

**Oneida County Sewer District SSO Abatement Project  
Steering Committee Meeting Report  
January 28, 2010  
5:30 p.m.  
New York Mills Community Center**

| <b>Municipality</b>                   | <b>Representative</b>                | <b>Attendance</b> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>The Village of Clayville</b>       |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Nancy Sheppard                       |                   |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             | Mike Steiger                         |                   |
| <b>The Town of Deerfield</b>          |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Scott Mahardy<br>Peggy Boshart       |                   |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             |                                      |                   |
| <b>Town of Frankfort</b>              |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Joseph Kinney                        |                   |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             |                                      |                   |
| <b>Village of Holland Patent</b>      |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Michael Bennison<br>David Wilcox     |                   |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             | Peter Gaige                          |                   |
| <b>The Town of Marcy</b>              |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Brian Scala<br>Keith Schuderer       |                   |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             | Carson Sorrell                       | <b>x</b>          |
| <b>The Town of New Hartford</b>       |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Patrick Tyksinski<br>Roger Cleveland |                   |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             | Scot Owens                           |                   |
| Alternate                             | Christine Krupa                      | <b>x</b>          |
| <b>The Village of New Hartford</b>    |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Donald J. Ryan<br>Don Bathke         | <b>x</b>          |
|                                       | John Grygiel                         |                   |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             | Richard Sherman                      | <b>x</b>          |
| <b>The Village of New York Mills</b>  |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Robert Maciol<br>Joseph Urban        | <b>x</b>          |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             | George Majka                         | <b>x</b>          |
| <b>The Village of Oriskany</b>        |                                      |                   |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee | Don Rothdiener<br>Mick O'Connor      |                   |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>             | Chris Burch                          | <b>x</b>          |

|  |   |                      |
|--|---|----------------------|
| <b>The Town of Paris</b>                             |   |                      |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee                | Felix Cardillo                                    |                      |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>                            | Jim Hogel   | <b>x</b>             |
| <b>Town of Schuyler</b>                              |   |                      |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee                | Kenneth Dodge                                     | <b>x</b>             |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>                            |   |                      |
| <b>The City of Utica</b>                             |   |                      |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee<br>OR Designee | David Roefero<br>Deb Day<br>Mike Mahoney          |                      |
| <b>The Village of Whitesboro</b>                     |   |                      |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee                | Richard Pugh<br>Chester Kowalski                  | <b>x</b>             |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>                            | Richard Shaffer                                   |                      |
| <b>The Town of Whitestown</b>                        |   |                      |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee                | Charles R. Gibbs II<br>Sal Granato                | <b>x</b><br><b>x</b> |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>                            | Bill Schmitt                                      |                      |
| <b>The Village of Yorkville</b>                      |   |                      |
| Chief Elected Official<br>OR Designee                | Bruno Petruccione<br>Anthony Leone, Jr.           |                      |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>                            | Ken Schaaf  | <b>x</b>             |
| <b>Oneida County</b>                                 |   |                      |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>                            | Bruce Brodsky                                     | <b>x</b>             |
| <i>Community Delegate</i>                            | Harvey Yando                                      | <b>x</b>             |
| <i>County Executive Chief of Staff</i>               | Al Candido  |                      |
| <b>Oneida County Sewer District</b>                  |   |                      |
| Commissioner<br>Counsel                              | Steve Devan<br>Peter Rayhill                      | <b>x</b>             |
| <b>Project Consulting Team</b>                       |   |                      |
| Shumaker Engineering                                 | Karl Schrantz                                     | <b>x</b>             |
|  | Jim Luz   | <b>x</b>             |
|  | John Lagorga                                      |                      |
| Paige Group  | Nancy Pattarini                                   | <b>x</b>             |
| Paige Group  | Liz Warfel  | <b>x</b>             |
| Paige Group  | Diane Stirling                                    |                      |
| Fiscal Advisors                                      | Mark Colopy                                       | <b>x</b>             |
| <b>Guests in Attendance:</b>                         |   |                      |
| New York State DEC, Region 6                         | Judy Drabicki<br>Skip Shoemaker<br>Steve Botsford |                      |
| League of Women Voters                               | Mary Anthony/Joan                                 |                      |

## **Meeting Highlights**

Chair Roger Cleveland began the meeting by welcoming the Steering Committee and praising the work of all the municipalities for adopting the surcharge resolution. He thanked the Steering Committee, the County Executive, the Oneida County Sewer District Commissioner Steven Devan, and Oneida County Counsel Peter Rayhill for their efforts in moving the issue forward with technical support from the consultant team. A full script of the Chair's welcome is attached. On behalf of the Project Team, Nancy Pattarini, Public Information Consultant, then thanked Mr. Cleveland and Vice Chair, Carson Sorrell for all of their work and the Steering Committee responded with applause.

## **Steering Committee Action Items**

Mr. Cleveland asked for the 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 storm water 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 is suggested as the contact for further information.

The Chair then opened the floor for suggestions on ways to obtain this information since it had been a Steering Committee action item for nine months. The possibility of a workshop was suggested, but deemed difficult to conduct since each town and village is unique. Karl Schrantz, Consultant Engineer, again offered to meet with the Steering Committee members and the appropriate people from each town and village to fill out the forms. It was noted by Don Bathke, community delegate from the Village of New Hartford, that some villages would not be able to provide mapping with indication of suspect areas because the total area was not large enough to differentiate problem areas. Mr. Schrantz again noted that this mapping request was with the intention of capturing historical and institutional knowledge of the system from the people who have operated and maintained it. Mr. Cleveland stressed the need for this information and encouraged the committee members to call Mr. Schrantz for help in filling out the forms.

Mr. Cleveland also told the Committee that he will be contacting the town and village clerks to request copies of their board meeting minutes with the purpose of remaining informed on town and village discussions of the SSO Abatement project.

## **Steering Committee Topics in 2010**

High priority topics to be discussed by the Steering Committee in 2010 were presented by Mr. Cleveland.

Institutional Structure will continue to be explored. A component of the Sanitary Sewer Overflow Abatement plan required by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) in July, 2010, will include a section on institutional structure. Mr. Cleveland noted that it was his hope the plan would develop so that all the municipalities were working together to fix the problem.

A plan to address private inflow and infiltration (I/I) also is a top priority. The Steering Committee will be asked to explore strategies for identifying significant sources of private I/I as well as mechanisms to encourage repairs and possible funding sources. Mr. Cleveland noted this issue had been discussed in the past, and it will be on the agenda for a Working Group meeting.

Rate Structure will need to be reviewed as more data becomes available in 2010 and 2011. Mr. Cleveland noted it is likely that the rate structure will begin to vary by community as actual construction costs are tabulated within each community.

## **Volunteer Leadership in 2010**

Mr. Cleveland reminded the Committee that they voted last year for a Chair and Vice Chair of the Steering Committee, and that it was intended to be a one-year term. That term expires at the end of January and it is now necessary to vote for volunteer leadership in 2010.

Ballots were distributed to Committee members with results to be reported before the next meeting.

## **Institutional Structure**

Ms. Pattarini facilitated a discussion on institutional structure by reviewing the survey presented to the Committee at the December meeting. During the discussion, questions were raised about flow quotas being set for each municipality. It was clarified that flow quotas would be used to establish a basis for monitoring inflow/infiltration reduction progress as well as providing an indication of established levels of reasonable annual maintenance on the municipal sanitary sewer systems. It was determined that the Working Group would further discuss the concept of flow quotas.

Other clarifications made included that this survey was intended to collect input from the communities on an expanded role for the Oneida County Sewer District (OCSD), both for Consent Order mitigation and going forward. In that context,

Committee members should look at each section of the survey as if all items would be required components of sewer system administration, operation, and maintenance and they should indicate whether their community has the resources and desire to take on the responsibility, or whether their community would look to the OCSD for assistance to accomplish these tasks. Commissioner Devan noted that expanding the services that the OCSD might provide to the communities would both give the district more decision-making power, and increase the operating costs of the District, assuming that the communities preferred to delegate those costs and responsibilities to the District rather than incur those costs on their own.

Mr. Sorrell noted that the Committee will have to recognize that each municipality may view the cost value of projects differently, and that determining a priority ranking system for capital projects would be challenging. Mr. Cleveland agreed this would have to be discussed and suggested the Working Group take up this issue. He also noted that the concept of expanding the services of the OCSD and prioritizing projects is targeted toward consent order compliance and meeting the goals of the SSO Abatement plan (ie: capital projects related to I/I reduction and their related financing, CMOM, technical support, etc...). Sewer system expansion projects and related financing are not envisioned to be included in the expanded services of the OCSD. At this point in time, that would be the sole responsibility of the community.

It was decided that Paige Group would modify the survey for clarity and resend it to municipalities that have not yet completed one, with the request that it be turned in before February's Steering Committee meeting.

### **Status/Discussion of Project Funding**

Commissioner Devan updated the Committee on the status of project funding. He clarified that the Town of New Hartford will be paying towards the 2010 debt fund from the Town's fees in lieu of mitigation monies, but that dollar amount will be based on water consumption data provided to the town. He also reiterated that no municipality will pay more than its cost of the fix, but that municipalities must take into account that all the problems have yet to be fully defined within their system and that there are mutually-owned assets, such as the pump station and water pollution control plant that may require upgrades.

It was noted by Commissioner Devan that the DEC is requesting a joint meeting among DEC, the City of Utica, and the OCSD on March 4<sup>th</sup>. This meeting is to review current status of the ongoing engineering work, including the way in which the City and the District are working together to mitigate both the City's and the District's consent orders.

It was noted that Rural Development is also requesting a meeting to discuss the USDA funding program for utility construction.

NYSDEC has included a \$5.3 million request from Oneida County to be added to a list of projects that potentially may be funded through American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or “stimulus”) funds. If awarded, this money would be used for manhole rehabilitation projects. Bids for this project would have to go out by March, and contracts awarded by June. A Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) application has been prepared for \$25.8 million in EFC (Environmental Facilities Corporation) funding which includes the \$5.3 million above. It was also mentioned that the USDA might have monies available through the Rural Development program. However, of such funds available, as much as 75% of the amount could be appropriated as grants to communities demonstrating economic hardship and/or working to fulfill a Consent Order.

### **Closing Notes**

Mr. Cleveland asked that Committee members be more diligent in RSVPing to the meetings in 2010 so that meeting materials may be prepped accordingly.

The next Working Group meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18. The next Steering Committee Meeting is February 25, 5:30 p.m. at the New York Mills Community Center.