

ASHOKAN WATERSHED STREAM MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

AWSMP Program Office, Phoenicia, NY 12464

November 15, 2011 1PM-4PM

Advisory Council 2011

Town of Shandaken

Robert Stanley, Supervisor
Eric Hofmeister, Highway Superintendent
John Horn, Planning Board, Chichester Landowner
Doris Nieves, SOS member, Mt. Tremper Landowner
Bruce Barry, Chichester Landowner
Christine Baltz, Broadstreet Hollow Landowner,
Phoenicia Rotary

Town of Olive

Jimmy Fugel, Highway Superintendent
Chet Karwatowski, Trout Unlimited Ashokan Pepacton
Chapter, Olive Resident

Town of Woodstock

Jeff Moran, Supervisor
Michael Reynolds, Highway Superintendent

Town of Lexington

Town of Hurley

Ulster County

Virginia Craft, Planning Department
Aaron Bennett and Amanda LaValle, Department of the
Environment
Art Snyder, Emergency Management

New York State

Brian Drumm and Mike Flaherty, Department of
Environmental Conservation, Region 3

Watershed Non-Profits

Alan White, Catskill Center for Conservation and
Development
Kathy Nolan, Catskill Mountainkeepers
Wayne Turner, Ashokan Center

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Staff

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County

Elizabeth Higgins, Program Coordinator
Bob McCormack, E&O Coordinator
Brent Gotsch, Watershed Educator
Gretchen Rae, Office Manager

Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District

Cory Ritz, Project Manager
Adam Doan, CSBI Coordinator
Bobby Taylor, Stream Technician

USDA NRCS

Deron Davis, Project Engineer

NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Beth Reichheld, Stream Management Program Manager
Danny Davis, Contract Manager

In Attendance:

Members: Alan W.; Amanda L.; Chet K.; Eric H.; John H.; Kathy N.; Mike F.;
Ginny C.; Doris N.; Chris B.; Bruce B.; Jeff M.

Staff: Cory R.; Danny D.; Beth R.; Gretchen R.; Brent G.; Bobby T.; Bob M.

Minutes taken by: Gretchen Rae, CCE Ulster County.

Next scheduled meetings: TBD (March)

**Advisory Council Regular Meetings 2012 (March, June, September,
December)**

Meeting Notes

1. Introduction and Community Announcements

Chris Baltz shared that the Phoenicia Rotary Club has raised approx.
\$50,000 as of Nov. 14th for flood relief efforts.

There are a number of local community events/meetings, including a
library meeting and hydrofracking informational meetings.

The Lower Esopus working group has created the protocol for reservoir
releases. They will monitor the environmental effects of these releases.

Please check-out AWSMP's Facebook Page and our updated Webpage:
www.ashokanstreams.org

2. Council Structure Review

(Please refer to handout for specific details on the projects discussed)

Majority of concern over the proposed structure was over the Executive
Council guidelines. It was voiced that NY State be represented on the
Executive Council. Also, a number of concerns were raised over having the
make-up of the Executive Council just being (1) voting member from each
Town. Concerns ranged from "who" would be eligible as a "Town"
representative (the elected official or a person appointed by them
[*appointed by resolution?*]) to "How do we reach a quorum vote if Town
Rep. participation is too low". Town elected official attendance and
participation in the program has had a pattern of low attendance. DEP did
voice concern for keeping a municipal component to the committee to
meet contractual policy parameters.

The general rules also appeared to be overly rigid and didn't match current membership of concerned citizens and non-profit organizational participation in the Council. One recommendation was the Executive Committee could be comprised by measuring the attendance of individuals over time. Then these individuals could be nominated into the Executive Committee.

The Council did voice no desire to be structured as the CWC is currently.

Further investigation into the "litigious" concern to "voting" members on grant funding was addressed. Further investigation is required into the breadth and depth of Town Municipal Insurance policies. Also, can we file for a "non-profit" policy to cover the Council? As a result of the "liability" issue, one idea was to possibly limit the Executive Council to grant award voting.

Greater review of the Council Rules and Responsibilities will continue by the Council Task Force.

3. Working Group Committee Reports

Grant Review

(Please refer to handout for specific details on the projects discussed)

Grant review committee met on 11.3.11 to review grant applications; 12 in total.

The grant committee presented these recommended "groupings" as a whole vote Yae or Na.

Chet made a motion to accept the funding recommendations, Jeff seconded and the council voted an unanimous YES of passing the grant grouping recommendations.

Highway Managers

Discussion of training needs for municipal employees and contractor operators in BMPs / flood response rebuilding guidelines. The goal will be to have a training event during the slower winter months and a planning committee will pull together the details. (Committee to include: Cory, Bruce Barry, Eric Hofmeister, Mike Flaherty & Chet Karwatowski)

SAFARI/Flood Mitigation

Next meeting is scheduled for Nov. 17th

Council had a review of SAFARI beginnings. It was suggested that we work as a council to do more outreach to other watershed towns in adopting the concept that Shandaken has embraced in their Flood Hazard Mitigation work for the next flood event.

Education & Outreach

Bob & Brent, in the midst of planning for the April 2012 annual watershed conference. A date will be picked soon and notice will be sent out. Currently, the planning committee is looking at the Bearsville Theater complex for the event to broaden our program's reach into Woodstock.

Steering Committee / Task Force

*Greater review of the Council Rules and Responsibilities will continue by the Council Task Force.

Recreation

(Please refer to handout for specific details on the projects discussed)

Brent reported on the Recreation & Public Stream Access Working Group findings. Please review handout provided. Noted that the funding for the proposed projects will need to come through the next round of grant funding requests.

Ecosystem – Research Conference

Contact Bob for details of the next Research Conference.

Project Review Meeting

Cory will be reviewing the guidelines for this new committee and will be scheduling a meeting tentatively scheduled for January 2012. This committee will be responsible for reviewing the UCSWCD construction projects through the AWSMP.

4. CSBI Update

CSBI plantings this summer were a bit delayed due to the Hurricane but a number of landowner plantings have gone into the ground. A few more plantings are scheduled for this fall but need to happen before the frost settles into the ground. Plant stock continues to be greater than expected for over-wintering in the AWSMP Office storage area.

5. Flood Response

Soil & Water and CCE staff spent 2 full months of their program time in flood response. There were over 100 individual landowner requests for technical assistance from CCE staff and Soil & Water.

DEP provided many, many hours of Milone and McBroom Engineering staff time towards immediate flood relief and stream rebuilding. The Army provided critical emergency road rebuilding in highly damaged Oliverea.

Success from S&W perspective – Provided BMP technical advisement in as many places as physically possible with a small staff. Participated in the Shandaken Command Center for Flood recovery efforts. The meetings were every morning and evening during the critical weeks post flood. The primary focus not only included the health and welfare of the local people but also of the streams, stream restoration and infrastructure repair.

Challenges faced in Emergency mode included the frustration of not being able to be in as many places as needed at once. It was also a challenge trying to provide stream restoration BMPs to work teams such as the Army and others because of the need for a fast response.

DEC reported that over 600 known permitting sites were identified in Region 3 during the emergency mode of stream work. It was suspected much more work was being done without notifying DEC.

The greatest frustration expressed by the entire group was seeing the result of stream work being done without good practice taken into consideration. There appeared to be a number of “good” projects in the watershed but also locations of “bad” process.

A BIG Thank You goes out to the entire AWSMP Team and our supporters for the Irene Response and Rebuild!

6. Next scheduled meeting: TBD (March 2012).