

**AWSMP Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group Meeting Minutes**  
**March 23, 2015**  
**1:00pm—3:00pm**  
**AWSMP Office, 3130 State Route 28, Shokan, NY**

*In attendance,*

Sylvia Rozzelle, Town of Olive Supervisor  
Gary Capella, Executive Director of Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation  
Nate Hendricks, Catskill Watershed Corporation  
Aaron Bennett, Ulster County Department of the Environment  
Ed Kahil, Olive Flood Advisory Committee Member  
Glenn Hoffstatter, Town of Hurley Code Enforcement Officer  
Beth Reichheld, NYC Department of Environmental Protection  
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent  
Clyde Russell, Town of Hurley Highway Superintendent  
Leslie Zucker, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County  
Adam Doan, Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Danyelle Davis, NYC Department of Environmental Protection  
Brent Gotsch, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

**Town of Shandaken Update**

Town is still waiting for FEMA and New York State to respond to funding applications.

**Town of Olive Update**

The Town signed agreement with Woidt Engineering to do Local Flood Analysis (LFA) in Boiceville and West Shokan. Town obtained a Hudson River Valley Greenway Grant for a Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan for portions of Town outside NYC Watershed area. They submitted a pre-application to the NY Rising Community Reconstruction Program for \$1 million for the analysis of the Bushkill and implementation of LFA projects to begin approximately in Spring 2016. LFA kickoff meeting will be held April 14 with Olive FAC and Town Board.

**Catskill Watershed Corporation Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program Presentation**

Nate Hendricks of the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) gave a presentation on funding opportunities for communities to help with flood mitigation. His presentation focused on two major CWC programs that deal with flood hazard mitigation: the *Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program (FHMIP)* and the *Sustainable Communities Program*.

*Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program (FHMIP)*

Following Tropical Storms Irene and Lee, in September 2012 stakeholders in the NYC West of Hudson Watershed met and created parameters for LFA and FHMIP programs. In August 2013

there was a Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) modification where \$17 million was allocated to CWC for FHMIP.

Priority for CWC programs is to relocate Anchor Businesses, Critical Community Facilities, and residences. Next level of priority is to reduce flood depths. Most parts of the program require a LFA to be complete before funding can be accessed. Project must be in an LFA community and located in an LFA study area to be eligible. They are not limited strictly to original MOA boundaries. Towns/Villages and certain property owners can apply for funding related to:

1. Projects recommended in an LFA (certain categories)
2. Relocation assistance for Anchor Businesses or Critical Community Facilities

The major assistance categories in FHMIP include:

Relocation Assistance: Offered for Anchor Businesses, Critical Community Facilities or residences to relocate to a location within the same Town from which they are moving. The (New York) City-Funded Flood Buyout Program covers purchase of former property. CWC covers the relocation expenses.

Property Protection Measures: Needs to be recommended by LFA, have an off-site flood elevation benefit, and is documented and supported by LFA. Measures include elevation, flood vents, etc.

Community-Wide Elimination of Sources of Man-Made Pollution: Is offered for relocating or securing fuel tanks. Must be recommended by an LFA to be eligible.

Stream-Related Construction Work: Offered for work in stream channel, stream banks or floodplain. Project must provide off-site flood elevation benefit, recommended by LFA and reduce water surface elevations in LFA community or study area. Public or private property is eligible. Private property work needs to have specific documentation.

Projects need local support. Town Board needs to pass resolution to approve work on private property. Town must apply to CWC for funding to implement project. Individuals can not apply by themselves (for stream work). They must be sponsored by Town.

*Off-site flood elevation benefit* is defined as projects that reduce water surface elevations in an area measured by LFA using hydraulic modeling. Nearby upstream and downstream locations must see a reduction in water surface elevations and Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) must be greater than 1 to justify funding.

*Anchor Business* is defined as a private gas station, grocery store, lumber yard/hardware store, medical doctor's office or pharmacy, located in a floodplain in an Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) designated hamlet, which if damaged or destroyed would immediately impair the health and/or safety of a community. CWC is working with DEP to develop proposed criteria to clarify Anchor Business definition.

Anchor Businesses or residences need to be in LFA study area and recommended by the LFA to be eligible. If they meet criteria for substantial damage they do not need an off-site flood elevation benefit.

CWC only provides relocation assistance. City-Funded Buyout Program handles acquisition expenses. Generally, properties are acquired by NYC but Town has option of taking over the bought-out property if they desire. Maintenance of each parcel is negotiated. Depending on property's location there will be an easement to allow for stream projects/floodplain projects that have a flood hazard mitigation benefit.

**Anchor Business: Relocation Assistance**

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Cap</b>
Feasibility Study (including SEQRA)	None	\$15,000
Soft Costs	None	\$10,000
Land	None	None
Wastewater	25%	\$50,000

Relocation property (original property) will be appraised and fair market value determined. It will be funded at fair market value. Property to be acquired for relocation must be equal or smaller in area to the property that it is being relocated from. If property to be acquired for relocation is bigger than original relocation property the owners will have to pay difference.

Soft costs include appraisal and similar costs.

Question/Comment: If Anchor Businesses are moved out of sewer district there is less effluent coming into the facility, which could make it less efficient. Could result in increased expenses for those remaining in sewer district. Response: FHMIP does not fund expansion of Town sewer districts. If relocation occurs within an existing sewer district, could pay for sewer lateral hookups.

*Critical Community Facility* is defined as a public facility located in an MOA hamlet (firehouse, school, town hall, public drinking water treatment or distribution facility, or wastewater treatment plant of collection system), which if destroyed or damaged would impair the health and/or safety of a community.

To be eligible for funding, a Critical Community Facility needs to be in an LFA study area. FHMIP pays for relocation costs of facility as is. Would not pay for an expansion of existing facility.

**Critical Community Facility: Relocation Assistance**

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Cap</b>
Feasibility Study (including SEQRA)	None	\$10,000
Land	None	None
Wastewater	25%	\$50,000

Residential Relocation Assistance

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Cap</b>
Planning (for redevelopment community)	25%	\$20,000
Wastewater (per single family home)	None	\$10,000
Wastewater (per redevelopment community)	25%	\$250,000

Residential Relocation Assistance can be recommended by an LFA or as a part of a City-Funded buy-out. *Redevelopment community* is defined as a relocation area for homes that need to be moved for a project.

Property Protection Measures: Per property

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Cap</b>
Feasibility Study	None	\$5,000
Design Costs	None	10% of construction costs
Construction Costs	25%	\$20,000

Property Protection Measures need to be justified by LFA.

Community-Wide Elimination of Man-made Pollution:

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Cap</b>
Design Costs	25%	None
Implementation Costs	25%	\$15,000

Used to remove or secure fuel tanks and other sources of man-made pollution that can be mobilized during a future flood.

Stream Related Construction

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>Cost Share</b>	<b>Cap</b>
Design Costs	None	10% of construction costs
Construction Costs	None	None

Must be in LFA study area and must provide an off-site flood elevation benefit and meet Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) requirements. Properties with stream-related erosion issues likely will not meet BCA criteria and therefore would not be eligible for funding.

Projects that DO NOT require an LFA include:

*Relocation assistance for business and property owners who participate in City-Funded Flood Buyout Program.*

- CWC pays for relocation assistance and to buy new property for anchor businesses. CWC will not pay for property acquisition for residential properties. The only residential costs that CWC will pay for are included in the Residential Relocation Assistance table located above. Specific projects can still be recommended by an LFA.

- Property does not need to be in an LFA study area.

Relocations need to be in same Town. However, Town Board can waive that requirement. Applicant is always the municipality. City-Funded Buyout Program could potentially cover the 25% match. Otherwise, individual property owners to provide match.

*Emergency Stream Debris Removal.*

- Opens after a serious storm event as declared by CWC board and DEP.
- Focus on large woody debris that is an obvious threat to infrastructure, manmade materials (refrigerators, fuel tanks, etc.) that pose a water quality hazard.
- Properties are allowed up to \$10,000 per designated storm event regardless of property size.

*Sustainable Communities Program:*

- CWC allocated \$150,000 for this program.
- For municipalities that completed an LFA to update or create a new comprehensive plan to identify areas for relocation of residences and businesses out of flood hazard areas.
- Funds can be used for Town to hire consultant for plan updates.
- Each Town can be awarded no more than \$20,000.

Applications for FHMIP were released on March 3, 2015. Completed applications are due June 1, 2015. There will likely be another funding round in fall 2015.

**Miscellaneous Announcements**

CWC Annual Meeting is April 7, 2015

**Next Meeting**

TBA