
Stakeholder Council 2014

Membership

The Ashokan Stakeholder Council is comprised of:

The Executive Council:

2 representatives from each of the active AWSMP working groups.

Both representatives of a working group should not come from the same organization or agency.

Representatives should be chosen annually by the working group.

No person can represent more than one working group on the Stakeholder Council.

Staff: (CCE Ulster County, UC SWCD, DEP SMP Contract Manager for Ashokan Watershed)

Regular Members: Membership in the Stakeholder Council is open to any interested and knowledgeable stakeholder.

ASHOKAN WATERSHED STREAM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

STAKEHOLDER COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

AWSMP Program Office, Phoenicia, NY 12464

April 24, 2014 1pm-4:20pm

In Attendance: Tim C., Sylvia R., Jim F., Rob S., Andrew E., Kirk P., Barry B., Burt S., Amanda L., Joan C., Mike F., Kathy N., Chet K., John H., Mike R.

Staff: Leslie Z., Brent G., Heather E., Danyelle D., Beth R., Adam D., Matt S.

Next scheduled meeting: TBD July 2014

Community Updates and Event Announcements

Attendees introduced themselves and Leslie Z. overviewed the agenda.

Community Updates and Event Announcements

Matt S. announced Bennett Intermediate School's Annual Earth Day on June 13th.

AWSMP Project Updates

NYC DEP Project Updates

Danyelle D. presented NYC DEP's financial investment in the AWSMP to date and projected figures:

The existing contracts (2008-2013) with CCEUC and UCSWCD total \$8,107,570. Change orders to amend and extend (2014-2015) CCEUC's contract is \$722,336, and for UCSWCD's contract is \$1,219,867.

The next contracts (2014-2019) with CCEUC and UCSWCD total \$13,720,770. DEP's total investment in the Ashokan watershed (2008-2019) is \$23,770,543.

New commitments (2008-2019) include:

- Replenish SMIP \$2M
- Flood Hazard Mitigation - \$2M for LFA and implementation + ~\$550K for UCDOE Planner to assist Towns with FHM
- Stream restoration - \$4.04M for reach-scale stream projects (at least 5 turbidity reduction projects per FAD)
- CSBI - \$300K
- E&O - \$276K
- Consultants - \$574K for assessment, design, research, construction inspection

Program staff:

UCSWCD - 5 full-time staff (Highland staff support)

CCEUC - 4 full-time staff plus part-time educator

Revised FAD requirements:

- Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Program - \$2M + funding for planner
- Provide \$500k for use in the Emergency Watershed Protection program
- Provide \$4M to construct 7 turbidity reducing stream projects (Warner Creek and Stony Clove projects contribute to the 7 projects. After 20134, there are 5 more needed.)
- Review recent water quality monitoring work that USGS has done in the watershed. Propose and fund additional studies to determine turbidity sources and effectiveness of stream projects.
- Continue to fund SMIP and CSBI.

Beth R. said there have been 9 emergency flood declarations in the past 7 years. AWSMP has been working in the watershed for the past 16 years and has dealt with many flood events with expertise; however, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee still incapacitated us. FAD was still in negotiation when Irene hit.

There are three legs of NYC Watershed Flood Hazard Mitigation programming: DEP-Stream Management Program (SMP), DEP Land Acquisition, and Catskill Watershed Corporation. DEP-SMP will provide funding for Towns to identify conditions that exacerbate flooding. The program is called Local Flood Analysis. Using HEC-RAS engineering models, a Local Flood Analysis will show where infrastructure or floodplains are causing constriction and allow us to modify them (in the models) and note the differences in flows. The models allow us to conceptualize long-term benefits to communities. Funding for Local Flood Analysis is distributed to the Towns through SMIP.

DEP Land Acquisition will work with Towns and county/town partners to implement a flood buyout program. Buyouts must be approved by the Town and will be completely voluntary. Buyouts or relocation would enable flood prone areas to be renovated and repurposed for flood-compatible uses – specifically looking for projects that benefit communities. Towns must opt-in.

The Catskill Watershed Corporation is negotiating a flood hazard mitigation program with New York City. The program will include funding for relocation of anchor businesses and key commercial and residential properties.

Sylvia R. asked if any flood modeling had been done on the Esopus near Boiceville. The NY Rising Community Reconstruction (CR) Program Reconstruction Plan showed modeling had been done on this area and a levee was proposed. No Council member knew of modeling done at that location.

Local Flood Analysis funds are dedicated only to 1997 MOA-designated population centers. The AWSMP recently awarded Shandaken funding to run LFA in Phoenicia and Mt. Tremper. Additional LFA applications will be accepted after new contract designation, hopefully around July 1st.

UCSWCD Project Updates

Adam D. gave updates on UCSWCD projects. The Shandaken stream restoration project at Chichester 2/3 was completed in the fall of 2013; however, the hill slope will need some repair work to the A and B1 channels. A geotechnical engineer will be visiting the site on behalf of MMI and will be providing an opinion on repair/enhancement. Total cost of the project was \$1,504,186.50. The hill slope cost is \$381,101.68.

Work will resume soon on the stream restoration project at the confluence of Warner Creek and the Stony Clove. Primary work remaining is on the Stony Clove. The cost is \$1,505,350.00 (as bid).

New Projects in 2014:

Stream Restoration

- T/Shandaken – Stony Clove Lane EWP. DSR estimate is \$390,000.00. The lead engineer will be Deron Davis.
- T/Hunter (in Ashokan watershed) – Wright Road EWP. DSR estimate is \$959,335.00 (however, due to an underestimate of the size of the project, the in-house estimate is \$1,798,753.13). The engineer will be Milone and MacBroom.

Streambank Bioengineering

- T/Shandaken – Oliverea/ CSBI. Estimate TBD. Bobby Taylor will be leading.
- T/Olive – Bush Kill Dry Brook. Estimate TBD.

Stream assessment this year is primarily focused on monitoring to meet permit requirements and longitudinal profiles. Assessment staff continues to work on stream management plans for Bush Kill in T/Olive and Bushnellsville in T/Shandaken.

CCEUC Project Updates

Brent G. updated the Council on CCEUC community events and outreach. There are eleven upcoming events:

- 4/26/14 Mountain Valley Little League (Olive, Woodstock, & Shandaken)
- 5/3/14 Little Beaver Kill Stream Walk at Kenneth Wilson State Park
- 5/17/14 Big Indian Spring Festival
- 6/13/14 Bennett Intermediate School Earth Day
- 7/26/14 Woodstock Library Fair
- 7/28/14 – 8/3/14 Ulster County Fair
- 8/23/14 Shandaken Day
- TBD (September) Olive Day
- 9/20/14 – 9/21/14 Ulster County Harvest Festival
- TBD (September/ October) Ulster County Creek Week
- 10/23/14 -10/24/14 CERM Conference

Leslie Z. introduced Matt Savatgy, CCEUC's youth educator.

Matt S. gave an update on the youth education program he leads at Bennett Elementary School in Boiceville. Bennett is now grades 4, 5, and 6. Most of the programs are after-school clubs, as science programs are being compromised by increased focus on mathematics and language arts brought about by standardized testing. Hands-on science education is not prominent, but Matt does work in classrooms at the teacher's requests. This is the third year of their Watershed Detectives after-school program. There are 10 acres of woods behind the school with a small stream, which is the focus of their education. The kids are stewards of the stream.

Kathy N. mentioned that the new Catskill Interpretive Center may also offer some sites for kid's activities.

Risk Management

Leslie gave a presentation on Cornell University's new risk management policies. CCE is a "Distributed University" which combines research based education with local experience to help NY State communities and families thrive. CCEUC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit which conducts a broad range of programs to the public. CCEUC relies heavily on volunteers to accomplish their work. Due to scandalous behavior and lawsuits involving clergy, scout leaders, teachers, coaches, and others, all CCEUC staff and volunteers who may come into contact with youths or other vulnerable persons

are now required to have a background screening through LexisNexis. The screening is required so that CCEUC may continue to carry General Liability Insurance that covers volunteers while performing their duties. The screening will check the sex offender registry, in addition to other criminal activity. Specifically, they will be looking at felonies within the past 7 years; Class A misdemeanors within the past 7 years; Class B misdemeanors that carried jail time within the past 5 years; or a fine and probation within the past 3 years. Only LexisNexis maintains the records, and CCEUC's human resources department will be contacted if there is a problem. This policy aims to protect children and the safety of all CCE volunteers.

Volunteer paperwork and background consent forms were delivered to all Stakeholder Council members. Any questions should be directed to Leslie Z. or Leah Cadwallader, CCEUC's Regional Human Resources Manager. All paperwork should be returned to Heather E. in the Phoenicia office.

Report on Fifth Annual Ashokan Watershed Conference

Of the 132 who registered, 111 people attended, which was a nice turnout. The conference was well-advertised, with ads in the Watershed Post, Save-the-Date cards and registration brochures distributed, Facebook posts, and Chet K.'s Twitter posts. The Save-the-Date cards and registration brochures were beautifully designed by Stephanie Blackman. They were very sophisticated yet perfectly appropriate for the conference. The style and theme of the conference was very appealing.

Everyone seemed to agree that early spring is a good time for the conference. Two Stakeholder Council members participated in the conference. Mark Loete presented the Opening Remarks and Chet Karwatowski acted as the moderator for the Stream Panel.

Only 29 evaluations were returned, but the presenters, facilities, and food all received high praise. 10 of the 29 people thought the \$10.00 fee was too low. The majority of the participants were 50 and older. Going forward, we should try to reach some younger people. The stream panel was *very* popular. Chet K. noted that the audience was "friendly" and eager to learn. Of the conference area most useful, one attendee wrote that Roy Schiff's presentation actually changed his mind about dredging. The only criticism was the facility was not handicap-accessible.

Joan Clancy Communications assisted with conference planning. Joan C. suggested starting conference planning earlier in the year, as much as a year in advance. In particular, for choosing a venue and securing speakers. Also, it would be a good idea to note the breakfast/check-in time on the brochures, etc., going forward. People all arrived in a cluster around 9:00am, which made registration hectic.

The morning sessions were recorded and will be available in the future. Three minute highlight videos will be available as well on the AWSMP website (www.ashokanstreams.org).

Working Groups Reports

Flood Hazard Mitigation

The AWSMP Flood Hazard Mitigation Working Group will transition from SAFARI (Shandaken's FHM initiative) to a basin-wide educational and information-sharing group. SAFARI will be run solely by the Town. The Towns are entering a new phase of hamlet-specific planning. AWSMP will be participating and helping as requested. The FHM Working Group will be a venue for Towns to share ideas with each other. Towns are invited to attend the first FHM Working Group meeting in July to discuss Local Flood Analysis program rules.

Sylvia R. said there are still many road blocks with NY Rising CR funding. There are a lot of corrections to be made. There is too much to review and not enough time to make decisions.

There is no clear understanding of how CR funds will be disbursed to communities. The second round of \$50M is based on the “speed” of the projects. There is no information on funding protocols and reimbursements. The process is currently in a stall.

Rob. S said that NY Rising has provided little guidance on next steps. Projects are prioritized by committee vote. It is not clear if the towns are choosing their own engineers or if the engineers will be chosen for them. Shandaken plans to meet with MMI in mid-May to discuss modeling. TetraTech will assist Shandaken with CRS free of charge.

Sylvia R. and Rob S. are actively seeking other funding opportunities.

New Business

Stakeholder Council Guidelines

There are improvements needed to the Stakeholder Council guidelines and rules. Items under *Functioning*, Meetings vii & viii need clarification. The issues regard how to reach a quorum and comply with conflict of interest legal guidelines when voting to recommend a grant for funding. More information will be prepared for Council review at a future meeting.

Kathy N. suggested that abstaining voters could reduce the number of votes required in vii.

Tim C. provided the AWSMP with CWC bylaws as an example.

Guideline viii currently reads: *Executive Council members unable to attend meetings due to illness, work engagements, or travel may authorize a fellow working group member to serve as their proxy.*

It was discussed that proxy and absentee are different terms with different meanings.

Adopt 2-Year Action Plan

Chet K. made the motion: *Does the Executive Committee approve the 2014-2016 Action Plan as guide for programming?*

Amanda L. seconded the motion. A quorum of the Executive Council was in attendance and voted. All (7) were in favor: Chet K., Mike R., Rob S. Amanda L. Burt S., Barry B., and Mike F.

Next Meeting

TBA — July 2014