

Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group Meeting Minutes
May 7, 2014, 10:00am-12:00pm
AWSMP Office

In attendance:

Adam Doan, UCSWCD
Leslie Zucker, CCE UC
Brent Gotsch, CCE UC
Heather Eckardt, CCE UC
Danyelle Davis, DEP
Tim Cox, CWC
Mike Reynolds, Woodstock Highway Superintendent
Ellen Casciaro, Woodstock Code Enforcement Officer
Sylvia Rozzelle, Olive Supervisor
Dom Covello, Olive Building Inspector
John Ingram, Olive Zoning Enforcement Officer
Rob Stanley, Shandaken Supervisor
Al Frisenda, Shandaken Code Enforcement Officer
Aaron Bennett, UC DoE
Clyde Russell, Hurley Highway Superintendent
Jim Fugel, Olive Highway Superintendent

Kick-off meeting of the Flood Hazard Mitigation (FHM) Working Group.

Overview:

Draft objectives for the working group were reviewed and agreed upon. The FHM Working Group was formed because we recognize continued problems with flooding in our area. The goal is to gather key members into one group to share accurate information and coordinate strategic solutions to flood hazards. The working group will meet quarterly to discuss all topics related to flood hazard mitigation within the watershed. We will touch on different education programs, funding sources, and how to go about projects.

The Towns may use the FHM Working Group meetings to meet collectively with agency representatives to review project status and questions. This agenda item may occur several times per year, or as needed.

This is an effort to share information, receive education, and coordinate goals for each municipality. This working group will follow the same guidelines as the AWSMP Stakeholder Council. The group is basin-wide, comprised of town representatives, agency representatives, and community flood committee members. We want to make sure that the membership is correct – anyone who has information to contribute should be included. We may need a larger space in the future.

Funding opportunities, projects, partnerships/agency, education, and training are the primary topics covered.

Local Flood Analysis (LFA) Presentation:

Leslie Z. gave a presentation on Local Flood Analysis (LFA). LFA became a more formal process after Hurricane Irene. She covered the definition of LFA, how LFA fits with other funding programs (local to federal), process, range of eligible projects, and eligible communities.

Each municipality must form a Flood Advisory Committee (which may be a formal process). AWSMP can help municipalities form their committees. The committees identify the flood hazards and risks. The towns then apply for LFA support through AWSMP. Consultants will be hired (Shandaken plans to hire Milone and MacBroom) to do LFAs by modeling different scenarios and they will issue reports on their findings. The committees will review the reports. Once reviewed, the options are presented to the public. The Town Board determines which projects move forward.

Roundtable Discussion

The Towns discussed their approaches to forming flood advisory committees. Example resolutions to establish flood committees (commissions or boards) from other communities were distributed.

Rob S. reported that Shandaken's flood committee, SAFARI, has not met recently due to meetings with NY Rising.

Sylvia R. reported Olive is forming a flood committee. Clyde R. and Ellen C. reported they do not think Hurley or Woodstock have formal committees.

The Towns reported their progress on CR projects and funding. Sylvia R. had concerns about future CR funding. The money (\$50M) goes to the best "well-managed" project. Municipalities that have money can hire professionals to assist them with getting funding – money goes to money. She also had questions about FEMA funding program deadlines.

Rob S. said the CR funding process remains unclear. He said FEMA gives money to build back projects pre-flood. CR is offering money to supplement, but because of FEMA rules, this could upset the original funding.

It is important to address projects after they fail in a timely fashion, but it does not have to be immediate.

Future Meetings:

Meeting agendas going forward will include time to follow a roundtable format. Each municipality will have an opportunity to address their concerns and share their ideas. A survey will go out regarding topics to cover at next meeting.

On May 29, 2014 from 12:30 – 2:30pm, there will be a meeting at the Olive Meeting Hall for Ulster County municipal officials to learn about floodplain maps and insurance rates. There will be a public meeting that evening from 4:00 – 8:00pm at the Emerson.

Committee agreed to meet first Wednesday of every third month. The next meeting will be held on August 6, 2014.