

Meeting Notes
Winter 2011 AWSMP Advisory Council Meeting

Minutes of Meeting		
Location: AWSMP Phoenicia Office	Date: 2/03/11	Time: 3 hrs
Purpose: Quarterly Advisory Council Meeting		
Attendees:		
Brian Drumm, DEC	Elizabeth Higgins, CCE UC	
Amanda LaValle, UC Dept. of the Environment	Cory Ritz, UC SWCD	
Dan Davis, DEP	Adam Doan, UC SWCD	
John Horn, Town Shandaken Planning Board	Michael Courtney, CCE UC	
Beth Reichheld, DEP	Robert Stanley, Town of Shandaken Supervisor	
Virginia Craft, UC Planning	Jenine Tobey, CCE UC	
Bruce Duffy, Trout Unlimited	Mike Reynolds, Town of Woodstock	
Art Snyder, UC Emergency Management	Peter Manning, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development	
Helen Chase, Town of Olive Landowner, Central Catskill Collaborative	Chris Baltz, Broadstreet Hollow Landowner	
Jimmy Fugel, Town of Olive Highway Superintendent	Jeff Moran, Town of Woodstock Supervisor	
Mark Lewis, DEC		

Materials: Meeting Minutes from 9/2010 meeting were distributed
 Copies of the Shandaken Flood Planning Grant Request were distributed

Agenda:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Vision, Function and Procedures for Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program Advisory (AWSMP) Council – Cory Ritz
- Program Updates – 2010 Annual Report – Liz Higgins
- Program Plans for 2011 and Beyond
- (Break)
- Upcoming Education Programs and Trainings – Michael Courtney
- CSBI Update – Adam Doan
- Discussion of Shandaken Flood Mitigation Planning Grant Request – Liz Higgins
- Next Steps
- Adjourn

Staffing Update

- Beth Roessler left the program in December 2010 to become the Trees for Tribes Coordinator for DEC. CCE UC will be hiring a new educator this winter (the job posting is currently at Cornell University for review)
- Colleen Griffith is no longer working with the program. We are in the process of hiring a new Administrative Coordinator
- The UCSWCD Technician for stream assessments job is posted on ashokanstreams.org

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Discussion of Shandaken Flood Mitigation Planning Grant Request – Liz Higgins

Higgins described the process that has led to the Town of Shandaken requesting Stream Management Program Implementation Funding to support longer term planning for flood resilience. Although there has been a great deal of public focus on the short term strategy of removing some sediment in the Stony Clove, there is a recognition that a longer-term, more comprehensive approach is necessary to protect residents and reduce damage to property from flooding. This could include further investigation into the Stony Clove and the confluence with the Esopus for the long-term solution, consideration of land-use planning and mitigation for existing structures, helping residents improve their flood preparedness, including insurance, and public safety.

The request is for three parts: (1) Overall plan development and coordination, which could also include preparing the town to apply to the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program which would lower flood insurance premiums for residents. (2) An engineering study with options for improvements to the Stony Clove/Esopus Creek confluence to reduce the height of the water during high cfs events, and (3) an engineering study of the stormwater capacity in Phoenicia in conjunction with the CWC. A planning committee (SAFARI) made up of local, county, state and federal agencies and community stakeholders has been developed and has meet several times since early December. This group would be the core group to continue working with the town on planning and flood mitigation.

One short-term goal for Shandaken mentioned by Rob Stanley is the desire to improve the outreach to residents for emergency response this spring. He is interested in automated phone notification. Art Snyder commented that they could use NYAlerts for emergencies only, which uses the 911 database. Art can work with the town to implement this. The question was asked about the availability of this service for Hunter and Lexington – would have to work with Greene County emergency management.

Discussion (response in parenthesis)

- Application is not showing much money being used for design or implementation of best management practices
- Concern about authorizing expenditure without clear deliverables (this should be considered a pre-application)
- Can the MMI engineering study data be used? (Yes, it belongs to the DEP)
- Is Shandaken trying to get too much from one grant? Maybe it should be split into separate grants. Another idea was to make a 3 part grant application with different time lines
 - Part 1: Short-term
 - Part 2: Mid-term
 - Part 3: Long-term
- Would the grant be to hire a full time staff person or would it be for a consulting firm? (work with a consultant)

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o Amanda LaValle commented that maybe a staff person would be a better alternative if multiple towns were interested as it could lead to more consistent results.

- Does the county have a planning firm on retainer (no)
- Could we look at applying the community rating system for more than just Shandaken; Woodstock, Hurley and Olive? (Depends on the other town's interest and willingness as the town's staff would have to devote time. Shandaken Code Enforcement Officer has been trained in CRS and is very interested.)

Action Items

- Move process of developing the grant and RFPs to a subcommittee; SAFARI core group will meet in the next two weeks to begin to develop full proposals.
- Art Snyder will meet with Rob Stanley re: NY Alerts phone notification
- Higgins will help coordinate NY Alerts phone notification with towns in Greene County (Hunter and Lexington) at the request of Chris Baltz.

Vision function and procedures for AWSMP advisory council – Cory Ritz

(See attached) To ensure the vision, function and procedures of AWSMP Advisory Council are aligned with the Program and clear to all Council members and AWSMP staff, Cory Ritz took a quick 15 min survey of Council Members. There are plans to follow up with more in-depth assessment and improvement of the council in 2011.

Questions and Discussion

Is AWSMP looking to ask more from the Advisory Council?

- In other counties, the Advisory Council members are actively involved in subcommittees
- We as staff are willing to work as closely with others as they would like
- AWSMP has valued others input so far, and taking advantages of these resources can only make us stronger

Is there something the Towns can do to help AWSMP reach their mission?

- Better Communication!
- It would be good to have a point person, someone who knows what is going on in the town beyond just the highway department

Program Update – Liz Higgins

(See attached presentation and handout "Program Areas in the 2010-2012 Action Plan)

- Feb. 15th Delaware County Post Flood Response Presentation (Wayne Reynolds)
- Crummy Culverts Contest extended to spring because of floods and snow
- We will be revising the Action Plan – it is a FAD deliverable this year. The Program Areas Handout is intended to provide an overview of the primary categories of work in the existing Action Plan. We do not anticipate significant changes to these larger focus

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areas but will be looking for input as to the specific projects and activities. The full Action Plan is available on the website www.ashokanstreams.org

Upcoming education programs and trainings – Michael Courtney

Distributed a draft plan for the 2011 Education and Outreach Activities

- Ashokan Watershed Conference, April 2011, theme is: Resiliency for Town/Business after floods!
 - There will be 2 breakouts for town/landowner
 - And 2 breakouts for Municipalities
- Instead of year-long stream stewards AWSMP is going to focus on event based volunteering
- Streamside landowner guides started by Beth Roessler are still in the works
- Factsheets have been/are being designed by a graphic designer and will include the following topics:
 - Erosion control – Dos and Don'ts
 - Culverts
 - Large Woody Debris
- The newsletter will continue this year; April, August, November
- Website and media: Facebook, 'like' us!
- Professional Training and Development
 - Twilight meetings for contractors
 - Outreach to realtors: Buyer Beware
 - Realtors may not know how to inform new buyers of the challenges of living next to a stream

CSBI Update – Adam Doan

- The big planting this year was Mitchellotj; over 420 trees and shrubs were planted as well as over 600 herbaceous plugs.
- Next planned planting is on Birch Creek this spring
- There are 11 other anticipated projects we found mostly through 'targeted' outreach by looking through aerial photographs and helicopter video footage
- The Natural Heritage Study is on hold as the field ecologist was terminated and we are still waiting to hear back from the new person
 - The point of this study is to map the tributaries to get a baseline of what plants are appropriate to plant where in the watershed
- And it is also possible for AWSMP to offer advice and BMPs for landowners if the site is beyond CSBI.
- The program is willing to work with landowners and can even install riparian buffers after an engineering project is complete.