

Technical Advisory Committee Meeting 1/12/09

In Attendance:

State Agencies

Carmella Mantello, Director, NYS Canal Corporation
Peter Weisbecker, Project Manager NYS Canal Corporation
Rob Remmers, Chief, Operations and Technical Support, Army Corps
Megan Oberst, Army Corps
Ken Lynch, Director, of Region 7, DEC
Tim Joseph, Director, Finger Lakes region, NYS Parks
Steve Eidt, NYS Canal Corporation
Sue Poelvoorde, Finger Lakes Region, NYS Parks
Barry Pendergrass, Department of State
Terra Strun, Department of State

Consultant, City Staff & Officials

Liz Moran, Ecologic L.L.C.
John Mohlin ERM, Ed Hinchey, ERM
JoAnn Cornish, Director of Planning & Development
Lisa Nicholas, Senior Planner, Planning & Development
Bill Gray, Superintendent of Public Works
Scott Gibson, Engineer, Water & Sewer Division
Carolyn Peterson, Mayor
Maria Coles, Alderperson,
Jennifer Dodson, Alderperson
Ed Hinchey, ERM

Tompkins County/Town of Ithaca

Ed Marx, Commissioner of Planning, Tompkins County
Dan Karig, Water Resources Council
Liz Cameron, Director, Tompkins County Health Department

Community Organizations/ Representatives

Rick Manning, Coordinator, Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative
John Gutenberger, Cornell University Liaison
Jeff Cleveland, Owner, Johnson's Boat Yard
B.J. Bliss, Owner, Cayuga Lake Cruises
Louis Raimondo, Friends of Newman
Tom Hanna, Friends of Newman
Tony Pesco, Friends of Newman
Elissa Olevano, Friends of Newman
Margaret Lister, Friends of Newman
Jack Schindo, Friends of Newman
Tom Waitlow, Friends of Newman

The following issues were discussed:

Need to be explicit about assumptions used in site selection

Need to specify the nature, duration, and impacts of any displaced use in considering disposal alternatives.

Costs-Need more detail, not just positive and negative.

Add technical feasibility to screening matrix (comment re wetland creation).

Include DOT SITE or say why it was eliminated (size).

Concern that reliance on the site-selection matrix will limit new ideas/ creative approaches.

Dan Karig: asked whether the texture data are consistent with size selection (coarser sediments deposited upstream and finer materials deposited proceeding downstream)?

Ed Hinchey: responded that he has not examined the data from that perspective. Analysis and SEQR must include the no-action alternative.

Army Corps: Flood control is another objective of the dredging in addition to restoration of impaired navigational use.

State Parks: Noted that deposition of dredge spoils is not in the master plan for Treman Marine Park.

Canal Corporation: Short-term and long-term project. Canal proposal could be Phase 1: 100 ft wide channel (bottom) to 10 ft deep, get to 71,000 CY, navigational only.

Does the DOT site become viable with this reduced volume of material? As a short-term measure, may get back on the list. Canal Corp. has an active permit for dredging in the channel, navigational only.

Louise Raimondo: Why does the disposal site have to be within one mile?

Canal Corp. does not have booster pumps; they will dredge using the equipment they have. Canal Corp. does not generally do contract dredging. . UDS construction would be a city responsibility, Canals can assist with engineering. Canals has never done an in-water disposal site.

Can we do a municipal cost-share with local entity? No, public authority, board approvals needed, add time and uncertainty

How does fiscal status affect Canal Corporation? Ithaca is a priority will be in budget, Canals looking for funds, their budget is 95% thruway tolls, and income from tolls is decreasing.

If channel not dredged edge to edge, is it possible to prevent the sides from slumping?

Hydraulic model will help evaluate the potential impacts: what-if scenarios.

Dredging in Cascadilla to mitigate sediment around marina slips is not in Canal Corp jurisdiction. Contract dredging would require a partnership or MOU – to be discussed in near future.

Merriman: Good to look at short and long term. ID what needs to be done for business groups. Canals to get soundings data to USACE.

Lynch: Offered to help frame data in DEIS. Need to define size of the short-term project

Hinchey: Suggested defining phases based on size. Detail time and schedule impact city work schedule, some may be done in-house.