, this makes the project much more expensive.
- c. Landowner Assistance
  - i. County Route 78 Culvert on Tributary to East Kill Bed Stabilization (funded in Round 17)
  - ii. Batavia Kill at Red Falls (funded in Round 16)
- d. Recreation & Habitat
  - i. Mountain Top Arboretum Rain Gardens
    1. Mountain Top Arboretum Education Center Rain Garden Design (funded in Round 16 – Planning & Assessment)
    2. Mountain Top Arboretum Rain Garden Implementation (funded in Round 17 – Habitat & Recreation)
      - a. Partially completed
      - b. All rain gardens have been constructed and have shown to be working well with the heavy rains we had in fall 2018.
      - c. 75% of trees and shrubs were planted in fall 2018; remaining plants and perennials to be planted in spring 2019.
    3. Lexington Riverfront Access Park (funded in Round 11)
      - a. Lynn Byrne - The Lexington park project is complete and the next step is to deal with the Knotweed.
    4. Hunter Brook Fishing Access and Habitat Enhancement Project (funded in Round 18)
- e. Flood Hazard Mitigation
  - i. LFA Updates
    1. Prattsville – *completed*
    2. Lexington – *completed*
    3. Windham – *completed*
    4. Tannersville – *completed*
    5. Conesville – *completed*
    6. Ashland – *completed*
    7. Hunter – *completed*
    8. Jewett – *TBD*
      - a. Question:
        - i. Lynn Byrne - What are the next steps after the LFA's are complete?
          1. Jeff Flack - Municipalities should look through LFA's and see what is possible.
          2. Rebecca Wilburn - look through emergency services to see what other funding is available.

### 3. Action Plan

***A program of the  
Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District and NYCDEP***

- a. Provides the Schoharie Watershed Stream Management Program's activities, projects and programs that are planned for 2019-2021 as well as program accomplishments.
- b. Comments from Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee due May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.

4. SMIP Budget Update

- a. Since the program started in 2008, there have been 18 rounds of funding with 88 awards allocated, totaling \$3,567,259.98. 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): \$91,736.85
  - ii. Landowner Stream Assistance (12 awards): \$1,376,074.96
  - iii. Highway & Infrastructure (17 awards): \$896,683.72
  - iv. Stormwater & Critical Area Seeding (4 awards): \$83,132.00
  - v. Planning & Assessment (6 awards): \$149,700.97
  - vi. Recreation & Habitat (11 awards): \$146,009.95
  - vii. Flood Hazard Mitigation (12 awards): \$823,921.53

5. Round 19 SMIP Application:

a. **Education & Outreach**

i. **Mountain Top Arboretum Emerald Bog Boardwalk and Education**

- 1. Funding Requested: \$8,533.00
- 2. In-kind Contribution: \$1,125.00
- 3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
- 4. **Resolution #2 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested by David Kukle, seconded by Lynn Byrne, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$8,533.00 for the Mountain Top Arboretum Emerald Boardwalk and Education.

ii. **10<sup>th</sup> Annual Schoharie Watershed Month (May 2019)**

- 1. Funding Requested: \$2,150.00
- 2. In-kind Contribution: \$0.00
- 3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
- 4. **Resolution #3 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested by James Lawrence, seconded by Steve Walker, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$2,150.00 for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Schoharie Watershed Month (May 2019).

b. **Landowner Assistance**

i. **East Kill Streambank Stabilization near CR 78**

- 1. Funding Requested: \$150,000.00
- 2. In-kind Contribution: \$530,000.00
- 3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
- 4. Questions
  - a. Rebecca Wilburn - Do you look at historical photos of the location and make an attempt to restore the stream to how it was previously?  
Jeff Flack - It is taken into consideration, but we try to work with the natural channel. We look to correct the sins of the past, berms, confinement, dams, etc.
  - b. George Bain - Is this private property, and do the landowners have the means to handle it themselves?  
Jeff Flack - The landowners do not have the means to pay for it themselves, it is funded through grants, and

their contribution would be maintaining plants and allowing access for monitoring.

c. George Bain - Are we trying to clean the water?

Jeff Flack - Yes, we try to focus on water quality.

5. **Resolution #4 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested by Judd Weisberg, seconded by Erik Allen, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$150,000.00 for the East Kill Streambank Stabilization near CR 78.

c. **Planning & Assessment**

i. **Beech Ridge Road Embankment Stabilization Project**

1. Funding Requested: \$30,000.00
2. In-kind Contribution: \$0.00
3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
4. Questions
  - a. David Kukle – Is there no cap (for this project)?  
Jeff Flack – This was never paid out during the first contract. After the funding cycle, the money disappears.
  - b. Sean Mahoney - Does all money funded this round have to be used by the end of this year/contract?  
Jeff Flack - Yes.
  - c. Michelle Yost - When was this project originally funded?  
Jeff Flack - Round 10.
5. **Resolution #5 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested by James Lawrence, seconded by Erik Allen, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$30,000.00 for the Beech Ridge Road Embankment Stabilization Project.

d. **Highway & Infrastructure**

i. **Schoharie Watershed Stream Crossing/Culvert Engineering Fund**

1. Funding Requested: \$24,000.00
2. In-kind Contribution: \$0.00
3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
4. Questions
  - a. Lynn Byrne - Is that amount of money enough to finish a project?  
Jeff Flack - Yes, that amount of money is enough to finish the project.
5. **Resolution #6 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested by Erik Allen, seconded by Christine Owad, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$24,000.00 for the Schoharie Watershed Stream Crossing/Culvert Engineering Fund.

e. **Recreation & Habitat**

i. **Hunter Branch Rail Trail**

1. Funding Requested: \$60,000.00
2. In-kind Contribution: \$96,000.00 (anticipated from future grants)
3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at the cap for the Habitat & Recreation Category (\$25,000.00) with funding contingent on award of anticipated grants.*
4. Questions/Discussion
  - a. Motion to fund at cap for the Habitat and Recreation Category by George Bain, seconded by Steve Walker, David Kukle abstained, all other present members in favor.
  - b. David Kukle - Description of project doesn't describe importance. Last piece of puzzle of long trail through Hunter/Tannersville. Organization has no money. Met multiple times with NYCDEP, and the reason the bridge

costs so much is because it spans the creek without disturbing the streambed or banks. If project funded at \$60,000, the hope would be that would help in getting later grants.

- c. Michelle Yost – The application is in Hunter’s name, but really involves multiple villages and organizations. Looking for smart growth grants, and that would be paid out in September. The money from the contract would be gone if we don’t spend it.
- d. Beverly Dezan – Is this the trail off of Ski Bowl Road? Group – Yes
- e. Jeff Flack – The question is that if the funds could be spent before the end of the year, and there is also another round in the fall. Also, the Flood Hazard Mitigation funds cannot be moved into other projects that do not involve flood hazard. By the fall, we should know if the smart growth was awarded. The extra money (left over if this project is funded at category cap) could be used on other projects before the end of the year.
- f. Michelle Yost – If there could be a contingency that \$60,000.00 would be awarded in the event the smart growth grant is awarded.
- g. George Bain – Did we (SWAC) make the category cap, and if so, could we move it?  
Jeff Flack – Yes, SWAC made the cap and adjustments have been made previously, particularly after Tropical Storm Irene.
- h. Sean Mahoney – Can we take the funds from Education and Outreach?  
Rebecca Wilburn – If we did that, we would go into the negative.
- i. Motion to amend funding amount to fund project at the level requested (\$60,000.00), with funding contingent on the award of anticipated grants, by Lynn Byrne, seconded by George Bain, David Kukle abstained, all other present members in favor.
- j. Rebecca Wilburn - Do we need to discuss where we take the funds out of?  
Jeff Flack – We have before, recommended to take it out of Education & Outreach.

- 5. **Resolution #7 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested, with funding contingent on the award of anticipated grants, depleting the Habitat & Recreation category and taking remaining amount out of Education & Outreach category by Rebecca Wilburn, seconded by Erik Allen, David Kukle abstained, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$60,000.00 contingent on the award of anticipated grants coming jointly from the Recreation & Habitat and Education & Outreach categories for the Hunter Branch Rail Trail.

ii. **Huntersfield Creek Falls Trail**

- 1. Funding Requested: \$8,000.00
- 2. In-kind Contribution: \$4,550.00
- 3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
- 4. Questions/Discussion
  - a. David Kukle is board member for Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
  - b. Who would do maintenance? Church.

- c. Where does trail start? Across from dam.
      - d. Rebecca Wilburn – Buyout property cannot go back to housing.
    - 5. **Resolution #8 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested by David Kukle, seconded by Eric Dahlberg, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$8,000.00 for the Huntersfield Creek Falls Trail.
  - f. **Flood Hazard Mitigation**
    - i. **Sawmill Creek Channel Assessment**
      - 1. Funding Requested: \$50,000.00
      - 2. In-kind Contribution: \$3,000.00
      - 3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund up to \$50,000.00 dependent on scope of services to be developed, which will be competitively bid.*
      - 4. Questions
        - a. Sean Mahoney – What is a SFI? We modeled the area near the railroad avenue bridge during the LFA  
Michelle Yost – This is looking at stream erosion
      - 5. **Resolution #9 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested, dependent on scope of services to be developed, by Judd Weisberg, seconded by David Kukle, George Bain abstained, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$50,000.00 for the Sawmill Creek Channel Assessment.
    - ii. **Manor Kill Floodplain Enhancement**
      - 1. Funding Requested: \$290,800.00
      - 2. In-kind Contribution: \$0.00
      - 3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
      - 4. Questions
        - a. Rebecca Wilburn – Were the caps decided by this committee, and can they be changed? They can be changed.
      - 5. **Resolution #10 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested by Jim Lawrence, seconded by Steve Walker, Eric Dahlberg abstained, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$290,800.00 for the Manor Kill Floodplain Enhancement.
  - g. **Innovative Storm Water (SW)**
    - i. **Kaaterskill United Methodist Church Storm Water/Rain Harvesting Project**
      - 1. Funding Requested: \$75,191.40
      - 2. In-kind Contribution: \$0.00
      - 3. *GCSWCD staff recommendation to fund at level requested.*
      - 4. Questions
        - a. Lynn Byrne – The total amount is \$100,000 for that project.
        - b. Rebecca Wilburn – What are the mitigation techniques?  
Jeff Flack – Rain gardens, and tying into the DOT storm water system.
      - 5. **Resolution #11 of 2019** – motion to fund at level requested by David Kukle, seconded by George Bain, all other present members in favor. Committee approved \$75,191.40 for the Kaaterskill United Methodist Church Storm Water/Rain Harvesting Project.
6. Other Items
  - a. Confirmed SWAC member contact information.
  - b. Schoharie Watershed Month (May 2019)

c. Municipality Updates

d. Questions

i. Christine Owad – Were there any projects that did not get enough funding because they were not considered worthy?

Jeff Flack– Not really under this program, we often just need more clarification.

7. Motion to adjourn made by Eric Dahlberg, seconded Steve Walker, all other present members in favor.

*Next meeting: Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 location TBD*