

Oneida County Sewer District SSO Abatement Project

Steering Committee Meeting Report

April 30, 2009

5:30 p.m.

New York Mills Community Center

Municipality	Representative	Attendance
The Village of Clayville		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Nancy Sheppard	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Mike Steiger	
The Town of Deerfield		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Scott Mahardy Peggy Boshart	
<i>Community Delegate</i>		
Town of Frankfort		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Joseph Kinney	
<i>Community Delegate</i>		
Village of Holland Patent		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Michael Bennison David Wilcox	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Peter Gaige	X
The Town of Marcy		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Brian Scala Keith Schuderer	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Carson Sorrell	X
The Town of New Hartford		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Earle Reed Roger Cleveland	X
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Scot Owens	
Alternate	Christine Krupa	X
The Village of New Hartford		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Donald J. Ryan Don Bathke	X
	John Grygiel	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Richard Sherman	
The Village of New York Mills		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Robert Maciol Joseph Urban	X
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Michael Bailey	
The Village of Oriskany		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Don Rothdiener Mick O'Connor	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Chris Burch	

The Town of Paris		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Felix Cardillo	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Jim Hogel	X
Town of Schuyler		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Kenneth Dodge	X
<i>Community Delegate</i>		
The City of Utica		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee OR Designee	David Roefero Deb Day Mike Mahoney	
The Village of Whitesboro		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Richard Pugh Chester Kowalski	X X
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Joe Lazenby	X
The Town of Whitestown		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Charles R. Gibbs II Sal Granato	X
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Bill Schmitt	X
The Village of Yorkville		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Bruno Petruccione Anthony Leone, Jr.	X
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Ken Schaaf	X
Oneida County		
<i>Community Delegate</i> <i>Community Delegate</i>	Bruce Brodsky Harvey Yando	X
<i>County Executive Chief of Staff</i>	Al Candido	
Oneida County Sewer District		
Commissioner	Steve Devan	X
Counsel	Peter Rayhill	X
Project Consulting Team		
Shumaker Engineering	Karl Schrantz	X
	Jim Luz	X
Paige Group	Nancy Pattarini	X
Paige Group	Richard Barrett	X
Fiscal Advisors	Mark Colopy	X
Guests in Attendance:		
New York State DEC, Region 6	Judy Drabicki Skip Shoemaker	
League of Women Voters	Barbara Weaver	X

Meeting Highlights

Project Update

Project updates were given by the consulting team on funding efforts, bid package status, upcoming engineering field work, and public information activities.

Funding

In an attempt to keep current, the consulting team has been aggressive in updating scope and cost estimates for projects that have been previously submitted to EFC's Intended Use Plan project list.

In addition, supplemental project information has been requested by Senator Griffo's office as part of the ongoing effort to obtain funding through Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) that is currently anticipated to be \$1 million. That money would be used to fund the completion of the engineering studies and development of the repair and remediation plan.

Bid Packages

The engineering consultant reported that a bid package for manhole rehabilitation has been prepared and there has been a positive response from contractors. In order to provide contractors with an accurate quantity for the purposes of generating favorable unit prices, communities have been asked to provide consultants with an estimated number of manholes that can be repaired, or a dollar amount they have available to expend on repairs. Numerous communities have responded to this request, indicating a willingness and good faith effort to initiate the process of fixing their sewer systems.

Bid packages have also been prepared by the consultants for additional engineering field work consisting of smoke testing and sewer televising, both of which are necessary for plan development. It is anticipated that contracts will be awarded in the near future and the field work will be completed by late summer or early fall.

Public Information

The public information consultant reported that outreach continues to local, state and federal elected officials to support project funding efforts. They have been provided with extensive background and cost information and have indicated that they are dedicated to solving the funding issue.

In terms of community outreach, a public education special event was held recently at Utica College, featuring the screening of a PBS-produced documentary on water and wastewater infrastructure and its importance to society. A public Q&A period followed the screening and generated discussion on key project-related issues. Committee members were reminded that loaner copies of the documentary are available upon request for screening in their respective communities.

A speaker's bureau is in the process of being formed as a way to keep business, community and professional organizations informed and educated about the nature and status of the project. In order to support that effort, a request was made to committee members to join speaking "teams" consisting of a consulting engineer and a Steering Committee member.

Working Group

The chairman provided a summary of the April 17 Working Group meeting, which featured discussion on the sewer district's future institutional structure and operation.

In order to gather information that could be used to build an enhanced district model, several members of the group agreed to contact entities that have tackled similar issues in the past. Efforts are currently underway to invite a representative from Erie County to attend the group's June meeting to answer questions and provide insights that are relevant to the district's present and future situation.

The chairman reported that the working group is also proactively attempting to formulate a set of municipal budgeting guidelines so that communities can begin the process of reserving funds each year that are dedicated solely to sewer operations and maintenance. It is likely in the future that a collection management, operations and maintenance (CMOM) program for each municipality's system will be required as a condition for permitting and funds will be needed to support such a program.

Funding Resolution

The committee chairman presented a draft of a formal resolution supporting the pursuit of any and all project funding and asked committee members to introduce it to their respective councils and boards for adoption.

The intent of the resolution is to collectively convey the message to elected officials that the district and its member municipalities recognize the magnitude of the problem and want to resolve it, but cannot shoulder the enormous financial burden without significant funding assistance.

It is anticipated that the resolutions will be introduced at town/village council meetings in the next few months and once approved, will be distributed to state and federal representatives to encourage their support.

Next meeting: 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 28, 2009 at the New York Mills Community Center.

