

## Caroline Watershed Meeting Minutes 9/25/18

Attendance: Mark Witmer, Lucy Gagliardo, Kristen Hychka, Barry Goodrich, Jackie Cassaniti

**\*\*AS OF THIS OCTOBER, THE CAROLINE WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING WILL BE ON THE SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH, NOW SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 9<sup>TH</sup> 2018, SAME TIME AND LOCATION, 7PM AT THE CAROLINE TOWN HALL\*\***

The Stormwater Management Plan for the Town of Caroline was the first topic. This was updated by Anthony Arce in 2016, with further changes in 2017 and 2018 by Kristen Hychka and Mark Witmer. Minimum Control Measures 1 and 2 were written to cover most of Tompkins County with Minimum Control Measures 3, 4, 5 and 6 tailored for the Town of Caroline, which does things under the auspices of TCSW. Lucy asked about hydroseeding and the time between cleaning a ditch and hydroseeding; according to Barry the recommended time is between 1-3 days and up to 10, to revegetate the culvert against storm runoff; this was done on Thomas, Buffalo and Level Green Roads by TCSW who owns a hydroseeder. Lucy also mentioned the fact that the Town of Caroline should have an educational watershed meeting for the public once a year. Mark agreed and added the town cleanup should be earlier this year because the weeds were already growing in June. Committee unanimously voted to endorse the SWMP for adoption by the Town Board.

Kristen said there will be a WRC sponsored workshop for highway personnel on October 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> about ditching practices. It will be 7:30-2:00 pm with a field trip to Dubois Road to see the ditching and check dams work there (this may be filmed as the Cornell Local Roads program may get DEC money for a statewide program). The meeting may be repeated if enough people are interested.

Mark gave an update on the Buffalo Road project; it is finished. The final project resulted in enough shoulder that guide rails aren't required. The guide rails may be used on Middaugh Road near a pond instead, still in the Town of Caroline.

Tee Ann Hunter from the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (I O) said the DOS contract has been received and they would like to establish a project advisory committee and asked the municipalities for suggestions. Some already made by the I O were representatives from DEC, Finger Lakes Hub, county soil and water, USDA, DOT, county planning and health depts., highway depts., county legislatures, and the agriculture community. Suggested by our committee were reps from chambers of commerce, boating and winery orgs., farm bureaus, other water orgs., NRCS, water plants and water treatment plants, grant finders and grant writers.

Barry brought up the need for a grant writer for the Town of Caroline. Kristen mentioned the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) as a model of funding, where funds are distributed by a fixed equation (primarily by length of roadway in the municipality) and not by competition for grant funds.

She also said there is the annual Watershed Forum of the Upper Susquehanna Coalition in Oneonta on 10/18/18, and a "Trees for Tribs," a state program that is for planting trees in riparian

buffers. The Upper Susquehanna Coalition also has said they have some trees available for projects within the Susquehanna basin. Barry said the NRCS projects can use that service especially when farmers contract some of their land for a creek buffer.

Barry said his term on the WRC will end at on 12/31/18 and he wants to know if he should reapply for a 3-year term, the committee said yes (by unanimous vote)!

Hurricane Florence impacted the Ekroos Road area by water undermining the soil and knocking down a concrete barrier. Cindy Whittaker and her crew from the Caroline Highway Dep't were able to straighten it again, but the culvert is separating because of the coils used to construct it and the guard rails are hanging away from the shoulder, also the bank has a huge gash. The road is a seasonal road.

Submitted by Jackie Cassaniti