

AWSMP Highway Managers Meeting Minutes
November 13, 2014
8:30am to 10:30am
AWSMP Office, Phoenicia

In attendance:

Brent Gotsch, CCEUC
Kirk Peters, UC DPW
Andrew Emrich, UC DPW
Leslie Zucker, CCEUC
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent
Mike Reynolds, Town of Woodstock Highway Superintendent
Clyde Russell, Town of Hurley Highway Superintendent
Jimmy Fugel, Town of Olive Highway Superintendent
Adam Doan, UCSWCD

2014 Grant Applications

Deadline to submit applications for the upcoming round of funding is December 5, 2014. Next grant round will be in spring 2015. The deadline may be extended for a week if needed, but strongly encourage all grants be submitted by deadline.

Past grant scopes were standardized to fit with other AWSMP projects, including milestones for 30%-60%-90% design completion. Completion of 60% design is enough for permitting. It was suggested that applicants meet with Adam Doan to review completed design & engineering to make sure application is complete. Also suggested meeting with DEC if time permits.

There is no pre-application for SMIP this year. The AWSMP Stakeholder's Council requested more information be provided in the initial grant application, including description of project need and why the project is important. Attach reports and data developed during design & engineering phase. Supply a justification for not including engineering if the project does not require it.

Training grants are eligible as in past years.

Applications are in an MS Word document format. The application can be downloaded from the AWSMP website at: <http://ashokanstreams.org/projects-funding/>. Or request a copy from Leslie Zucker at laz5@cornell.edu.

Project Updates

Town of Shandaken

Fox Hollow Creek at Herdman Rd: Town recently completed a Task Order for grade control and bridge replacement on Herdman Road. The deck and beams are in bad shape. Funding level adequate.

Fox Hollow Creek at Fox Hollow Rd: Currently waiting on MMI for a conceptual design. MMI requested field visit with SWCD.

Woodland Creek at Fawn Hill Rd: Hasn't started. Need to consult with MMI. Funding level may need to be adjusted.

Route 28 Bridge at Big Indian: Scheduled for replacement. DOT will take out the curve and replace with a straight span. May begin this winter or spring. Final product two car lanes plus a bicycle/walking lane.

Route 42 bridge (by Town gravel bank): DOT is replacing.

Route 28 bridge by 42 (near Farmer Jones): DOT just announced will be replaced.

Considering replacing culverts just after DEC campground on Woodland Valley Road. May try to apply this grant round.

Town of Olive

Dry Brook at Hillside Drive: Peak Engineering out of Stone Ridge (Scott Davis) is working on engineering for Hillside Bridge. Hope to apply for construction grant round. Town is looking for an open bottom bridge. Box bridge at Traver Hollow was difficult and expensive to install.

Town of Woodstock

Silver Hollow Creek at Silver Hollow Rd: Engineering estimate complete for culvert replacement, however, the Town has requested NY Rising funding for the project. AWSMP funds may no longer be needed.

Funds granted to this project expire on December 31, 2015. AWSMP will close the grant now and rebudget the funds before parent contract expires. Woodstock can reapply if future funding is needed.

Beaverkill at Mink Hollow: Need to meet up with Deron Davis (NRCS) for site visit.

Town of Hurley

Nothing to report. Not planning to submit a grant application this round. Most of their problems are associated with the Lower Esopus.

Ulster County Dept. of Public Works

County Route 47 Culvert Replacement: Nothing from FEMA yet. Actual costs well over estimate. In appeal.

Maben Hollow Bridge Repair and Expansion: Nothing from FEMA yet. Confident will be refunded 100% by FEMA.

Funds granted to the projects above expire December 31, 2015 when the parent contract expires. AWSMP will work with County DPW to amend the existing grant agreements, or reapply for funding under the next SMIP round.

Ulster County dedicated increased funding to infrastructure improvements next year.

Butternut Creek Project: Possible SMIP application to be submitted by the UC Department of the Environment. DPW advised on project. Cost estimates and therefore local cost-share have risen. Coordination is needed to determine if AWSMP is the appropriate funding agency.

Railway Trestle: DPW will replace the railroad trestle in Boiceville with FEMA funds. Project cost estimated at \$2.6 million for a four-span bridge. Costs of site access are not included in the estimate. There is additional estimated cost of \$400,000 to remove old steel beams from the stream. The project site has aggraded over recent decades with woody debris accumulation.

Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Projects

Stony Clove Lane: Project is complete and as-built is done.

Stony Clove Creek-Warner Creek Confluence: Should wrap up soon. Need to put in some vegetation.

Next Year: Wright Road project and Chichester Site 2 & 3 hillslope and structure modifications.

Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI)

Contact SWCD for post-construction plantings (Bobby Taylor is the CSBI Coordinator).

Because of poor quality willow stock, the willow fields on Coldbrook Road are not doing well. The nursery will provide new stock, however it will take at least 2-3 years for growth to be viable for harvest and use at project sites.

In contract, locally harvested willow has high success rate.

Non-EWP Projects

UCSWCD asked the Towns of advise on projects for 2016. EWP will be over; these projects will be FAD deliverables with multiple objectives, including public benefit and water quality improvement. UCSWCD to complete five projects over next five years. UCSWCD will identify these projects in the next six months and complete survey and design in 2015.

Project budgets typically range \$500,000-\$750,000, though depends on size of the stream and nature of work. Stony Clove Land and Warner Creek 5 projects are examples of size. Less expensive projects can be done on tributaries. It's likely mainstem Esopus Creek projects will be funded through the Local Flood Analysis (LFA).

Potential Projects:

Town of Woodstock - Beaver Kill above Mink Hollow Bridge, near logjam.

Town of Shandaken

Above Herdman Road just outside the Phoenicia LFA study area, bank failure threatening section of road. Huge amount of material is fails. Also, hill at Flintlock, where road goes over hump. Railroad tracks used to border stream. Some clay, but appears mostly till.

Restore sections of old railroad? Put a few projects into FEMA? No major rebuild on docket at this time.

Town road, County bridge on Herdman Road where it goes over Woodland Valley Creek will need to be replaced. Bridge is in bad shape. If road is lost, about 30 houses with no outlet.

Ditch Seeding

There is a FAD requirement in the UCSWCD contract with DEP to report the miles of ditch seeded in the watershed. Asking highway managers to share what they've seeded.

There were no ditch seeding activities from any of the municipalities this year.

HydroSeeder or Bale Mulcher

After discussion, the group decided it's better to have a hay bale mulcher similar to the one that Olive owns. It would be cheaper, about two times more cost for hydroseeder, and more convenient to use. Olive purchased 6' trailer at TSC. Small trailer holds about 15 bales, takes two people to run, one feeds bales. Only maintenance is sickle bar knives. Adam Doan will assign Tiffany Runge to investigate Olive's model and other options. May purchase two and house them in Shandaken. County has hydroseeder that can be borrowed for larger projects.

Next Meeting – January 8 (snow date TBD)