



Meeting Notes

Public Engagement Meeting #2

September 4, 2014 7:00pm-9:00 pm
Town of Wallkill Town Hall, Building A

Wallkill, NY

Attendance:

Town of Wallkill Committee:

Frank LoSauro
Robert Beemer
Sal Lucido
Neil Meyer
Inder Kumar

New York State Dept. of State:

Lisa Melville
William C. Harding

Tetra Tech, Inc.:

Emily Slotnick
Cynthia Bianco
Becca Eith
Susan Roth
Russ Dudley

New York Rising Community Reconstruction Program

Lori DuBord

Town of Wallkill

Dan Depew, Supervisor
Lou Ingrassia, Jr., Commissioner of Public Works
Ralph Carr, Councilman Ward 1, 1st Deputy Supervisor
John Lippert, Hwy. Superintendent/ Deputy
Commissioner DPW
Michael Aumick, Hwy. Supervisor
Michelle Baker
Eric Valintin

Public

William M Cody
Ben Freiderick
Lou Ricci
Peggy Lucido
Barry Schnipper

Debra Books-Edmonds
Bernard Laurenzi
Julie Laurenzi
Harold S. Card
Martin J. Memmelaar

Herbert Dolson
Gina Crawford
Frances Meefer
Howard Mills Jr.
Vince Ferri

Agenda Item: Welcome and Introductions Presenter: Depew, Harding, DuBord, Bianco, Meyer, Slotnick

Summary of Discussion:

1. 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.
2. Supervisor Dan Depew introduced NYRCR Department of State planner William C. Harding. William C. Harding explained that at end of this planning process, there will be a plan in place created by the people of Wallkill. He gave a brief description of the NY Rising Program and indicated that the purpose of the meeting is to get feedback on the work that has been completed since the start of the program. The intent of the program is to help communities build back better and be more resilient when the next flooding event happens in the community. W. C. Harding also introduced DOS planner Lisa Melville and NYRCR Regional Program Lead Lori DuBord, Tetra Tech Project Manager Cynthia Bianco.
3. C. Bianco stated the intent of the meeting 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. Neil Meyer introduced himself and the other committee members, and described the committee's role in the planning process.
5. Emily Slotnick, the Community Manager, spoke next mentioned that this is the second of four public engagement meetings and each one would show the progress of the Plan.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.

Action Items: NA

Agenda Item: Overview of NYRCR Program

Presenter: W.C. Harding, E. Slotnick

Summary of Discussion:

1. 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.
2. The presentation provided information on the plan's time frame, the plan components that the committee has completed to date, an overview of the draft Risk Assessment and HEC-RAS model, and the scheduled deliverables for the next few months.
3. The committee meets every two weeks and the public is welcome to attend. A meeting schedule is available on the NY Rising website and at the Town of Wallkill.
4. Section 1 of the plan is complete; it contains the vision statement, goals and objectives of the committee, and a characterization of the events that caused the flooding damage in Wallkill. Feedback from the first public hearing was incorporated into this section and more effectively "tells the story" of the flooding that occurred in Wallkill and helped to shape all sections of the plan. The final draft of the information was summarized on posters displayed at the meeting.
5. Section 2 builds on Section 1 and is in the process of being finalized. Section 2 applies science to the flooding areas, in order to better understand what happened, and lists the needs and opportunities developed from previously gathered information. Two main tools that are in the final stages of development for this section are:
 - The Risk Assessment, which helps the committee understand the risk of flooding of a critical asset that would be important to the recovery after flooding.
 - The Hydraulic HEC-RAS study, which is in the process of being refined by the engineering team. The HEC-RAS study helps the committee to better understand the impacts of flooding within the riverine waterways in Wallkill.
6. The Needs and Opportunities list are in final draft, as well as the Risk Analysis. These sections are summarized in handouts and on posters displayed at the meeting. The public was encouraged to provide feedback on these items at this meeting.

7. The public will have an opportunity to comment further on the plan as it progresses. There are a total of 4 public engagement meetings, and two more are yet to be scheduled. It is important that the public reach out to their networks to invite more residents to future meetings.
8. General timeline of the project as of this date:
 - o June: committee was formed, a tour of the town was undertaken and a geographic study area was determined. In addition, the vision statement was developed.
 - o July: Critical Assets were defined and critical assets were refined and developed. The first public engagement meeting was also held at the end of July.
 - o August: Section 1 was completed and reviewed and the Committee finalized draft needs and opportunities. By this time the committee had a sense of where damage was and what happened during Irene. The Risk Assessment followed the development of the Critical Asset list. The purpose of the Risk Assessment is to rate the risk of flooding of up to a 500 year storm.
9. The committee and the consultant team acknowledged that there are a number of issues relating to the Stormwater runoff, and the engineering team is in the process of future evaluation of those areas while they finalize the Hydraulic (HEC-RAS) study for the plan.
10. The next major task of the committee will be to develop the resiliency strategies, which will lead to the development of projects ideas. These projects will be evaluated with the help of state representatives for the feasibility of funding under this program.
11. The goal of the planning program is to develop projects over and above the funding capability of the NY Rising Program award amounts, and with the help of the State representatives, other potential funding sources will be identified.

Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Due Date
Amend Risk Assessment and Needs and Opps.	Emily Slotnick	A.S.A.P.

Agenda Item: HEC-RAS modeling/other comments Presenter: Tetra Tech/Dudley

Summary of Discussion:

1. E. Slotnick introduced Russ Dudley, Tetra Tech’s NYRCR hydraulic engineering lead, to discuss the HEC-RAS modelling.
2. The HEC/RAS model will be used to examine area flooding, and works best for channel modeling (rivers, streams, and creeks). It was developed by the Army Corps of Engineers, and the NYRCR Walkkill model will use previously developed information for modeling flooding on the Walkkill River and Masonic Creek.
3. Section profiles of each of the streams were shown to demonstrate the effects of obstructions in the water channels during different flooding events. Obstructions were defined as manmade objects such as bridges weirs, culverts, etc. R. Dudley explained how to read the information on the profiles and how

to spot an obstruction in the flow of the channel. In addition, bridge cross sections demonstrated the effects of the water levels of different flood events, and how to better understand how the bridge would impact the flow of water in the channel. Birdseye views of the 100 hundred year floodplain imposed on aerial maps demonstrated the reach of the flood plain along each creek.

4. The obstructions in the models can also be removed, to better understand how flooding occurs in the natural floodplain. This academic exercise can disprove or confirm the obstructions effect on flooding. For example, if a bridge was too shallow and water was forced to go over or around the bridge and where flooding might occur.
5. The engineering team will be in the field to confirm the HEC-RAS modeling at key flooding points. In addition, storm water runoff issues will also be assessed, considering that there have been significant flooding impacts from stormwater throughout the town.
6. Public Comments on the HEC-RAS presentation:
 - When the bridge was constructed years ago over the Walkkill, the Army Corps of Engineers recommended that the Walkkill River be dredged to remove silt. The engineering team needs to consider past changes to the stream/river bed composition, including silt build-up.
 - Hydraulic study should be done on a regional scale, to consider impacts of all upstream changes, and the impacts that projects in Walkkill will have on downstream communities. The technical analysis helps to prevent downstream impacts.

Action Items: N/A

Agenda Item: Public Open House

Presenter: N/A

Summary of Discussion:

1. The presentation slide show will be available online as a PDF. Links to the NY Rising Website and other sources of information about the project were also provided.
2. The public was invited to look at the displays and comment on the draft Needs and Opportunities, risk assessment, converse with the planning team, and submit answers to a questionnaire provided at the meeting.

Decisions/Motions/Votes: N/A

Action Items: N.A.

Person Responsible

Due Date

Agenda Item: Upcoming Months/Conclusion

Presenter:

Tetra Tech/Slotnick

Summary of Discussion:

1. Upcoming Months:
 - September: Strategies and Actions will be developed; the engineering team will be in the field. The strategies are due September 19th, and the committee will begin to develop projects.

- October: the first draft of the plan is due; projects will be in the development stage.
- November, Draft #2 will be due, and circulated to the committee. Public Engagement Meeting #3 will be held to receive public input on draft.
- December 5: The final plan will be due.
- Mid-January: The final plan will be presented to the public at Public Engagement Meeting #4, and the implementation process will begin.

2. Decision/Motions/Votes: N.A.

Action Items: N.A.	Person Responsible	Due Date
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End of Meeting Notes