



# Meeting Notes

## Public Engagement Meeting #1

July 24, 2014 pm

Town of Wallkill Town Hall, Building A

Wallkill, NY

### Attendance:

#### Town of Wallkill Committee:

Frank LoSauro  
Robert Beemer  
Sal Lucido  
Neil Meyer  
Jeff Hutchinson

#### Town of Wallkill

Dan Depew, Supervisor  
Lou Ingrassia, Jr., Commissioner of Public Works  
Ralph Carr, Councilman Ward 1, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Supervisor

#### New York State Dept. of State:

Lisa Melville  
William C. Harding

#### New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program

Lori DuBord

#### Public

None

#### Tetra Tech, Inc.:

Emily Slotnick  
Cynthia Bianco  
Becca Eith

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Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions

Presenter: D. Depew, W.C. Harding, C. Bianco, E. Slotnick

### Summary of Discussion:

1. Meeting materials were distributed to attendees along with an explanation of the voting exercise to take place at the end of the presentation.
2. Supervisor Dan Depew welcomed the public and briefly described the purpose of the public meeting as well as the intent of the NY Rising Program. He also explained that the meeting was being recorded for later broadcast on the Town's local public access television channel, and that future NYRCR Town of Wallkill public engagement meetings will be broadcast live on that channel.
3. Supervisor Dan Depew introduced Cynthia Bianco who stated the intent of the meeting was to discuss damages experienced during the recent storms (Hurricane Irene, Tropical Storm Lee, Superstorm Sandy, storms from the summer of 2013, and others) and to review the accomplishments of the Planning Committee to date. Cynthia Bianco explained that being part of New York Rising is a unique opportunity to positively affect the future of Wallkill. Establishing a new plan based on previous damages, strong science, and with excellent public input will lead to success.
4. The Committee members introduced themselves and stated which communities within Wallkill they resided.
5. Emily Slotnick, the Community Manager, spoke next and introduced the NYS Department of State and the New York Rising personnel present. She also mentioned that this is the first of four public engagement meetings and each one would show the progress of the Plan.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.

Action Items: NA

Summary of Discussion:

1. William C. Harding from NYS Department of State explained that end of this planning process, there will be a plan in place created by the people of Wallkill. The plan will tell the story of Wallkill's trials and tribulations during recent disasters and how to recover. There will be a series of projects created that will make Wallkill more resilient. Projects may be more than the allotted \$3 million, and that is ok. William C. Harding spoke about the importance of having more projects than money to ensure that if one project falls through, there is a project to take its place.
2. Emily Slotnick began guiding the public through the PowerPoint presentation. Emphasizing the significance of receiving CDBG-DR funding, Emily Slotnick discussed the flexibility of CDBG-DR funding and its support of projects to remediate and reduce future disaster-related damages. The projects created for this plan will make Wallkill more resilient both economically and physically. Strong public input in critical throughout the planning process. An important concept discussed was the communities that make up Wallkill. Many who live in Wallkill are unsure where the boundaries are as most residents have Middletown mailing addresses and associate more with their communities than the Town of Wallkill.
3. The presentation provided information on the plan's time frame, expectations and goals for the Committee, the Risk Assessment, HEC RAS modeling, and the draft vision statement.

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Action Items: N/A

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Summary of Discussion:

1. Tetra Tech provided an opportunity for attendees to cast votes for the projects types that participants felt needed the most attention in their community with the use of play money in ballot boxes marked with these general categories: Infrastructure, housing, economic development, health and social services, natural and cultural resources, and community capacity building.
2. 80 votes total were cast. Overwhelmingly, project's that will focus on infrastructure received 41 votes, over 50% of the votes cast. The next highest boxes were cultural resources with 13 votes, health and human services with 9 votes, and economic development with 7 votes. Vulnerable populations and community planning and capacity building each received 4 votes, while housing received 2 votes. From this exercise it is clear the people of Wallkill would like projects that focus on infrastructure, health and human services, and cultural resources.
3. Committee members, TT staff, and NYS DOS staff spoke with the public about their experiences during the storm events. Community members went to one of two tables to review maps focusing on damage areas, risk area, and location maps to write down where they personally experienced damage or feel something needs to be done to reduce future damage. Flooding, uninterrupted provision of power,

