

Oneida County Sewer District SSO Abatement Project

Steering Committee Meeting Report

April 2, 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	
The Village of New Hartford		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Donald J. Ryan Don Bathke	X
	John Grygiel	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Richard Sherman	
The Village of New York Mills		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Robert Maciol Joseph Urban	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 Burch	

The Town of Paris		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Felix Cardillo	
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Jim Hogel	
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	
<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	
Oneida County		
<i>Community Delegate</i> <i>Community Delegate</i>	Bruce Brodsky 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 Skip Shoemaker	
League of Women Voters	Barbara Weaver	X

Meeting Highlights

The chairman provided a recap of the most recent Working Group meeting and resulting action items, among which included a request to the project consulting team to draft a background paper that explores the role of the County and the District in meeting municipal wastewater infrastructure needs, coordinating funding, and providing operations and maintenance. The paper should also detail a menu of services that could be provided to municipalities.

It was also announced that the DEC funding coordinator for wastewater projects, Sandi Allen, will be attending the May Working Group meeting with the possibility of returning for a future Steering Committee meeting.

The group also discussed proposing to the Steering Committee the adoption of a formal resolution that states the committee's support of efforts to pursue any and all forms of funding assistance. An additional request was made for Oneida County to have its project consultants begin the process of approaching towns and villages to determine their financial capabilities and to offer budgeting guidelines for sewer operations and maintenance.

Flow monitoring results

The highlights of the results and data from the engineering consultants' six-month flow monitoring program conducted from March-September of 2008 were presented to committee members in the form of an executive summary. The full report was submitted to the County and DEC for review.

According to the engineers, the findings presented in the report conclusively demonstrated that all member communities show some amount of inflow and infiltration (I/I) in their systems and are contributing excess flow to the pumping station. They explained that the flow data will help them identify locations that are contributing the most I/I and prioritize repair and rehabilitation projects that will have the most impact on I/I removal.

They added that additional fieldwork, including manhole and pipe inspections, smoke testing, and sewer televising will be required, and with some of this work taking place during the upcoming summer months.

Funding update

Commissioner Devan reported on the team's efforts to secure funding for the additional fieldwork with the assistance of Senator Griffo, who is working with DASNY, the grant administrators. While remaining optimistic that funds will materialize, Devan said it is realistic to expect that the process will be lengthy and it could take up to a year before any money is made available.

He added that the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, the funding administration arm of DEC, is administering federal stimulus money based on the 2009 Intended Use Plan (IUP) project list, which doesn't include OCSD's SSO Abatement Project. However, it is expected that there will be subsequent rounds of funding with money that isn't used or is taken back because shovel-ready and other eligibility requirements were not met. Once the 2009 list has been exhausted, EFC will move to the 2010 IUP list, which will include this project.

Requests for funding assistance are receiving strong support from Congressman Michael Arcuri's office and other state representatives, who have been provided with project background materials, technical information, cost estimates and job creation projections, which are needed for the submittal of funding applications.

Manhole rehab bid package

A request was made by the engineers for communities to indicate their preference for bidding individually or collectively through the County on manhole repair work. The need for immediate manhole repair work was identified as a result of an aggressive manhole inspection program that has been ongoing and so far has covered approximately 1,800 manholes in communities tributary to the pumping station. Communities are being asked to identify the quantity of manholes they can afford to repair, or provide a dollar amount that they can allocate to these repairs, so that bid documents could be prepared. There was committee consensus on a collective bid in order to obtain favorable unit pricing through economies of scale, however communities retain the option of individual bidding if they choose.

It was noted that contracting through the County provides the added advantage of better facilitating the documenting and tracking of repair projects, and measuring subsequent I/I reduction.

District institutional structure

The issue of the District's future institutional structure was discussed in terms of having a system caretaker in place to ensure that once repairs are made, the system is properly operated and maintained to prevent further degradation. Determining those responsibilities and a workable structure for the district and municipalities will be an ongoing topic of discussion for both the Working Group and the Steering Committee. A suggestion was made to survey municipalities to determine their needs and the types of services they will require to operate and maintain their respective systems.

Next meeting: 5:30 pm on April 30, 2009 at New York Mills Community Center.