

SAFARI Meeting

November 1, 2012

1:00-3:00pm

In attendance:

Cory Ritz, UCSWCD
Leslie Zucker, CCEUC
Brent Gotsch, CCEUC
Gretchen Rae, CCEUC
Beth Reichheld, NYC DEP
Dennis Dempsey, NYC DEP
John Horn, Town of Shandaken Planning Board
Candace Balmer, RCAP Solutions
Aaron Bennett, UC Dept. of Environment
Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech (via phone)

Welcome/Check-in and Introductions

Update from Cynthia (Tetra Tech)

All end dates culminated in deliverable date of yesterday (October 31, 2012). Rob and Candace have been informed of proposed schedule modifications. Data gathering and turn-around time on comments has taken longer than expected. Would like SAFARI group to try and be more proactive about giving comments to Candace/Cynthia and Tetra Tech. Tetra Tech has updated list of critical facilities and re-run HAZUS. They have estimated that Town of Shandaken will be able to enter the Community Rating System (CRS) for reduced flood insurance premiums at a level 8. It may be able to go even lower than that if the Town takes certain actions.

C. Ritz, B. Taylor and E. Hofmeister can help refine the list of flood mitigation projects for the town and create priority projects.

C. Bianco would like to do a Strengths Weaknesses Obstacles and Opportunities (SWOO) meeting. The SWOO would be a diverse group of people from SAFARI, local and county transportation departments, fire and police chiefs, etc. to identify projects. R. Stanley should schedule this meeting and send out invites for those who he would like to see attend.

Aaron Bennett will provide C. Bianco with a shapefile of the Ulster County flood buy-outs. There may be privacy concerns related with these files. Would have to show only general locations (such as street names only and not tax map numbers). R. Stanley should make the decision on how he wants to proceed with this situation.

R. Stanley and C. Balmer have had difficulties with a FEMA representative when they ask about NFIP data from after-Irene. For some reason they are refusing to provide post-Irene NFIP claims

data. It was suggested that they contact Art Schneider who may be able to provide that data or at least access it through his position with Ulster County Emergency Management.

Elevation Certificates: the Town currently has very few of these on file. Tetra Tech has included them in a new permit application so all future construction, substantial improvements to existing structures will have to obtain them. This will help improve the Town's CRS score.

Repetitive loss areas have been mapped.

FIRM maps are currently being updated. Draft maps will be available in spring 2013. Question was raised on whether we should wait until new flood maps were available before adopting certain ordinances. The answer was that Town should not wait because these ordinances are for public safety purposes.

Tetra Tech will work with Town on improving CRS application.

Tetra Tech reviewed existing studies and incorporated them into a flood profile. They extracted flood mitigation recommendations which they turned over to SAFARI group to review and got very limited feedback. R. Stanley and C. Balmer went through the list and refined it. SAFARI has their current copy as a handout.

Tetra Tech has run HAZUS and hopes to re-run the model again (using new data). They hope to have results in a couple of weeks. They have developed a flood profile for the town with details on the Phoenicia and Mount Tremper.

Deliverables from Tetra Tech

Emergency Response Plan: Is a snapshot of Town procedures. Town currently does not have things written down about what to do during a flood. Currently working on draft of procedures which anyone can pick up and understand what to do during a flood event or natural disaster.

Appendixes: 4 appendixes are currently in draft form. Appendixes show EOC staffing (who works what shift, their title, etc.).

Stream gage levels: how do you tell what determines a warning level? Town needs something written down, a procedure for flood watch, warning, etc. It was suggested that a low tech way for citizens to know would be to paint a line on a bridge. One line would be a flood advisory, the next one up would be for flood warning, etc. This is an interesting idea, however, there are some problems with it. The streams aggrade and degrade so rapidly that the lines may not be accurate from storm event to storm event. SAFARI group will brainstorm more on this. Suggested that group reach out to Delaware County SWCD as they are thinking along similar lines.

Tetra Tech has agreed to help develop a "roadmap" to help with CRS score reduction. Right now CRS score, with Town only doing what it is currently doing, will get a score of 8. CRS analysis does have specific activities to help improve that score. If the Town wants to move from a score of 8 to 7 or a 6 that will require a lot of additional effort on the part of the Town. Although a

lower score will result in reduced flood insurance premiums the major reason for it is for public safety. Each step down in the CRS score results in a 5% reduction of flood insurance premiums. So going from a 10 to an 8 would result in a 10% savings.

Scheduling overruns and the need to rerun Hazus has results in a budget increase for Tetra Tech. The contract is for a fixed price but they would be appreciative if there were additional grant funds available to pay for the additional costs.

Working Meeting (Candace Balmer)

Group reviewed mission statement and agreed that it was good.

Group began working on goals and objectives. It was suggested that there be made some edits to the first paragraph and some word-smithing on others. C. Bianco gave this list to C. Balmer and was edited from there. The goals/objectives came from other hazard management plans in the state and elsewhere. Group was unable to complete this work as time ran-out. Approved draft goals and objectives for now but will come back and review again at a later date.

Other Information

Art Christie is the interim code enforcement officer for the Town of Shandaken.

Next Steps

Rob Stanley will schedule the SWOO meeting. It was suggested that additional SAFARI members be involved in the SWOO but it will ultimately be up to Rob who is invited to SWOO. Suggested that SAFARI members be CC'd on SWOO results.

Cory Ritz and Eric Hofmeister will finalize list of priority projects for the Town of Shandaken.

Aaron Bennett will provide Cynthia Bianco with a shape file of the Ulster County Flood Buy-out Program. Rob Stanley will make a decision on how public this information should be made and determine privacy concerns.

Rob Stanley and Candace Balmer will contact Art Schneider on getting post-Irene NFIP information.

SAFARI members should review goals and objectives and come prepared with comments to them for the next meeting.

Next meeting for SAFARI will be scheduled for the first week of December (exact time/date TBA). This meeting will be for 4 hours in order to get through all the business that needs to be completed before the end of the year.