

SAFARI Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2012
1-3pm
AWSMP Office

In attendance:

Cynthia Bianco, TetraTech
Allison Miskerman, TetraTech
Brent Gotsch, CCE Ulster County
Cory Ritz, UCSWCD
Rob Stanley, Town of Shandaken Supervisor
Dany Davis, NYCDEP
John Horn, Town of Shandaken Planning Board
Candace Balmer, RCAP Solutions
Aaron Bennett, UC Department of the Environment
Eric Hofmeister, Shandaken Highway Superintendent
Doris Nieves, Save Our Shandaken, Mt. Tremper Resident
Gretchen Rae, CCE Ulster County
Richie Stokes, Town of Shandaken Code Enforcement Officer

Welcome

Brief introductions of attendees were made.

Approval of Previous SAFARI Meeting Minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Old Business

Status of Flood Mitigation Plan (TetraTech)

The next milestone will be the complete risk assessment which is due August 31.

Status of Deliverables:

1. Create draft of Emergency Response Plan [COMPLETE]
2. Distribute and analyze resident survey [COMPLETE]
3. Draft Table of Contents [IN PROGRESS—sample available at meeting]
4. Town Profile (demographics, climate, population, building inventory, etc.) [IN PROGRESS—sample available at meeting]

All comments related to the draft of the plan should be sent to Rob Stanely. Rob will then give to Candace Balmer to compile. Candace will then send comments to Cynthia at TetraTech. Please do this ASAP.

In the plan there was a reference multiple times to “Olive.” What is Olive? Must be mistaken with Town of Olive or similar. Recommended that this be removed or determine if Olive means something else.

There was also a reference to 10 USGS gages. Review to ensure proper amount of gages. Consider gages that are in other towns whose water flows into or out of Shandaken. Coldbrook Gage (which is technically in Olive) is the most important for this area.

There was a question about what to do with private levies or dams. Should it be based on cubic feet? TetraTech says if in doubt include it! It is always easier to take something out than it is to add in later.

Flood Assessment

-No preliminary data until January 2013. DFIRMS not available yet.

Depth Grids: digital grid, every cell represents 3 meters and shows depth of water during inundation.

Q3 floodplain data-recurrence intervals are changing. New maps will most likely change the current return interval for 50-year, 100-year storms, etc. TetraTech can tweak the data to reflect new realities of climate change and post-Irene experiences.

Flood Inundation Mapper (USGS & NWS online tool): Uses precipitation data to show floodwashed areas in real-time. You have to upload the data to the site and participate in it to determine inundation levels. It’s somewhat similar to Stream Stats.

Group recommends that we add this as one of the recommendations to our program. Suggests that we get an intern to upload data to site. http://water.usgs.gov/osw/flood_inundation/focus-rtmap.html

Table 5.4-14 needs further review (located on page 5.4-28). Some locations are listed twice with different values. Some are flooded in 100-year event and some are depicted as not.

Cynthia needs comprehensive list of these comments in ASAP.

Community Rating System Impact Analysis Report

TetraTech provided documents advising what activities the Town of Shandaken can do to increase their score on the NFIP Community Rating System (CRS). The higher the Town scores on the CRS the lower flood insurance premiums are for Town residents. Currently, if the Town does all of the recommendations on the list (such as filing elevation certificates) then Town residents stand to save between 10%-15% on their flood insurance premiums.

Status of EWP Projects throughout Town (Ulster County Soil & Water)

Kathy Capella (NRCS) has reported that the Phoenicia Pump Station and Fox Hollow below Muller Road will be sponsored through EWP.

Flood Hazard Working Group has asked for a 440 day extension which would allow them to continue with EWP projects through the summer of 2013. As it stands, the potential for EWP funded projects only goes until November 2012. If the extension is not granted then any project that is not completed this year will not receive funding through EWP.

Site Updates/Status

Chichester Site 1: Construction has begun. 90% of construction is expected to be done by mid-August 2012.

Warner Creek Site 5: Getting permits, Army Corps of Engineers permits, drafting letter to one out-of-state landowner who has not signed a landowner agreement. The plans for this project will be needed by the next Town board meeting on August 16. There may be the possibility of holding a special session on August 17 for bid openings if the need arises. Stream work should be done around September 30, 2012. The rest of the project should be completed around October 30. It does not need to go to public comment. It will need to be out to bid for two week.

Silver Hollow on Warner Creek: This project needs everything all ready to go to bid by August 6 in order for it to be completed this year. This one will need to go to public comment. The original cost estimate for this project was about \$1.5 million. The revised cost estimate is now considerably higher. The stream is threatening the road and will eventually become a severe public safety issue. The project proposes using 8 sheet-piling cross-vanes to control the large headcut in this section of stream. There is an alternate plan that would cost less but this would require that the road be moved which is politically very difficult at this time. Cory Ritz (UCSWCD) needs to write an Article 15 DEC permit. DEC has a permission form that needs to be signed before project can commence. Town needs to make sure that the bid gets out to the newspapers at the appropriate time.

Local Priorities

Stony Clove Lane: hillslope failure; medium priority

Kurtz Property: Woodland Valley, hillslope failure; medium priority. DEP has agreed to pay the 25% match for this project.

Brown Road—Yarkin Property Update:

Mr. Yarkin has withdrawn from the buyout program and will sell the property to his neighbors. There was a question about whether this changes the Cost-Benefit Score for the project? This will require an official letter from the Town saying that the property is being sold and explaining how it may affect the proposed stream work in that area. Mr. Yarkin will also have to sign a letter stating that he has sold his property.

Update on FEMA work throughout Town (Town of Shandaken Highway Department)

See list provided by Eric Hofmeister that was handed out at meeting.

New Business

Formalization of SAFARI Membership

Rob Stanley and Richie Stokes will be the SAFARI representatives to the AWSMP Stakeholders' Council.

There was discussion about who the regular members of SAFARI should be. There was concern that the only County representatives who show up with any frequency are Aaron Bennett and Amanda LaValle (both of UC Department of the Environment). UC Emergency Management really needs to have a stronger presence as does the Department of Public Works and even the NYS DOT. Will continue to reach out to these agencies/individuals to encourage attendance.

Gretchen Rae will update committee list with changes as approved by Rob Stanley.

Recognition of the impact of Elizabeth Higgins

The members of the SAFARI group and the Town of Shandaken Supervisor wish to make it known that AWSMP Program Coordinator Elizabeth Higgins (formerly of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, now of Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County) has been instrumental in the development and in guiding SAFARI in its formative years. She has also been an asset to the Town of Shandaken on numerous occasions but particularly during the aftermath of Tropical Storm Irene. The SAFARI group thanks her for her service and wishes her the best in her new position.

Next Meeting Time

Thursday, October 18, 2012 at 1:00PM, AWSMP Office.

Meeting Adjournment