

**Oneida County Sewer District SSO Abatement Project
Steering Committee Meeting Report
October 29, 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	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	
The Village of New York Mills		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Robert Maciol Joseph Urban	x x
<i>Community Delegate</i>	George Majka	
The Village of Oriskany		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Don Rothdiener Mick O'Connor	x x
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Chris Burch	x

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	
<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 x
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Richard Shaffer	x
The Town of Whitestown		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Charles R. Gibbs II Sal Granato	x x
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Bill Schmitt	
The Village of Yorkville		
Chief Elected Official OR Designee	Bruno Petruccione Anthony Leone, Jr.	x
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Ken Schaaf	x
Oneida County		
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Bruce Brodsky	x
<i>Community Delegate</i>	Harvey Yando	x
<i>County Executive Chief of Staff</i>	Al Candido	
Oneida County Sewer District		
Commissioner Counsel	Steve Devan Peter Rayhill	x
Project Consulting Team		
Shumaker Engineering	Karl Schrantz	x
	Jim Luz	x
Paige Group	Nancy Pattarini	x
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	x
League of Women Voters	Mary Anthony	

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 all 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.

Updates on Recent Federal, State and Community Meetings

Mr. Cleveland recapped the presentation given to the Public Works Committee on October 13. Commissioner Steven Devan reported on his meeting with the Oneida County Ways and Means committee at which he presented the proposed 2010 budget. He reported that the committee understood the need to complete the work in a timely fashion, and also recognized that the communities of the Oneida County Sewer District need financial help to undertake their projects. The committee asked about whether there is a possibility of funding from alternate sources, Commissioner Devan stated.

Mr. Cleveland then gave a report on a meeting he and Commissioner Devan had with the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development/Community Programs Director, David Miller.

Mr. Miller provided the most promising word yet on availability of federal grant and loan funds that match project needs. Monies appear to be readily available via various programs to help the district, individual communities, and property owners. USDA will research grant/loan information, develop applications, and facilitate the grant application process. Also learned:

- The outlook for OCS D communities to receive rural development monies (both grants and loans) is "very promising"; these are available through September 2010. An appropriations bill signed yesterday may provide added clean water grants.
- Rural Development funds (for communities under 10,000 population) could potentially cover between 40 and 75% of community costs with grants; the rest would be available in low-interest (0-2.5%) long-term loans to the communities.

- Funding through the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) may be available to help pay for district components (interceptors, treatment plant work).
- Rural Development loans with a 38-year payback and subsidized (2.5% or even 0%) rate may be available to individual communities meeting USDA qualifying requirements. These can be paid off any time without penalty. The 2000 census will be the benchmark for both income levels and populations.
- The Office of Community Renewal can make grants and loans to individuals to fix Inflow/Infiltration issues from the home to the lateral, in amounts up to \$400,000 per community, especially if criteria for low-income households are met.
- Housing rehabilitation program (Sector 504) grants/low-interest loans may be available to help homeowners disconnect clean water connections and reconnect to a stormwater system.
- As next steps, OCSD Commissioner Steve Devan will provide engineering data and cost breakdowns, as well as the EFC report, to familiarize USDA with the project.
- The grant/loan application process can begin immediately and the process of collecting data, and readying applications should take no more than 3 to 4 months.

Commissioner Devan noted that the recent expanded effort by Senator Schumer to secure monies to be used for water and sewer infrastructure repair was initially sparked by interest in the Oneida County Sewer District's abatement project. The committee was then asked by the Chairman of the Steering Committee to review the letter he wrote to Senator Schumer expounding on the issue and also outlining the clean water (I/I) problem in the area due to the lack of storm sewer infrastructure. He also noted that it was the financial discussions in the Working Group that instigated the meetings with elected officials.

Mr. Cleveland then told the committee that, in combination with the elected officials meetings, meetings with local clubs and organizations are planned. Mr. Cleveland mentioned the League of Women Voters presentation conducted in September, and upcoming presentations planned at the New Hartford Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Mohawk Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Institutional Structure

Mr. Cleveland told the committee that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has indicated a need for the sewer district to develop an institutional structure to show a solution for the long-term needs of the district. For that reason, he noted the importance of continuing with this initiative and asked the committee to meet with their sewer maintenance person, boards, and/or highway superintendent to determine the upcoming needs in each municipality. Vice Chairman of the Steering Committee, Carson Sorrell, noted that institutional structure is an initiative that is relevant to all 15 municipalities, and the importance

of having input from all municipalities. Consulting Engineer, Karl Schrantz, noted that part of the SSO Abatement Plan will discuss how the sewer systems will be operated and maintained in the future—and that input from the community is essential to an accurate assessment of future operations.

It was decided that a survey would be created based on the institutional structure discussion document handed out at the last meeting. This will be distributed to the 15 district municipalities to collect ideas so that a more formal institutional structure proposal can be developed.

Funding

Mr. Cleveland reported that the County's legal counsel is reviewing whether the County is able to legally spend funds collected by individual municipalities for debt service, a situation that would occur if the District implemented a sewer repair program in the communities. Once legal questions have been resolved, the Steering Committee will forward resolutions to the affected municipalities for review and action. The resolution would commit a municipality to a plan of collecting \$1.05 per 1,000 gallons of water used (per water meter accounts), and pooling that money to fund debt service on bonds to cover an initial scope of repairs to the affected municipal sewer systems. Peter Rayhill, legal counsel to the District, will be in contact with legal counsel from the nine municipalities affected by the Consent Order to coordinate meetings with local elected officials and their municipal attorneys to review the resolution.

The consulting engineers were asked if they had developed a list of projects to be accomplished first with monies collected. Mr. Schrantz indicated that the engineers have preliminary ideas in mind but that a list of specific projects will be developed over the coming months as the consultant team prepares the SSO Abatement Plan.

Informational Meetings with the Municipalities

Mr. Cleveland reviewed the schedule of town and village board meetings with the committee and indicated that he and the consulting team would like to make informational presentations to all the boards of the municipalities tributary to the Sauquoit Creek Pump Station regarding the funding plan and sewer fixes. Presentations are being coordinated for November and December in accordance with meetings of the municipalities.

Closing Notes

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 13 at Kunsela Hall on SUNY-IT's campus. The time is to be decided.

The next Steering Committee Meeting is December 3, 5:30 p.m. at the New York Mills Community Center.