



Rye

Community Reconstruction Plan Planning Committee Meeting #7

September 30, 2014 – 6:00 PM

Rye City Hall

1051 Boston Post Road, Rye, New York



Welcome and Introductions

Committee and Team

- Rye Committee
 - Co-Chairs, **Holly Kennedy and Bernie Althoff**
 - Committee, **9 Community Members**
- Governor's Office of Storm Recovery
 - **Kate Dineen**
 - **Dan Berkovits**
 - **Suzanne Barclay**
 - **Alex Breinin**
 - **Ricardo Soto-Lopez**
- Consultants (AKRF-Sasaki)
 - Program Lead, **Nanette Bourne (AKRF)**
 - Project Manager, **Jason Hellendrung (Sasaki)**
 - Assistant Project Manager, **Julia Carlton (Sasaki)**
 - Technical Advisor, **Jim Nash (AKRF)**



Agenda

- Welcome and introductions
- CDBG-DR Eligibility by HGA
- Refine projects, programs, and actions
 - Descriptions, locations, target areas
- Discuss outreach options for future events
- Looking ahead



Program Process



Geographic Scope
Storm Damage Inventory
Critical Issues
Vision Statement



Asset Inventory
Risk Areas
Risk to Assets
Needs and Opportunities



Strategies
Projects and Management Measures
Operational Arrangements



Schedule for Implementation



IN-PERSON COMMITTEE MEETINGS (roughly twice monthly)





CDBG-DR Eligibility



Project Categorization

Project Categorization

PRIORITY PROJECT

Eligible for
CDBG-DR
Funding

(\$3 million)

FEATURED PROJECT

Other Funding
Sources
Needed

(identified later)

OTHER PROJECT

Polices or
Programs

(not capital projects)

BASED ON FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

NOT \$ BASED





Projects, Programs, & Actions

Sluice Gate Modifications

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Water Control Facilities	Rye		Blind Brook Floodplain	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: In 2013, the City of Rye installed an automated sluice gate at the Bowman Avenue Dam to provide immediate relief from flooding downstream. Based on the findings of Parsons Brinckerhoff's Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis Report in 2014, modifications to the sluice gate could increase its efficacy. Modifications include moving the water gauges that trigger the gate's automatic functions further downstream, and changing the operational rules of the gate to adjust for the gauge's new position in relation to the Bowman Avenue Dam.



Stormwater Pond at Anderson Hill Road

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Water Control Facilities	Rye Brook		Blind Brook floodplain	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: Blind Brook runs along the east side of the SUNY-Purchase property. Two stormwater ponds could be created by building three low stabilized earthen berms across the Blind Brook floodplain, with openings at the channel. Detention basins in this region can accommodate significant volumes, and would significantly reduce the water surface elevation downstream during storm events.



Bowman Avenue Dam Lower Pond

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Water Control Facilities	Rye Brook		Blind Brook Watershed	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: In 2008, Chas. H. Sells, Inc. proposed increasing the capacity of the Bowman Avenue Dam Lower Pond in order to alleviate downstream flooding along Blind Brook. In 2014, Parsons Brinckerhoff's analysis found that increasing the storage area at the Lower Pond would not have a great impact on water discharge reduction for 25, 50, and 100-year storms.



Bowman Avenue Dam Upper Pond

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Water Control Facilities	Rye Brook		Blind Brook Watershed	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: Bowman Avenue Dam Upper Pond, used for water retention, has over time significantly decreased in size due to siltation (Hydrologic and Hydraulic Analysis Report, 2014). This project would expand the storage capacity of the Upper Pond at the Bowman Avenue Dam by excavating 104,000 cubic yards of material, creating a larger retention basin and reducing the water surface elevation downstream in Rye during storm events.



NY Thruway Water Retention Policy

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Legislative/ Policy	NY State		City of Rye	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: Two major interstates (I-95 and I-287) run through Rye. These roadways do not capture the stormwater that falls on them, which contributes to the flooding in Rye. As roadways are rebuilt (or sooner) determine how the runoff can be captured and mitigated before flowing into Rye.



Work With County to Expand the Capacity of the Sanitary Sewers

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Utilities	County		City of Rye	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: The sanitary sewer system currently overflows in some parts of the city, partially due to the existence of illegal sump pumps that drain into and then overwhelm the sanitary sewer system. This outflow combines with the stormwater sewer system that drains directly into the Milton Harbor and the Sound. Removing the illegal sump pumps could alleviate this overflow. Additionally, studies need to confirm where additional capacity or hardening is needed to prevent sanitary sewers from mixing with stormwater sewers.



New Entrance to Rye Nature Center

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Roads & Bridges	Rye	873 Boston Post Rd	City of Rye	Natural and Cultural Resource

DESCRIPTION: The entrance to the Rye Nature Center currently utilizes a historic bridge that traverses Blind Brook. This bridge was severely damaged from storms. Reconstructing the bridge to return it to service for automobiles would cost an estimated \$1.1 million (Capital Improvement Plan). In lieu of restoring the historic bridge, a new entrance to the Nature Center that does not cross Blind Brook could be created. The current historic bridge could be converted into a pedestrian bridge with more plantings along roadway and around the brook (at significantly less cost than restoring automobile access).



Participate in FEMA's Community Rating System

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Legislative/ Policy	Rye	N/A	Floodplain properties	Community Planning & Capacity Building

DESCRIPTION: Flood insurance premiums have recently escalated due to changes in national policy. This has created hardships for homeowners, and has made it increasingly difficult to sell homes to buyers that require a mortgage. FEMA's CRS is a voluntary incentive program that encourages community floodplain management activities that exceed the minimum National Flood Insurance Program requirements. As a result, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reflect the reduced flood risk, alleviating the stress to homeowners and prospective buyers.



Systematize Pre-storm Drain Cleaning

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Utilities	Rye		City of Rye	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: During fall and winter months, Rye's drains and sewer system are filled with debris. Prior to the spring storm season, the Department of Public Works can systematize cleaning the drain and sewer system. This would remove the built up debris and alleviate stress on the system, reducing overflow.



Have Backup Generators Available

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Emergency Readiness	Rye		Municipal Buildings	Health & Social Services

DESCRIPTION: During storm events, power is routinely knocked out or intentionally shut down to prevent injury should flooding occur. For major storm events affecting the region, power outages can last several days or even weeks, causing significant disruption to daily life even after other storm-related issues have subsided. Having backup generators available for residents and businesses to borrow following major storm events could help the return to normal daily operations.



Milton Road Drainage to Harbor

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Utilities	Rye		Area Surrounding Milton Harbor	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: Install new outfall off of the northern end (southern end completed 2013) of Milton Road to divert flood waters to the harbor instead of flooding the Milton Harbor House parking lot (review hydrology of area and hydraulics of existing drainage system); Emergency response for fire house



Bury, Stabilize Power Lines Along Major Corridors

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Utilities	Rye		City of Rye	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: Rye's aboveground power lines are highly susceptible to damage from falling branches and wind. In cases of emergency, navigating the streets for evacuation or finding an emergency shelter can be difficult. While Rye's water table is high, and many areas are proximate to saltwater making underground utility lines susceptible to corrosion, there may be major power lines and/or major road corridors where burying power lines would protect them and the larger city grid during a storm. Rye should work with utility companies to identify particularly vulnerable or critical power lines and evaluate the cost and feasibility of undergrounding these power lines, either during scheduled road reconstructions or as a separate project.



Form Watershed Conservancy & Green Infrastructure Program

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Social/Community Services	Watershed		Blind Brook and Beaver Swamp Brook Watershed	Community Planning and Capacity Building

DESCRIPTION: Perform a comprehensive assessment to identify goals and associated performance metrics, assess existing conditions with respect to runoff, erosion, and deposition patterns, identify local and watershed-scale stressors, understand patterns of channel evolution, and determine and diagnose root-causes of observed problems (e.g. siltation). Based on the assessment, develop a plan, which will describe, map, and provide preliminary cost estimates for specific reach and sub-reach scale interventions required to remediate existing problems and achieve goals, including but not limited to channel and floodplain redesign, bank stabilization, in-stream flow modification, structure (i.e. bridge) redesign or modification, zoning changes, and/or watershed restoration activities (e.g. buffering, stormwater management projects, etc.). Develop environmentally sensitive program with the City, County, and State to maintain streams.



Energy Program

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Emergency Readiness	Rye		City of Rye, especially Municipal Buildings	Infrastructure

DESCRIPTION: Implementing a series of solar power pilot projects around Rye, including solar energy at community and municipal facilities, solar powered streetlights along critical roadways, and solar powered generators, can offset the disruption felt by residents and emergency responders during power outages.



Enrich and Expand the Wetlands and Open Space Along Blind Brook

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Recreational	Rye		Riverine assets along Blind Brook	Natural and Cultural Resource

DESCRIPTION: Wetlands and open space serve as absorptive buffers between bodies of water and development. During storm events, they naturally protect buildings and infrastructure, and have internal regenerative capacities that require little maintenance. Other times, they serve as a community amenity. Municipal parking lots are some of the only readily available land along the brook, and these could potentially be converted to open space, with centralized structured parking on high ground replacing the lost parking spaces.



Property Elevating Program

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Housing (Capital)	Rye		Riverine and Coastal assets in the floodplain	Housing

DESCRIPTION: Changes to the national flood insurance policy and increasing awareness of flooding has led to a push for property owners in floodplains to elevate their homes and businesses. This initial investment can offset flood insurance rate hikes, but can be prohibitively expensive for homeowners, particularly those on fixed incomes. A program to assist property owners with elevating properties can enable them to remain in their homes, or to sell their homes at fair market value and relocate out of the floodplain. In Round 1, NYRCR Bay Park proposed a revolving loan program that would enable residents to elevate their homes if they otherwise did not have access to the required capital.



Strategic Location for Fire Equipment

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Emergency Readiness	Rye		Locust Avenue and Milton Avenue Fire Houses	Community Planning and Capacity Building

DESCRIPTION: Both of Rye's fire houses are very susceptible to flooding. To ensure the continued availability of emergency services, fire equipment needs to be moved to high ground in advance of storm events. This requires advance knowledge of the severity of anticipated storms, and presents a significant inconvenience. If fire equipment were permanently stored in a more strategic high ground location, the fire department could remain responsive during and after storm events.



Relocate or Floodproof Locust Ave Firehouse

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Public Buildings	Rye		Locust Avenue Fire House	Community Planning and Capacity Building

DESCRIPTION: The Locust Avenue Firehouse sits in a topographical bowl in Rye's central business district. Floodproofing the building would protect the equipment should there be no need to use it during the flood, however fire department functions may be limited if trucks cannot leave the property due to flooding on Locust Avenue. Relocating the building to higher ground would ensure that equipment was protected and that emergency services could operate during emergencies.



Designate a City-Operated Emergency Center

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Public Buildings	Rye		City of Rye	Health and Social Services Strategies

DESCRIPTION: During federally-declared emergencies, the Red Cross operates an emergency center at Rye Country Day School. During other emergencies, the Red Cross does not provide this service, and the City of Rye does not have the ability to operate the emergency center at Rye Country Day School. This project would designate a city-operated emergency center to provide residents a place to regroup during or after storm events which may have resulted in loss of power, flooding, and/or utility interruptions.



Floodproof Municipal Facilities

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Public Buildings	Rye		Municipal Buildings	Community Planning and Capacity Building

DESCRIPTION: Several of Rye's municipal facilities (Rye Reading Room, Rye City Hall) regularly flood during storms. Extensive repairs have drained budgets, and have exhausted donor bases who seek to improve resources rather than fund reconstruction projects. Floodproofing municipal facilities that have suffered repeated damage during storms would protect important community assets and ensure continued philanthropy that enriches Rye.



Bypass Channel in Downtown Rye

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Protective Measures	Rye		Business District	Infrastructure Strategies

DESCRIPTION: Blind Brook takes three sharp turns just before it reaches the central business district. Diverting Blind Brook away from Downtown Rye would alleviate flooding from the brook and protect the businesses and municipal facilities that lie within the business district.



Disbrow Park Improvements

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Recreational & Emergency Readiness	Rye	141 Oakland Beach Ave	Disbrow Park	Natural and Cultural Resources

DESCRIPTION:



Coastal Zone Improvements

Project Prioritization	Project Type	Project Location	Project Address	Target Area	Recovery Support Functions
	Protective Measures	Rye		Coastal Areas	Housing, Economic Development

DESCRIPTION: Coastal structures in Rye are required by the zoning code to have basic floodproofing based on Base Flood Elevation. Despite this, some of these structures are grandfathered in and still suffer repeated damage. Occasionally, large scale public infrastructure projects are more cost-effective or protective than individual property improvements. In the Hamptons, waterfront homeowners levied a tax on themselves to pay for infrastructure improvements that would protect their homes. This enabled public funding to be diverted to community projects, but allowed private homeowners to take advantage of government coordination and collaboration.



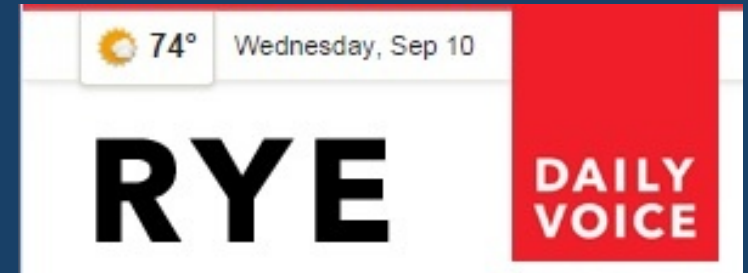


Outreach

Organizations and Outlets

- Rye School Board
- Rye School District
- Rye City Council

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Looking Ahead

Scheduling

- Committee meeting #8: October 14
- Rising to the Top intent: October 15
- Committee meeting #9: October 28
- Committee meeting #10: November 18
- **Public engagement event #3: before November 11**



Draft Agenda for Next Meeting

- Project details
 - Anticipated costs, qualitative evaluation of benefits
- Presentation of Mitigated Risk Assessment



Program Process



Geographic Scope
Storm Damage Inventory
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Vision Statement



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Schedule for Implementation



IN-PERSON COMMITTEE MEETINGS (roughly twice monthly)





Stay Connected & Stay Informed at
www.stormrecovery.ny.gov/nyrcr