

Highway Managers Meeting Minutes 3-23-17
8:30-10:00, AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SMIP Funding

The AWSMP just announced a new Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) funding round with applications due by 4:30pm on April 17. There is roughly \$500,000 available this grant round, and potentially more. The current SMIP fund must be spent by August 2019. Towns are encouraged to submit now for design & engineering of projects they hope to complete by that date.

The new Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) is near completion and the FAD regulators and City have renewed their commitment to the stream management program and the SMIP. New SMIP funds are expected to be available by fall 2019.

PROJECT UPDATES AND IDEAS

Ulster County DPW

Watson Hollow Road slope failure - plans are to submit permit application with 60% design in April. Advertise for bids in June. DEC has tentatively approved construction on state land, but won't issue TRP until application review. DPW will seek SMIP funding for construction.

DPW is preparing an April application to CWC to remove the Mt. Tremper bridge. Complete permitting this year with construction next year.

Other County work in watershed:

- Bridge in Olivebridge – working to maintain federal funds (environmental assessment needed)
- Repair to the rail bed at Coldbrook out for bid (3 sites)

NYS DOT (not in attendance)

DOT work reported by attendees:

- Bridge by Peekamoose – some work underway
- Bridge by Emerson on list for replacement

Town of Woodstock

Culvert at Lane Road and Silver Hollow Road intersection – Town plans to submit a SMIP application for design & engineering. Town explored conceptual designs for culvert with road realignment using NY Rising funds, but all options were too costly. SMIP project will look at more feasible options.

Town also considering a second culvert replacement and bridge in Mink Hollow. Application for bridge replacement was not funded through Bridge NY in 2016. Will resubmit in 2017. Culvert is not transporting sediment and a possible SMIP project.

Town of Shandaken (Highway Supervisor unable to attend)

A bridge in Peck Hollow was replaced in 2016. An application to the NY Bridge program to fund second Peck Hollow bridge was funded.

Town of Olive

Hillside Dr. culvert replacement with bridge – construction bids are due April 5. Town hopes to announce award at April 11 Board meeting. Peak Engineering is doing the construction inspection.

Upper Boiceville Road/De Silva Road culvert replacement – the SMIP contract (awarded fall 2016) for design & engineering was just signed.

Possible future work:

- Bostock Rd. culvert – Town will examine site after snow melt
- Upper Bushkill sediment source areas - wait to see how NY Rising funds are used in West Shokan then determine next steps
- Trib 8 at Upper Boiceville Road bridge – a section with uprooted tree collecting in channel and split channel is causing scour that undermines bank under road

Discussion:

Would riparian plantings help to stabilize upper Bushkill sites now as wait for further action?

First need to assess toe instability or if excessive velocity against bank. If unstable, hard to justify planting. There can be issues with getting plants to root on steep slopes. The Rondout-Neversink SMP is discussing pilot of a new approach using mulch and tackifier with seed in Sullivan County (different than hydro-seeding). Technique uses a kind of mulch “log” that introduces and traps organic matter on cobble-dominated slopes. Best for slope failure without a stream channel against the toe.

Given the amount of work needed in the upper Bushkill, may be good to explore the use of techniques to stabilize bank toe and then revegetate slopes.

Ulster SWCD took a similar approach at Fawn Hill on Woodland Creek (2010). Project survived Irene. Helped that the stacked rock at toe was pinned to bedrock, and water flowing through the hillslope helped the bundled plant material establish.

AWSMP

Stream Restoration Projects

Mink Hollow/Van Hoagland Rd. in T/Woodstock stream restoration projects – at 90% design with permit submission planned for next week. Had to look closely at drainage issues related to the road.

Woodland Valley Creek on Landowners Association property in T/Shandaken – at 60% design and going to permitting.

Plan is to construct at least one of these projects in 2017.

Stream Feature Inventory

The Ulster SWCD will assess the Little Beaver Kill this summer. This stream runs clearer than other tribs to the Esopus and may be point of reference for a more stable channel. Will be interesting to see how conditions compare to other basins.

CSBI – Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative

Ulster SWCD is looking for another bioengineering project after completing the CSBI-funded bioengineering project on the Bushkill in 2016. They are developing a monitoring approach for bioengineering projects.

The SWCD willow bed near Coldbrook is growing well. May have material to harvest soon for use in fascines.

Towns are invited to contact Bobby Taylor with any project planting needs.

Other

The final report for a SMIP-funded stream and bank erosion assessment on Maltby Hollow in T/Olive is near completion. Barton & Loguidice was hired to do the work. May be used to inform project priorities in the Bushkill watershed.

AWSMP is partnering with the Catskill Center's CRISP to deliver education and outreach on knotweed control in the Oliverea reach of the upper Esopus Creek. Patti Rudge organized landowners there to remove knotweed. Working with CRISP, we may pilot stem-injection treatment of knotweed at a large upstream patch of knotweed starting this fall.

KNOTWEED MANAGEMENT

Discussion:

Have we ever spec'd in bid packages to prevent the spread of knotweed?

A generic "clean-fill" specification is included.

Is it possible to bury and kill knotweed?

Literature and personal communication suggests knotweed may grow through 6 ft of soil. Some have tried covering with geotextile fabric – problem is knotweed sprouts out edges and quickly re-establishes. Must be highly vigilant for this to work.

ACTION ITEMS

Follow-up:

- 1) Schedule site visit of Trib 8 channel instability with Town of Olive
- 2) Adam to check on project posting requirements and get back to Andrew