

Project Advisory Committee Meeting  
District Office  
April 3, 2014

**Members Present:**

Thomas Axtell, Town of Deposit Supervisor  
Bruce Dolph, Town of Walton Supervisor  
Alan Reynolds, Town of Halcott Rep.  
Dale Downin, Del. Co. Codes  
Phil Eskeli, NYC DEP  
Carol O'Beirne, Central Catskill Chamber  
Steve Swenson, NYS DEC  
Tom Little, CEO Village of Delhi/Hobart  
Greg Krzyston, Village of Delhi  
Shelly Johnson, Del. Co. Planning  
Marjorie Miller, Town of Middletown Supervisor  
Steve Hood, Del Co. Emergency Service  
Carl Stuendel, Town of Tompkins  
Molly Oliver, Del. Co. Planning Dept.  
Rick Weidenbach, DCSWCD  
Ed Snow, Village of Walton Mayor

Russ Hatch, Town of Harpersfield Highway Supt.  
Richard Smith, Town of Hamden Council  
Frank Winkler, Town of Andes  
Joel Fisk, DCSWCD Stream Program Tech.  
Jeff Russell, DCSWCD Stream Program Tech.  
Steve Dutcher, CEO Village of Walton  
Larry Underwood, DCSWCD Agricultural Program  
Wayne Reynolds, DC DPW  
Dean Frazier, Del. Co. Watershed Affairs  
Graydon Dutcher, DCSWCD Stream Program  
Liz Bowie, DCSWCD Data Budget Specialist  
Catherine Skalda, DCSWCD CSBI  
Jessica Rall, DCSWCD Stream Program Tech.  
Tom Mallory, DCSWCD Stream Program Engineer  
Walter Geidel, Town of Walton Highway Supt.  
Larry Hull, Watershed Agricultural Council

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Rick welcomed everybody to the meeting and gave a brief update on the proposed \$13.2 million contract with New York City Department of Environmental Protection for continued work in the Delaware watersheds. Graydon opened the meeting and gave an overview of the agenda with the purpose of the meeting is the status of Grant Program and the Stream Program projects as well as the East Branch Action Plan draft for comments.

Presentation and reference material (See Attached Document)

**Agenda:**

Overview of the meeting and goals to accomplish. (See Attached Document)

**Project Advisory Committee:**

Graydon gave an overview of what are the roles of a Project Advisory Committee (PAC) that empowers the local community to identify stream related issues that drives the workload for the Stream Corridor Management Program. The PAC recommends the projects that the program moves forward and funds. The membership of the Committee involves the

elected officials of the county to be ambassadors of the Program and to have communication in order to identify the needs of the communities with stream related issues.

- Dean asked if it would help for the people in the room to know who are the representatives?
  - Graydon – When the towns adopted the stream corridor management plans and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Soil and Water Conservation District, we asked the municipalities to appoint a representative to the PAC and that person can be a voting member that represents the municipalities. Technical resources and agencies are the technical administrators that progress the projects.

### **Natural Resource Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection - Gale**

Emergency Watershed Protection projects were completed last year except for one project that was on the secondary funding list to be built in the 2014 construction season. The original project damage estimates were around \$4.6 million dollars, the engineering estimates were \$4.5 million and the actual construction cost was \$3.5 million. We were able to save enough money to fund construction of Chamber Hollow. Gale reviewed a sample of the construction projects that were completed.

- Town of Colchester – Red Rose Stabilization: Wayne Reynolds described the project along the Beaver Kill River on County Route 17. The Beaver Kill is a highly known trout stream. Three rock vanes were installed under the guidance of the Stream Program and the project went well. These are the largest rock vanes that the DPW has installed to date.
- Town of Delhi – Thomson Cross Road: Gale described the project along the Little Delaware River on Thomson Cross Road. Installation of a rock lined bench along toe of the failure with vegetation planted in between the rocks. The floodplain is re-attached on the left streambank.
- Town of Middletown – Arkville Trailer Park: Gale described the project along the Dry Brook Stream in the hamlet of Arkville. The rock wall was installed at the upstream section of the project to connect into the DOT rock wall this transitions into a sloped rock lined bench and floodplain. The project was planted with 16,000 willow stakes.
- Town of Middletown – Dry Brook: The project along the Dry Brook Stream along the Dry Brook Road. This project was repaired after Hurricane Irene storm damage using the post-flood protocol. Root-wads were installed at the stream avulsion, but this did not protect the road from future damage. Installation of floodplain blocks made out of rocks with soil placed on top to grow grass and rock toe bench along the road to protect the road.
- Town of Middletown – Village of Fleischmanns Site 2&3: The project was designed by a Milone and MacBroom, Inc. (MMI) with DCSWCD design oversight. This project consists of stone along both stream banks with riffle structures upstream and downstream of the project. A floodplain was installed along the left streambank and vegetation will be planted this spring.

- Frank – What type of provisions are there for maintenance of the debris that enters the project?
- Graydon – Landowners are usually responsible for the maintenance. Walt Geidel is taking an active role in removing potential debris before the plug the channel by coming up with a criteria of removing the trees. The only caution is that we cannot remove all woody debris in the stream because there is a balance that needs to be remain for a healthy stream. Debris can create a natural grade control structure. Removing debris out of a channel does not require a NYS DEC permit as long as you do not disturb the streambank or bed. You can also cut the wood in chunks so that you don't have the jamming potential.
- Gale – The Town or the Sponsor of the EWP project is responsible for the project as part of the maintenance. If there is a problem, the town should notify the designer.
- Town of Middletown – Village of Fleischmanns Site 4: The project was designed by MMI to repair the left streambank with future plans to create a floodplain along the right streambank after the HMG flood buyout program to purchase the property. The Mill Street bridge will be removed by DPW along with the floodplain reclamation.
  - Graydon added that the analysis showed that removing the bridge and adding the floodplain dropped the 10-year flood event by 3.3 feet and the 100-year is 1.5 feet.
  - Shelly added that this project is important for the community since this project protects two hotels that are located in the area, which is a big part of the community and their economy.
- Town of Middletown – Village of Fleischmanns Site 7: This project was designed by MMI to repair the left failing bank. Floodplain reclamation along the right streambank with rock wall on left streambank. The garage was removed as part of the project.
- Town of Tompkins – Chamberlain Brook: This project is to repair failing bank along the Chamberlain Brook Road. There is a stacked rock wall with a sloped bank to the road.
- Town of Tompkins – Readburn Road Site #2: This project is to repair failing bank along the town road. There is a short stack wall combined with slope rock due to the constriction of the stream to the edge of road.
- Town of Walton – Baxter Brook: This project is to replace culvert head wall and repair plunge pool. The tonka blocks were removed and replaced with stacked and pinned rock wall and the installation of step-pools.
- Town of Walton – East Brook Hillside Stabilization: This is outside the Village of Walton to create a floodplain along the right streambank and install a floodplain bench along the left streambank. There are two hardened riffles located upstream and downstream of the project. The steep embankment was hydroseeded by the Town of Walton. The slope will continue to fail onto the floodplain bench until an angle of repose is established.

- These were just a highlight of our project that we constructed last year. There are manuals with descriptions of each project if anyone is interested, please let us know.

### **Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Training - Graydon**

This program was developed in 2008 based on our reaction to the flood of 2006. Funding was received by NYS DEC to develop a protocol on how to react after a flood event to assist the contractor and municipality. This program that has been adopted as a state-wide protocol. Day 1 consist of a 5 hour classroom that gives the operator a basic knowledge of stream mechanics and how to measure the streams with a 3 hour in field. Day 2 is in field during construction to see how everything can be applied. Day 3 consists of 2 hours in field to inspect the finished project and 4 hours in the classroom to review and wrap up. To date we have trained 202 students with the 3-day training and 979 students statewide with the 4 hour class. The last class that we did was to train the train and NYS DEC regional permitting to continue this training throughout the state. The program has won three state awards.

### **Agricultural and Community Recovery Fund (ACRF) – Larry Underwood**

Larry gave an overview of the ACRF program. Funding was due to Andrew Cuomo for \$15 million dollars and \$5 million was allocated for Delaware County. We were charged to visit impacted agricultural fields. The Agricultural partnered with NYC DEP and the stream program to assist in the effort. The staff attended a brief stream training before assessing the damages. Larry showed a few examples of some of the projects there were completed.

### **Third Brook Management Plan – Graydon**

Milone and MacBroom completed the plan in December 2013 to look at the Third Brook Watershed as a whole to address the failing streambanks. The next steps are to implement the plan recommendation using the WRDA funds. Construction will be completed this year.

### **Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative (CSBI) Report - Catherine**

Catherine gave an brief overview of the projects completed in 2013. There were 12 projects that covers 5.8 acres and 2,278 trees, shrubs and sedges were planted. Along with planting, the program is involved in controlling invasive species. This is the first year for installing bioengineering structures that includes geo-block, branch packing, fascines, live stakes/bundles with a total of 2,305 feet. Catherine showed photos of some of her projects completed in the fall of 2013. For the 2014 project season there have been 17 applicants to review and 2 EWP supplemental plantings in the Village of Fleischmanns projects. The types of 2014 projects will be 6 plantings, 7 bioengineering and 4 invasive species control.

### **Stream Management Implementation Program Grant**

Molly Oliver and Tom Little gave an update on the Village of Delhi River Walk. The Village of Delhi applied for a Stream Management Implementation Grant to hire a consultant, Hass Engineering. Haas is a locally landscape architect and we are in the process of

developing a design with steering committee. There has been two steering committee meeting so far and on April 2<sup>nd</sup> the committee received concept designs for review. Tom Little passed around the concept drawings and gave a brief overview of the design. The design consists of a walking circle, boat launch and fishing pier while addressing the stormwater issues. Current challenges are landowner buy-in to the project and stormwater issues. There is a public meeting on May 6 at 6:30 at the Village of Delhi hall to get the community involved.

Graydon went through all the completed grants to date with a total cost of \$775,321.00.

Walt Geidel added that there was a report was submitted in November for the Hydroseeder. There is still plenty of material for project this year. If any towns need to use the machine, they have to attend training and submit a report.

Wayne Reynolds reported that the pumps were purchased and there was a training 2 years ago with 12 communities participating in the training. Both pumps have intake and discharge lines associated with them. The pumps were only used 3 times last year. The pumps are available to be used by anyone in the watershed with a share service agreement and training.

Graydon gave an overview of the remaining grants that are left to be implemented this year. The staff is working on getting survey to design the projects this spring. We are running behind on some of the survey due to the weather. Third Brook Slope failure design is being tasked out to the Milone and MacBroom consultant (under their contract for engineering services to NYC DEP).

Carol O'Bierne gave an update on the East Branch Recreation plan. A draft plan has been submitted to be reviewed. Talking to the community about the plans and have advised the communities to look at their individual sections and submit comments. There will be brochure and maps that will follow this with information. There is a draft design for signage and this will complete project. There is a notable project in the community which is the Community Rising initiative that has offered new opportunities that increase stream frontage with some new opportunities for recreation.

The Walton School gravel study grant is moving forward with purchasing equipment and training with students. They have collected data last year and will be collecting additional data this year. The Walton River Access has been combined with the other boat launch projects and Molly has been moving that process along.

Wayne Reynolds gave an update on the Medium Hydraulic Study the inventory has been completed with 1,223 small structures. There have been hydraulic studies completed for 151 structures with 4 towns that are completely finished and working on putting them in a package. We have submitted a draft matrix to be reviewed so that we can prioritize the structures in terms of replacement. This project is approximately 30% completed.

### **Watershed Agricultural Program**

Larry Underwood talked about the Watershed Agricultural Program celebrating 20 years of service in Delaware County. Annually the program spends \$1.5 million on projects with constructing approximately a 100 conservation management best practices. There are approximately 300 small and large farms that participate in the program. The small farm is on the rise in the Catskill area. A contract was signed between the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Watershed Agricultural Program to have funding for technical assistance with the stream program to implement projects through the Conservation Resource Enhancement Program on lands that did not qualify due to unstable streambanks. Ron Frisbee Farm Phase 1 was completed in October 2013 using the new innovative techniques. Phase 2 is scheduled for this year as well as 3 additional projects.

### **Local Flood Analysis – Graydon**

Graydon gave a brief presentation on the Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis (LFHMA) that is going to be a part of the next contract with NYC DEP. The LFHMA is a two phase analysis that gives community's options to reduce flood risk. This analysis is completely voluntary and is implemented by the community. Phase 1 is the engineering analysis that will identify the specific causes of flood inundation hazards in the population centers and Phase 2 is the Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan that enhances the benefits and feasibility of each project selected by the community in Phase 1 and prepares a plan for implementing the viable projects. The Walton Flood Commission has hired Milone and Macbroom, Inc. (MMI) to be the consultant. MMI has created preliminary models of the flood inundation hazards in the Village of Walton and will be holding their first public meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30pm at the Walton High School. The public will be invited to input their comments. East Branch Delaware Flood Commission has also hired Milone and Macbroom, Inc. to create preliminary models. A public meeting is scheduled for a introduction of stream science on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00pm. Introduction to the Village of Fleischmann's preliminary models will be held on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.

Community Rising is funded by New York State to identify flood impacted areas in the Village of Margaretville and in the Town of Hardenburgh. The Stream Corridor Management Program has been assisting the two groups with technical support.

### **Program Updates – Graydon**

The next Stream Program contract with NYCDEP has been approved by all parties and is in the approval process. The funding is available for our current projects and the Local Flood Analyses and the new contract will be available to implement the projects that come out of the LFA process. Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) that are with the municipalities need to be updated and signed for all municipalities. The original MOUs were tailored to the end of our last contracts so these all need to be renewed. The funding of the projects is contingent on having a current MOU so it is important that this process be completed.

### **East Branch Delaware River - Two-Year Action Plan:**

A copy of the East Branch Action Plan has been handed out and everybody is encouraged to review the plan in detail and to submit written comments (to DCSWCD) before April 18<sup>th</sup>. In the next contracts, the West and East Branch Basins will be combined into one

Action Plan. The Action Plan is based on the recommendations from the East Branch Stream Corridor Management Plan.

### **Future Program Reporting Format**

Subcommittee format may be changing to reduce the number of meetings and the duplication of common faces at these meetings. Some of the questions that need to be answered are how can we make the subcommittees more efficient, how the committee handles the grants, re-define the chairs and prevent duplication. There will be a letter going out to the subcommittees to get their input on the process.

Phil encouraged everybody to visit the [catskillstreams.org](http://catskillstreams.org) website where documentation for reporting will be available for the public to review. This website is a way to notify the public and DEP regulators on what is going on through the programs. This website is supported by Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District. Phil navigated through the website showing key areas of interest and where to find information on the projects.

### **Wrap-Up**

Meeting was adjourned and the next meeting is scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 at 10:00am at the Walton Office.