

## **East Branch Flood Commission – 6/25/12 Minutes**

Present: M. Miller, N. Delameter, P. Davis, I. Kasanof, P. Ohsberg, T. Pascarella, L. Reilly, B. Stanton, D. Budin, H. Friedman, L. Utter, Y. Day, L. Austin, J. St. George, M. Jastermski, D. Frazier, G. Dutcher, R. Weidenbach

Innes Kasanoff updated the group re: Halcott, saying that they are on target w the major challenge being no FEMA reimbursement as yet being the major challenge as well as, being the FEMA admin, amending 'scope of work' on PWs. Pat Davis spoke re: all FEMA mitigation projects and the importance of having everything in writing, details w DEC and all regulations to support scopes/size of projects w hard fact. N Delameter said using current guidelines is key. Paul Ohsberg of Hardenburgh said they have all PWs in as well and are making progress on road repair. Fleischmanns Mayor Todd Pascarella said their final PW went in last week – checks are slowly coming in (from FEMA) – need to appeal all small projects & Ric Weidenbach spoke to the watershed-wide study as w out that re-design/changes to structures (bridges) or relocations is premature and that this is a 2 year process w funds at CWC for the study. Dutcher in updating re: EWP Projects handed out an updated spread sheet of same, said Arkville & Fl'mnns have been flown and NRCS contracts should be rec'd by municipalities v soon. Bull Run should be surveyed w in the next 2 weeks, and that FEMA models are in. Davis said that the idea is to synchronize FEMA base models with the flood study & new maps with Soil & H2O adding to maps as they are the basis for flood analysis. St. George asked if those maps/study included New Kingston and the answer is yes, the study is for all of the watershed. Weidenbach said these studies haven't been done previously and that given the post-Irene urgency, communities and NYC don't need to be sold the importance of this work. Len Utter asked for a Close Hollow update and GD replied that these are all stream repair projects not road repair.

In Margaretville Henry Friedman said that the parking lot is being paved, walking bridge in place and shortly useable and that progress is being made on the Swart St. bridge. Bill Stanton said PWs are languishing and they have issues w FEMA. He said they have three main projects: 1. Footbridge 2. Bulkhead and 3. Swart St.

Dutcher said the bulkhead issue is more about how to manage the floodplain, keeping flow during high water off Main Street, while maintaining low-flow water in the Binnekill during non-flood times.

Weidenbach said bulkhead hasn't really been looked at in terms of flood mitigation but was a way to pull water out of the Ea. Branch and that we have an opportunity now to treat the disease not just the symptoms of the

flood and flow issues we face. I Kasanof said the admins need the technical folks to support us writing local laws regarding flood mitigation/zoning.

Miller updated the group re: FEMA buyouts in both villages and Middletown referring to a memo from Nicole Franceze of Delaware County Planning. There are 27 total properties remaining in the program at this point w a fair market value of \$3,492,874 and project/demo costs of \$2,217,027.40 for a total of \$5,709,901.40 & Miller went on to explain Shelly Johnson's statement re: loss of taxable parcels/value, which was that properties that are repeat damaged/substantially damaged lose value already and will continue to do so over time.

Dean Frazier updated the group re: Delaware County negotiations w NYC – next meeting for that purpose will be 7/12 – EWP Projects were the bulk of the meeting this past week, bottom line being a desired extension – 220 days is the current time limit, up in November 2012 - from USDA re: getting projects done, as all municipalities post-Irene are facing the same challenges. Priority list needs to be made locally and countywide for all projects, a fund will reside at CWC as well as Del Cty Soil & Water for implementation – how much as yet to be determined. CWC will be handling business fund (anchor businesses otherwise known as vital community entities) w Soil & Water handling mitigation for streams re: residences etc. (long term community planning with priorities including how to get most bang for buck). Frazier also said that the DPW and Soil & Water District have a plan in the works for culverts countywide re: mitigation. Dutcher said 2013 is already being looked at re: planning and projects and Frazier said that the FAD is being updated in July with commitments to projects and funding included.

Long-Term Recovery Grants from DOS - Miller will meet with the village Mayors along with Peg Ellsworth to strategize on how these should be used 7/9 is tentative date at MARK Project.

Mike Jastermski reported that the public comment phase for Hazard Mitigation plans was coming up shortly and that the county's plan will be on the website in July. A general discussion re: how to get the public interested and informed re: the above as well as the community meeting/Irene remembrance 8/30/12 – w WIOX, Watershed Post and CMN and a possible Letter to Editor/s suggested. Dutcher suggested also advertising w funds from Soil & Water, which are available. St. George suggested we could work out logistics at the event committee meeting, which is this Friday 10a.m. in Town Hall and everyone who wants to be involved is invited to attend and help. She also asked if the increased frequency of flooding was being included in the studies being done; Weidenbach affirmed that this was so and went on to say that the studies are being done to give communities science/tech based options for future

planning.

Delameter spoke briefly re: Stafford Act and being aggressive re: FEMA projects especially given the turnover in FEMA personnel – including putting local representatives in the hot seat re: FEMA funding. St. George affirmed the appeals process has worked for Project Hope and being persistent is key. Miller suggested a FEMA workshop scheduled in the weeks/months after the September NIMs session so that we all have a better understanding of how the process works going forward, especially for those who, like herself, aren't experienced in dealing w these kinds of processes. Kasanof and Pascarella were interested and this will be scheduled at a later time w Delameter and Friedman – among others – here to do w walk-through of the process.

Next meeting date is July 26<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm