



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PREPAREDNESS AND PLANNING

Solution

This proposed project would create a comprehensive multi-municipal emergency preparedness and response plan created with input from emergency services providers, the Towns of Fulton and Blenheim, Schoharie County Emergency Management Office (EMO), relevant New York State agencies, and relevant Federal Government agencies to improve the overall preparedness and future response to flooding related disasters.

This is a large-scale, multi-faceted emergency response and public outreach planning project that will undertake the following elements:

- Update emergency management planning
- Incorporate new facilities into the regional emergency management plan
- Tie in with County and State efforts undertaken since the storms struck
- Establish a pre-disaster mitigation program
- Provide details on regional emergency response operations for all stakeholders
- Develop a regional recovery program
- Undertake an evacuation planning effort
- Designate local shelter plans, training and locations for people and livestock
- Educational outreach on family and business preparedness, home and business mitigation and programs to strengthen the community
- Identify evacuation signage needs and key locations for “you are here” maps and “no cell phone coverage” signage

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$550,000**.
Implementation Time Frame: 12—18 Months



Breakeben Grange. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY ALERT AND WARNING SYSTEMS AND SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Solution

The proposed project would coordinate existing emergency monitoring, communications and alerting systems with new and expanded technologies and systems.

Specific project work includes the coordination and implementation of a coordinated monitoring and alert system that reaches as many community members as possible:

- Identifying and implementing technological solutions for monitoring not just the Schoharie Creek but the upland area creeks and streams
- Better utilize the NY-Alert system by conducting a public education and registration campaign and customizing its use to these towns
- Coordinate a “Good Neighbor” check-in system whereby neighbors volunteer to go door-to-door to check on each other
- Work with the Schoharie County Emergency Management Office to identify methods to encourage residents with special needs to complete the Special Care Needs Voluntary Registration form
- Create a volunteer corps to provide emergency first aid during a disaster
- Develop a public education campaign outlining emergency actions and how and when to shelter in place

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$750,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 18—24 months.



Sirens on Blenheim Town Hall. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.

CONSTRUCT AN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)/SHELTER/FIRE DEPARTMENT/TOWN HALL, AND HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT OUTSIDE THE FLOODPLAIN IN BLENHEIM

Solution

Move the Blenheim Town Hall out of the floodplain to a more secure location with adequate road access to allow responders to reach all parts of the Town.

Specifically, this project proposes to move all Town functions from the current location along Route 30 to a new site outside the floodplain. This project is a multi-faceted complete relocation and design project to construct a new EOC/Fire Department/Shelter/Town Hall and includes the following specific elements:

- Multipurpose space designed to function as an EOC that can host meetings and other vital town functions
- Separate space for sheltering individuals and families
- New facilities to house the Blenheim Fire Department Equipment
- New facilities to house the Blenheim Highway Department Equipment
- Redundant communications
- Redundant power generation (permanent generator and/or solar)
- Electrical connections to allow charging of devices
- Adequate parking area for individual vehicles and staging of equipment
- An area indoors and outdoors to allow for the stockpiling and distribution of supplies
- Construction of a protected well and dedicated water spigot to provide drinking water to residents

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$ 1,500,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 12—18 Months



Blenheim Town Hall. Photo Courtesy of Raymond Adams



Road damage from Hurricane Irene. Photo courtesy of Keith Graham.



REBUILD FULTON TOWN HALL TO MORE EFFECTIVELY OPERATE AS THE TOWN EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)

Solution

The proposed project would demolish the existing outdated and inadequate municipal building used as an EOC and rebuild a new one on the existing lot with appropriate design and space allocation that allows the building to properly serve as an EOC.

Specific project work includes tearing down the existing building and one open-air equipment storage shelter and reconfigure and rebuild the municipal building/EOC with the following specific elements:

- Tear down two existing structures on the site (leaving the salt barn)
- Rebuild an EOC/Town Hall with a larger footprint to incorporate all the elements needed to properly function as an EOC and Town Hall
- Vehicle bay space and EOC/administrative space should be designed to be at least 2 times the current size
- Redundant power generation (permanent generator/solar).
- Electrical connections to allow charging of devices
- Construct a dedicated water supply spigot to provide drinking water to residents

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$1,500,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 12—15 Months



Fulton Town Hall. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.

WEST FULTON FIRE DEPARTMENT IMPROVEMENTS

Solution

The proposed project would upgrade and expand the current property and building to provide additional capacity, reduce conflicts between different uses during times of an emergency, and harden the property from potential events, such as a power failure, which could render it unusable as a shelter.

Specific work project elements are intended to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and ability to deliver emergency response, shelter, and distribution of supplies during an emergency. Specific improvements include:

- An addition to the building to allow for additional shelter space
- Upgrades to heating and emergency lighting
- Upgrades to the septic system and leach field to meet the needs of the expanded space
- Redundant power (permanent generator/solar)
- Expanded parking designed to allow for better parking of vehicles, staging of equipment, and distribution of supplies
- A water storage unit

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$500,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 6—10 Months



West Fulton Fire Department. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.

UNDERTAKE A DETAILED HYDROLOGY AND ENGINEERING STUDY OF THE SCHOHARIE CREEK AND ITS TRIBUTARIES, INCLUDING IDENTIFICATION OF STREAMBANK RESTORATION NEEDS

Solution

Undertake an hydrologic and engineering study of the Schoharie Creek and some distance of each tributary to assess the condition of the creek, potential immediate concerns, longer-term actions, and an overall assessment of the capacity of the creek to function as it should, and as residents and businesses would like it to in the event of a future major flood event.

Specific project work includes a hydrologic and engineering assessment of the creek to:

- Assess conditions of the creek and its tributaries (a minimum distance of 5,000 feet upstream from where they empty into the Schoharie Creek or the upstream limit of human impacts such as agriculture, logging, roads, homes, etc.) and provide a plan for making any recommended changes to the existing conditions
- Investigate the potential to add additional communities if funding and scope are feasible
- Identify specific opportunities for stream restoration, floodplain reconnection, protection of agricultural soils, and other targeted efforts to improve stream function and reduce flooding
- Specifically assess the streambank restoration needs behind and in proximity to the existing Blenheim Town Hall

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$ 1,500,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 6—10 Months



Schoharie Creek. Photo Courtesy of Raymond Adams.

Creek crossing in Fulton. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.



REPLACEMENT OF UNDERSIZED CULVERTS

Solution

Replace six existing inadequate culverts with culverts sized to withstand a 1-percent annual flood/storm occurrence.

Specific project work includes the complete replacement of six culverts. Hydrologic analysis results show that the replaced culverts are undersized and not anticipated to withstand a similar event. The six culvert replacement locations include:

- Bear Ladder Road;
- Blenheim Hill Road;
- Clauverwie Road;
- Cole Hollow Road;
- Dave Brown Mountain Road; and
- Spur Road

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$1,200,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 4—6 Months



*Culvert on Bear Ladder Road
Photo courtesy of Tetra Tech.*



Culvert on Cole Hollow Road. Photo courtesy of Tetra Tech.

INCORPORATE RESILIENCY MEASURES FOR THE BRIDGE SCHOOLHOUSE MUSEUM

Solution

The proposed project would support work already underway to rehabilitate the damaged portions of the **Schoolhouse Museum structure by incorporating resiliency measures into the rehabilitation process to make the structure less prone to flood damage from future storms.**

This project will add resiliency and hardening measures to the rehabilitation effort. Specific elements will need to be assessed and determined through a detailed engineering review of existing building design and conditions and potential options for holding back potential future flood waters that encroach the property:

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$250,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 6—9 Months



*Bridge Schoolhouse Museum
Photo courtesy of NYRCR
Planning Committee.*



Bridge Schoolhouse Museum. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.

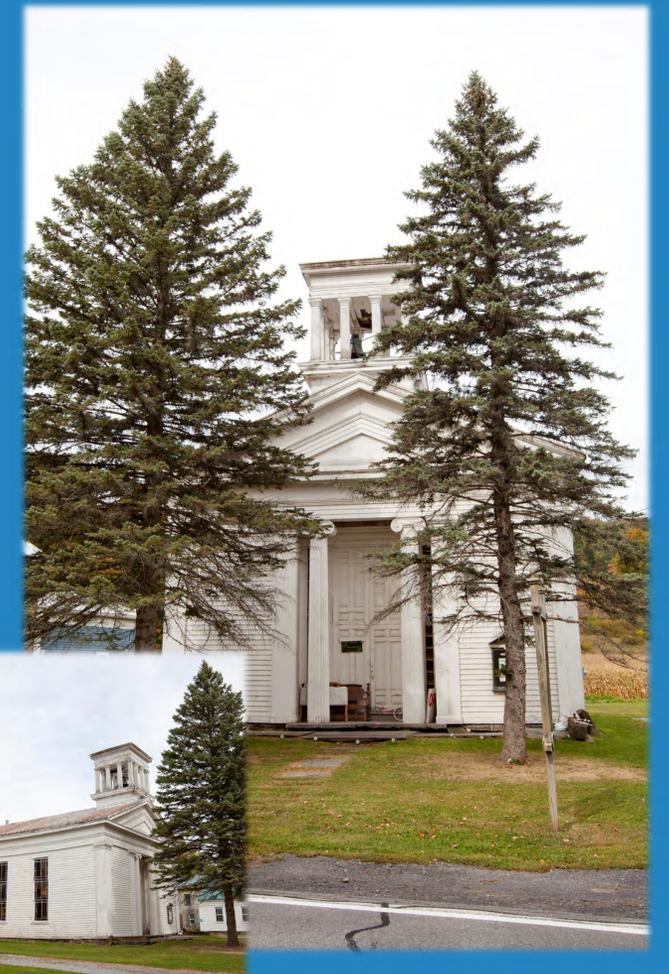
INCORPORATE RESILIENCY MEASURES FOR THE NEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Solution

The proposed project would support work already underway by incorporating resiliency measures into the rehabilitation process to make the recently-purchased structure less prone to flood damage from future storms.

This project will add resiliency and hardening measures to the rehabilitation effort. Specific elements will need to be assessed and determined through a detailed engineering review of existing building design and conditions and potential options for holding back potential future flood waters that encroach the property:

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$ 250,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 6—9 Months



Old Presbyterian Church. Photos courtesy of Raymond Adams.



BECOME A DESTINATION CORRIDOR BETWEEN THE CATSKILLS AND THE ADIRONDACKS

Solution

Work to increase the visibility of the Route 30 corridor as a primary north-south route with significant tourism and recreation opportunities in both Fulton and Blenheim.

This project will focus on the tourism and economic development-related needs of the Towns of Fulton and Blenheim by undertaking the following project elements:

- Develop a marketing and tourism strategy for the Towns as part of the larger Route 30 corridor
- Work closely with regional “anchor” communities, County, State, and private tourism-based agencies
- Undertake infrastructure improvements and enhancements including:
 - ✓ Targeted improvements to the streetscaping and enhancements to improve walkability in the historic and recreational locations
 - ✓ Improve off-site signage and sign standardization
 - ✓ Install signage for specific locations including Vroman’s Nose, Looking Glass Pond, the Blenheim Covered Bridge, and trailheads
 - ✓ Seek scenic byway designation
 - ✓ Create more exercise trails and on-road facilities for biking/walking/hiking

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$1,125,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 18—24 Months



Barber's Farm on Route 30. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.



Route 30 in North Blenheim. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.

UNDERTAKE SLOPE STABILIZATION AND ROCK SLIDE STABILIZATION

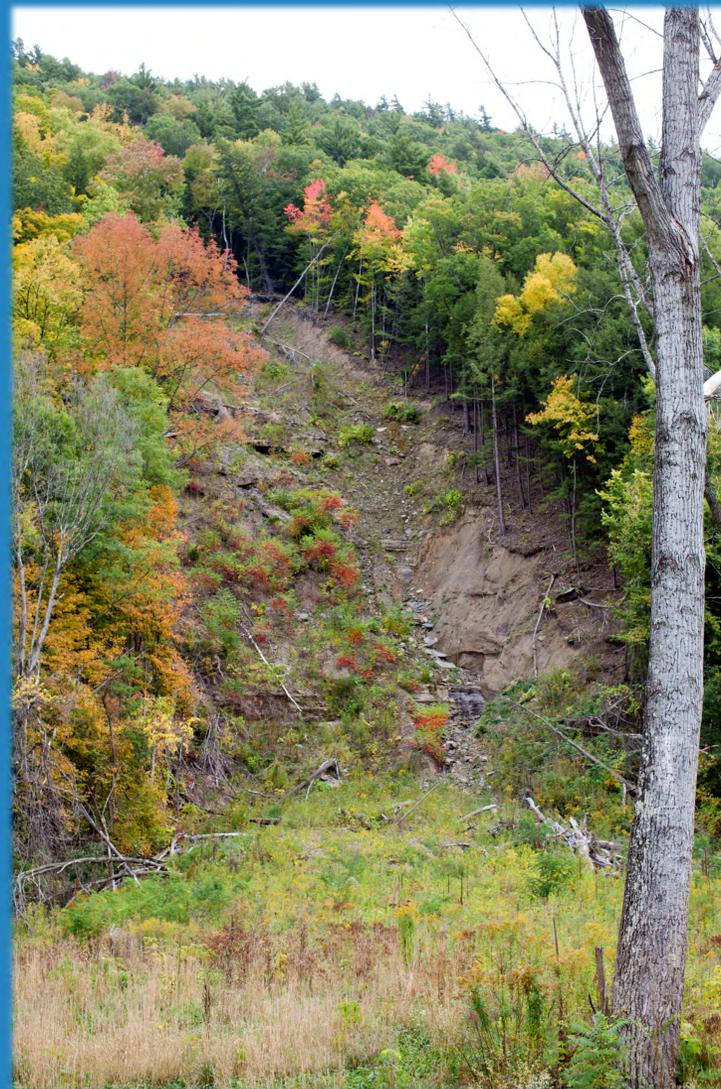
Solution

Undertake stabilization efforts at two identified locations and any others identified prior to project implementation.

This project proposes to undertake slope stabilization at two locations and consider needs of any other locations identified prior to starting this project. The two locations identified are positioned:

- Along State Route 30 at the Fulton/Blenheim Town Line
- Along Bear Ladder Road in Blenheim

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$400,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 4—6 Months



Landslides are a frequent occurrence within the Community. Photo courtesy of Raymond Adams.

DEVELOP A LOCAL STREAM MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PLAN

Solution

This project will develop a local stream management and maintenance plan.

This project will specifically undertake the following activities:

- Complement on-going County-wide stream maintenance efforts
- Provide a mechanism (plan) for ongoing identification and prioritization of stream issue
- Provide an outline of local strategies to address access, easement, permitting, and funding issues
- Provide an educational component through educational materials to inform residents of available programs regarding stream management and maintenance

Cost Estimate: The estimated total project cost is **\$ 250,000**
Implementation Time Frame: 9—12 Months



Example of bank stabilization. Photo courtesy of Tetra Tech.



Photo courtesy of Tetra Tech.



ADDITIONAL RESILIENCY RECOMMENDATIONS

| Project Name | Short Description | Estimated Cost |
|---|---|----------------|
| Purchase a Payloader to assist in debris removal during storm events | Purchase two payloaders (one for Fulton and one for Blenheim) to assist in the removal of debris during flood events, ice storms, and snow storms. These are considered first-response vehicles in flooding (and other) natural disaster situations. | \$250,000 |
| Create a Local Farmers and Artisans Market | Create a local farmers and artisans market in a single location or as a "Linear Market" utilizing existing (and future) farm stands to stimulate small business growth, support agri-business and expand upon what already exists. | \$250,000 |
| Determine the Feasibility of Increased Water-Flow in the Schoharie Creek to Support Recreation | Work with New York Power Authority (NYPA) and New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) to determine feasibility and coordination of increased water-flow in the Schoharie Creek to support recreation. | \$15,000 |
| Assess the Potential to Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's Community Rating System | Investigate opportunities to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). | \$15,000 |
| Investigate the potential for low-cost power from NYPA | Work with NYPA to investigate any potential low-cost power options for residents. Budget estimate is for administrative time necessary to conduct meetings and discussions with project partners. | \$25,000 |
| Elevate a section of State Route 30 | Elevate a 0.4-mile segment of State Route 30 by 4 feet (likely including construction of a retaining wall along the Schoharie Creek) between Blenheim Town Hall and the homes in North Blenheim. | \$1,000,000 |
| Cell tower and high-speed internet infrastructure improvements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify alternative options such as Wi-Fi-based, in-home cellular extenders, individual homeowner cell-towers, and other telecommunications hardware such as satellite-based communications. Identify alternative modes of communications in regions without communications coverage. Place signage along routes that do not have cellular coverage to warn travelers/residents of 'no-service' locations. Purchase satellite phones for use by emergency responders when traditional lines of communication are unavailable. | \$50,000 |
| Assessment and hardening of the gas pipeline | Implement a system for Enterprise Products Partners, LP and public sector agencies to regularly inspect the pipeline, identify opportunities to implement protective measures for vulnerable elements, and rapidly identify damaged or compromised areas following a disaster. | \$50,000 |
| Undertake Development of a Regional Parks and Recreation Master Plan | Develop a Regional Parks and Recreation Master Plan to better plan and coordinate parks and recreation resources. | \$125,000 |
| Implement alternative energy projects | Develop large-scale, solar, farm-based microgrid to provide power to the Towns when the main grid goes down. | \$1,000,000 |
| Establish a small business incubator to support existing businesses, especially agri-business | Establish a small business incubator to support existing businesses, especially agri-business, and the processing needs of local farmers who have to ship their goods out of the region for processing. Establish a purchasing co-op and encourage buying local where/when feasible. | \$125,000 |