

SAFARI Meeting Notes

January 24, 2013

10:00am to 1:00pm

AWSMP Office, 6375 State Route 28, Phoenicia, NY 12464

In attendance:

Brent Gotsch, AWSMP-CCE
Danyelle Davis, NYC DEP
John Horn, Shandaken Planning Board
Rob Stanley, Town of Shandaken Supervisor
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent
Aaron Bennett, UC Dept. of Environment
Beth Reichheld, NYC DEP
Leslie Zucker, AWSMP-CCE
Adam Doan, AWSMP-UCSWCD
Christina Appleby, AWSMP-UCSWCD
Candace Balmer, RCAP Solutions
Cynthia Bianco, Tetra Tech, via phone

Review of Flood Mitigation Documents

Rob Stanley has received legal advice from the Town attorney. They will have to revise some of the language in the documents so that they correspond correctly with definitions in the Town of Shandaken Code Book. Even within the Town Code Book, definitions such as “structure” are defined differently in different sections. All this must be reconciled before the plan is finalized.

Cynthia Bianco worked through the documents that were produced by Tetra Tech. They were available for review online at the Tetra Tech share point site. Currently only a select few individuals have access to the site but it was suggested to ask Tetra Tech to get passwords to others so the broader group can access the documents digitally. **Tetra Tech and Town of Shandaken will setup a time to go over definitions in the plan.**

Floodplain Development Permits

Cost of permit is partly based on the value of the structure. More expensive structures have more expensive permits. FEMA payouts must be based on substantial damages.

Flood Response Plan

It was clarified that the Flood Alert team is the same as the Command Center staff.

SAFARI needs to review the Incident Organizational Chart. **Rob Stanley will create a new one that more accurately reflects the set-up in the Town.**

It was brought up that it would be very helpful to have the USGS setup more stream gages to allow for Town officials to call into them to see what stage the water is at. It was brought up that this is rather expensive to do and would most likely not be possible.

It was brought up that bridges/culverts are significant infrastructure in the town and that the plan needs to better reflect that. Also suggested that mitigation strategies for this infrastructure be put in the plan. **Eric Hofmeister will get a list of all the bridges that are maintained by the Town. Aaron Bennett will get a list of all the bridges that are maintained by Ulster County and NYS DOT.**

Flood Risk Assessment

Danyelle Davis will provide comments to Tetra Tech on the 2nd paragraph from the bottom of the page. AWSMP will tag/highlight the necessary streams to include on a map of listed streams for that page. Brent Gotsch will email a link to the Esopus Creek SMP to Cynthia Bianco.

It was brought up that new flood maps were coming out in 2013 (possibly by May) and that this should be reported in the plan. Also it was raised that flash flooding is not just a problem in the tributary streams, as the plan says, but also in the larger streams like the Esopus which regularly experiences flash flooding.

There was some concern about the accuracy of the data being used (for demographics, damages, etc.). It was pointed out that it was mostly Ulster County data and not Town of Shandaken specific and didn't include damages from Tropical Storms Irene and Lee. It was suggested to keep the data at the county level as it would be difficult to get Town level data for what was being offered in the plan.

The SAFARI group will get Tetra Tech a revised and edited version of Section 5.2

Tetra Tech will try to have a representative give a public presentation about the plan at the next Town of Shandaken Board meeting on February 4, 2013 at 6:00pm. Specifically it would go over the vulnerability assessment.

Next Meeting: February 20, 2013—2:00pm-4:30pm

ACTION ITEMS:

1. Tetra Tech and Town of Shandaken will setup a time to go over definitions in the plan.
2. Rob Stanley will create a new one that more accurately reflects the set-up in the Town.
3. Eric Hofmeister will get a list of all the bridges that are maintained by the Town. Aaron Bennett will get a list of all the bridges that are maintained by Ulster County and NYS DOT.
4. Danyelle Davis will provide comments to Tetra Tech on the 2nd paragraph from the bottom of the page. AWSMP will tag/highlight the necessary streams to include on a map of listed streams for that page. Brent Gotsch will email a link to the Esopus Creek SMP to Cynthia Bianco.

5. The SAFARI group will get Tetra Tech a revised and edited version of Section 5.2

Other Action Items:

1 24 13 SAFARI meeting – DRAFT follow-up actions

- RCAP: coordinate all edits from Town, AWSMP and TT
- TT: provide word documents for editing

CRS

General

- Town/TT: increase points from level 8 to level 7
- Schedule con call with TT Rob Flanner to review specifics/ details of acceptable activities and needed documentation to increase and maximize CRS score
 - Doodle poll
 - Agenda is CRS scoring and flood damage protection ordinance

320 Map Info.

- TT: be more specific - refers only to FIRM maps?

330. Outreach points

- Town/AWSMP: provide list of outreach activities to TT. (several of the documents relating to outreach are on AWSMP website, e.g. publishing community guides and holding conferences, acquisition program and relocation. specific to Ashokan watershed, 70% is Shandaken.)
- Town: send community information sheet mail-out to TT for documentation of
 - Community outreach (CRS points)
 - Broadcasting guidelines (FRP)
- TT Question: Do they have to be town-initiated activities or do partner activities count?
 - Town adopted stream mgt plan, town is partner in these programs.
 - Will being more specific in the language of partner agreements help?

Open space

- Town/AWSMP: provide documentation to garner more credit. Open space has to be in a flood zone. Only got credit for 5 acres (36 points out of a total 900).

Flood damage protection ordinance and permit.

Cumulative and substantial improvements

- Town: forward attorney's comments to TT.
- Town/TT: Include this topic on agenda for conference call with Rob Flanner. Some comments to address:
 - Reference to licensed professional – no carpentry licensing program. How to adequately address intent of draft language here?

- Upon what measure of home value are cumulative improvement percentages based?

Elevation Certificates:

- Town: confirm that it has no intent to include footing construction elevation (as well as preconstruction and lowest habitable area i.e. 1st floor elevation) in elevation certificate requirement.
- Town: How is issue of basement conversions addressed?

Flood Response Plan (FRP)

- TT: check that SWOO meeting info been incorporated into FRP
- Town: review and edit Incident Organization Chart in FRP
- Town: determine whether there are additional low-tech flood warning indicators that Town would like to include in Attachment 4
- Town: brainstorm ideas for low tech flood stage warnings in vulnerable areas? Ideally, want something in Woodland Valley, Mt Tremper, Birch Creek and Allaben: want more call-in capability to those stations – depends on how difficult for USGS to add that capability, may remain in the realm of recommendation.

Flood Mitigation Plan

Critical Facilities

- TT: assure highway garage is included in narrative
- TT: transportation section: de-emphasize importance of RR by making first 2 sentences become last 2 sentences. RR also runs through hamlet of Big Indian.
- TT: add vulnerable bridges and culverts to town profile. Private bridges that are vulnerable, has impact in emergency.
- Town/Highway: provide list of all bridges maintained by Town.
- UCDE: provide list of all bridges maintained by Ulster County and NYS DOT.
- Town: Issue of private bridges needs to be explored further

Section 5.2

- Town: P4. 5th para, last sentence: Alton Creek?
- Danielle: p5.2-4, rewrite paragraph beginning: “When at flood stage...”
- Danielle: provide a map that tags and id’s the different streams
- TT: Figure 5.2-2 – use reference link for Upper Esopus Mgt Plan instead

FEMA flood hazard

- TT: add problems from undersized culverts
- AWSMP/ DEP: provide case study on impact of culverts on flood vulnerability to TT to include in the flood profile section.

Flash flooding is a problem anywhere, happens on the Esopus itself as well as the tributaries.

- AWSMP/ DEP to rewrite Section5.2.1.8,

- cut out 2nd and 4th sentences, etc.
- include Woodland Valley

Erosion and inundation hazards.

- Town/AWSMP/DEP: draft paragraph to identify areas where repetitive erosion/ evulsion occurs; reference documents having additional details

Section 5.2.1.9

- Town/ RCAP: create sentence or paragraph discussing estimated damages in Town, provide to Leslie and Eric for review. 2011 events, data is incomplete. \$3.5 million maybe 5.5 million on just highway from Irene itself, still have buy-outs.

Flooding events

- Town/AWSMP: make edits to this table

Section 5.2.2

- TT: reference fact of new FIRMS right up front
- Town: follow up with Chris Gibson office re Mary Colvin at FEMA for Irene damages
- TT/AWSMP: List of projects from Bobby Taylor received?

Mission, goals, objectives

- AWSMP: forward revisions from 1 24 13 meeting to TT

Miscellaneous

- AWSMP: provide info on Local flood hazard mitigation analysis (LFHMA) as it becomes available (DEP is on the verge of creating outreach materials, finalizing guidelines in the next month)

Public outreach

- All: Schedule series of public meeting to present draft and final documents
- TT: Develop draft agendas
- TT: Confirm presentation February 4 Town Board meeting.

Mitigation Strategies

- TT: incorporate SWOO and mitigation matrix comments and edits into recommendations
- Focus on final review of Mitigation Strategies at next SAFARI meeting: Feb 20th, 10-1 Wednesday tentative date for next meeting