

**Dredging Project Advisory Committee
Meeting Notes
09-17-08**

In Attendance

State Agencies

Richard Harris, NYS Canal Corporation
Dave Raylinsky, NYS Canal Corporation
Steve Eidt, NYS Canal Corporation
Paul Heist, Operations and Technical Support, Army Corps
Ken Lynch, Director, of Region 7, DEC
Kevin Delaney DEC Project Manager
John Merriman, Region 7, DEC
Tim Joseph, Director, Finger Lakes Region, NYS Parks
Sue Poelvoorde, Finger Lakes Region, NYS Parks
Craig Schutt, District Manager, Tompkins Co. Soil and Water Conservation District
Carl F Ford, Regional Director, NYSDOT

Consultant, City Staff & Officials

Liz Moran, Ecologic L.L.C.
Ed Hinchey, ERM
John Mohlin, ERM
JoAnn Cornish, Acting Director, Planning & Development
Lisa Nicholas, Planner, Planning & Development
Bill Gray, Director, Department of Public Works
Scott Gibson, Water & Sewer Division
Roxy Johnston, Environmental Analyst, Water & Sewer Division
Carolyn Peterson, Mayor

Tompkins County/Town of Ithaca

Herb Engman, Town Supervisor
Cliff Babson, Environmental Management Council
Dan Karig, Water Resources Council
Steve Maybee, Tompkins County Health Department

Community Organizations/ Representatives

John C. Gutenberg, VP Government & Community Relations, Cornell University
Doug Levine, Tompkins Co. Chamber of Commerce
John Mawdsley, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
B.J. Bliss, Owner, Cayuga Lake Cruises
Susan Pratt, Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton's Office
Louise Raimondo, Friends of Newman Golf Course

Project Status Update

Project website: Robin Clarke demonstrated the website. Launched planned for late fall

Soundings: Liz projected the sounding diagrams. Relative amount of material to be removed: (based on 2008 soundings and standard channel depths -will be refined)

- Fall Creek +/- 25,000 cy
- Cascadilla +/- 25,000 cy
- Inlet: +/- 420,000 cy
- Total =470,00cy

Habitat Assessment: Liz Moran briefly described the study. Committee members commented that the assessment had not included the subsurface level community. Need for representative actual samples of aquatic life.

Work plan for Coring and Chemical Analysis: Committee briefly reviewed work plan.

Map products: Lisa Nicholas briefly described the mapping.

Funding: Lisa Nicholas reviewed funding for project - described the \$2 million NYS Capital Assistance Grant.

Stakeholder interviews: Liz gave a synopsis of the interviews.

Discussion: comments on conditions during summer 08

- (Jeff Cleveland): channel depth will not accommodate boaters who want to purchase gas, visit restaurants, etc.
- Owner of The haunt: access and turbidity are issues
- Weed growth very bad in 2008 (Ken Lynch commented this was true in many regions of CNY this summer, due to a combination of weather conditions and nutrients)
- Louise R (Friends of Newman): smell at golf course

Other items discussed:

- There was discussion about the need to address upstream control of sediment entering waterways (watershed issues). Although this is outside of the project's overall scope and focus: it can be addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).
- It was decided to add 3 sampling points to the sampling plan in order to determine the potential affect of upstream uses. Although this information will not be used as part of this project, it was decided to do this testing now since equipment will be mobilized. This can answer the question of the effect of upstream uses on water quality.
- Capacity of siltation ponds need to be restored.
- Steve Eidt (Canal Corp) stated that the efforts to identify loads, mitigate as possible, and restore or create upstream storage should not hold up the dredging effort. Tributaries are natural systems and will transport sediment.

- There is information on sediment sources, transport, and deposition from the Milone and MacBroom investigation, Greg Nagel's work, Dan Karig's study. Links to these reports can be posted on the web site. Dan Karig characterizes sediment as a legacy issue (result of past land use not current practices).
- Canal Corp in Utica, removes 2,000 – 25,000 cy before it enters the canal, reclaims sand and gravel. Need to have a permanent desiccated site.

Public Outreach Subcommittee Meeting

- Items to add to website: Dredging White Paper, Watershed Area with studies. Roxy Johnston to provide documents electronically.
- Discussion of strategies to get information out in a timely and strategic manner.
- Revisions to draft Fact Sheet: discuss issues in more general terms. Include a discussion of the process- particularly the EIS process and the evolution of the project.
- Need to prepare a simplified schedule to explain process and progress.
- Website will include comment area.
- Possible venues to distribute information to the public
 - Insert to the Ithaca Journal and/or the New Times
 - List serves (see images from Bill Hecht)
 - Watershed network: update at spring meeting
 - Fact sheet in CLW Network newsletter
 - Presentation to the WRC/EMC
 - Tompkins Weekly

Technical Advisory Subcommittee Meeting

Dewatering Site Criteria:

1. Proximity to dredge location. 1 mile maximum but a shorter distance is preferable.
2. Receiving facility (dewatering site) should be +/- 20 acres (at 6-8 feet high) but 40 would be better. Pump could potentially work 16-20 hours a day. Could be two sites.
3. Accessibility to site.

4. City owned or controlled.
 5. Permanent vs 1 time only disposal site.
 6. Long term plan.
- Neiderkorn Plan appendix includes study of southern end of Cayuga Lake.
 - Previous dredge spoils (Army Corps dredging) went to Robert H Treman and Town of Ithaca.
 - Need to look at mechanical dredging as well as other methods.

Sites that meet criteria = Cass Park, Allan H Treman, Newman Golf Course, SW Site.