

**AWSMP Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group Meeting Minutes**  
**December 9, 2015**  
**AWSMP Office, 3130 State Route 28, Shokan, NY 12481**

*In attendance,*

Brent Gotsch, CCE UC  
Phil Eskeli, NYCDEP  
Chris Tran, NYCDEP  
Ellen Casciaro, Town of Woodstock  
Mike Reynolds, Town of Woodstock  
Sylvia Rozzelle, Town of Olive  
Amanda LaValle, UC DoE  
Aaron Bennett, UC DoE  
John Horn, Town of Shandaken Planning Board  
Clyde Russell, Town of Hurley  
Tim Cox, CWC

**Welcome and Introductions**

Meeting attendees went around the room and introduced themselves. Chris Tran introduced himself as the new NYC DEP Contract Manager for the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP), backfilling the position that Danyelle Davis left to become the Stream Studies Coordinator at the DEP Stream Management Program.

**Town of Shandaken Updates**

Rob Stanley (Town of Shandaken Supervisor) could not make it to the meeting. Brent G. and Aaron B. recapped Town of Shandaken flood mitigation activities reported by Rob at recent meetings. The Town is nearing completion of their Local Flood Analysis (LFA) for the hamlets of Phoenicia and Mount Tremper. The draft LFA Final Report has been circulated and comments are being received by Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (the Town's engineering firm). Rob hopes to have a special Town Board meeting in the near future to review the LFA.

Tim Cox strongly suggested that the Towns "accept" the LFA report as opposed to "adopting" it. "Adoption" is an official term that would trigger State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR). That would be an unnecessary burden for Towns to go through for LFAs. Individual projects from the LFA that communities decide to implement will go through the SEQR process.

The Town of Shandaken has a stand-alone Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan will be updated at the next SAFARI meeting scheduled for December 16, 2015.

**Town of Olive Updates**

Sylvia R. reported that Ed Kahil (Town of Olive Flood Advisory Committee) and Aaron B. are interviewing businesses in Boiceville to determine damage amounts suffered during Tropical

Storm Irene and other previous floods. This data will be used to help with the Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA) that will be conducted for the most promising LFA projects in the hamlet of Boiceville.

Woidt Engineering (the firm that has been hired by the Town of Olive to undertake the Boiceville and West Shokan LFAs) is currently working on generating hydraulic modeling information that will be derived from coupling various LFA mitigation options with the two different Five Arch Bridge design alternatives provided by NYCDEP engineers. Woidt Engineering has determined that the current bridge is a contributing factor to flooding in the hamlet. Choosing the best re-design of the bridge has the potential to help alleviate some of the flooding in the hamlet.

Sylvia R. reported that she received a call back from Jeff Graf of DEP regarding her inquiry as to whether a parcel of land owned by NYCDEP (located just east of Boiceville) may be available for the relocation of the Boiceville firehouse. Phil E. indicated that any land purchased by NYCDEP after the 1997 MOA, which this was, has had a conservation easement on it (an MOA requirement) held by the State of New York. Although this is only a 2.5-acre parcel, it is still subject to terms of that easement. Tim C. indicated that it is possible for conservation easements to be extinguished. Sylvia R. said she is hopeful that something can be worked out and the Town will continue to communicate with NYCDEP to determine if this is a suitable parcel for relocation.

Town of Olive will be sending out a Request For Qualifications (RFQ) after the holidays for further analysis of the Bush Kill from the Maltby Hollow Brook Bridge down to the Route 28A NYCDEP bridge.

### **Town of Woodstock Updates**

Mike R. has spoken with Bobby Taylor of the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District about a culvert in Mink Hollow. Mike R. is concerned that it may be undersized and contributing to localized flooding. The Town of Woodstock will be getting a new box culvert on Lane Road along Silver Hollow.

Ellen C. reported she will attend the NYS Floodplain Managers Conference next year. She attended last year and got a lot out of it including a DVD that included all of the appropriate post-flood forms that could be tailored for individual towns. This was very beneficial since the forms can be printed out ahead of time prior to flooding. Since they are in digital format, they can be reformatted as needed for each Town. Ellen C. said that she would share a copy of the disc with anyone who would like it. Brent G. offered to make copies of the disc if this would be helpful.

Woodstock does not have any eligible hamlets for LFA funds. However, Towns can apply for regular SMIP funding to do an LFA-like analysis. Phil E. requested a copy of the SMIP rules from AWSMP. Some members of the group felt that other stream management programs in the NYC Watershed may not have that same policy of allowing LFA-like studies to be conducted outside of the originally designated hamlet areas.

## **Town of Hurley Updates**

There is a concrete box culvert on Old Route 28 and Boulevard Road that needs to be replaced. One of the wing walls has collapsed and is catching debris and is generally become unstable. The Town of Hurley is applying for a SMIP grant to replace this culvert.

Amanda L. reported that the Hudson River Estuary Program has a grant program that funds culvert replacements. It is geared for smaller, undersized culverts with aquatic connectivity issues. The Ulster County Department of the Environment can help with applications. This program is eligible for any municipality in the Hudson River Estuary. The culvert that is to be replaced must be located within the estuary to be eligible. Contact Amanda L. for more information or for assistance with applications.

## **Ulster County Multijurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates**

Aaron B. reported that the deadline to finalize the Ulster County Multijurisdictional All Hazard Mitigation Plan is April 2016. The County hopes to have it done in time for Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) and Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) funding that is typically announced in May or June. These are funding streams from FEMA made available through the State. Aaron B. reported there are approximately 90 projects in the Ulster County portion of the NYC Watershed included in the plan.

There were some communities in Ulster County that did not participate. However, all of the NYC Watershed towns in Ulster County participated and submitted projects to be included in the plan. Aaron B. explained that the federal government gives money to the states and then the states evaluate the projects that communities submit for funding. While not all the projects included in the county multijurisdictional all-hazard mitigation plan will be funded immediately, they have a better chance of receiving state and federal funding if they are included in the plan.

## **CWC Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program Updates**

Tim C. reported that the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) sent out letters to all 41 towns and 8 villages in the NYC Watershed. The NYC Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Land Acquisition Program requires that every five years towns can determine whether DEP can solicit parcels in hamlets or other areas for potential purchasing. Towns/Villages have six months (ending on June 16, 2016) to decide where DEP can solicit for acquisition.

In 2015, CWC received four applications for the Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program. Three came in for the June funding deadline and one for the December funding deadline. One application was fully approved (a feasibility study for the Village of Walton to study cell tower relocation). All of the applications that came in were for feasibility studies to relocate businesses, utilities, etc. All of the applications had projects that were based off of LFA recommendations. Another application that will likely be fully funded is a project submitted by the Town of Windham. They are looking to relocate G & H Lumber in conjunction with a

floodplain reclamation project. The Greene County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) is helping with that project.

Currently, there is only one application that has been fully approved. There are two more that are going to the CWC Board for approval. The other application (relocation of the Dollar General in Village of Walton) currently needs more information before it can be considered for funding.

CWC is finding that most of their applications are for further feasibility studies for specific projects that are identified and recommended in LFAs, especially for the larger more complex projects. One reason for this is that the communities realize that they need to be sure that relocated anchor business will be placed in a location where they will be successful.

2016 funding deadlines have not yet been set. There was some discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of having a rolling funding deadline versus set spring and fall deadlines. For the time being, CWC will maintain its spring and fall funding deadlines but in the future they may consider rolling applications. More discussion with DEP needs to occur before they can move to a rolling application.

Tim C. mentioned that CWC has a Sustainable Communities Program. This program can be used if money is needed for planning. A town must have a completed LFA to be eligible.

### **Preliminary FIRM Adoption**

Towns in Ulster County are winding down in the FIRM appeal process. The Towns are now currently waiting to receive a Letter of Final Determination from FEMA. Once that letter is received then the Towns will have 180 days to adopt the Preliminary Maps. Once adopted, the Preliminary Maps will become Effective Maps. Effective Maps will be fully enforceable by law and be the source of base flood elevations for any construction projects that occur in regulated floodplains.

Towns will be in contact with Bill Nechamen (NYSDEC Floodplain Management Chief) who will advise the Towns on whether their current floodplain administration laws are good or if they will need to adopt the model law that NYS provides. The Town of Neversink in Sullivan County and most municipalities in Greene County have already adopted their preliminary maps. Delaware County will be getting Letters of Final Determination shortly. There were a lot of appeals in Ulster County, which have delayed the process. That process is coming to a close and by the middle of 2016 or sooner Ulster County Towns should be adopting their maps.

### **LFA Next Steps Presentation**

Brent G. gave a brief presentation that explained the next steps for LFA generally and a broad process for implementation of LFA recommendations. This presentation was very broad in scope and each town will get more specific details during their individual flood committee meetings. The purpose of this presentation was to give a general overview of what each community could expect in the coming months as they look to implement their LFA report recommendations.

## **Other**

Phil E. would like to know (specifically from Town Supervisors) how much do the local legislators on the town and county level know about what is going on with the LFA? He explained that many of the recommended LFA projects are big projects that cannot be funded only by CWC and DEP. It is imperative that County legislators and state and federal representatives are aware of these projects so additional funding can be obtained. He suggested that as the LFA reports are finalized that meetings between CWC, DEP, the Towns and legislators be scheduled to facilitate discussion on what can be funded using funds besides what is available from DEP and CWC.

## **Next Meeting**

TBA