

AWSMP Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group

11/18/2016

AWSMP Office, 3130 State Route 28, Shokan, NY 12481

10:00am to 12:00pm

Rob Stanley, Town of Shandaken Supervisor (Co-Lead)
Brent Gotsch, CCEUC
Leslie Zucker, CCEUC
Charles O'Keefe, Town of Hurley Highway Department
Ellen Casciaro, Town of Woodstock Code Enforcement Officer
Mike Reynolds, Town of Woodstock Highway Superintendent
Warren Tutt, Town of Shandaken Code Enforcement Officer
Chris Tran, NYC DEP
Sylvia Rozzelle, Town of Olive Supervisor
Dom Covello, Town of Olive Code Enforcement Officer
Aaron Bennett, Ulster County Dept. of Environment
Brian Drumm, NYSDEC
Josh Fisher, NYSDEC
John Mathiesen, CWC

Updates from Town of Shandaken

Rob S. reported that the Town passed its model floodplain management ordinances. The Town is beginning another Local Flood Analysis (LFA) in the hamlets of Shandaken/Allaben. It is currently in its earliest stages. The Town is in the process of obtaining a Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) contract to conduct a feasibility analysis. This analysis will determine if it is feasible to relocate the Ruth Gale Realty building in Phoenicia to an area outside of the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Multiple bridges in the Town have been replaced. In 2017-18 the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) will be replacing the Route 28 Bridge in Big Indian and in 2019 they expect to replace the Route 28 Bridge in Mount Tremper. Ulster County is looking to remove the Mount Pleasant Bridge, which has been closed to traffic for more than 30 years and the Town is concerned it could come down in a future flood, similar to the Coldbrook Bridge. The Town has submitted a SMIP application to get Code Enforcement Officer Warren Tutt trained on Community Rating System (CRS) implementation. The NY Rising Program officials met with Rob S., looked at the proposed location for Town Hall Complex relocation and are currently preparing a feasibility study for the project. The hope is to combine NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program and CWC funds for the future relocation.

He also reported that there has been great difficulty with the Town working with the NYSDEC Floodplain Management Bureau to get their model ordinances approved. There was a lot of back-and-forth between the Town offices and the State offices with mislabeling and numbering mistakes occurring. It seems that that this

has finally been remedied, however, the Town of Shandaken and other Ulster County Towns undergoing a map revision process are listed in the Federal Register as not having passed their ordinances and therefore will be suspended from the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). NYSDEC Floodplain Bureau Chief Bill Nechamen told Rob S. that this will all be corrected and that the Towns are not in danger of being suspended from the program. Rob S. voiced that it has been a frustrating process for the Town.

Updates from Town of Olive

Sylvia R. reported that LFAs for Boiceville and West Shokan are nearing completion. At the November Town Board meeting, John Mathiesen from the CWC gave a presentation on the voluntary NYC-Funded Flood Buyout Program. The Town strongly encouraged Boiceville residents and business owners to attend, and the vast majority did. Sylvia R and John M indicated that all of the attendees from Boiceville are interested in taking advantage of the buyout program. In West Shokan, the Town is looking into rechanneling the stream, doing stream bank work and upgrading bridges as part of the NY Rising program along the Bushkill. The contract with Milone and MacBroom (MMI) will have to be amended in order to address the erosion concerns in that hamlet. There are approximately five upstream spots that will likely require some sort of treatment. The Town will be working closely with NYSDEC permitting officials. They will also be do some renovations including a new roof in the Town offices and Highway garage. In addition, the Town will acquire a 100,000 watt backup generator with NY Rising funds.

Sylvia R. also reported the Town will relocate firehouses in West Shokan and Boiceville out of the flood zone, hopefully through a land swap deal with NYC DEP. The Town will seek CWC funding for relocation of critical facilities out of the floodplain.

She also reported having a great deal of frustration working with NYSDEC on passing their model ordinance and had similar problems as described by the Town of Shandaken.

Updates from Town Woodstock

Mike R. reported the Town is submitting an application to replace the Mink Hollow Bridge through the Bridge NY program. The Town will apply for a SMIP grant to rehab the Lane Road box culvert that is in serious need for either repairs or an upgrade. Initial estimates called for a \$3 million replacement culvert. It would be difficult if not impossible to fund something this expensive. They are currently working with MMI for engineering. He hopes that he can work with MMI, NY Rising and AWSMP to develop a more cost-effective design.

Ellen C. asked if state agencies are exempt from local floodplain development permits. In the past, agencies like NYSDOT have said they are exempt even though local municipalities have had concerns that this may jeopardize compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). Brent G. said that he would reach out to Bill Nechamen to get clarification on this issue.

Updates from Town of Hurley

Clyde R. could not attend. Charles O., who came in his place, said there was nothing to report from the Town of Hurley at this time.

Updates from Ulster County Government

Aaron B. gave an update on FEMA buyouts in the watershed. 15 buyouts are occurring in the Town of Shandaken. Two of those buyouts have closed and a few more are expected to close before the end of the year. Unfortunately, there are issues with many of the remaining buyouts (such as contamination on site) that will need to be resolved prior to closing. These cases will likely take more time before they are resolved. When properties are closed the structures on the properties will be demolished and the land will become open space. There will be opportunities for park/greenspace development and/or fishing access on some of these properties which will all be owned by NYCDEP.

The Ulster County Multijurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan has yet to be submitted to FEMA for final approval. It has been reviewed by the state two times and each time it has come back with many comments and required edits. Compliance with the state's Climate Risk and Resiliency Act (CRRRA) is required and adhering to this compliance has been difficult for the County at times. The State is requiring that the County and each municipality provide specific funding sources and timelines for potential projects, in addition to other information. The intent of capturing all of this information now is that this will help streamline projects and funding post-disaster. It is hoped that the plan will ultimately be adopted in 2017.

Updates from CWC

John M. reported that CWC received an application from the Town of Shandaken to purchase property for the Town Hall complex relocation and that the CWC board will review it at their December meeting. CWC is working with propane companies to get them familiar and supportive of the fuel tank anchoring program. The propane companies, in addition to owning many of the tanks, are also the ones that will need to hook the connections back up after the elevation/anchoring is complete. Brent G. asked about the CWC Stream Debris Removal program since he had received a call about it from a concerned landowner. John M. reported that the program is only available following a flood, therefore it is currently closed. If another flood is to occur and the CWC decides to open the program, landowners are encouraged to apply.

NYC DEP Updates

Phil E. could not make the meeting this week because of a family emergency. Chris T. said he had nothing to report concerning NYC DEP flood hazard mitigation matters. He said that if working group members had questions for Phil to please provide them and he would try to get them to Phil when he returns.

NYSDEC Updates

Brian D. asked about building inspection and the local process for floodplain development permits. He was specifically interested in bridge construction and how this impacted the flood maps. It was explained that there are a lot of variables that impact flood zone boundaries and while typically a wider and higher bridge span would impact the flood zone boundaries (shrinking them in most cases) it sometimes does not. It is all dependent on what the engineering study that goes along with the bridge says about those issues. Rob S. said that the maps they use are the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate (FIRM) maps and the modeling they use comes from the accompanying Flood Insurance Studies (FIS). Individual properties can apply for Letters of Map Amendment (LOMAs). Local code enforcement officials generally require a floodplain development permit for all construction in the floodplain with a few exceptions (flag poles and mail boxes for example).

There was some continued discussion about the need for State agencies to get floodplain development permits from local officials or to at least submit proper paperwork to FEMA in order to revise the maps as needed.

Highlights from the October 17 Elevation Certificate Workshop

Brent G. gave a short presentation focusing on highlights from the Elevation Certificate Workshop meeting that was held on October 17 at the Emerson Resort and Spa. Additional copies of the binder with materials from that meeting are available from the AWSMP office. Please contact Brent G. if you would like one.

Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group in 2017

Brent G. asked the group if working group members were satisfied with the way these meetings were run and if there were things that could be done better. He also asked if there were education topics that would be beneficial for the group next year. Most of the working group members stated that they were happy with the way these meetings were conducted. Potential education topics for next year include:

- a) Homeowners Flood Insurance Affordability Act of 2014 (HFIAA) and its impact on flood insurance policy holders
- b) Floodplain Development info
 - a. Invite County, NYSDOT engineers
 - b. Work to coordinate efforts to help localities stay in compliance with NFIP
- c) Increased Cost of Compliance (ICC) coverage
 - a. Discussion on how home and business owners can tap into ICC and other coverage to bring their structures into compliance
- d) Walkthrough of Flood Insurance Study and other FEMA/floodplain management documents
- e) Course/workshop to teach Town Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members how to use the Ulster County Parcel Viewer
- f) Elevating Homes
 - a. Specifics on how homes are elevated, different elevation approaches, costs, etc.

The Towns also requested that AWSMP print out additional copies of their FIRM maps for use in Town offices.

Next Meeting

TBA, late winter/early spring 2017