

Olive Flood Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 7, 2014
AWSMP Office, 6375 State Route 28, Phoenicia, NY
6:30pm—8:45pm

In attendance:

Brent Gotsch, CCEUC
Bobby Taylor, UCSWCD
Adam Doan, UCSWCD
Sylvia Rozzelle, Olive Town Supervisor
Aaron Bennett, UC Dept. of Environment
Dom Covello, Town of Olive Code Enforcement Officer
Jody Hoyt, Town of Olive Resident/Trout Unlimited
John Ingram, Town of Olive Zoning Enforcement Officer
Andrew Emrich, Ulster County DOT/Town of Olive Resident
Ed Kahil, Town of Olive Resident/NYC DEP (retired)
Nicholas Burgher, Town of Olive Resident/Surveyor
Judy Coutinho, Town of Olive Resident
Danyelle Davis, NYC DEP
Jim Hyde, Town of Olive Highway Dept./Town of Olive Resident

Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District Presentation on 2012 Bushkill Assessment

B. Taylor of the Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District (UCSWCD) gave a presentation on the general findings of the Bushkill stream assessment that he led in the summer of 2012. The stream assessment uses a standardized format to record various features along a stream such as eroding hillslopes, berms, large woody debris (LWD) and other features. Features are recorded in a geographic information system (GIS) format and then exported digitally to desktop computer GIS software from which maps can be made. B. Taylor gave an overview of some of the major features along the stream that may be contributing to flooding.

The Bushkill valley is a narrow valley. The stream flows between Watson Hollow Road (Ulster County Route 42) on one side and a high terrace on the other side. Historically, the stream was pushed against the valley wall and straightened to make room for the road. It is now recovering a more sinuous meander pattern, which is generating erosion at meanders. This causes sediment input into the stream system.

Locations of Significance

Location 1:

Near Kanape Brook, downstream of parking area. Road embankment is approximately 40 feet high and has 4-6 feet of bank left to erode before road is in danger of washing out. Post-Irene

stream work by NYSDEC Operations buried wood on the inside of a meander bend, further pushing flow toward failing road embankment.

Location 2:

Near Kanape Brook, downstream of parking area. This site is less hazardous but still cause for concern, as there is less than 10 feet of bank left to erode before the road washes out. Both this and Location 1 were visited by officials of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP). Ulster County DPW did not seek EWP funding to repair the areas.

Location 3:

Upstream of the Kanape Brook Trail Head area along Watson Hollow road. This area is where sheet piling has been installed (many years ago) along one thread of the Bushkill and a metal culvert carries flow under the roadway. This area is full of large woody debris (LWD) and has an associated hillslope failure with fine sediments. The stream in the area is very tight and narrow and will continue to fill with debris and cause damage to the roadway in future smaller storms.

Location 4:

Upstream of Ashokan Realty building there is a County culvert that is undersized and accumulates sediment. Photograph of area (taken approximately 1 year after Tropical Storm Irene) shows the culvert almost completely filled by sediment. This was confirmed with local knowledge of the site from committee members who live in that area.

Location 5:

Along Watson Hollow Road between the former Air Mailbox and South Hollow there is revetment and a failing hillslope. There is a concern that this is a location of instability for the road and a potential erosion site.

Multiple Locations 6:

Multiple private bridges. Bridge may/may not be undersized. Span was increased for one bridge that was causing backwater problems after Tropical Storm Irene.

Location 7:

Watson Hollow bridge area (within West Shokan LFA study area). This is the area of highest concern for members of the committee. If this bridge is lost it will result in over 180 homes and their residents being forced to take an hour or longer detour, or being completely stranded without access to emergency and other services.

In this location there is an abrupt drop in slope that leads to a significant amount of sediment deposition on the upstream side of the bridge. The fear is that because of reduced conveyance

capacity under the bridge, a future storm event will lead to overtopping of the bridge and/or complete failure of the bridge superstructure.

Maltby Hollow Discussion

Maltby Hollow, a major tributary of the Bushkill, is another concern for the committee because of the impact of flooding and blocked road access on residents of Moon Haw Road (the major road adjacent to the stream) and the side streets associated with it. Erosion in Maltby Hollow may be contributing to deposition near the Watson Hollow bridge. Ulster County Soil & Water has not conducted a stream assessment of Maltby Hollow, however, a number of committee members were very familiar with the stream and could speak about its problem areas.

Locations of Significance

Location 1:

Private bridge on Shultis Lane that was washed out and repaired after Tropical Storm Irene.

Location 2:

Section along Hanover Meadows Road, near the turns, and along committee member J. Coutinho's property. This area historically accumulated LWD and was described as being a "horizontal ladder" based on the way the LWD stacks up in that spot after a storm event. A person unknown did unauthorized and unpermitted stream work a few years ago that set off a number of problems. This exacerbated the woody debris accumulation and erosion issues in that area.

Location 3:

Where Hilltop Drive meets Hanover Meadows. There is a private bridge that consistently clogs with LWD during storm events. A concern is that LWD pile-ups could trigger erosion.

It was reported that below the bridge, a reach was bermed (by the US Army Corps of Engineers?) after a flood in 1955. Significant debris deposition occurs downstream of the berm. The Town of Olive re-graded the area after Irene and removed debris through a CWC debris removal grant.

Location 4:

Along Brookside Drive near committee member J. Hyde's property there is significant deposition. A review of aerial photography from 2009 compared with a 2013 image shows significant change in that area indicating a chaotic and unstable system.

Discussion of Study Area for West Shokan Local Flood Analysis (LFA)

The LFA study area will be used to identify flooding solutions within the hamlet.

D. Davis reported that the 1997 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) lists LFA-eligible hamlet areas. The West Shokan MOA hamlet area is located primarily along Route 28A near where the Post Office is situated. D. Davis suggested the study area include the MOA area as well as the Route 28A bridge up the Bushkill past the Watson Hollow Bridge and upstream to where there is a United States Geological Survey (USGS) stream gauge. Width of the LFA was recommended to include the 500-year floodplain boundary as defined by the preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Maps that have been created by FEMA for the Town. This would include the major population center of West Shokan and the Watson Hollow bridge, which is a major concern for the committee.

D. Davis explained there are several steps to the LFA. At first, the LFA will focus on the study area as outlined to determine the causes of inundation and solutions. Follow-up funding from AWSMP, Catskill Watershed Corporation, and others will be available to implement projects identified in the LFA that reduce inundation risk.

There was some concern regarding areas of significance outside the LFA funding area and that by not addressing them, issues would continue, particularly at the Watson Hollow bridge where sediment accumulating on the upstream end threatens bridge stability during high flows. It was reported that while LFA will focus on inundation in population centers, there are other programs, such as AWSMP's regular Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) grant program that can fund projects outside the LFA study area. AWSMP staff and DEP agreed that areas upstream of the proposed LFA study area are likely causing a substantial impact, particularly at the Watson Hollow bridge area, and will need to be looked at more closely.

Miscellaneous

A. Bennett reported that a new Ulster County Parcel Viewer is available online. Users can view 2013 aerial imagery along with parcels, municipal boundaries, and other GIS information, including the new 100-year and 500-year flood zone boundaries at any County location.

The web address for this useful tool is: <http://ulstercountyny.gov/maps/parcel-viewer/>

This Parcel Viewer was used during the meeting to view floodplain boundaries.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is proposed to be held on **Thursday, August 28** at 6:30pm at the Town of Olive meeting hall located on Bostock Road.

At the next meeting: 1) The committee will finalize the LFA scope of services to be included in a Request for Proposals, and 2) The committee will finalize the LFA study area boundaries for West Shokan and Boiceville.