

Meeting Notes	
SAFARI	
Project AWSMP-1009T3	Related Grant(s): None

Minutes of Meeting	
Location: AWSMP Phoenicia Office	Date: 3/31/2011
Time: 2 hrs	
Purpose: To begin to develop a long-term strategy for reducing flood risk in Phoenicia.	
Attendees:	
Rob Stanley, Town of Shandaken Supervisor, shandakensupervisor@yahoo.com	Elizabeth Higgins, CCE Ulster County, emh56@cornell.edu
Eric Hoffmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent	Kim Ackerley, Catskill Watershed Corporation, kmorse@cwconline.org
Cory Ritz, UC SWCD, cory.ritz@ashokanstreams.org	Art Snyder, UC Emergency Management, asny@co.ulster.ny.us
Virginia Craft , Ulster County Planning Department, vcra@co.ulster.ny.us	Danny Davis, NYC DEP, ddavis@dep.nyc.gov
Beth Reichheld, NYC DEP, ereichheld@dep.nyc.gov	

Discussion

Data on Repetitive Loss Properties and Data on Flood Insurance Policies

Kelli Higgins-Roche of DEC has provided the data on Flood Insurance Premiums and repetitive loss properties from the FEMA database

1. Flood Insurance Premiums The Town of Shandaken (as of 3/25/2011):
 - i. Total Annual Premiums: \$162,393
 - ii. No. of A zone Policies: 98
 - iii. Total No. of Policies (including those outside the SFHA) : 169
 - iv. Total coverage: \$32,812,300
 - v. Total Claims since 1978: 165
 - vi. Total Paid since 1978: \$1,176,639
2. Repetitive Loss Properties as of 1/31/11 (spreadsheet provided)
 - i. Number of repetitive loss properties: 19
 - ii. 9 properties in the hamlet of Phoenicia. Other clusters were in Mt. Tremper (5) and Oliviera (3)
 - iii. The total flood insurance payment for the 19 properties was \$726,657 (45 claims total). These 19 properties are 11% of the total policies. They accounted for 27% of the total claims and 62% of the total payments.

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Discussion about Flood Insurance and Repetitive Loss Data: Concern that currently there is low participation in the National Flood Insurance Program, given the number of properties in the town that are potentially at risk from flooding. The new FIRM maps are expected to result in more people being required to purchase flood insurance and/or more properties documented as being in the SFHA (100 year floodplain). Having an elevation certificate is required to get flood insurance, but many properties probably do not have an elevation certificate on file with the building department. Based on information from one resident, the cost of getting the survey needed for an elevation certificate is \$800. This will be a barrier to many residents (particularly those who are not required by their lender to get insurance). Also, there may be people who get the certificate but do not provide a copy to the building department; so that information is not on-record should the property change hands in the future. Having a database/file of all elevation certificates for all properties in the SFHA (at a minimum is a best practice in the National Flood Insurance Program as it makes it easier and less costly for people to get flood insurance when the property changes hands.

FIRM Map Revision - Status Update

Beth Reichheld (DEP) reported on the status of the DEP/FEMA agreement to revise the Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). As reported at the January meeting, there were contractual/communication issues between DEP, FEMA and the FEMA sub-contractors that were delaying the project. Communication has improved and the subcontractors are currently going through the DEP VENDEX (certification of vendors) process. If all goes well, surveying could begin in May. If a problem occurs the project could be delayed several months as it may have to go out to bid again.

One good piece of news, FEMA has given a grant to DEC to provide education/outreach in support of this project. Local mapping committees, representatives from the affected towns, should begin meeting in May.

Plans from DOT for the Rt. 214 Bridge in Phoenicia

Dave Corrigan of DOT provided the plans for the Rt. 214 Bridge in Phoenicia. He also provided the contract for the reconstruction of Rt. 28 in 1927, which showed that the old bridge was constructed by the town (so DOT does not have records). It does provide a drawing of the bridge (in 1927) that indicates that there is a bar above the bridge (like there is today).

There is a great deal of useful information in the plans. It appears that the new (1993) bridge was designed for a 50 year event, which they estimated to be 9500cfs. There have been several > 9000 cfs events in the past few years. Danny Davis commented that there was not a gauge on the Stony Clove in 1992/93 the DOT probably used a regional regression model that likely underestimated the storm flows through the bridge.

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Funding for Flood Mitigation Work in Shandaken/Phoenicia

Elizabeth Higgins (AWSMP, CCE) reported that the Town of Shandaken has received 2 grants since the last meeting, 2 letters of intent have been submitted to SEMO for mitigation work and the Army Corps has been approached about possibly working with the community.

1. Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Implementation Fund - approved two grants to the town of Shandaken. A resolution to accept these grants will go before the town at the next Board Meeting.
 - i. To hire Milone and MacBroom International (MMI) to do a more complete study of the Stony Clove/Esopus confluence and develop a design for a recommended solution. If feasible & cost effective, solution is identified, the Town may apply to AWSMP for assistance with construction.
 - ii. To hire a consultant to develop a flood mitigation strategy for the town, help the town apply for the National Flood Insurance Community Rating System (CRS) which would lower flood insurance premiums, and to develop a list and plan for implementation of projects. Need to develop RFP or RFQ for the consultant.
2. SEMO Hazard Mitigation Funds - 2 letters of intent were submitted in March, to address flooding issues
 - i. UC SWCD submitted a LOI for a project to stabilize Brown Rd. and also to consider mitigation to affected properties
 - ii. CCE Ulster submitted a LOI for a project to mitigate repetitive loss or significantly impacted properties in the hamlet of Phoenicia.
3. Army Corps - Both the town and the AWSMP program have contacted the Army Corps. The town passed a resolution to request the Army Corps' assistance with flood mitigation in Shandaken. Jason Shea, of the Army Corps provided a final copy of the Reconnaissance Study completed in 2008 to Higgins. According to Mr. Shea, the next step would be to develop a Project Management Plan (scope of work) for the feasibility phase. In order to proceed into the feasibility phase Army Corps needs a non-Federal partner, willing to cost-share the study. The prior estimate for the study was over \$2 million, but it may be possible to develop a smaller scope. There was a discussion about the advantages and disadvantages of funding the Army Corps for further study. The most significant disadvantage is the probability that projects in Shandaken would not be a high priority for federal Army Corps funding even if the full study was done. An advantage may be to have a federal agency make recommendations for projects might help build support for them at the state level (an additional level of support/justification for projects).

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4. CWC Stormwater grant funding - Shandaken currently has several active CWC stormwater projects. After discussion with CWC staff, because of debate/uncertainty around wastewater treatment plant in Phoenicia, it is premature to apply for other stormwater funds for the hamlet. If the treatment plant is approved, upgrading stormwater infrastructure would be included in the project.

Flood Emergency Notification

There was a discussion about needs for getting information to Shandaken residents about flood risk – especially at night – and also to have a process by which residents in the frequently flooded areas can notify the town that they have evacuated to reduce the burden on emergency personnel.

Suggestions included: using the sirens (special siren for flood warning), helping people subscribe to NY Alerts to receive the message in the way that is the most appropriate to them, educating residents of flood prone areas to notify the town when they have evacuated so that personnel do not go through too much effort and risk to evacuate them. Clear processes and education are clearly needed in this area.

Next Meeting

May 19, 2011 1-3 pm AWSMP office (6375 State Route 28, Phoenicia)

For the next meeting:

Action Item(s)	Who
Town Resolution supporting AWSMP grants to Shandaken	Stanley
Contract between MMI and Shandaken	Stanley
Develop and issue RFP/RFQ for Consultant	Stanley/Higgins/Davis
Follow-up on Army Corps involvement	Stanley
Continue to work on improved flood notification/action process	Group
Ask Jim MacBroom to meet with group to discuss plans for work in Stony Clove	Higgins