

Poesten Kill Flood Mitigation
Working Group
Oct 28, 2019 Meeting Notes

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Flood Mitigation Plan Feedback
(now that we've had time to digest)
3. Low Hanging Fruit/First Projects
4. FEMA Grants
5. Other Grants/Ideas?
6. Committee Organization

Notes:

Attending: Jim Bonesteel (RPA), June Butler (Poestenkill TB), Marcia Hopple (Poestenkill CAC), Jeff Briggs (RPA, Poestenkill CAC), Randolph Franklin (Rensselaer Polytechnic), Dan Morse (RPA), Linda van der Heidi (Rensselaer County), Bob Davis (Trout Unlimited), Walter Kersch (RPA).

Started with a discussion of the actual cost of Irene and the recent storm that was nearly as bad except that a) rain was spread over 12 hours instead of 6 and b) forests and wetlands were quite dry and able to absorb a lot of water.

- Linda V will get the cost of repairing the county highways post Irene.

Low Hanging Fruit:

Draw down of Dunham Reservoir. This will likely involve Meilissa Miller at Grafton Lakes State Park and higher ups in Saratoga. Discussion of how best to put a plan in place.

- Linda V will contact Eric Gaunay at Rensselaer County Emergency Services. She will provide the PKW Flood Mitigation Plan to them and begin the discussion of how they might play a role in determining when the Dunham Reservoir should be drawn down. It is expected that implementation of this will take quite some time.

There was some discussion of culvert replacement as recommended by the plan. The towns do not have grant writing capacity. We might be able to find some help for them. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Discussion of implementing Proof of Concept project for the wetland attenuation infrastructure on the lands of Walter Kersch. This project will not require DEC permits because of the smaller size. Army Corp

permits will still be required. There was a thought to size this one for a 25 year flood so that we could measure the results sooner.

- Jim B will call Russell Urban Mead at Chazen to discuss the idea. Would Chazen do some preliminary fact finding work and help write a grant?
- Jeff Briggs will be available to work with Chazen.

We will need to keep our eyes open for grants that would fund this project.

Discussion of next project. We will consider a project in the upper watershed. DEC lands (currently The Conservation Fund) maybe. Newfoundland Creek also a possibility.

- Jeff Briggs and June Butler will begin talking to neighbors at Newfoundland Creek. (3 of them).

The committee did not elect a new chair. Jim Bonesteel will chair the next several meetings but will relinquish to someone else if a tangible project gets underway. Next meeting will likely be in January with a doodle poll to determine the date.