

Highway Mangers Working Group Meeting Notes

October 3, 2018

8:30-10:30, AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

Attendees: Heather Eighmey and Kevin Peters (T/Woodstock), Brian Burns (T/Olive), Mandy Wolfson and Aaron Bennett (Ulster DoE), Leslie Zucker and Tim Koch (CCE Ulster), Adam Doan (Ulster SWCD), Mike Shultis (T/Hurley), Eric Hofmeister (T/Shandaken)

INTRODUCTIONS

Mike Shultis, Heather Eighmey, and Kevin Peters introduced themselves. This was their first time attending a Highway Managers Working Group meeting.

SMIP Funding

The fall round of Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) funding is now open. Applications are due by Friday, October 19th at 4:30pm. Applications should be submitted to Leslie at laz5@cornell.edu. Forms can be downloaded at <http://ashokanstreams.org/projects-funding/>

Approximately \$300,000 is available for award this fall. Projects recommended in completed Local Flood Analysis are funded separately and the Towns/County can apply at any time for funding. Projects funded under this round of grants are required to be completed by 8/30/19. Data collected during the road-stream crossing assessment may provide sufficient justification for SMIP funding. These data include aquatic organism passage, the presence of fine sediment, and the degree of hydraulic constriction.

ROAD STREAM CROSSING ASSESSMENT STATUS REPORT

Tim Koch presented preliminary results from the on-going road-stream crossing assessment in the Ashokan Reservoir watershed. The purpose of the project is to inventory and assess all public road-stream crossings in the watershed, pilot a new multi-objective assessment method that include data collection focused on aquatic organism passage, geomorphic compatibility, structural condition, and return interval flow capacity. Tim showed the results for approximately 270 crossings that included scores for each of the four components plus an aggregate score that integrates each assessment objective.

The group was asked for input on scoring strategies for structural condition and the integrated Priority Level score. There are 7 structural components that are individually assessed at each crossing: pavement, settlement, embankment, span barrel, abutment, headwall, and wingwall. Currently, all 7 are weighted equally in developing the structural condition score. It is possible to assign more weight to certain structural components which will lend more influence to the final score. No suggestions were given and Tim will follow-up with the group at a later time.

Tim sought the same group input for scoring strategies for the integrated Priority Level. Currently, the four assessment objectives are weighted equally: aquatic organism passage, geomorphic compatibility, structural condition, and return interval flow capacity. Weights can be modified to give more or less to influence to certain assessment objectives.

The group briefly discussed ideas for data sharing, visualization, and the ability to update the database. The idea of web-mapper was raised. Tim will look further into this.

PROJECT UPDATES AND IDEAS

Ulster County DPW

The Watson Hollow slope stabilization and stream restoration project is nearly completed. Channel work has been completed and the crew is now working on the slope. The road in that section is likely to be repaved this year as paving can continue through November.

Town of Shandaken

Eric H. discussed conflicts he has had with DEP about accessing land and set-backs to projects that put the Town's BridgeNY funding at risk.

A SMIP funded grade control project at the Herdman Road bridge is slated for construction. High flows this year have caused erosion toward the bridge abutments.

Town of Woodstock

Heather E. said the town has not received notification yet regarding BridgeNY funding for the Mink Hollow Bridge replacement project.

The town asked if AWSMP would entertain a SMIP application during this fall's funding round for cost-share on construction. AWSMP responded that submission of an application including the best cost-estimate available would allow the grant review committee to discuss the project and its implementation schedule.

The town asked if AWSMP had plans to treat the bank immediately upstream of the bridge site. Adam D. confirmed that SMIP-funded survey was extended upstream with the idea of tying into a future restoration project.

Town of Olive

Brian B. is waiting on final contract signature to begin design work from MMI for the Upper Boiceville, DeSilva, and Burger Road culvert replacement projects.

The up-sized Hillside Drive crossing over Dry Brook completed in 2017 held up well during recent bankfull flows.

Town of Hurley

Mike S. would like to discuss a collapsing culvert with AWSMP. The culvert is over 100 years old and made of Rosendale concrete. Mike S. had to leave early.

NYSDOT

No report, not in attendance.

AWSMP

Ulster SWCD has received an extension from the state to continue work on the Woodland Valley stream restoration project through October.

Adam D. mentioned that there are no large stream restoration projects scheduled for 2019. This is partly due to the fact that the SWCD's contract with DEP is expiring and any new projects will be conducted under the forthcoming contract.

Instead, SWCD will focus on field survey in preparation for three new Stony Clove watershed projects scheduled for construction in 2020-21.

DITCH SEEDING TOTALS

AWSMP asked the Towns/County for their ditch seeding totals through the end of the year, as required by the FAD. These totals can be submitted either as cumulative distance totals, or descriptions of the seeded areas using landmarks can be given to AWSMP who will then calculate the cumulative distance using GIS. No ditch seeding totals were provided at the meeting. Brian B., Eric H., and Kevin P. stated that ditch seeding is underway now as the primary focus has been paving.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Tim K. will follow-up with Highway Managers regarding scoring strategies for structural condition and Priority Level.
2. Tim K. will follow-up with Highway Managers to obtain their ditch seeding totals.