

AWSMP Highway Managers Working Group Meeting
AWSMP Office
March 14, 2013
8:30-10:30 am

In attendance:

Adam Doan, UCSWCD
Bobby Taylor, UCSWCD
Leslie Zucker, CCEUC
Brent Gotsch, CCEUC
Kirk Peters, UC DPW
Mike Reynolds, Town of Woodstock Highway Superintendent
Deron Davis, USDA-NRCS
Danyelle Davis, NYC DEP

AWSMP Staffing Update

Leslie Zucker is the new Cornell Cooperative Extension Program Coordinator for the CCE division of AWSMP. Adam Doan is the interim Project Manager for Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Contract Updates

CCE is in negotiations with DEP for a new contract. The current contract is scheduled to end in May 2013 but is expected to be extended to December 2013. January 2014 will have a new contract which will include more money for the Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) funds.

EWP Update

There are currently 3 EWP sites on the slate for 2013:

Warner Creek Site 5:

Expected to start in May 2013. This will address an eroding streambank which is contributing to turbidity in the system as well as protect a portion of Silver Hollow Rd.

Stony Clove/Warner Creek Confluence:

This area was seriously impacting Route 214 as well as Silver Hollow Rd. Original design for area was larger, but a landowner did not want to sign the landowner agreement. The design for the site will have to be redone to exclude this property. The redesign will include bank stabilization and in-stream grade control structures along the Stony Clove as well as a step-pool design at the mouth of Warner Creek . Expected to begin construction in summer 2013.

Chichester Sites 2, 3, 9:

These project sites will continue work started last summer with Chichester Site 1. The stream at these locations remains unstable and has resulted in considerable bank erosion and entrainment of fine sediment. The consultant tasked with the design will also develop a plan for hillslope grading that would not be eligible for EWP funding. AWSMP program funds are being considered for use on non-EWP eligible portions of the project. Work is expected to begin summer 2013.

Fox Hollow:

NRCS working with Town of Shandaken to place some constructed riffles on this stream.

Additional EWP Projects

There are approximately 50 EWP projects state-wide that may benefit from a new appropriation of disaster relief funds this year. Most of the EWP projects that are currently slated for construction in 2013 are in Shandaken. Wait-listed EWP projects in the watershed (approximately 8-10) are in multiple watershed towns (Woodstock, Olive, etc.). It is expected that a number of these will be expensive projects. The question becomes where does the matching funds for these projects come from? AWSMP SMIP funds are almost totally allocated, though, there may be some money coming back to our program. Hillslopes are not covered by EWP but it is critical to address them if problems are to be solved.

It was encouraged that AWSMP and the Towns (as project sponsor) should revisit the sites on the list to determine which projects are still problems and begin the process of prioritizing and seeking local match.

SMIP Projects

The \$2 million of SMIP money of this contract has been 100% allocated. Leslie Zucker is currently reviewing the status of these projects to see if everyone has spent down the money or if money will come back to AWSMP. One SMIP Grant (Brown Road project) has not moved forward because of delays with FEMA. If nothing happens with this project than AWSMP will get approximately \$200,000 back that they can use for other projects. AWSMP would like to apply these funds to post-Irene stream work (ex. Dry Brook in Olive, Silver Hollow Road in Woodstock or Little Peck Hollow in Shandaken).

Mink Hollow:

Contract ends August 28, 2013. Not all the money has been invoiced. Since the last rain was significant it is important to visually inspect it to see how well it held up. This will happen when water levels decrease. The project has installed the downstream riffle and additional structures not completed in 2012 are slated for construction 2013. The wall appears to have held up well to the March 2013 high water event. Town needs NRCS to look at it. There are some additional funds left but the Town would like to use this money to fix a pipe on the upper end of the project. It is important to go out and inspect/evaluate how well this site is holding up and determine necessity of completing project as originally designed.

Debris Jam Work on Mink Hollow:

Adam Doan was sent estimates from Mike Reynolds for grinding of woody material. DEP stacked the wood so it is all ready to go when the grinding issue gets sorted out. This site could have potential as a toe wood/rootwad revetment project. Concrete blocks are also on site that could be used to anchor the wood. A nearby bridge that could be threatened by woody debris means that any wood in construction would require care and extra anchoring to ensure that this wood would not become a threat to the infrastructure.

Maben Hollow:

Contract end date is September 17, 2013. The bridge is finished. Ulster County DPW needs to invoice AWSMP. There has been approximately 2 feet of material that has aggraded at the site. It was recommended that a HEC-RAS model be run at this site to determine extent of aggradation.

County Route 47:

Project is complete. AWSMP needs to be invoiced.

Additional Needs for 2013

Silver Hollow Road and Little Peck Hollow Road—have been surveyed but needs to be modeled before additional recommendations can be made.

LFHMA

Monies will be available in next contract for the Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Analysis (LFHMA) program. Please note that this program is still in development. This program is designed to help municipalities with reducing inundation in hamlets or population centers. The process would be that the town would form a flood hazard mitigation group (similar to Shandaken's SAFARI group). This group or commission would then identify needs and resolve to create a mitigation plan, apply for funds to develop and run models, look at the models and then apply for funds and contract to have the recommendations/models implemented. AWSMP will have \$2 million for LFHMA available over 5 years in addition to the \$2 million for SMIP.

CWC will likely have some funds too. However, their fund would be dedicated to move anchor businesses out of floodplains in order to protect the local economy. LFHMA funds through stream management program would be used for items such as bridges, culverts and stream work.

The LFHMA program is geared for problems associated with flooding, namely inundation. It does not address erosion which is a big problem for our area. Program is designed to find ways to lower flood levels and help hamlet population centers (like Phoenicia).

The analysis portion of LFHMA is done between the Towns (or AWSMP) and a consultant. The consultant will do the modeling necessary before Towns can access implementation funds. Analysis helps the communities to decide which stream work would get priority. Funding for LFHMA projects is expected to begin in January 2014. For AWSMP, money for analysis portion of LFHMA would come through the Cornell Cooperative Extension division. Money for implementation would come out of Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District division.

Other Items

There will be a Map Steering Committee Meeting on Wednesday, March 20 at 1:30 at the Olive Free Library in Olive, NY. This meeting will be an opportunity for community officials and residents to review new draft work maps before official preliminary maps are introduced. Later this year FEMA will release digital flood maps which will better show where flooding problems occur within watershed towns.

Training Needs: It was requested that in the spring or summer months that a field trip to the various construction sites be done.

Site Visits: Highway Managers request AWSMP assistance with Maben Hollow and Mink Hollow sites. Will schedule time for site visit.

Future Action Items:

Next Meeting will be held Thursday, May 9th 8:30-10:30am.

Highway managers are encouraged to review list of EWP projects which are slated for funding and determine which projects should be a priority.