

Olive Flood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, July 10, 2014
Olive Town Meeting Hall, 50 Bostock Road, Shokan, NY
6:00pm—7:30pm

In attendance:

Sylvia Rozzelle, Town of Olive Supervisor
Judy Coutinho, Town Resident
Jody Hoyt, Trout Unlimited/Town Resident
John Ingram, Town of Olive Zoning Enforcement Officer
Jim Hyde, Town Resident
Dom Covello, Town of Olive Code Enforcement Officer
Nicholas Burgher, Town Resident
Richard Brueckner, Town Resident
Peggy Brueckner, Town Resident
Ed Kahil, Town Resident
Amanda LaValle, Ulster County Department of Environment
Leslie Zucker, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
Brent Gotsch, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County
Sara Margolis, Dewberry, Inc.

Items that are ***bold italics*** denote action items for committee members to complete prior to next meeting (unless otherwise stated).

Welcome and Introductions

S. Rozzelle began the meeting with introductions of the group members and a brief discussion of what the importance of Olive Flood Advisory Committee was, namely to help guide the process at the Town level in order to mitigate the Town of Olive's flooding problems. The Town is interested in the following areas:

1. Local Flood Analysis
2. A Town-wide Flood Mitigation Plan
3. Community Rating System

Local Flood Analysis (LFA)

Local Flood Analysis (LFA) is a flood mitigation program administered by the Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program (AWSMP) through its contract with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP).

AWSMP is comprised of three partner agencies: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County, Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, and DEP. AWSMP staff from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County (CCEUC) will manage a grant to the Town of Olive to complete LFA and provide coordination assistance. Ulster County Soil and Water

Conservation District staff will provide assistance with technical details as they arise. DEP staff are also available to provide assistance. A. LaValle, Ulster County Department of the Environment, offered to assist and coordinate assistance from various Ulster County departments.

L. Zucker, CCEUC, provided some background on the LFA process. LFA is a detailed look at flooding and flooding solutions within population centers of NYC Watershed Towns. The LFA's closer look at hamlet flooding is needed to compliment town-wide efforts that typically don't cover hamlet issues in-depth, or with engineering analyses.

The population centers (hamlets and villages) that are eligible for LFA funding are outlined in the 1997 Memorandum of Agreement between NYC and watershed partners. Within the Town of Olive, the hamlets of Boiceville, West Shokan, and Ashokan (Shokan) are eligible for LFA funding. AWSMP has funding set-aside for the Town to perform LFA in each of these hamlets.

The LFA has two major components: an analysis phase and an implementation phase. In the analysis phase, a qualified consulting firm will perform an engineering analysis to determine the causes of flooding affecting the hamlet. The consultant will utilize computer models, such as HEC-RAS engineering software, to determine how modification of a stream channel, floodplain, or infrastructure will affect flooding in an area. Sediment movement through a site will also be considered. The consulting firm will report on the general feasibility of various mitigation options.

The Town, its flood committee, the consulting firm, and the general public all generate mitigation options to be modeled and analyzed. It is important to consider all options and compare them to each other to determine the best course of action. Once modeling is complete, the Town with the consultant's help will narrow down the options to the most feasible and supported scenarios/projects that provide flooding relief.

The Olive Flood Committee's role will be to evaluate the options and present their recommendations to the Olive Town Board who will then vote on which projects move forward for implementation funding. During the implementation phase, the projects will go out to bid to hire a qualified firm and be constructed. Implementation funding is available from a number of programs (federal, state, and local/regional). By the end of LFA, implementation projects will be prioritized for each funding source.

Throughout the process, the consultant will engage with the Olive Flood Advisory Committee, the Olive Town Board, and the public at large. There is a sample LFA scope of services that the Town can use to obtain quotes or bids from consultants. After a consultant is selected and under contract, LFA takes about 4-8 months to complete depending on the Town's needs.

Action steps:

- *The committee invites Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation to share findings from the 2012 assessment of the Bush Kill at the next meeting.*

- *AWSMP will print out large maps of the Town so the committee members can mark on them where flooding and erosion issues occur.*
- *AWSMP will provide the Town with the template scope of services for LFA and a sample scope for town-wide planning.*

Town-Wide Flood Mitigation Plan

While LFA funding is only available for MOA-designated population centers within the boundaries of the NYC Watershed, the committee identified areas throughout the Town of Olive with flooding problems. The Olive Flood Advisory Committee is interested in completing a Town-wide Flood Mitigation Plan to help address problems outside population centers. A Town Flood Mitigation Plan would lay out procedures and actions to help mitigate flooding, and will provide a higher rating within FEMA's Community Rating System (CRS). The Town may apply to CRS and be rated for flood insurance premium reductions, benefiting all property owners in the Town that hold flood insurance policies. The committee identified Samsonville as having some inundation issues, and also concerns near Bostock Road in Shokan because of improperly sized culverts.

L. Zucker explained that AWSMP is exploring whether the Town of Olive can apply to AWSMP for full funding to complete a Town-wide Flood Mitigation Plan, in addition to LFA. AWSMP funded a plan for the Town of Shandaken a few years ago. The difference between Olive and Shandaken, however, is that while the entirety of the Town of Shandaken is located within the NYC Watershed, about 2/3rd of the Town of Olive is located within the NYC Watershed. DEP said it is sympathetic to the Town of Olive's intention to qualify for CRS and is reviewing the situation to see what can be done.

It was suggested the committee review progress made during New York Rising Community Reconstruction (CR) planning to not duplicate efforts. Work completed for CR may contribute to a Town-wide Plan, including identification of flooding issues, critical assets, under-sized bridges and culverts, other collected/analyzed data, and proposed mitigation projects.

Study Areas

The Olive Flood Advisory Committee first task is to identify areas of known flooding issues within the Town. The next step will be to develop study area boundaries within the Town, including for the LFA-eligible hamlets. The study area will be attached to a Request for Proposals. LFA could be a sub-component of the larger Town-wide planning effort.

The Olive Flood Advisory Committee agreed that of the LFA-eligible hamlets of Boiceville and West Shokan had the most pressing flooding issues and wanted to concentrate on them first. During discussion, it was generally agreed that the study area for Boiceville should begin at the Shandaken-Olive Town line upstream of the hamlet and extend to the mouth of the Ashokan Reservoir. For West Shokan it was the general consensus of the group that multiple flooding and erosion issues exist within the Bushkill watershed. Although the LFA study area can't extend much beyond the West Shokan hamlet boundary, the committee would like to consider including upstream of the County bridge (crossing the Bushkill) in the study area. The committee wants to

consider Maltby Hollow (a tributary to the Bushkill) for special treatment in the town-wide planning effort.

FEMA Community Rating System

This topic was only touched upon briefly during the meeting, but the Town of Olive is interested in becoming a participating community. The Community Rating System (CRS) is a program administered through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that rewards communities that go above and beyond the minimum requirements of NFIP with reduction in flood insurance rates for policy holders. There are a variety of different activities that the town can pursue, each of which has a certain amount of points associated with it. Once the Town reaches 500 points they enter the CRS at a Level 9, with a 5% reduction in flood insurance premiums. Every 500 points gained bumps the Town up an additional level with another 5% reduction in flood insurance premiums until a Level 1 is reached with a 45% reduction in premiums (only 1 community in the US has achieved Level 1 designation). If the Town of Olive is interested in pursuing admittance to the CRS program, then the Town-wide Flood Mitigation Plan become keys for generating a large amount of points. Although a consultant would have to confirm, it is likely that the Town of Olive could enter into the CRS at a Level 8 or 7 which amounts to either a 10% or 15% reduction in flood insurance premiums for Town residents.

NYC Flood Buy-Out Program

Some questions were raised about the Flood Buyout program funded by NYC, which is a new program developed in partnership with NYC Watershed partners. L. Zucker explained that this program is one part of the overall flood mitigation toolkit that is available to watershed towns. Towns may consider flood buyouts as a last resort to move a property owner out of harm's way. In addition to buyouts, other mitigation options include flood-proofing, elevation, and relocation of anchor business and community facilities with funding from the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC). AWSMP is not administering buyout or relocation funding, but will coordinate with CWC and other watershed partners in the overall flood mitigation effort.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on August 7, 2014 at 6:30pm. The meeting will be held at the Olive Town Meeting Hall if Wi-Fi is able to be installed. Otherwise, the meeting will be held at the AWSMP Office located at 6375 State Route 28, Phoenicia, NY. A reminder with exact location will be sent out prior to the meeting.

Action steps:

- *Olive Flood Advisory Committee members are encouraged to think about known flooding problem areas in preparation for the meeting.*
- *S. Rozzelle will assemble and circulate information generated during the CR planning process.*