

Oneida County Sewer District SSO Abatement Project

Steering Committee Meeting Report

March 5, 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	
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	X
The Village of New York Mills		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Robert Maciol Joseph Urban	X 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 Burtch	

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
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Joe Lazenby	
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>	Bruce Brodsky	X
<i>Community Delegate</i>	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	X
	Skip Shoemaker	X
League of Women Voters	Mary Anthony	X

Meeting Highlights

Committee structure

The new Steering Committee chair and vice chair were formally introduced along with the members of the newly-formed Working Group. The purpose, mission, function and responsibilities of the working group were also explained so that committee members have a clear understanding of this group's role in the process.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

The facilitator also welcomed representatives from DEC Region 6. Regional Director Judy Drabicki and Regional Engineer Skip Shoemaker were in attendance to observe the workings of the Steering Committee and acknowledge the progress and accomplishments that have been made since the project's inception.

Ms. Drabicki praised the effort that was expended in publishing an annual progress report and expressed her appreciation for the committee's cooperation and hard work in tackling the many challenges associated with this project. She also extended an invitation to take full advantage of her staff and resources with regard to the pursuit of funding opportunities and offered to have representatives from DEC and its funding arm, the Environmental Facilities Corporation, attend future Steering Committee and Working Group meetings to offer recommendations and provide guidance.

Project Update

The consulting engineer presented a progress report of recent project activity, which included updates on:

- Results of Village of Whitesboro pilot study on private property sewer connection assessments
- development of shovel-ready project list that accompanies funding request applications
- outreach to elected representatives for project funding
- flow monitoring summary report
- progress update meeting with DEC
- preparation of bid documents for smoke testing and sewer televising
- project planning

Project Flow Chart

At the request of Commissioner Devan, a draft overview of the consulting team's past, present and future project work was presented. The overview, in the form of a flow chart, visually demonstrates progress achieved so far, the scope of work that remains, the key issues that must be addressed, and the workflow and overall complexity of the project.

The engineer noted that the scope of the project has changed significantly since the signing of the consent order, when little was known about the condition of the sanitary

sewer systems and the most effective approach to fixing them. Once the graphic is finalized, it will be distributed to committee members and will serve as a roadmap that provides project milestones, tasks and timelines in order to achieve consent order compliance.

Working Group Update

The committee chair provided an update on the first working group meeting, and reviewed the group's purpose, objectives, meeting frequency, and need for ideas and input from all committee members. The group identified the following as issues that should be addressed by the Steering Committee in the future:

- The value and/or need to conduct additional pilot studies in other communities for private property sewer connection assessments
- Creating a guide that formalizes protocol and procedure for these assessments
- Identifying worst-case projects to remove the most I/I from the system
- Meeting with state comptroller to determine appropriate guidelines to follow for debt service thresholds
- Determination on whether legislation is needed for applying public funds on private property repairs in instances where the expenditure will result in a public benefit.

Legal

Legal counsel representing the county has reviewed the NYS Comptroller's opinion on the issue of funding private property improvements with public monies. A memo has been prepared by legal counsel and a copy will be requested for review by the Steering Committee.

The question of legal opinions rendered to the county by its legal counsel and the ability of the various municipalities to rely on those legal opinions was raised. This item will be further reviewed.

Project identification/documentation

The commissioner encouraged municipalities that have available funds to begin undertaking I/I removal projects even while efforts to acquire state and federal funding are underway.

A recommendation was made for the District to create a centralized database of these projects to formally document project activity and quantify I/I removal for the purpose of earning flow credits. Communities were strongly encouraged to provide their information to the county.

The project engineer stated that a preliminary list of manholes that need varying degrees of repair has been compiled based on the initial District manhole inspection program that was conducted in 2008. This list will be shared with the municipalities. A draft bid package for manhole rehabilitation is being prepared. Confirmation of scope and funding is needed. There was also a recommendation that municipalities begin budgeting for repairs and that the county and its engineering consultants offer some suggestions/guidelines for that process.

Public Information

A representative of the public information consulting team announced that a community-wide special event will take place in late April at Utica College, featuring the screening of a documentary on the importance of water and wastewater infrastructure. The event is designed to raise awareness of our country's aging and neglected infrastructure and the impacts it has on the economy, the environment, and public health.

In addition, educational materials that have been produced for use by members in their community outreach and public information efforts were presented, and are available to members upon request.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Next meeting: 5:30 pm on Thursday, April 2 at New York Mills Community Center