

Oneida County Sewer District SSO Abatement Project  
Steering Committee Meeting Report  
January 20, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.  
New York Mills Community Center

*Note: Municipality representation is comprised of one community representative and one designee. It is expected and recommended that both community delegates attend committee meetings.*

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Attended</b>
<b>Village of Clayville</b>		
Chief Elected Official		
OR Designee	Terry Dote	X
Community Representative	Mike Steiger	
<b>Town of Deerfield</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Scott Mahardy	
Supervisor's Designee	Peggy Boshart	X
Community Representative		
<b>Town of Frankfort</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Joseph Kinney	
OR Designee		
Community Representative		
<b>Village of Holland Patent</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Michael Bennison	
Mayor's Designee	David Wilcox	
Community Representative	Peter Gaige	
<b>Town of Marcy</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Brian Scala	
Supervisor's Designee	Brendon Candella	
Community Representative	Carson Sorrell	X
<b>Town of New Hartford</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Patrick Tyksinski	
Elected Official	Richard Sherman	X
Community Representative	Scot Owens	
Alternate	Christine Krupa	
<b>Village of New Hartford</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Donald J. Ryan	X
Mayor's Designee	John Grygiel	
Community Representative	Don Bathke	X
<b>Village of New York Mills</b>		

Chief Elected Official	John Bialek	
Mayor's Designee	Joseph Urban	X
Community Representative	George Majka	
<b>Village of Oriskany</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Don Rothdiener	
Mayor's Designee	Mick O'Connor	
Community Representative	Chris Burtch	
<b>Town of Paris</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Felix Cardillo	
OR Designee		
Community Representative	Jim Hogel	X
<b>Town of Schuylar</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Kenneth Dodge	X
Supervisor's Designee	Anthony Lucenti	
Community Representative		
<b>City of Utica</b>		
Chief Elected Official	David Roefaro	
Mayor's Designee	Deb Day	X
Mayor's Designee	Goran Smiljic	
<b>Village of Whitesboro</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Brenda Gilberti	
Mayor's Designee	Charles Tritten	
Community Representative	Kevin Phillips	
<b>Town of Whitestown</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Charles R. Gibbs II	
Supervisor's Designee	Sal Granato	
Community Representative	Bill Schmitt	
<b>Village of Yorkville</b>		
Chief Elected Official	Anthony C. Leone, Jr.	X
OR Designee		
Community Representative	Kenneth Schaaf	X
<b>Oneida County</b>		
Community Representative	Bruce Brodsky	X
Community Representative	Harvey Yando	X
County Attorney	Peter Rayhill	X
<b>Oneida County - Water Quality and Water Pollution Control</b>		

Commissioner	Steve Devan	X
<b>Project Consulting Team</b>		
Shumaker Engineering	Karl Schrantz	X
Shumaker Engineering	Jim Luz	X
The Paige Group	Nancy Pattarini	X
The Paige Group	Diane Stirling	X
The Paige Group	Catherine Manion	X

**Municipalities Represented:**

Village of Clayville	Village of New York Mills
Town of Deerfield	Town of Paris
Town of Marcy	Town of Schuyler
Town of New Hartford	City of Utica
Village of New Hartford	Village of Yorkville

**Municipalities Not Represented:**

Town of Frankfort	Village of Whitesboro
Village of Holland Patent	Town of Whitestown
Village of Oriskany	

**I. Opening**

Donald Ryan, steering committee chair, began the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Mr. Ryan thanked committee members for demonstrating their confidence in his leadership by selecting him to serve as chair of the committee.

Steering Committee members introduced themselves for the benefit of new members: Terry Dote, designee for the Village of Clayville; and Peggy Boshart, designee for the Town of Deerfield.

Mr. Ryan spoke about the vital role of Steering Committee members' participation in committee activity and providing community input. He said that even though Oneida County is taking overall responsibility for the consent order response and has to satisfy the NYSDEC, it is the municipally-owned sewer pipes which are in need of repair that cause the overflows at the Sauquoit Creek Pump Station. Mr. Ryan expressed that the plans for coming repairs, while being determined greatly by engineering aspects, also will require community involvement. He noted the roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee, including:

- Members serving as liaisons, sharing vital information between the committee and their elected boards and communities.
- Building consensus among District municipalities on approaches to managing and implementing system repairs.

**II. Project Update/Coordination with NYSDEC**

Mr. Schrantz provided an overview of project coordination with the NYSDEC since submission of the SSO mitigation plan in July 2010, noting that the relationship has been a positive, collaborative one. Steering Committee members were provided with copies of correspondence, including letters dating from October 27, December 10 and 27 of 2010, as well as the supplemental report sent to the NYSDEC. These documents outlined the steps taken since submission of the plan.

Mr. Schrantz noted that he believes that through the process of meeting with the NYSDEC, answering their questions and providing additional information about project work expected, the agency appears to better understand the complexity and enormity of this project. He reported that the NYSDEC engineers seem comfortable with how the work of the Oneida County Sewer District, Steering Committee and engineering consultant team has progressed. Mr. Schrantz also noted that the NYSDEC's engineer advised on January 7 that the agency has nearly completed its review of the supplemental plan information, and that the County should be receiving formal word of its determination soon.

### **III. 2011 Work Plan Update**

Mr. Schrantz outlined project work expected to go forward in 2011. This includes continuing identification of manhole inspections; rehabilitation of identified sewer defects; sanitary sewer televising within the Sauquoit Creek Pump Station area; and a detailed evaluation of the Water Pollution Control Plant for options and capacity upgrades.

### **IV. Funding Update**

Mr. Schrantz reported that the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYSEFC) has reviewed engineering reports for the initial phase of borrowing (\$25.8 million) and a closing date for the short-term funding package may come at the end of February. Under short-term financing, no debt service payment is required for three years, at which time long-term financing is secured.

In addition to funding through NYSEFC, additional support is being sought from USDA Rural Development funding. Mr. Schrantz noted that the USDA Rural Utilities Services program is presently underfunded, and with hundreds of projects ahead of the County's that are seeking funding, Mr. Schrantz estimated a wait time for available funding at 2 to 3 years. In addition, due to changes in the application process for this program, municipalities will have to complete the full application process without benefit of previous two-step process, Mr. Schrantz reported.

### **V. Inter-municipal Agreements (IMAs)**

Peter Rayhill reminded the committee that IMAs are needed from each municipality to move forward in securing funding from the NYSEFC. A brief survey of the committee showed that several municipalities have approved IMAs, several more have scheduled plans for review, and others remain in need of addressing the agreements.

### **VI. Sewer Fee Surcharge**

- A. OCSD Commissioner Steven Devan presented a summary of the \$1.05 sewer surcharge fee collection for 2010. Mr. Devan noted that \$1,010,115.27 was billed and \$795,973.46 has been collected as of December 31, 2010. The surcharge was implemented over an 11-month period due to the normal MVWA billing cycle. The Steering Committee had approved collection of the surcharge in 2010 to build a reserve fund for use in paying debt service on the initial \$25.8 million financing package.
- B. Mr. Ryan led a discussion regarding a resolution that would continue the sewer fee surcharge of \$1.05 per 1,000 gallons of water used per account for property owners within the Sauquoit Creek Pumping Station service area. He noted that rather than having to have the Steering Committee approve a fee surcharge every year, the \$1.05 fee surcharge could be put in place now, and continue until long-term Clean Water State Revolving Fund project financing is put in place.

Mr. Devan noted that it also is necessary for the Oneida County Legislature to authorize adding the surcharge to the OCSD Commissioner's rate schedule. This is necessary to be able to collect the fee in the event of a user's failure to pay. While this resolution would keep the surcharge fixed temporarily at \$1.05 per 1,000 gallons, it was noted that the surcharge would increase or decrease in different municipalities following the initial financing period. At that point, the rate charged will depend on the amount of repairs and funds needed to complete system work within each municipality plus the proportional share of District costs. However, it was noted that monies collected from the surcharge are tracked according to the municipalities where the fees originated.

After discussion, the Steering Committee unanimously approved a resolution recommending the continuation of the \$1.05 surcharge until long-term financing is established.

## **VII. Steering Committee Focus for 2011**

- A. Private Inflow and Infiltration (I/I):  
Mr. Ryan expressed that 2011 will include drafting a plan to promote the reduction of inflow/infiltration from private properties. He noted that while this will be a complex program to implement, it is a necessary one in terms of sewer system repair. It also will require the cooperation of property owners to decrease the large amount of water entering the sanitary sewer system from private properties during wet-weather events. The consultant team will assist municipalities in the public communication process by providing recommendations and materials that can be used to educate the public. It was also noted that the committee would seek advice from community groups and officials from other regions whom have dealt with similar issues.
- B. Operational Structure:  
As an initial step to evaluate existing resources within the system, Mr. Schrantz reported that the engineering team has conducted meetings with

the municipalities' highway departments. The next year will focus on sharing self-assessments and formulating a plan on how to best work together, using existing manpower and equipment resources, to conduct the most cost-effective repairs. The goal will be to compensate for budget and manpower restrictions by combining efforts. It was also noted that some municipalities currently share such resources.

C. CMOM:

Discussions regarding how to continue with ongoing repair and rehabilitation in the communities will take place. It was noted that this process is a vital step in identifying the need and urgency for repairs.

**VIII. Next Meeting:**

**Thursday, March 3, at 5:30 p.m.**

**Town of Whitestown, new town building**

*Community meeting room - 8539 Clark Mills Road, Whitesboro*

(the usual meeting location is not available on this date).