

East Branch Flood Commission 4/30/12 Minutes

Present were: Marge Miller, Innes Kasanof, Paul Osberg, Henry Friedman, Dave Budin, Todd Pascarella, Harriet Grossman, Larry Reilly, Karl Von Hassel, Len Utter, Yuka Day, Lee Austin, Carol O'Beirne, Joyce St. George, Susanna Finch, Kurt Holcherr, Graydon Dutcher, Dean Frazier, Mike Jastremski, Lauren Davis, Rene Garcia, Roberto Garcia & Rosalba Garcia

- Graydon Dutcher from Del. County Soil & Water gave an EWP Update & Floodplain reclamation briefing including arials – salient points included: 29 projects on the slate county-wide totaling 5.2+ million in cost with the village of Fleischmanns having 1.5 million of that for 8-10 projects, projects have a 220 day window from disaster to finish (N.B.: usually they do 4-6 projects per year). Touched on the timing issue regarding buyouts and reclamation of floodplain as per the 220 day limit. Fleischmanns does have available land for reclamation as natural floodplains. The two most challenging stream systems in Delaware County are in Middletown: Dry Brook & Millbrook, which run bedrock to cobble & sand to bedrock to cobble & sand. Two watersheds meet in Arkville, which fixes/remedies require currently scheduled EWP work as well as long-term planning. Immediate response to flood takes 3 years w long term being 25-50 years & beyond.

Dutcher also presented the group with a detailed list of the Delaware County stream repair (EWP) Projects in the works.

Joyce St. George revisited the important point of timing re: flood plain buyouts and reclamation versus the stream bank repair/EWP 220 day limit as well as a need for housing off the flood plain, particularly in Arkville. Pat Davis and Dutcher addressed the timing issue, which, in regards to Fleischmanns, is well in process toward remedy.

Dean Frazier spoke to the county and other entities negotiating with the city for long term mitigation funding to support the programs discussed and Miller asked re: acquisition money being used for flood plain buy-outs toward affordable income housing on city-owned land.

- Miller raised the issue of getting Municipal leaders NIMS training offered through Delaware County emergency Services. St. George suggested computer modules to be used prior to any group session for better contextualization and understanding of the materials. Len Utter spoke to his many training session as did others present via Fire and Highway departments. It was suggested that a session be

scheduled during the day far enough in advance to facilitate as many participants locally as can attend. Miller will schedule for the fall and will look toward a regular schedule of training for all who wish to attend as per requirements and as regular refreshers throughout the municipalities involved. It was also suggested a mock disaster work-through be performed. Innes Kasanof spoke to the effectiveness of Rich Bell giving the training in person.

- Carol O'Beirne, St. George and Miller – along with representatives from the villages of M'ville & Fleischmanns – will be on an event committee toward the planned Community Meeting/Irene Remembrance 8/30/12. Dutcher said that monies for brochures and educational tools are available via Soil & Water and the PAC Committee, which meets 5/17 in Walton. An application will be prepared for costs re: brochures and mailings, based on a grant Miller wrote previously for same, The 8/30 event will be both commemorative and educational in nature, with Dutcher doing some version of his stream science power-point for all assembled.
- Miller explained that a \$2600 Community Foundation of So. Central NY Grant was received toward Flood Plain Management training, which is also covered, said Dutcher, by the stream program via Soil & Water. Because the training is essential for surveyors, realtors and others, a list will be drawn up by Davis & Miller to invite others, not eligible for Soil & Water monies, to participate in this training. The grant has a 2-year window and the training happens several times per year.

O'Beirne said that having a booth or presentation of some kind during the weekend of events coming up on Memorial Day would be helpful for 2nd homeowners and full-time residents alike. Mike Jastremski spoke to Flood Routing Study in process for Middletown similar to one done for Fleischmanns as well as the fact that Tetrattech's work on the Hazard Mitigation update will be done by the end of this week and is due back to the municipalities shortly for a public review process of 4-6 weeks. This HM update contains many of the projects and Flood Commission accomplishments as per a question from Miller. All EWP projects going forward are also able to be credited to the Commission. Kasanof asked for a simple 'what to do in a flood' type handout, which St. George has access to and will email to Miller for dissemination. The need for a public information officer for the Commission – and for inter-municipal cooperation during times of disaster - was noted by Len Utter and others present. Lisa Tait is the liaison for the FC at present as the web-master re:

the Middletown website, which has an emergency sub-site built in as well as a FC page. The address for that site is:

www.middletowndelawarecountyny.org

Pat Davis suggested the following website updates for the Commission - including the eventual appointment of Communication Officer: EWP projects & funding, future training opportunities, Hazard Mitigation Plans

Next meeting date: 5/31 - 6pm at Middletown Town Hall