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**Stakeholder Council 2018  
Membership**

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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

**November 28, 2018 from 1:30pm-4:00pm**

**In Attendance:** Justine McNeilly, Andrew Emrich, Chris Tran, Jared Buono, Jason Siemion, Chester Karwatowski, Scott George, Adam Doan, Amanda Cabanillas, Aaron Bennett, Tim Koch, Brent Gotsch, Tiffany Runge, Mary McNamara, Leslie Zucker; **Executive Council members present:** Burt Samuelson, Rob Stanley, Amanda LaValle, Mark Loete, Barry Baldigo, Eric Hofmeister, Mike Flaherty

**Next scheduled meeting:** To Be Announced, Spring 2019

**Introductions and Stakeholders Announcements**

The Ashokan Pepacton Watershed Chapter of Trout Unlimited invited all to a holiday party on December 19.

The Hudson River Watershed Alliance is updating an online listing of local watershed groups active in the Hudson River Watershed. Mary M. suggested adding AWSMP information to the listing.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCE) introduced their new Executive Director as of January 2018, Jared Buono, who was in attendance. Jared holds degrees in natural resources,

watershed management, and geology and has worked for both government and non-governmental organizations. He can be reached at [jb2559@cornell.edu](mailto:jb2559@cornell.edu).

CCE also introduced that Linda Gonnella is the new Finance Coordinator working full-time with the AWSMP. Linda started with the program in October 2018. Linda can be reached at [lg457@cornell.edu](mailto:lg457@cornell.edu). In other staff news, CCE thanked temporary Geomorphic Field Technicians, Amanda Cabanillas and Justin Livore for their hard work over the summer surveying road-stream crossings for a watershed-wide assessment of culverts and bridges.

Town of Olive officials were unable to join the Stakeholder Council meeting due to a mandatory training scheduled on the same date.

**AWSMP Updates**

Leslie Zucker, CCE Program Leader for the AWSMP and Adam Doan, Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Program Leader for the AWSMP, gave a slide presentation with updates on active stream projects. A pdf of the slide presentation is attached to these notes.

Project updates in the Town of Olive included:

- Engineering & Construction of the Watson Hollow Slope Stabilization and Stream Restoration Project
- Town of Olive Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Engineering Design for Upper Boiceville, DeSilva, and Burgher Road Crossings (Local Flood Analysis project)
- Final Report for the Maltby Hollow Stream Feature Inventory

Project updates in the Town of Shandaken included:

- Geomorphic Assessments Completed and More Planned - Upper Esopus Creek Tribs
- Woodland Creek Stream Restoration Project (SRP)
- Continued Monitoring of Turbidity Reduction at Woodland SRP
- Riparian Buffer Demonstration at the Catskill Interpretive Center
- Pilot Chemical Control of Select Oliverea Japanese Knotweed Stands
- Final Design & Construction Fox Hollow Grade Control by Herdman Rd. Bridge
- Entry into the Community Rating System for the Town of Shandaken
- Shandaken Flood Mitigation Plan: Required Five-Year Update
- Local Flood Analysis for Shandaken and Allaben (completion of Phoenicia Floodplain Illustrations)

Project updates in the Town of Woodstock included:

- Post Project Monitoring at the Van Hoagland/ Beaver Kill Stream Restoration Project
- Little Beaver Kill Stream Management Plan
- Mink Hollow Bridge Up-Sizing
- Catskill Waters Community Art Project

Basin-wide project updates included:

- Stream & Floodplain Manager Training Scholarships for 2019
- Suspended Sediment & Turbidity Monitoring
- Bedload Monitoring Pilot of Methods
- Bank Erosion Model Calibration: Ashokan Watershed Predictive Regional Curve
- Measure and Evaluate Spatial Variation of Thermal Regime
- Analysis of Strategies to Monitor and Detect Change in Fish Assemblages
- Ashokan Watershed Stream Crossing Assessment and Prioritization
- Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative

The Council discussed the Watson Hollow Slope Stabilization and Stream Restoration Project, reported on by Adam D. above and completed in 2018 by the Ulster County Department of Public Works with funding and support from the AWSMP. The project qualified as a turbidity reduction deliverable under the current Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD). The project treated channel instability at the site resulting before and during the high flows of Tropical Storm Irene (in late 2011), however instability was further exacerbated by emergency management actions taken after the Irene flood. The Council recommended using the project as an example to promote use of best management practices during post-flood stream repairs.

#### **Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) Update:**

Leslie Z. reviewed the current SMIP fund spend-down. To-date, 26 projects totaling \$1,693,786 have been awarded out of the \$2 million available for the period 2014-2019. In addition, 3 projects totaling \$404,105 have been awarded to complete Local Flood Analysis, out of \$1 million available in the CCE contract. An additional \$1 million is available to support Local Flood Analysis implementation in the SWCD contract. Most of the awarded projects are nearing completion as the current SMIP expires on August 30, 2019.

Remaining funds available to be distributed during the fall funding round total \$306,214. Five funding applications, totaling \$368,111, were received before the closing date of October 19, 2018. The AWSMP's Grant Review Committee met on November 19 to review the submitted applications and develop recommendations for funding.

Burt S. presented the committee's recommendations for each submission to the full Stakeholder Council. The review committee recommended funding of 4 projects in the amount of \$219,243 as follows:

Ashokan-Pepacton Watershed Chapter Trout Unlimited, \$500 for *Catskill Heritage Brook Trout Study*  
Town of Woodstock, \$100,000 for *Mink Hollow Bridge Up-Sizing Construction*  
U.S. Geological Survey, \$38,743 for *Continuation of Sediment Source Fingerprinting*  
Ulster County Dept. of Public Works, \$80,000 for *Design Services for the Maltby Hollow Bridge Replacement*

Discussion focused on the Mink Hollow Bridge up-sizing and replacement project proposed for funding. The AWSMP previously awarded Woodstock \$133,000 for design and construction of the bridge replacement. This award included a 5% AWSMP cost-share, or \$34,584, to be matched to Bridge NY funding requested by the town. With the Bridge NY funding announcement delayed and replacement an urgent priority, the town applied for an increase in AWSMP cost-share to complete construction. Construction costs, including bank stabilization, are projected to exceed \$800,000. Shortly before the review committee met, the town received a Bridge NY grant for \$633,000. The review committee found the project meets criteria for both flood hazard mitigation and water quality protection under SMIP. The significantly undersized bridge is located immediately downstream of two recently completed turbidity reduction stream restoration projects and stream banks with fine sediments are eroding at the bridge site. The review committee recommended making additional SMIP funds up to \$100,000 available for match on a contingency basis, with the condition future review of the justification and eligibility of additional funding would be conducted. AWSMP staff will present the project's status to the Stakeholder Council for consideration in spring 2019, after a design and engineer's cost-estimate have been developed.

The Executive Council voted on the funding recommendations as follows:

Rob S. moved to adopt the Grant Review Committee's funding recommendation for the *Catskill Heritage Brook Trout Study*. Burt S. seconded the motion. Mark L. and Chet K. abstained from voting. The motion carried with all Executive Council members present, excluding those abstaining, in favor. None opposed.

Rob S. moved to adopt the Grant Review Committee's funding recommendations for the remaining four projects. Amanda L. seconded. The motion carried with all Executive Council members present in favor. None opposed.

Both motions passed.

The Stakeholder Council discussed the best approach for distributing remaining SMIP funds. While LFA funding is available on an on-going basis, SMIP funds are typically distributed during two funding rounds in spring/fall of each year. Stakeholder Council members proposed distributing remaining SMIP funds on an ongoing basis to provide opportunity for completing projects before the current SMIP fund expires on August 30, 2019. No opposition to this idea was presented. Leslie Z. asked if committee members would be available to review applications and provide Executive Council votes as needed. The ability to cast votes using electronic means, provided for in the Stakeholder Council Guidelines, was discussed. Council members agreed they could make themselves available.

Leslie Z. replied the AWSMP would take this suggestion under consideration and would make an announcement as soon as possible.

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

### **Stakeholder Council Working Group Reports**

- **Stream Ecosystem Working Group**

Scott G., project manager at USGS gave an update on several projects: 2018 Esopus Creek fish surveys, an Ashokan Reservoir Rainbow Trout Growth study, and a monitoring project underway with support from the AWSMP. The USGS completed fish shocking surveys at six sites in 2018, which provides a 10-year period of record at the sites. Survey was completed before late July when a period of non-typical high summer stream flows began. Scott provided several caveats before presenting results - the results presented at this meeting are a snapshot and were not standardized yet by area. The initial 2018 results indicate the largest abundance of Rainbow Trout in the study's record. A rebound in the Rainbow Trout population that began in 2015 appears to have continued through 2018.

A question was asked if the study is picking up and counting stocked fish. Scott replied USGS is confident that few stocked fish are sampled. They can usually tell in the field if smaller fish are stocked. In addition, hatchery fish have a high mortality rate. Survival of stocked fish is ~2% by the time USGS surveys occur in mid-July.

USGS is beginning a new study, with AWSMP funding, to develop a fish community monitoring approach that identifies the most efficient sampling metrics to use and examines what parameters can be accurately measured within a sampling timeframe.

Mike F. of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) reported on activities of the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) in DEC's Region 3. During 2016 and 2017, Region 3 fisheries staff sampled 1,066 streams to document the presence of Brook Trout. Of the streams sampled, 198 (19%) were found to contain populations of wild Brook Trout. In the Ashokan Watershed, 33% of surveys had wild Brook Trout and 87% had wild trout.

In the Ashokan watershed, 18 surveys resulted in a recommendation to upgrade the stream to a T or TS standard. Under the DEC Protection of Waters Regulatory Program a designation of (T) indicates a water body may support a trout population and (TS) indicates the water body may support trout spawning.

DEC did not survey sites in the Ashokan watershed that are already known to support Brook Trout. Mike noted that where no trout were observed, no stream flows were observed about half of the time. However it's possible trout use these intermittent streams when flows are present. Mike presented a map of surveyed locations in the watershed. The EBTJV is conducting similar surveys along the entire US east coast.

Jason S., project manager at the USGS gave an update on ongoing sediment studies funded by the AWSMP. These include Woodland Creek suspended sediment and turbidity monitoring, a sediment fingerprinting pilot study, and a pilot of bedload sampling methods. The slides presented are attached to these notes.

The Stream Ecosystem Working Group hopes to meet next spring to update research priorities and prepare for a 2019 request for proposals in the SMIP research, assessment and monitoring category.

- **Highway Managers Working Group**

Highway Managers plan to meet in late winter to further discuss results of a road-stream crossing assessment in the Ashokan watershed. The assessment's goal is to provide each watershed town and Ulster County with a prioritized list of crossings in need of replacement and upsizing using criteria for geomorphic stability, aquatic organism passage, and structural condition. In 2018, full surveys were completed of 450 road-stream crossing structures in the Ashokan watershed.

- **Stream Access & Recreation**
- **Flood Hazard Mitigation**

The meeting end time was reached before the working groups could report. They will be first to report at the next AWSMP Stakeholder Council meeting.

The meeting was adjourned. The AWSMP Stakeholder Council will meet again in spring 2019. Leslie Z. will distribute a meeting request with proposed 2019 meeting dates.