

Highway Manager Meeting

Location: AWSMP Office

Time: 8:30am-10:30am

Date: 1/12/2012

In Attendance:

Kirk Peters, Ulster Co DPW

Bob McCormack, Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County

Liz Higgins, Cornell Cooperative Extension Ulster County

Cory Ritz, Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District

Bob Graney, Ulster Co DPW

Deron Davis, USDA-NRCS

Aaron Bennett, Ulster Co Dept. of the Environment

Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway Department Superintendent

Agenda Topics:

1. Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) – Deron Davis
2. Catskill Watershed Conservation (CWC) grant – Liz Higgins
3. Upcoming Post-Flood Contractor/Equipment Operator Training, March 20, 2012

1. USDA Emergency Watershed Program (EWP)

- a. Deron conducted a Power Point presentation on the EWP. EWP is a USDA grant managed by USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). The purpose of EWP is to repair non-chronic problems on streams and stream banks caused by a flood that are:
 - b. Imminent threat or hazard to life and property
 - c. Have sponsorship by a local government agency
 - d. used to restore watershed toward stable condition to allow protection of infrastructure. Does not cover the cost of infrastructure (culverts, bridges, paving roads).

Potential sites will be evaluated for engineering feasibility, and cost-benefit. It is a 75% grant, local partner needs to provide 25% match. EWP can fund projects on private property. Also, unlike FEMA, does not require a federally declared disaster, the State Conservationist can make the decision after a disaster whether or not EWP is available.

EWP is available right now. It is available throughout Ulster County, not just in the NYC Watershed. SWCD is available for assistance / advice.

2. CWC

Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) has made funding available for debris removal. Grant money is first come, first served until funds run out. Application is simple. Applicants can be either private or public. Funds can be utilized on public or private lands as well. Grant covers 100% of cost. We discussed possible county/town projects and the possibility of applying for the railroad debris. UC SWCD is a resource to municipalities that are applying.

3. Contractor/Excavator Post-Flood Training

The Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program is planning a training for machine operators, both municipal and contractors who work in streams directly after a flood- scheduled for March 20, 2012 at the Emerson.

We are in the process of developing the course, so if there are particular skills you would like to have covered, please let Liz or Cory know ASAP.

Intended Outcomes

The purpose of this training is to increase the knowledge and improve the decision making ability of machine operators working in streams after flood events. Operators should come away understanding basic stream processes, why certain “myths” are untrue, as well as a number of construction techniques that can be utilized while performing emergency restoration projects.

Target Audience

Contractors and their staff (specifically equipment operators and foremen). Each firm will have three seats allotted to them. If they have more who wish to attend then they will be put on a wait list. Machine operators and foremen are the target audience

Town Highway Department staff, DEC staff (specifically those from Belleayre) and County DPW staff. Each town/agency will have three seats allotted to them.

Structure for Training

Day 1 will be strictly a classroom day. It will run 6 hours from approximately 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. 8:00-9:00 will be registration and 12:00-1:00PM will be lunch. Assume approximately 30 minutes worth of breaks during the day besides lunch and registration.

Main categories of content to be discussed include:

- 1) Stream Processes 101
- 2) Debunking popular myths and misconceptions regarding stream restoration
- 3) Tips and Techniques for construction projects.

Explain importance of proper channel dimensions, bankfull benches, and properly managed and working floodplains.

How to use material (such as LWD) on site and incorporate them into construction projects. Also explain when this should not happen (i.e. removing rocks which will in turn create a headcut).

Day 2 will be a couple of hours this spring/summer in the field seeing the application of the concepts.

Next Highway Managers Meeting: March 8, 2012.
