

AWSMP Highway Managers Meeting Minutes
June 19, 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
Amanda Wolfson, UC DOE
Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway Superintendent
Mike Reynolds, Town of Woodstock Highway Superintendent
Clyde Russell, Town of Hurley Highway Superintendent
Deron Davis, USDA-NRCS
Adam Doan, UCSWCD

Project Plans 2014

Ulster County DPW (K. Peters and A. Emrich reporting)

Project on Oliverea Road (just north of Deer Lane):

- Traffic down to one lane of traffic
- 20-25 foot drop to stream
- Rebuilding embankment with stacked rocket toe and rootballs and downed trees on the second level above
- Plan to utilize CSBI for a planting there later this fall

Gabion wall near McKenley Hollow bridge:

- Begin filling holes in the wall with stones to help keep the water out. No stream work.
- Plan to utilize CSBI for inter-planting rock

The NWF did not select the County's Bush Kill grant for funding. Currently no plans to do stream work there. A. Doan reported this area of the Bush Kill will likely be part of a Local Flood Analysis (LFA) study area and would receive attention after the Town of Olive begins the LFA process for West Shokan.

Discussion about the availability of large quarry rocks, particularly those large rocks for stacked rock wall projects. Managers report they are available in a number of places, but it is important to mark which rocks you want otherwise the quarry may try to give you lesser quality rocks.

FEMA is still processing reimbursement for two completed post-Irene SMIP projects: Maben Hollow bridge repair and expansion, and County Route 37 culvert replacement. The bridge project is under appeal.

There was discussion about the complicated nature of dealing with FEMA and being reimbursed for projects.

Deron Davis suggested that an alternative to FEMA could potentially be Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) funds. The problem with EWP is, unlike FEMA, it cannot reimburse for projects already done. However, it generally has an easier accounting process than FEMA. There was some concern about availability of EWP and the need for disaster declaration. D. Davis reported that NRCS usually knows a few days after a disaster if EWP monies will be available.

Town of Shandaken (E. Hofmeister reporting)

Five bridge projects are waiting for FEMA approvals. PW's need to be amended.

Warner Creek Site 5: FEMA approved the appeal, but did not like the sheet piling. Probably will change to a stacked rock wall.

NYS Community Rising: Town does not expect funding to be available for construction this year.

SMIP grants for the T/Shandaken are all approved.

Town of Woodstock (M. Reynolds reporting)

Silver Hollow Road culvert project: L. Zucker reported that the SMIP grant for this project will be signed today.

Mink Hollow SMIP grant project: Town intends to complete stream work by end of 2015.

Town of Olive

Not present.

Town of Hurley (C. Russell reporting)

No major projects going on in the watershed. Have only a few smaller streams that run directly into the Ashokan Reservoir. They currently have more problems with Lower Esopus Creek issues.

AWSMP Project Updates (Adam Doan reporting)

Warner Creek-Stony Clove confluence project:

- Will start up again shortly.
- Was halted last winter because of the weather.

EWP projects under development:

- Stony Clove Lane (Shandaken)

- Permit was submitted to DEC
- Wright Road (T/Hunter)
 - Large project similar in scale to Chichester projects

Hope is to have both projects constructed by end of year's construction season. UCSWCD is optimistic that this can occur, especially if DEC grants an extension as they did last year. Neither project has gone out to bid.

Bioengineering in Olive [CSBI]

- This project is currently in the design stage
- Working with DEC

Grants Update

The Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) contract with DEP will register in the next month or so. The next grant round is expected to begin August, September or October 2014. There will be \$2 million in regular SMIP funds over the next 5 years.

Local Flood Analysis (LFA) will be on a rolling basis. There will be \$1 million in LFA funding in the CCE contract to cover planning and implementation projects.

Think about construction projects or trainings (e.g. Rosgen) for 2015 as funds will be available. Managers can work with CCE if deposits to hold spots in trainings are needed now.

Money will be phased in over the next 5 years. However, the majority of the capital funding is hoped to be granted early on in the process, as it often takes time for large scale construction projects to be implemented. This should give municipalities enough time to design, bid, and construct projects prior to the end of the 5 year period.

AWSMP Stakeholder's Council has noted that in the last contract a large portion of the SMIP dollars were used for research and studies. They hope to put more towards implementation projects during this contract.

Oliveria Project Updates

AWSMP is allocating money to complete a diagnostic assessment of Oliveria valley to study sediment loading and determine the major sediment source areas. Work on this project should commence late summer or early fall 2014.

It was noted that residents of the Oliveria valley are frustrated with what they perceive as lack of action to fix flooding problems, road failures, etc. and may not be happy with "another study." However, there have been no detailed geomorphic studies in the Oliveria area. The Esopus Creek Stream Management Plan identified the need for additional study of sediment loading.

Portions of the Esopus Creek in Oliveria are naturally a braided channel that wants to move back and forth across the valley floodplain, causing contact with homes, roads, and bridges.

Ditch Seeding

New DEP-AWSMP contracts require the program to track ditch seeding operations throughout the watershed. The highway managers can help by tracking miles of ditches seeded to be reported on maps at these meetings.

A large map of the watershed was created for the meeting. None of the highway managers have completed ditch seeding yet this year.

Hydroseeder

During previous meetings, there was discussion of the need for a small hydroseeder(s) to be available within the watershed. A smaller hay bale mulcher, similar to the Town of Olive was also considered. After some discussion, the managers would be best served by a small hydroseeder available to the towns. It was suggested two hydroseeders would be ideal to make sure that multiple towns are not competing for one during busy summer months. The County hydroseeder is too large for the Town's ditch seeding projects.

Adam Doan stated that if there was a particular model that the towns would be interested in he would research pricing for them. Highway Managers are asked to please email specific makes/models that would fit their requirements to him and he will seek out quotes. There may be money in the budget for AWSMP to purchase two small hydroseeders that could be signed out by each Town to use as they needed.

Next Meeting

TBA