



# Meeting Summary

## Yonkers Planning Committee Meeting #5

September 2, 2014 3-5 pm

Riverfront Library

1 Larkin Plaza, Yonkers

### Attendance:

Yonkers NYRCR Committee – Rick Magder (Co-Chair), Gail O’Rourke (Co-Chair), Steven Brown, Parviz Fartash (representing Kathy Graves), Leon Nanton, Kerry Smith, Paul Summerfield, Renee Toback, Bob Walters

Elected Officials – Symra Brandon (representing State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins), Rachel Estroff (representing State Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer)

GOSR – Suzanne Barclay (Regional Lead), Rick Soto-Lopez (Planner), Alex Breinin (Policy Analyst)

Consultant Team – Nanette Bourne (AKRF), Jim Finegan (AKRF), Shandor Szalay (AKRF), Maggie Hopkins (CDM)

Members of the Public – Ann-Marie Mitroff (Groundwork Hudson Valley), Nancy Ruiz (Brooklands), Fred Weaver (Nepera Park-Grey Oaks Neighborhood Association)

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### Welcome and Introductions

Presenter: Suzanne Barclay

New attendees, including today’s presenters from the Consultant Team, were introduced to the Committee.

Suzanne described the Rising to the Top funding competition, which was announced this week. The Committee immediately decided to participate in the competition, which will award monetary prizes to NYRCR communities that develop exemplary projects in three categories – Regional Approach (\$1.5M award), Vulnerable Populations (\$1M), and Green Infrastructure (\$1M). Applications are due shortly after submission of the Final Plan in December.

Suzanne also announced that an educational session on CDBG-DR eligibility criteria will be held at an upcoming Committee meeting. Lastly, she confirmed that all Committee members had received the Section II draft, and requested that the Committee review the document and submit any comments to her by this Friday, Sept 5.

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### Action Items

Person Responsible

Due Date

Review and provide comments on Section II draft

Committee Members

Sept 5

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### Old Business

Agenda Item: **Review and Finalize Needs and Opportunities** Presenter: Jim Finegan

The Committee has worked to compile a list of Needs and Opportunities. Copies of the refined list were distributed to the Committee, and Committee members were asked to provide any final comments by Friday.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Provide final comments on Needs and Opportunities list	Committee Members	Sept 5

## New Business

Agenda Item: **Info Session – Watershed/Stream Hydrology** Presenter: Shandor Szalay

Shandor presented an introduction to hydrology and the influence of development on water flow and flooding. The presentation focused on the idea that all rivers flood, but the strength of these floods and the degree to which they damage communities is largely a result of human activities. Shandor discussed strategies for reducing the frequency and destruction of floods through regulating development, channel improvements, addition of new water storage zones, and other methods.

In discussion following the presentation, Committee members stressed the importance of multi-jurisdictional approaches to watershed management. The Committee wishes to build on existing agreements, such as the Saw Mill River intermunicipal agreement, as well as learning from efforts in other places, such as the Great Swamp watershed in New Jersey and the multi-jurisdictional stormwater utilities in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Agenda Item: **Risk Assessment** Presenter: Maggie Hopkins

Maggie’s presentation explained the methodology of the Risk Assessment Analysis. The “unmitigated” risk assessment is included in Section II of the Yonkers NYRCR Plan, while a “mitigated” risk analysis will impact the Committee’s selection of projects. Maggie passed around a worksheet that the Committee can fill out to provide information on the length of time that various assets took to recover from the impacts of recent storms. This information will form part of the Vulnerability Score, one of the components of the Risk Assessment Analysis.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Fill out Vulnerability Scoring worksheet and provide to Suzanne	Committee Members	Sept 5

Agenda Item: **Discuss Project Strategies** Presenter: Jim Finegan

Jim introduced the concept of Strategies to the Committee and gave a few examples drawn from Round 1 communities which seemed appropriate to Yonkers. The Committee was asked to think about potential Strategies for Yonkers, in preparation for a full discussion at the next Committee meeting.

Action Items	Person Responsible	Due Date
Review preliminary list of Strategies and start to think about other ideas for the Strategies list	Committee Members	Sept 16

The next Committee Meeting will be held on September 16th at the Will Library, and going forward the Committee will alternate meetings at the Riverfront Library and the Will Library (on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month).

The second Public Engagement Event will be held on September 8th at St. Mark's Episcopal Church. Nanette proposed a format involving an introductory presentation followed by breakout table discussions around the assets and needs/opportunities, organized by Recovery Support Function. The Committee agreed to this format. Committee members will serve as facilitators at the table discussions.

Representatives of the Committee and NYRCR team will be present at Riverfest this Saturday, September 6 in Getty Square to provide information to the public about the NYRCR program generally, as well as to encourage attendance at the second Public Engagement Event.