

**Oneida County Sewer District SSO Abatement Project
Steering Committee Meeting Report
December 3, 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	x
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 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>	George Majka	x
The Village of Oriskany			
	Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Don Rothdiener Mick O'Connnor	x x
	<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
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Richard Shaffer	
The Town of Whitestown		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Charles R. Gibbs II Sal Granato	x
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Bill Schmitt	
The Village of Yorkville		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Bruno Petruccione Anthony Leone, Jr.	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Ken Schaaf	x
Oneida County		
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Bruce Brodsky	
<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
	John Lagorga	x
Paige Group	Nancy Pattarini	
Paige Group	Liz Warfel	x
Paige Group	Diane Stirling	x
Fiscal Advisors	Mark Colopy	x
Guests in Attendance:		
New York State DEC, Region 6	Judy Drabicki Skip Shoemaker Steve Botsford	
League of Women Voters	Mary Anthony/Joan	x

Meeting Highlights

Chairman Roger Cleveland began the meeting by welcoming the Steering Committee and reminding them of two important agenda action items.

He asked for return of village and town maps with indications of suspect areas for sump pumps and/or roof leaders tied into the sanitary sewer system. Mr. Cleveland also asked that the towns and villages fill out the CMOM forms and noted that these are available online at <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/cmomselfreview.pdf>.

Mr. Cleveland also requested that district towns and villages submit available storm sewer mapping to aid the engineers in their system assessments. Because all communities subject to the MS4 regulations are required to have stormwater outfalls mapped, many of these maps are likely to already be on file. Joanne Faulkner from the Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District Office was suggested as the contact for further information.

Anticipated Capital Projects in 2010

The Consulting Engineer team compiled a preliminary report for each municipality containing a summary of data findings to date and the anticipated capital projects to be accomplished in 2010. The report also includes an estimate for projected project cost using the information that is currently available.

Commissioner Steve Devan noted that, to date, only a portion of each municipality's system has been inspected for defects. Therefore, the number and types of defects and the capital projects presented in the report represent only the initial findings and the initial scope of work that can be undertaken in 2010 for each municipality. A final interpretation of the fieldwork data will be completed in 2010 in conjunction with the preparation of the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Abatement Plan, which is due to the NYSDEC by July 11, 2010. As a result, the capital projects and costs presented in the report are subject to change as data is further analyzed, noted Devan.

The District proposes borrowing \$20-25 million for 2010 project work based on an anticipated \$1.2 million reserve fund proposed to be raised by a surcharge. If the \$1.2 million reserve fund is not generated, there may be no other monies to fund the projects.

In reviewing the listed projects, Commissioner Devan reminded the committee of the difference between inflow and infiltration (I/I). He noted that eliminating inflow will yield the most significant results by removing clean water at the source. Eliminating infiltration is more difficult, as often times the correction of one infiltration area will cause infiltration to occur further up the system. The intent of the 2010 projects is to remove as much inflow as possible. In some cases inflow removal projects such as manhole rehabilitation will require less time to prepare

bid packages, so the rehabilitation work could be accomplished this upcoming construction season.

Continued Discussion of Project Funding

Commissioner Devan clarified that the recommended \$1.2 million reserve fund account would be established as a separate account to be used only for funding debt service for the SSO Abatement project which would include construction, engineering, and related support services. It was noted that the Oneida County Sewer District's (OCSD) budget is separate from the rest of the county's, and so funds from the Sewer District cannot be rolled into the county budget. Funds also can be rolled over year to year within that account.

An update was given on the status of EFC funding by Commissioner Devan. Currently the CWSRF subsidy line is an assessment score of 111. The OCSD SSO Abatement project has been assessed at a score of 107. This puts the project just below the threshold for automatic funding consideration. According to Commissioner Devan, it is anticipated that some projects above the subsidy line currently being considered by the EFC may not materialize. If so, this would permit the SSO Abatement Project to move up on the list for funding. The specific type of funding that would be available to the District for its projects (some combination of no/low interest loans and principal forgiveness) is still under consideration by the EFC, said the Commissioner.

The question was raised as to how the County would handle the proposed debt service surcharge (\$1.05 per 1,000 gallons used, per account) if the municipalities were to solicit their own sources of funding. For example, the Village of New Hartford is able to apply for funding through their own municipality as well as through the County District. If the village were to borrow funds on its own, and also collect the debt service surcharge from village residents, this could essentially create a double charge for those residents.

County Counsel Peter Rayhill said that this situation poses a legal question that needs to be researched, to determine whether the County would be able to return the debt service surcharge if alternate funding sources become available to municipalities that are members of the District. Mr. Rayhill suggested that while the Commissioner and legal counsel work to determine how and if funds could be returned to communities, municipalities should continue to search for alternate funding and begin the process of application. It was also noted that having a standard flow credit process in place was necessary to encourage the municipalities to begin repairs to their own systems if they are able.

Institutional Structure Survey

The Committee was presented with a survey designed to gather information from the municipalities regarding what services they would like to see if an expanded

sewer district is formed. Commissioner Devan and Vice Chair, Carson Sorrell, assured the committee that the institutional structure survey was meant as a starting point for discussion, and was not a binding document.

It was pointed out that future maintenance costs for the sewer district would be higher than past costs because there are necessary maintenance functions that had been ignored in the past that would now be critical to maintaining the system for the future. Steering Committee Chair, Roger Cleveland, noted that the report to DEC due in 2010 must include a future maintenance component. This survey, along with the CMOM assessment form, would provide guidance on how to formulate that portion of the plan, said Mr. Cleveland. He then asked the committee to return the completed surveys, to Shumaker Engineering prior to the next Steering Committee meeting to be held on January 28.

Public Information Update

A handout of talking points outlining the problem-to-date will be emailed to the Steering Committee members. This informational piece is to be used as a reference piece for discussion, media and questions about the sewer system initiative. The piece will also be posted on the website for easy access by committee members.

Don Bathke, Village of New Hartford Designee, shared with the Committee a document from the NYSDEC website that gives a good background on the history of wastewater management. The document can be found at http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/infrastructure rpt.pdf.

Mr. Cleveland shared a list of confirmed meeting dates with each town and village board to address specific data findings, projected capital projects and questions of the municipalities. Those meetings will be held over the course of the next two weeks.

Closing Notes

The next Steering Committee Meeting is January 28, 5:30 p.m. at the New York Mills Community Center.