

Highway Managers Meeting Notes 3-1-18
8:30-10:00, AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

Attendees: Andrew Emrich (Ulster DPW), Mandy Wolfson (Ulster Dept. Env.), Leslie Zucker and Tim Koch (CCE Ulster), Chris Tran (NYC DEP), Adam Doan (Ulster SWCD), Aaron Bennett (Ulster DoE), Eric Hofmeister (T/Shandaken), Mike Reynolds (T/Woodstock)

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCE Ulster introduced Tim Koch, the new stream educator with AWSMP. Tim will be assisting with future Highway Manager meetings and will be CCE's project manager for the watershed-wide culvert assessment, working with Ulster SWCD and the Ulster Dept. of Environment.

New funding is available via Bridge NY, about \$128M for upstate projects. See: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-announces-250-million-bridge-ny-funding-available-rehabilitate-and-replace-local>

The new Town of Hurley Highway Superintendent is Mike Schultis. Clyde has retired. Mike is now on the working group contact list.

SMIP Funding

The spring round of Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) funding is now open. Applications are due by Friday, March 23 at 4:30pm. Applications should be submitted to Leslie at laz5@cornell.edu. Forms can be downloaded at <http://ashokanstreams.org/projects-funding/>

Approximately \$500,000 is available for award this spring. Projects recommended in completed Local Flood Analysis are funded separately and the Towns/County can apply at any time for funding.

PROJECT UPDATES AND IDEAS

Ulster County DPW

A project to stabilize the Watson Hollow Rd. slope failure is at 90% design completion and close to ready for bid. DPW hopes to start construction in June.

A project to remove the County's defunct Mt. Tremper bridge is scheduled for completion this year with funding from CWC. The site is currently being surveyed.

Town of Shandaken

NYS DOT is replacing the Route 28 bridge at Mt. Tremper. The Town is coordinating with DOT on implementation steps. The new bridge will pass the 100-year flow with at least 2 feet of freeboard. DOT is considering removal of levees upstream and downstream of the bridge as part of project design. Route 212 will be elevated above the 100-year water surface as part of bridge span enlargement. The bridge replacement is funded with NYS resilience funds. A temporary bridge will be installed during construction.

Shandaken is applying for Bridge NY funding to replace the Church St. Bridge in Big Indian. The DOT administers Bridge NY funding on the Town's behalf, which helps the Towns. Bridge NY funding is very competitive.

Culvert replacement applications are due to Bridge NY by March 15 and bridge applications by March 29. The Town submits a draft and they review and send back with comments.

https://www.dot.ny.gov/divisions/engineering/structures/bridgeny/repository/BridgeNY_2018_Program_Deadlines.pdf

Replacement of the Panther Kill bridge was funded by Bridge NY last year and is going through the process. The Town is responsible for 5% of costs. The Town is also liable if the project runs over estimated costs.

Town of Woodstock

Woodstock is moving forward on several NY Rising Community Reconstruction projects this year. One project is a culvert replacement on Reynolds Lane and the other is replacement of storm drains in the Village center.

The highest priority project for Woodstock is replacement and up-sizing of the Mink Hollow bridge. Woodstock will seek funding from AWSMP for design & engineering of the up-sizing and erosion control. The Town is applying to Bridge NY for construction costs and will know in May if the project is funded. Project construction would occur in 2019.

Ulster County Dept. of Environment (DoE)

The Dept. of Environment is working with CCE on an Ashokan watershed assessment of public road-stream crossings in 2018 with SMIP funding. Mandy Wolfson is the project lead for Environment.

NYS DOT (no report, not in attendance)

Town of Olive (no report, not in attendance)

Town of Hurley (no report, not in attendance)

AWSMP

Stream Projects

Ulster County SWCD is readying a stream restoration project for construction in Woodland Creek this year to address a major source of erosion. USGS monitoring data indicate a substantial increase in turbidity following last fall's bankfull flow event. Visual observation shows newly exposed sources of lacustrine deposits in the channel.

SWCD is nearing completion of a stream management plan for Woodland Creek. Data collected from the Little Beaver Kill in 2017 is being analyzed and a plan will be developed for the Little Beaver Kill next.

This summer the stream assessment crew will be focused on project monitoring. The new FAD requires a new set of Stream Feature Inventories and SWCD is working with DEP to identify streams for assessment.

Watershed Road-Stream Crossing Assessment

Tim Koch, project lead for CCE/AWSMP on the crossing assessment, updated the working group on project goals and methods to assessment geomorphic condition, structural condition and aquatic organism passage at all public road-stream crossings in the watershed. Tim will be working with Mandy

Wolfson (Dept. of Environment) to prepare data sheets and manage a field crew assessing between 300-500 public crossings in the watershed.

AWSMP will develop a ranking system with Town/County input that identifies the worst crossings and flags projects that might qualify highly for SMIP funding. Aquatic organism passage will be assessed using the [NAACC](#) protocol to complete a County database.

The project team anticipates spending 20-30 minutes at each site, depending on complexity of the site. A variety of assessment parameters have been identified, including some structural ratings already included in the NAACC and Vermont geomorphic assessment protocols. Structural condition is ranked qualitatively and structures are given an overall ranking. Tim reviewed structural parameters included in the assessment with the group.

The working group agreed this qualitative assessment would suffice. Extensive data on bridges over 20 feet is collected by DOT during bridge inspections every two years. However, no hydraulics information is provided for these crossings and this would be a helpful addition. DOT inspections wouldn't include most of the watershed crossings because they are under the threshold size inspection. The group suggested the protocol as proposed should be enough to flag structures with major issues for further survey.

Tim confirmed the assessment would not include drainage ditch culverts and will focus on crossings over mapped streams.

Tim invited the Towns to identify crossings that are known to be in poor condition and that might be used to test/pilot the survey methods.

Shandaken identified several culverts on Riseley Road (Mt. Pleasant) and in Woodland Valley that Tim and Adam could use for testing the methods.

The Towns and County in attendance said the assessment could help them prioritize funding applications, although sometimes culverts are prioritized for other reasons such as to prepare for road paving projects.

ACTION ITEMS

Follow-up:

- 1) Tim K. and Adam D. to visit crossings in poor condition and test assessment methods.
- 2) AWSMP is available for pre-SMIP application meetings. Adam D. to meet with Town of Woodstock about the Mink Hollow bridge site.