

**SAFARI Meeting Minutes**  
**Sept 17, 2014**  
**AWSMP Office**  
**10:00am-12:00pm**

*In attendance:*

Rob Stanley, Town of Shandaken  
Leslie Zucker, CCE UC  
Brent Gotsch, CCE UC  
Tim Malloy, Town of Shandaken  
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken  
Aaron Bennett, UC Dept. of Environment  
Don Brewer, Shandaken Planning Board  
Mark Carabetta, MMI  
Danyelle Davis, NYC DEP  
Mark Loete, Trout Unlimited  
Heather Eckardt, CCE UC

**Previous Meeting Minutes**

There were no issues with the previous meeting minutes.

**Town Supervisor Update**

The LFA presentation went well. The presentation was reviewed in the Catskill Mountain News.

The flood wall is continuing on the Esopus Creek. R. Stanley was given a no-rise certification on the project, based on the use of hydraulic modeling referencing FEMA maps. However, the engineer sent a letter saying that some rise is unavoidable. They are trying to divert flood waters, and there are concerns about flows downstream. R. Stanley is considering hiring an attorney, and with AWSMP's help, doing a model at the engineer's expense that shows the head pressure against the side of the buildings.

It was asked who an individual can go to if they disagree with a decision the town makes. There is no one at FEMA. It is solely the town's responsibility.

There have been issues with permits. Al Frisenda had issued a permit for a landowner stream project, but not for a wall. The landowner knew better, but proceeded anyway. The work had to be stopped.

A stop work order was not issued because there was no permit issued in the first place.

Brent G. recommended educating people about building permits.

### **LFA Public Meetings**

R. Stanley contacted Emerson and Parish Hall regarding public meetings, and both were very amenable. There will be no charge for the meetings.

Meeting should be held on a Monday or Friday to accommodate second home owners. Tuesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> for Phoenicia, and Monday, October 20<sup>th</sup> for Mt. Tremper. Both of the meetings will be held from 6:30pm to 9:00pm.

D. Davis will not be able to attend on those dates, but will ask Beth Reichheld to go in her place.

Future meetings will not be scheduled until after these meetings are over.

The meeting agenda will cover topics such as the definition of LFA, modeling, timeline of projects, and members of the project team. Meeting will become workshops, where people will look at maps and have conversations about flood mitigation alternatives. The presentation will show how a model is a useful tool, showing different scenarios. Models, combined with expertise and experience, will help people determine the best projects. Local Catskill examples should be used.

L. Zucker asked if framing will be done on known issues. M. Carabetta said that MMI doesn't usually present their ideas. They usually let the community members steer the meeting. R. Stanley agreed that that approach was best.

M. Carabetta said they will introduce community members to the process. They will talk about problems and solutions. Maps and depth grids will be shown, and they will show how the models depict the flows. People will likely agree with what the models show.

Not everyone experienced Irene, so it is important to emphasize that LFA models the bigger picture (not just tribs, but also the Esopus). It has to be a study of the whole area. Not all floods are 100-year floods. They want to integrate all data.

M. Carabetta passed out handouts, one titled "LFA FAQ" and another titled "A Primer on Flooding" for meeting members to review.

Large-scale maps were shown by M. Carabetta. These maps will be shown at public meetings and will be marked up.

L. Zucker asked if depth grids are ever used at the meetings, as they show the floodways and risks well. M. Carabetta said that people often want house by house data. R. Stanley asked if different areas can be broken out so people can choose their areas of interest. M. Carabetta said information can be tailored for specific properties. A spreadsheet with property owners could be created, and also used as a sign in sheet at meetings.

M. Carabetta also said that everything modeled should be documented so that the same information does not have to be repeated at future meetings.

The press release (should be on town letterhead) and mailer will go out prior to mailings. AWSMP can help. Press release should emphasize that this is a community effort and the meetings are an opportunity for property owners to voice their concerns. Meetings will be recorded and televised.

M. Carabetta showed a presentation that was shown to Town Board.

The first slide showed the purpose of the meeting: LFA process, project team, and meeting process. There was a description of the LFA process, and an explanation of why it's being done in a specific area (in this case, Shandaken). Reasons such as water quality and other impacts from flooding were listed.

Other slides showed the Flood Advisory Committee and the MMI Team (org chart). D. Davis commented that CCE should be added to the AWSMP partnership umbrella.

Another slide discussed the public meeting process. Information gathered at community meetings will be modeled. Preliminary results will be presented to Town Board.

A. Bennett suggested adding a slide that shows the timeline. It is important to emphasize that this will be an engineering analysis, not a study. It is important for people to understand that this data will go somewhere.

R. Stanley said that public funds cannot be spent on popular things alone. Projects have to be substantiated.

Project areas will be shown. M. Carabetta said when possible, he uses tools such as Google Earth to look at specific areas during meetings.

Basic hydraulic modeling will be touched on briefly, just to convey how modelling works. The final slides showed types of flood mitigation (structural, property protection, prevention) and flood mitigation strategies.

To discuss the cost/ benefit analysis would be premature at this phase.

D. Davis asked about whether the decision process will be discussed at the meetings. The answer was Town Board will make the final decision. Communities will drive decision process.

Buyouts are sensitive. Relocation will be the first option. Town Board will have to make difficult decisions (eminent domain) if one property hinders an approved project that would help the community overall.

The plan is not dictatorial. It is collectively what is best for the town.

A. Doan said to keep in mind that projects from the plan can be implemented at a later date. An example would be large bridges. Projects of this scale would probably not be implemented until it was time to replace the bridge(s) anyway.

Brent suggested hosting a public, depth-grid training.

### **Annual Progress Update - Shandaken Flood Mitigation Plan**

B. Gotsch had circulated the plan prior to the meeting. The plan did not go to FEMA for evaluation; however, he was informed that the performance period went into effect the day the Town Board approved it, which was 7/25/2013. That was the official start date.

B. Gotsch updated the tasks completed to date. He wrote a success story, which R. Stanley said was fine. Phoenicia and Mt. Tremper should be the areas specified in the LFA. Recommendations for changes or enhancements were included.

R. Stanley accepted the plan, barring no substantial changes upon final review. A. Bennett seconded the acceptance, and no one opposed. B. Gotsch said he will distribute a final version with the final changes made.

R. Stanley explained that the NY Rising sub-recipient agreement is a contract with the state that essentially says moneys will be used properly. The state is the contractor with the federal government, and towns are sub-recipients of the state.

Shandaken is bound by state regulations which interfere with the timing of stream projects. Work cannot be done in the fall.

R. Stanley asked that Tim Cox be added to the email/meeting list.

### **Next Meeting**

Next meeting will follow community meeting in Mid-November.