



**Cornell University**  
**Cooperative Extension**  
**Chemung County**

**River Council Notes**  
**January 16, 2007**

**Present:** Cathy Szerzen, Jack Bundy, Jim Birney, Jenn Miller, Jim Arey, Paul Coradinni, Sue Pirozzolo, G. Westervelt, Rita Luke, John Merrone, Sharon Osborn, Barb McKaig, Barbara Burns, Susan Eldridge, Bob Guzman, Ed Marks, John Kelly, Pat Krauss, Dave Brown, Jackie French, Alice Davis, Ellen Knapp, Bob Bailey, Jennifer Fais, Juan Jones, Lee Younge, Linda Couchon, Marty Strong, Mike Hastrich

**1. River Council representation from Municipalities**

Town of Big Flats: Lee Younge  
Town of Elmira: to be determined  
City of Elmira: Bob Bailey  
Town of Southport: Cathy Szerzen  
Town of Ashland: Jack Bundy for Andrew "Doc" Gee  
Town of Chemung: Jim Birney

**2. Other River Council representatives**

Cornell Cooperative Extension project managers for the River grants are Linda Couchon and Mike Hastrich.

Chemung Basin River Trail Partnership co-chair Jennifer Fais (other co-chair is Linda Couchon) will be on the River Council to coordinate efforts with the Partnership. For more information about the CBRTF go to [www.chemungrivertrail.com](http://www.chemungrivertrail.com).

Chemung-Elmira Transportation Council/Chair of the three-county pedestrian/bicycle committee, Jim Arey will coordinate with other trail/hiking/biking/transportation projects.

Department of Environmental Conservation—Linda will request a River Council representative.

Public/interest groups/organizations-Linda will create a roster of individuals interested in committing to River Council meetings/follow up/scope of work.

**3. Overview of grants**

Three grants were received for Chemung River development. One of the grants needs to be re-written based on overlap with the other two grants and is pending discussions with NY Department of State staff.

Two grants are from the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program ([http://nyswaterfronts.com/aboutus\\_LWRP.asp](http://nyswaterfronts.com/aboutus_LWRP.asp)) and one is a Quality Communities Grant (<http://www.qualitycommunities.org/index.asp>).

The deliverable for the river development project grants include:

- a) Comprehensive River Plan
  - Projects with concept design and cost estimates based on 2004 community visioning project
  - Beautification and other recommendations
  - Time line for projects and tasks required for execution of the plan
- b) Two to three projects at a shovel ready stage (blueprint level detail)—pending approval by the Dept. of State
- c) Functioning River Council
  - Sustainable infrastructure for river development
- d) Foundation for Implementation
  - Community awareness, support and excitement for the river plan
  - Promotion/documentation for adoptable/fundable projects
- e) A Greenway Compact

#### **4. River Council roles**

River Council is the leadership/advisory council for the river development grants. Each municipality will have a River Council representative to communicate with their municipal leaders regarding River Council activities and decisions.

Members of the River Council will need to attend all meetings and participate in follow up work. Meetings will be at least monthly, probably more initially.

The River Council will be focused on the grant specified plans of work and will rely on ad-hoc groups, committees and community/regional resources for discussion and input on various aspects of the plan. Numerous community meetings/community input opportunities will be planned as part of the grant plan of work.

#### **5. Adhoc/advisory/interest specific groups**

Individuals who are interested in a specific project, role or process should contact Linda Couchon. These groups will be tapped for information, input and support.

#### **6. Meeting schedule**

The Chemung Basin River Trail Partnership is willing to reschedule their monthly meetings in order to coincide with River Council meetings. This will alleviate double meetings for some members, keep the projects well coordinated and allow people to participate in one or both meetings.

The group agreed that Tuesdays or Wednesdays at 3:00 was a good time. Linda will create a meeting schedule/find a meeting location and get back to River Council members.

These notes are also available online at [www.chemungrivertrail.com](http://www.chemungrivertrail.com)