

**Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee meeting
Wednesday September 23, 2009, 7 – 9 p.m., Windham**

Voting members: Dennis Lucas (Town of Hunter), Mike McCrary (Jewett), Janet Orlando (Gilboa), Eric Allan (Ashland Highway Superintendent), Joe Farleigh (Roxbury), Steve Walker (Windham), Kory O’Hara (Prattsville), Dixie Baldrey (Lexington), Eric Dahlberg (Conesville).
Alternates present: Rebecca Wilburn (Alt., Gilboa), Richard Morse (Prattsville)

Advisors, applicants and others: Paul Dibbell (Town of Hunter), Rebecca Platel (Schoharie County Planning), Anne Ernst (USGS), Dan Zielinski (Aquatic Biologist, NYSDEC), Jeff Flack, Carrie Miles, Nathan Helinga, Erin Burton, Joel DuBois, Josh Gorman, and Abbe Martin (GCSWCD), Michelle Yost (GCSWCD WAP), Beth Reichheld and David Burns (NYCDEP), Ellen Manfredit (Haines Falls Public Library), John McKeeby (Schoharie River Center), Joan Kutcher (Mountain Top Arboretum), Suzanne and Randy Holden (property owners).

1. Future Meetings and updates

- **Next Meeting: Thursday, October 22nd, Tannersville WAP office, 6 – 8 pm**
- Watershed Summit, January 23, 2010, Village of Hunter
- February 1, 2010 – next application deadline for Stream Management Implementation Funds

2. Appointing chairperson – Appointing a chairperson to the Committee was discussed, and Michelle recommended Rebecca Wilburn from the Town of Gilboa. Rebecca graciously accepted and assumed her post.

3. Funding Proposals

- There were 19 SWAC applications submitted for the August 1, 2009 round of funding. Eleven projects were presented to the SWAC for review and voting. The remaining applications were referred to the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (a separate program) or needed additional information and assessment. For summaries of each of the applications submitted, see handout *Stream Implementation Program, Summary of Applications for Schoharie Watershed Advisory Committee Review, Sept. 23, 2009.*

a. Planning and Assessment, \$100,000

67.8 % of total available funds will be dispersed during this round of funding.

➤ Mauro Residence Bank Stabilization, Village of Hunter (Joel DuBois)

Geotechnical assessment of failing streambank and seeding and mulching of streambank.

Questions: How high is the bank? 30 feet

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$15,000

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 15%

➤ Thermal Refuge Study (Anne Ernst, USGS, Habitat/Recreation Subcommittee)

Assessment of the thermal profiles of the Schoharie Creek & West Kill stream corridors to establish baseline data of the spatial extend of cold water refugia.

Questions:

- Who will analyze the data? Barry Baldigo and Anne Ernst of USGS.
- How many data loggers will be used during the study? 6-8
- How will this information be used? To help during design and implementation of stream restoration projects, to work with highway depts., permitting agencies and property owners to determine appropriate locations for culverts and other point source discharges into streams so cold water sources are not impacted.

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$52,753

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 52.8%

Discussion points: Cost does not include administrating subcontract with RIT for flyover. That will be up to GCSWCD. USGS will try to leverage additional funds to expand the assessment to include biological characteristics of the streams, so more information is gathered to protect cold water fisheries.

b. Highway Infrastructure, \$300,000

26.6 % of total available funds will be dispersed during this round of funding.

➤ Mountaintop Sweeper/Vacuum Truck shared (Jeff F.)

Questions:

- Is training included for local usage? Greene County Highway will own and operate the truck.
- How will use of the machine be prioritized and coordinated? Generally, a first come – first serve basis, coordinated through the municipalities and GC Highway. Preference should be given to concentrated villages and hamlets and a schedule will be researched to organize each community’s usage. In terms of emergency situations, that will depend on the situation and will need to be worked out. The truck will be available year-round to clean out stormwater drains and basins.

Vote: All in favor

Maximum Funding Amount: \$40,000

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 13.33%

➤ BG Partridge Road Culver Replacement (Nathan/Eric A.)

Replacing an undersized, misaligned culvert along a first order perennial tributary of Sutton Hollow Brook in Ashland

Questions: none

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$39,756

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 13.25%

c. Stormwater, \$300,000

15% of total available funds will be dispersed during this round of funding.

➤ Mountaintop Library Stormwater Retrofit Project (Nathan/Ellen M)

Engineering services for designs related to innovative stormwater management practices.

Questions:

- Can the committee choose to fund a portion of the requested costs? The original request was approximately \$51,000; initial staff review wrestled with same

question, capping engineering costs at 15% of total project costs. The final revised amount below will be used as in-kind for a CWC Stormwater Retrofit grant.

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$44,974.50

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 15%

d. Education & Outreach, \$100,000

11.75% of total available funds will be dispersed during this round of funding.

➤ Mountain Top Arboretum Wet Meadow, Interpretive Kiosk & Brochures (Joan K.)

Develop educational brochures and kiosk to convey water quality benefits of meadows and wetlands.

Questions: Will \$6,460 cover the cost of the project? There is an in-kind contribution and much of the work will be done in-house.

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$6,460

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 6%

➤ Manor Kill Environmental Study Team/Stream Management Implementation (John M.)

Organize year-round youth program to assist in monitoring local water quality of the Manor Kill. Experiential program will involve an academic component as well.

Questions: Is it a hands-on program? Yes, participants will collect the data and present it publicly.

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$5,000

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 5%

Recommendation: Joe Farleigh noted the CWC has education grants too.

➤ SWAC and Schoharie Watershed Week logos (Michelle/Education & Outreach subcommittee)

Questions: Instead of hiring someone to create the logos, would it be possible to have an art contest with local schools to develop the logos? Providing someone can spearhead the initiative, it would be nice to involve youth in this way. The Education and Outreach sub-committee would oversee the effort, but timing is important too. Hiring a professional would be done if getting close to final designs by January is not possible.

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$750

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 0.75%

e. Recreation-based & Habitat Improvement, \$200,000

5% of total available funds will be dispersed during this round of funding.

➤ Prattsville Stream Access (Kory O'Hara/Carrie)

Construct a parking area on NYCDEP land across from a popular recreational access point along Schoharie Creek in Prattsville.

Questions: Will this project require a curb-cut? Yes, majority of funds will be used towards engineering costs to assess ingress/egress and apply for DOT permit. The difference will go towards parking lot improvements and materials

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 5%

f. Landowner Stream Assistance, \$800,000

28.35% of total available funds will be dispersed during this round of funding.

➤ Vista Ridge Floodplain Restoration, D. Bowen (Joel)

Installation of floodplain drains under Vista Ridge Road to reduce backwater and aggradational conditions (build up of material) up-stream of bridge. Could serve as good demonstration site for small scale project.

Questions:

- Does the project involve channel restoration activity? No, there will be no modifications made to the channel.
- Is this a private road? Yes, for multiple homes. Flooding conditions associated with bridge can impact Colgate Road, a county road.
- What is the current hydraulic opening of the bridge? Approximately 60% of the bankfull width upstream. Bridge narrows channel and flow going through there.
- Will the culverts fill with gravel? Probably not, debris may accumulate at the openings, which will require maintenance by the landowners.
- Can larger culverts be used? No, may have to go with smaller culverts, 30 inches is maximum size.
- Can maintenance of the drains be written into an agreement with landowner? Yes, that would be a condition of approval.
- Who would manage/oversee this agreement? GCSWCD.

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$76,637

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 9.6%

➤ Holden Stream Restoration (Joel/Dave)

Recommended in the Batavia Kill SMP as a geomorphically-based full channel restoration of stream reach. Significant portion of streambank in threat is owned by NYCDEP

Questions:

- What is the length of the project? Approximately 1,600 feet with 800 ft. of DOT treatment in middle of site.
- Why didn't this receive CWC funding? Did not apply for the one-time only CWC funding for stream corridor restoration. Post note: Moreover, would have not met that criteria which required imminent threat to person or property in populated area.
- Why are SWAC funds being used to protect DEP land? The project reach was identified for its instability and need for restoration, independent of who owns the land. It happens to involve DEP as property owner along with the Holdens and another private property owner.

Vote: All in favor

Funding Amount: \$150,000

Percentage of Total Available Funds: 18.75%