

Town of Shandaken

S.A.F.A.R.I. Meeting Notes

Shandaken Area Flood Assessment and Remediation Initiative

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 10:00am – 11:30pm

In-Person at AWSMP Office, Shokan, NY

Or attend remotely: <https://meet.goto.com/186340189>

You can also dial in using your phone: +1 (408) 650-3123 - (Phone Access Code: 186-340-189)

Join online through a Google Chrome web browser: <https://meet.goto.com/186340189>

Or install the app: <https://meet.goto.com/install> | Enter Meeting ID: 186-340-189

In Attendance:

In Person:

Peter DiSclafani, Town of Shandaken
Supervisor

Eric Hofmeister, Town of Shandaken Highway
Superintendent

Heidi Emrich, Environmental Planner, UCDOE
Bobby Taylor, CSBI Coordinator, CSBI

Coordinator, UCSWCD
Leslie Zucker, AWSMP Program Manager,
CCEUC

Aaron Bennett, Flood Hazard Mitigation
Coordinator, NYCDEP

Adam Trescott, SMP Basin Manager, NYCDEP

Andrew Emrich, Sr. Engineer, UC DPW

Sally Rodgers, Emergency Management
Fellow, UC Emergency Services

Taryn Rowan, Intern UCES

Matt Trueheart, Associate Water Resources
Engineer, SLR

Remote:

Amanda LaValle, UC Deputy County Executive
Adam Doan, Principal Water Resources

Scientist, SLR

Sara Bayer, Shandaken Housing Committee

Tim Koch, Lead Educator, AWSMP

Town of Shandaken Updates

- **Floodplain Administrator outreach, assistance, permits, issues, applications, etc.**
 - Peter reports there have been a few minor floodplain development permits issued over the last month and a half/
 - The annual letter to landowners with structures in the floodplain is due out soon (CRS requirement).
 - The FEMA HMA Swift Current grant opportunity is now open.
 - Available to NFIP-participating communities for property protection measures (buy out, elevation, floodproofing) of NFIP-insured structures. Focus is on areas of repetitive loss structures.
 - If awarded, FEMA grant funding could cover up to 90% of the cost.
 - Should the town ask homeowners, in this annual letter, to contact the town FPA, if they're interested in being part of the Town's subapplication?
 - A bit more research is needed on what it will take to apply for this grant, and who and what activities are eligible.
 - There are 9 or 10 CWC feasibility studies in Phoenicia. Does it make sense to use these as a basis to form an application, using CWC funding as match?

- Committee members ask about updates to a structure on Warfield Road (property is in the floodway).
 - Backstory: The home recently sold in foreclosure sale. Previous owners expressed interest in participating in NYCFFBO program. They purchased the property AFTER T.S. Irene, so they were not eligible for the Pre-Irene market value estimate. When they received the offer for purchase from DEP, but did not accept. It appears they have since sold the property.
 - Now committee members have seen some construction activity on site. Is it permitted? It's in the floodway...
 - During the course of this meeting, Peter learns that the property owners have not submitted a Flood Development Permit application.
 - Donna, the town's Floodplain Administrator will reach out to the landowner immediately.
- The committee asks about the status of the placement of fill in the floodway on private lands in Mt. Pleasant. Have they submitted a no-rise certificate?
 - Peter states that they still have not submitted a no-rise certificate. A court date has been set. The town is pursuing this through the proper legal channels.
 - The easy remedy would be to simply remove the fill. The landowner mistakenly believes water runs behind the property, but is not blocking a drain.

SMIP Projects & LFA Design and Implementation Updates

- **Phoenicia Bridge Street Bridge project in coordination with Phoenicia Main Street Bridge & Floodplain Enhancement studies**
 - This meeting serves as a "Project Meeting" for his design and implementation Study.
 - SLR Consulting presented updates and initial findings to identify flood mitigation solutions for Phoenicia. The town hired SLR in early 2024 to carry out new and additional computer modeling with a grant from AWSMP.

SLR presentation:

- Stream discharge values for the Stony Clove Creek and Esopus Creek were established through an analysis of flows measured at USGS stream gauges located on the upper Esopus Creek at Allaben and Coldbrook. Various other methods were explored, but scaled stream gauge data was considered most accurate.
- Future stream flows will be estimated using a multiplication of current flows – 10%, 20%, and 30% higher flows to represent a range of possible stream discharge responses to larger, more intense precipitation events caused by climate change.
- The discharges reported in the FEMA Flood Insurance Study (used to establish regulatory maps) are roughly equivalent to the current flows plus 20% in Esopus Creek and current flows plus 30% in Stony Clove Creek established for this study.
- SLR first presented "natural" flood conditions of the Stony Clove Creek and Esopus Creek. Natural conditions are the flood extents, depths, and flow directions with all bridges removed (Main Street and Bridge Street) and existing topography. Key findings:
 - With bridges removed, the regulatory 100-year flood is more contained within the stream channel and less kicked out laterally into areas adjacent to channels. This shows that the bridges are undersized and back up water and direct flows into the community at the modeled flood conditions.
 - Stream flows exit Stony Clove Creek upstream of the elementary school and don't return to the Stony Clove channel. Flows route through town and enter the Esopus Creek downstream of the Stony Clove Creek confluence with Esopus Creek.

- At the Phoenicia elementary school, under existing conditions water leaves the Stony Clove Creek just upstream of the school, crossing Route 214 at the ball field and flows against the west side of school building and then southward.
 - SLR modeled potential mitigation actions using the regulatory 100-year flow to compare effectiveness of the practices and correspond with FEMA regulatory maps. If a solution worked for this flow, it likely works to reduce damages during more common, frequently occurring floods and might positively influence flood insurance rates in Phoenicia.
 - Alternatives that SLR considered and reported:
 - At the Bridge Street Bridge (BSB), construction of floodplain benches on both banks of Esopus Creek results in 1-2 feet of flood depth reduction on Bridge Street, if the BSB is also enlarged. Enlarged floodplains on both sides of Esopus Creek do not solve the downtown Phoenicia flooding problem. Additional actions are needed.
 - Water leaves the Stony Clove channel upstream of the Main Street Bridge (MSB) even when the MSB is removed/enlarged to reduce backed up water. Replacing and enlarging the MSB bridge alone does not solve the downtown Phoenicia flooding problem. Additional actions are needed.
 - Modeling of additional floodplains starting at Simpson Park and extending upstream to the elementary school on both banks of the Stony Clove Creek resulted in substantial flood depth reduction on Main Street, if both MSB and BSB are enlarged or no longer back-up water. However, some flows still exit the Stony Clove Creek channel and run through adjacent neighborhoods.
 - Expanded floodplain bench areas on Stony Clove Creek would look like a wide river corridor. The wider floodplain would not lend itself to use as a linear park.
 - Sediment accumulation in Stony Clove Creek is likely under these conditions requiring long-term maintenance of channel dimensions. Maintenance would need to be carefully done, because erodible clay lies at shallow depths in Stony Clove Creek from just upstream of MSB to the firehouse. Continue implementing projects in the upstream watershed that reduce sediment supply to Phoenicia.
 - The left bank of Esopus Creek remains a floodplain (under water) under all modeled scenario and should continue to be prioritized for flood-compatible community uses.
 - Modeled measures to reduce flooding at the Phoenicia elementary school included enlarging an existing swale and constructing a culvert or bridge on Route 214 to direct flows back into the Stony Clove Creek. This removes water from the school but depends on the new culvert/bridge for success.
 - A concrete flood wall protecting mechanicals on the west side of the Phoenicia school would work to protect the school building, although water is closer to the school. A minimal 3 ft wall was modeled.
 - Re-routing Route 214 to the east by 100 feet to the area that is now a swale also works to remove water from the school building. Water stays off 214 and rerouting might improve the road bend.

Next steps:

- Start developing a list of actions that would be needed to implement the floodplain enhancements to explore feasibility. Start staging what would need to occur on what timeline and funding needs.
- Bridge Street Bridge (BSB) modeling and design will recommence using the stream discharge values established above. The BSB will be modeled in combination with different alternatives above that reduce flood elevations in downtown Phoenicia.

- Consider federal grants for projects at this scale. Leverage state money. [RAISE grants](#) for multi-focal large projects might be suitable. City of Kingston just obtained a RAISE grant.

Local Flood Analysis – Chichester

- **Discuss options and timing for possible Chichester LFA, 2025**
 - Leslie asks – is there work in Chichester that could impact any proposals for Phoenicia? The group looks at Chichester on Ulster County Parcel Viewer.
 - Eric points out a bank erosion monitoring site just north of Fichtner Road
 - But is there a flooding issue here? Are there structures, life and/or property at risk?
 - Can we do an analysis on the number of structures in the floodplain in this area? Did Aaron already have this completed in his proposed study area maps? To be reviewed.
 - (Warner creek is out of the LFA area).
 - After some discussion, the committee agrees, it sounds like EROSION is the big problem. That would be a different study.
 - Leslie reminds us that Woodland Valley is now eligible... maybe the town could

CRS Activities (Hazard Mitigation Plan Updates/RLAA) Updates

- **UCMJHMP Plan Review & Scoring, RLAA and SD Management Plan & Next Steps**
 - County All-Hazard Mitigation plan was rated by CRS officer and scored 236 points. This is 30 points shy of the needed total. It doesn't make sense to put the effort into updating the town-specific plan.
 - The town will switch focus to a Substantial Damage Management Plan for 150 points and a flood insurance analysis which includes outreach to promote insurance.
 - Combined with the RLAA, should yield an increase in total CRS points.
 - In addition, town applied to AWSMP for CRS assistance grant. That prepares town for annual and cyclical review. The funds will include training from the consultant, for municipal officials and capacity building, so the town may better implement the CRS program (requirements and activities).

Town Hall & Highway Complex Relocation Updates

- **NYCDEP Progress report?**
 - No news on this from DEP.

Partner Updates

- **AWSMP**
 - No updates
- **CWC**
 - No updates
- **NYCDEP**
 - Demo for Kirkpatrick and Sage Shurter – Demolition awarded to Ulster Excavating.
 - Demolitions should occur before the end of the year.
 - Damiana and VanBaren are next and on the agenda for CWC's January meeting. They will hopefully be completed in Spring.
- **Ulster County (Planning, Emergency Services, DPW, DOE)**
 - No updates

Review Notes

Adjourn

Next Meeting: December 10, 2024 @ 10am