

Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee

c/o of Greene County WAP, PO Box 996, Tannersville, NY 12485

Highway Superintendents Meeting, April 21, 2009 WAP office, Tannersville

Present: Erik Allan (Ashland), Tom Hoyt (Windham), Bill Sutton (Prattsville), Charlie Sweet (V/Hunter), John Farrell (Hunter), Dennis Lucas (retired DOT, Hunter Supervisor), Mark Vian (DEP), Nathan Hellinga, Jeff Flack, Michelle Yost (GCSWCD).

Purpose of meeting: Review funding options based on needs/interests of departments and rate top ones for consideration in the 2009 – 2010 Action Plan for Stream Management Implementation.

Prior to the meeting, department heads were asked to rate areas based on equipment needs, technical, engineering assistance, and cost sharing for materials with the top needs being:

1. cost sharing for road abrasive material and larger culverts
 2. technical assistance with permits
 3. second vacuum sweeper
- In terms of technical assistance, staff are available through GCSWCD to assist with culvert placement assessments, incorporating hydrologic models into assessment, stream permitting assistance available. Departments should call Jeff, Joel or Jake at the Cairo office (622-3620) with requests.
 - Some funding available for culvert upgrades, such as FEMA emergency grants

Group agreed on top proposals for SWAC application and action plan:

1. **Vacuum Sweeper** – apply through CWC LTAP for another sweeper. Follow up with Greene Co. Highway department to house and own machine.
 - Suggestion – have one housed at Ashland facility and one at Hunter to service mountaintop communities. Need to include maintenance budget and ideally water truck too. Place to dump material still needs to be looked at, with each municipality dealing with their own. Departments estimate approx. 1/3 of sand is left on roads from what's put down during winter, though varies with road surface. Much goes into ditches**.
 - Work out arrangement with DOT to subcontract with municipalities for maintaining Main Streets which are also state roads. E.g., DOT pays \$435 to Village of Hunter to clear Main Street. Money could go towards maintenance of sweeper.
2. **Road abrasives** – better washed material less to pick up, cost-benefit over time, production issue. Don't put all eggs in one basket, may take business away from quarries and if need them in a pinch want access to them.
 - Suggestions – offer subsidy to municipalities that want to take advantage of better material, such as \$4.00/ton less for better grade.

Town of Ashland
James Lawrence

Town of Conesville
Eric Dahlberg

Town of Gilboa
Janet Orlando
Rebecca Wilburn, Alt.

Town of Hunter
Nancy Allen
Dennis Lucas, Sr., Alt.

Village of Hunter
Michael Tancredi
Allan Higgins, Alt.

Town of Jewett
Michael McCrary

Town of Lexington
Lynn Byrne
Dixie Baldrey, Alt.

Town of Prattsville
Kory O'Hara
Richard Morse, Alt.

Town of Roxbury
Joseph Farleigh

Village of Tannersville
Linda Kline

Town of Windham
Steve Walker

Highway Superintendent
Erik Allen

Educator
John Valenti

Fisheries Biologist
Walter Keller

**Greene County
Legislators**
James Hitchcock
Larry Gardner

Municipalities interested in researching cost share option to see how this could be implemented.

3. **Equipment** – purchase mulcher that can fit on a trailer but big enough to hold more than one bale of hay.
 - Using hydroseeder is not worth the effort for small projects, larger ones yes. If no expense to use machine more likely to use it.
 - Hire a crew to operate power mulcher and hydroseeder. If dedicated crew available, towns more likely to use. Jeff noted the GCSWCD will be hiring two summer interns who will be available to help (from May – September), even for small projects.
 - Investigating mowing DEP property for hay was received mildly. Contract could be good for one – two people, concern don't want to put other bailers out of business. Municipalities represented can usually find hay, that's not a problem.

4. **Curb cut/Driveway specifications** – each community is different in addressing this. The two villages, Prattsville and Town of Hunter do not have specifications. Ashland requires property owner get a driveway permit before a building permit. Tom noted drainage and sight distance are the two main concerns, and when superintendents are on top of their job they can keep poorly designed driveways and roads to a minimum. Permits should list specific conditions based on topography and hydrology.

Other notes – GCSWCD is getting a General Permit for stream work less than 300' for rock structures and plantings. One page site plan is required.

Red Kill (parallels Scribner Hollow), Tw. of Hunter – noting this is a stream that needs attention, Dennis and John F. requested a walkthrough with Nathan. Will be put on assessment list.

Local stormwater review panel – Dennis suggested a mechanism like this might be good to bounce ideas off of, brainstorm solutions. Involving the planning board too as site planning is integral to minimizing drainage problems.