



## DELAWARE COUNTY STREAM CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A Cooperative Program  
Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District  
New York City Department of Environmental Protection  
Delaware County Planning Department



Project Advisory Committee Meeting  
District Office  
March 21, 2016

### **Members Present:**

Steve Dutcher, Walton CEO  
Wayne Reynolds, DCDPW  
Carol O'Beirne, Catskill Chamber of Commerce  
Dale Downin, Del. Co. Code Enforcement Officer  
Richard Smith, Town of Hamden  
Russ Hatch, Town of Harpersfield  
Ed Weber, Town of Bovina  
John Mathiesen, CWC  
Charles Gregory, Town of Walton Supervisor  
Nate Hendrick, NYC DEP  
Frank Winkler, Town of Andes  
Steve Swensen, NYS DEC  
Larry Underwood, DCSWCD Agricultural Program

Molly Oliver, Del. Co. Watershed Affairs  
Rick Weidenbach, DCSWCD Executive Director  
Steve Hood, Del. Co. Emergency Service  
Beth Reichheld, NYC DEP  
Walter Geidel, Town of Walton Supt.  
Catherine Skalda, DCSWCD CSBI  
Tom Little, CEO Delhi  
Dean Frazier, Del. Co. Watershed Affairs  
Larry Hull, Watershed Agricultural Council  
Liz Bowie, DCSWCD Data Budget Specialist  
Jessica Patterson, DCSWCD Stream Program Tech.  
Graydon Dutcher, DCSWCD Stream Program

### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Graydon welcomed everybody to the meeting. A brief overview of the agenda (See Attached Document). The goal for this meeting is to provide guidance to the Stream Corridor Management Program 2 year Action Plan.

Presentation and reference material (See Attached Document)

## **Local Flood Analysis (LFA) Update**

- Walton LFA
  - The West Branch Delaware River plan was completed in April 2015. The Village of Walton has applied for CWC funding to complete feasibility studies associated with Water Street floodplain restoration project. One is to relocate the cell tower and the other is to relocate underground NYSEG infrastructures. There is a high pressure 6" gas line running through the project area that has to have a 3 foot cover above the pipe line. The line is currently at that 3 foot cover and the proposed project is to drop the filled area by 4 feet so there will be a need to coordinate with NYSEG. NYSEG representative attended the last Flood Commission Meeting and they are willing to assist with the project.
  - John Mathiesen added that the CWC is rolling out applications for LFA projects. They are also working on anchoring propane tanks program for within the watershed. Right now it is specifically for the LFA communities, but we are hoping that in a couple of months that NYC DEP will have a contract change to do this program watershed wide.
  - Walton Flood Commission continues to meet monthly to review the Tributary Analysis for West Brook, Third Brook and East Brook. Walton Flood Commission split up the mainstem and the tributaries in order to look at depth of water impacts from the West Branch. The biggest project that came out of the West Branch analysis was the Water Street Floodplain Reclamation project and business relocation. The business relocation is on hold right now until there is an amendment to the watershed water supply permit which is currently being worked on at a higher level.
  - Graydon went through some of the scenarios for the tributary LFA. The flood commission is working on the Benefit Cost Analysis (BCA). The BCA is if you have a project you take what the cost of that project would be to build and compare it with what the FEMA program tells you the benefits will be for the lifespan of the project. Some of the challenges we are having to creating the BCA for the projects is the cost of the project is exceeding the FEMA guidelines such as the replacement of Benton Street Bridge is millions of dollars and we are not generating millions of dollars from removing the house out of flooding as part of the benefit. This is happening in a lot of our communities that are currently working on their LFAs and it is happening in other Counties as well. The one thing that BCAs are not doing a good job is capturing the water quality benefits so we are looking to try to enhance in the future.
  - Steve Dutcher discussed the Community Rating System (CRS) program status for the Village and Town of Walton. The Information is still being reviewed and the scores are due at the end of this month. The Village of Walton is confirmed to be scored at an 8 which is a 10% discount on flood insurance. The Town of Walton has not been decided, but it may be at a 9, because of the amount of floodplain within the Town. Points can be gained by creating green space and protecting the open space with stringent laws. Currently, the Town and the Village are in the process of adopting their new floodplain maps. Both the Town

and Village are going to adopt more restrictive language in terms of substantial damage definition which will include structures that are damaged at least 25% twice in a ten year period that qualifies that property for increase cost of compliance. Adopting the critical facility language that will prohibit any critical facility to build within the floodplain including the 500-year. Both of these restrictive laws will add more points for the CRS program.

- Discussion on the bridge replacements and their life span and if there were any county owned bridges that needed to be replaced at this time. Wayne Reynolds added that there are no plans to replace the bridges at this time due to the higher volume bridges that are priority. The bridges were damaged during the floods and one of them was replaced.
- Next Meetings is scheduled on April 7 and May 5.
- Discussion on Third Brook and is there any more slope work that needs to be completed. There is no slope work currently on the schedule at this time, but there could be more work to do here on the high eroding banks. A priority list should be developed in order to address the impacted areas.
- Fleischmanns LFA
  - The draft plan has been completed and is out for review and comments. Please let us know if anyone is interested in a copy of the report to review.
  - Some of the scenarios were presented that came out of the Village of Fleischmanns LFA's recommendation.
  - There are two viable projects that can be coming out of this LFA plan, which is the Mill Street Floodplain Reclamation and the Big Red Kill Floodplain Reclamation.
- Delhi LFA
  - The joint board meeting with the Village and the Town of Delhi is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> to get up-to-date on the existing conditions for the project area and to gather more information to add to the existing problems.
  - Discussion on how the emergency vehicles could gain access to the hospital.
  - The property next to price chopper is potentially being purchased by the NYC DEP. There was discussion on if there could be any projects for floodplain reclamation on the property if the city purchases the land.
  - Platner Brook bridge is being replaced by NYS DOT and we are working with them for the sizing of the bridge. The consultant is running hydrologic on the bridge to provide DOT with the best data possible to make sure that bridge is sized properly.
  - Meredith Street is being looked at by the consultant to determine the extents of the problem and the scope of work. There are wetlands located in this area and a stream that goes under the ground, road and buildings.
- Andes LFA
  - The Flood Commission completed a walkthrough of the stream within the project limits. This was a good team building exercise to get everybody on the same page. The consultant is Barton and Loguidice and they are out collecting data.

- Arkville LFA
  - The next meeting is for presenting to the public the LFA findings on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The Arkville is experiencing the same challenges with the BCA because of the housing stock and a lot of flood buyout properties. Another unique challenge is to get the water under the State Bridge and how to deal with opening up the floodplains.
- Hamden LFA
  - Meeting is scheduled for March 22<sup>nd</sup> to look at existing conditions. Richard Smith added that the flood commission's concerns are the culvert/bridge structures on State Route 10.

**Engineer Consultant:**

- DCSWCD is planning on hiring an engineer consultants to assist with project designs and any other services that are needed. A selection committee was formed (Graydon, Wayne Reynolds, Shelly, Nate, and Doug) to review the consultants proposals. Milone and MacBroom, Barton and Loguidice, and Tetra Tech were selected out of 7 proposals. Three were selected to spread the work load out for all of the communities.
- Carol O'Beirne commented that she worked as the co-chair on the Village of Margaretville Recovery Program from the State and Tetra Tech was the company chosen to work with the community. The group thought the Tetra Tech was amazing and they supported the process and worked with us every single day. I think we came up with a very good plan that helped us come up with \$6 million for funding the projects.
- Molly asked for clarification if the consultants are just doing design work or are they going to be doing any planning components. Graydon added that each of these consultants have staff on board that can do other components such as landscape architects and planners. If there was a clear need to have a planning component to assist the community, we could utilize the consultants to do that kind of work.
- Frank Winkler made a recommendation to support the selection of the Engineer Consultant choice and bring the recommendation to the District Board meeting to be held on Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>. Dale Dowin seconded the recommendation and all approved.

**Delaware Watershed Projects**

- More Restoration project – this project needs to be completed this year and is currently in design phase being reviewed by Milone and MacBroom to assist staff on getting the project through the design review. Everything has to be ready in April to get it into permitting on time.
- Hamden and Walton Boat Launches are being coordinated with SHPO to do a re-design to avoid archeological sensitive areas. We are waiting to hear back from SHPO for the Hamden boat launch re-design that was submitted. We are working with NYS DOT to assist with the parking lot issues and to avoid the archeological sites along the parking lot.
- The agricultural projects are going through the design review process and the stream program staff is working with the agricultural technicians on Boyd, Phoenix, Frisbee and Palmatier farm projects. These projects are to facilitate Conservation Resource

Enhancement Program (CREP) re-enrollment program where the streams have to be stable in order to stay within the program. The Palmatier farm is our highest priority because their re-enrollment ends this year.

- 2015 SMIP grant Status – The next step is to develop the contracts for the municipalities that have received the grants. We are going to task the engineer consultants with some of these designs to move these projects forward. We will also work with Wayne Reynolds for the bridge and culvert project designs and whether to do them in house or with the consultants. We will also pick up some of the projects with our own staff.
- Local Flood Analysis Projects – We would like the PAC members to consider having an open enrollment of the LFA projects. This way the communities can implement their plan without waiting for the SMIP grant rounds. We are also looking at reinvigorating the Floodplain Management Subcommittee to review and prioritize the projects.
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) – Currently with the last contract, our MOU with the communities have expired and we need to update them. The municipalities with SMIP grants were reached out first and now we are working on the other municipalities. The Flood Hazard Mitigation section was added to the MOU and there are no end date unless one of the parties decides to terminate the contract.

**Grant Applied for to Supplement Contract Funding**

- We received funding from New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation’s Water Quality Improvement Projects for Miller Avenue Culvert Replacement and South Street Streambank Stabilization. This funding is available for five years.

Project Title	Total Cost of Project	Grant Funding Received
Town of Bovina, Miller Avenue Culvert Replacement	\$268,188	\$182,856
Village of Walton South Street Streambank Stabilization	\$1,162,273	\$763,728

- We are also applying for funding through the Army Corps. of Engineer’s Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) for two projects. O’dell Lake Road Culvert Replacement Project for \$178,000 is located in the Town of Harpersfield. This project was previously in the SMIP grants program, but had to be put on hold due to lack of funding. Water Street Floodplain Reclamation project for \$625,000 is located in the Village of Walton for water quality treatment. Liz has been actively looking on the Gateway grants website for other grants that we can apply for around the county. We are trying our best to leverage other dollars in to supplement the funding so that we can do more projects. Flood mitigation projects can be costly.

### **Bull Run EWP Project**

- Bull Run project was funded through Natural Resources Conservation Service's Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) project. There was a big failing streambank and the project was designed for just the stream channel dimension with toe rock structures. The steep embankment was not addressed with slope stabilization practices due to the large cost and it was not part of the scope of work. The EWP structures are still working, but the embankment failed in the spring time. The top area of the slide liquefied with the frost thawing out of the soil and sent the whole face of the slope sliding down in a debris flow. Steve Swenson stated that there were 5 other failures throughout the county that did the same. The East Brook EWP project was one other location identified. We are currently looking for grant funding to assist in addressing these two slopes. If we receive a request from Patrick Davis to address this slope, would the PAC members support the DCSWCD to fix this slope with the consultant's assistance?
- Wayne Reynolds made a recommendation to move this project forward and seconded by John Mathiesen all approved.
- Frank Winkler suggested that a priority of projects be developed because there are going to be a lot of these types of projects throughout the county.

### **Catskill Stream Buffer Initiative (CSBI)**

- Catherine Skalda gave a report on the 2016 Riparian Buffer Projects and applications. There have been 16-18 applications received as shown on the map. The applications have to go through final approval and field site visits to see which ones qualify. Some of these projects are left over from last year to be installed in the spring. Depot Street in the Village of Fleischmanns to correct the property into a pocket park and plant trees will be installed this spring. Oliver Farm will be installing riparian planting this spring. Willow Drive is a high right streambank that was eroded during the Hurricane Irene storm. This project will be utilizing the Engineer Consultant to design the project.
- Landowners have been contacting the CSBI program about Japanese Knotweed. We are targeting high priority is the knotweed that is located in the sub-watershed that do not have knotweed above the project or have very little knotweed in the watershed. There is 6 applications that have been submitted so far.

### **2015-2017 Delaware Watershed Action Plan**

- The 2-year action plan helps guide the Stream Management Program and it needs to be updated. Please review the Action Plan to make sure that we capture everything. We are going to collect the comments by April 8<sup>th</sup> and incorporate them into the document that needs to be submitted to DEP by April 15<sup>th</sup>. Tom Axtell submitted a comment on the Recreation section for the Cannonsville Reservoir since the Action Plan mentioned supporting Pepacton Reservoir recreation. This action plan drives our work load so any comments will help.

### **Up Coming Staff Training**

- CADD Training March 22-23
- FEMA BCA Training March 31- April 1
- NYS Wetlands Conference April 5-6
- NYS Floodplain Association Conference May 16-18
- NYS DEC Floodplain Training May 26

### **Meeting Outcomes**

- SMIP Grant for Local Flood Hazard Mitigation Projects
- Open Enrollment
- Floodplain Managers as the steering committee for review of grant applications
- Bull Run EWP Repair
- Engineer consultants recommendations to the District Board

### **Wrap up:**

- Carol discussed the East Branch Enhanced Recreational Access Plan which was a SMIP grant and is now complete. The plan is being received really well and the consultant Aaron Bennett did a fabulous job on writing the plan. The Plan can be viewed on the website [eastbranchaccess.com](http://eastbranchaccess.com). This is a really good example and the municipalities are seeing this as a good tool for projects. We are turning the plans over to the municipalities so that they can take a look at their own landscape within their communities to open them up to recreational opportunity. Carol thanked the PAC, NYC DEP and DCSWCD for the grant, the support and the opportunity to connect the stream with recreation. The next step is to find funding to construct some of the projects. Discussions on the next SMIP grant round, currently there are no grant round set at this time. Del. Co. Planning Dept. will be hiring an Environmental Planner to assist the stream program work load and help with the grant round. The stream program is already overwhelmed with the work load and meetings that maybe the best case scenario would be September, but we will have to wait for the new person to be hired.
- Discussion on projects that were applied for in the past and if these projects were not considered for funding, if they would be brought back up in the future for funding. We do not forget projects, we keep all the information in the files for future considerations, but the municipalities put the priority on the projects so this may change from year to year.

The PAC's recommendations will be given to the DCSWCD District Board on March 25, 2016. The next PAC meeting was not scheduled at this time.