
Stakeholder Council 2018 Membership

The Ashokan Stakeholder Council is comprised of:

The Executive Council:

2 representatives from each of the active AWSMP working groups.

Both representatives of a working group should not come from the same organization or agency.

Representatives should be chosen annually by the working group.

No person can represent more than one working group on the Stakeholder Council.

Staff: (CCE Ulster County, UC SWCD, DEP SMP Contract Manager for Ashokan Watershed)

Regular Members: Membership in the Stakeholder Council is open to any interested and knowledgeable stakeholder.

ASHOKAN WATERSHED STREAM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AWSMP Program Office, Shokan, NY 12481

April 17 from 1:30pm-3:30pm

In Attendance: Kirk Peters, Scott George, Sylvia Rozzelle, John Mathiesen, Justine Rutherford, Tim Koch, Matt Savatgy, Mary McNamara, Aaron Bennett, Leslie Zucker, Adam Doan, Brent Gotsch; **Executive Council members present:** Rob Stanley, Mike Reynolds, Eric Hofmeister, Mark Loete, Marc Hollander, Amanda LaValle, Chet Karwatowski (via webinar), Burt Samuelson, Mike Flaherty, Barry Baldigo

Next scheduled meeting: November 2018

Introductions and Stakeholders Announcements

USGS scientists Jason Siemion and Mike McHale sampled bedload on April 22 in Birch Creek using updated equipment. Sampling went well.

The Stream Access & Recreation Working Group reported it is piloting use of a Large Wood Assessment Protocol developed by researchers at Colorado State University at several stream sites with downed wood. Assessment will begin with Ulster County SWCD completing a rapid assessment questionnaire to triage the sites over

the next several weeks. The Working Group will share the protocol results with a larger community of potential actors. Members were asked to share contact information for anyone who should be notified of protocol results with the Working Group co-leads Mark Loete and Marc Hollander.

AWSMP Updates

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) announced several staffing changes for the AWSMP: Tim Koch has joined the stream program as Stream Educator and will be extending stream management plan results and training to local officials and landowners. Also, Tim is leading a watershed-wide, road-stream crossing assessment in collaboration with the Ulster County Dept. of Environment this summer. Part-time Watershed Educator Samantha Kahl has taken a full-time GIS Analyst position with NYS Parks. Administrative Assistant Annette Ferchau is moving to Florida with her family. The program wishes Sam and Annette the best of luck with future endeavors! CCE welcomed a new Executive Director, Dr. Jared Buono in January 2018. Jared grew up near Saugerties but most recently worked in India where he led an international association of government, NGO and research partners focused on water security through watershed management. Jared holds a PhD in Natural Resource Management from the University of Arizona and is excited to work on watershed protection in Ulster County. Members are welcome to stop by the Kingston CCE office and introduce yourself to Jared.

The Catskill Environmental Research & Monitoring (CERM) Conference will be held October 24-26, 2018 at Belleayre Ski Center. This year's expanded agenda features workshops on day three of the conference.

The AWSMP recently offered the following outreach events and trainings:

- Fall in Love with Your Stream Event at Bite Me Bakery (2/2)
- Schoharie Watershed Summit afternoon training sessions on how to use flood maps (4/7)
- Ulster County Planning Department presentation on Flood Hazard Mitigation (4/12, about 60 attendees)
- Stream Explorers Youth Adventure (4/14)
- Ulster County Board of Realtors training on Flood Hazard Mitigation (4/17) – to be offered again this fall

A Flood Hazard Mitigation training is planned on April 30 for the Shandakan Zoning Board of Appeals.

AWSMP will be offering or participating in the following upcoming events:

- Earth Day Tree Planting with Trout Unlimited (4/21)
- Phoenicia Earth Day (4/27)
- Woodstock Elementary Go-Green Day (5/17)
- Family Fun and Fish Day at Kenneth Wilson Campground (5/20)
- Bennett Elementary Earth Day (6/1)
- Flood Map Basics and Flood Insurance Basics for local Planning Boards and Zoning Boards of Appeals (various dates)
- Ashokan WAVE Program (TBA)
- Freshwater Stream Snorkeling/Family Stream Event Day (TBA)
- Ulster County Fair, Shandaken Day, Olive Day, Longyear Farm Day (TBA)

CCE organized this year's AWSMP annual watershed conference on April 14, 2018 at the Ashokan Center in Olivebridge. This year's conference theme ***Stream Explorer's Youth Adventure*** was geared for children grades 3-7 and their parents. The event was attended by 50 youth and 15 parents. The conference goal was to get kids excited about streams and caring for the environment through learning and exploration. These children are our next local leaders! Each youth participant received a stream explorer's science kit to take home for continued adventure. The kits included water testing and sampling equipment and other science materials. The conference evaluations are still coming in, but so far there is a lot of positive feedback. The AWSMP is being asked if this event will be offered annually.

The Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) in the Ashokan watershed is installing several stream buffers this spring. The plants have just arrived at the plant materials center and the field season is underway. Additional updates from Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and CCE are covered under the Action Plan review below.

Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) Update:

Leslie Z. presented a brief summary of SMIP funding awarded since the fund renewal in 2014. The NYC DEP provides funding for the SMIP through contract with CCE. The current CCE contract ends in August 2019 and a new contract covering 2019-2024 is being developed now.

Of the \$2,000,000 available from 2014-2019 for education, research, planning, stream restoration, and infrastructure projects, a total \$1,484,943 has been awarded. An amount of \$515,057 remains in the fund. The recent spring funding round elicited requests totaling \$230,659. If all requested funds are awarded, an amount of \$284,398 will remain in the SMIP fund.

One funding application was received in the category of Local Flood Analysis (LFA) project implementation during the spring 2018 funding round. If the requested \$199,010 implementation project is awarded, \$1,800,990 will remain available for LFA implementation in the current CCE and SWCD contracts. Eligible applicants may apply at any time for LFA projects that meet funding program criteria.

Burt S. reported the Grant Review Committee met on 4/13 to review SMIP applications and recommended all five applications for funding:

- Infrastructure, Town of Woodstock, Mink Hollow Bridge Up-Sizing, \$112,853.40
- Research and Monitoring, U.S. Geological Survey, Analysis of the Strategies to Monitor and Detect Change in Fish Assemblages of the Upper Esopus Creek, \$52,092
- Research and Monitoring, U.S. Geological Survey, Continued Monitoring of the Wilmot Way Sediment and Turbidity Reduction Project in the Woodland Creek Watershed, \$18,214
- Planning, Shandaken Flood Mitigation Plan: Required Five-Year Update, \$47,500
- Local Flood Analysis, Town of Olive, Engineering Design for Upper Boiceville, DeSilva, and Burgher Road Crossings, \$199,010

Mark L. moved to adopt the Grant Review Committee's funding recommendations. Burt S. seconded the motion. The motion carried with all Executive Council members present in favor, none opposed.

Leslie Z. thanked the Grant Review Committee and the Stakeholder Council for their diligence and service in reviewing SMIP funding proposals.

AWSMP Two-Year Action Plan Review

The Stakeholder Council was invited to review a final draft of the 2018-2020 AWSMP Action Plan. The final draft incorporates working group review and AWSMP staff recommendations. Working groups providing input include Stream Access & Recreation, Stream Ecosystem, Flood Hazard Mitigation and Highway Managers.

The Action Plan is updated every year with a two-year planning horizon. The AWSMP partners deliver the updated Action Plan to DEP and DEP submits the final Action Plan to the FAD regulators. The FAD regulators read the Action Plan in detail.

AWSMP staff presented the Action Plan updates in Word Tracks. Proposed updates included:

- Priority research recommendations included in Sections A and E.
- Stream assessments of the Esopus Creek headwaters planned for 2018-2020.
- Completion of two ongoing stream restoration projects on the Beaver Kill near Van Hoagland Rd., and one new stream restoration on Woodland Creek in 2018.
- Construction of the SMIP-funded Bushkill/Watson Hollow Rd. slope stabilization in 2018 – recently accepted as a FAD deliverable stream restoration project. The local project lead is Ulster County DPW.
- Monitoring of an installed CSBI bioengineering project on the Bushkill and the Beaver Kill stream projects at Van Hoagland Road.
- Assisting Towns with LFA implementation and other flood hazard mitigation projects.
- Ranking and prioritization of high priority road-stream crossings in need of up-sizing and replacement and completion of initial cost-estimates and conceptual designs for replacement.
- Continued exploration of properties eligible for soil-bioengineering projects through CSBI. Use of the completed Bushkill bioengineering project as a demonstration.

- Exploring opportunities for landowner enrollment in the NRCS Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.
- Coordination with DEP to better understand the impacts of Schoharie Reservoir releases on the Esopus Creek ecosystem.
- Continuing to develop awareness of non-native/and or invasive species impacts on recreational use and stream ecology.
- Enhancing collaboration with partners to deliver programs at the Catskill Interpretive Center.

The discussion covered edits to a research recommendation in Section E to determine the potential effects of current and future thermal regimes on the survival of trout species and populations in the Esopus Creek above the reservoir. The Stakeholder Council refined the recommendation wording to reduce confusion about the intent of the study. The study will not address NYC portal or water supply operations.

No other edits were recommended by the Council. Rob S. offered a motion to accept the updated 2018-2020 Action Plan as edited above. Marc H. seconded the motion. The motion passed with all Executive Council members present voting in favor, none opposed.

The meeting was adjourned. The AWSMP Stakeholder Council will meet again in fall 2018.