

River Council Meeting Notes

October 16, 2007

Present: Bob Bailey, Jim Birney, Cheryl Box, Bob Butcher, Jennifer Fais, Dave Grier, Mike Hastrich, Keith Matthews, Jennifer Miller, Jim Pffifer, Lee Younge, Linda Couchon

1) Meeting with Tom Santulli

Lee, Jen Fais and Cheryl Box met with Tom Santulli about financial support for a River Project coordinator in 2008. He is thinking about it and has asked for a more detailed job description. He will be going to the next RAMS meeting (a monthly meeting of Chemung County supervisors and the mayor) to talk to them about their support for the River Project.

Municipal leaders are asked to talk to their supervisor/mayor/boards in support of the River Project Management position.

Jim Pffifer will contact the Elmira Heights supervisor

Mike Hastrich will contact the Erin and Horseheads supervisors

Cheryl Box will do Southport.

Current grant funds available for the 2008 year were discussed. Since the grants will not be completed until February/May of 2008 there should be some salary funds available. Linda is estimating \$8,000.

2) Master plan presentations

Big Flats Open House is 10/18, 7-9 at Big Flats Community Center

City of Elmira has hired Haas to do a presentation on 10/25/07

Mike H. and Linda are going to the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors meeting on 10/22.

Town of Elmira may be interested in a Town Board presentation

2) Project Priorities

There are \$35,000 in current City LWRP grant funds for “shovel ready designs” on 2-3 projects (cost average of design is 10% of project cost)
Criteria: High design projects should be implement-able in next grant round.

Should represent 2+ municipalities

LWRP construction can only take place on public land ---need to avoid private property issues

High visibility and high use.

The River Council chose the following projects

White Wagon launch site park

Big Flats Community Park trail connection to the River
Dam portage on south side of River (safety issue)
Tourism kiosks

3) 2007-2008 Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) Grant

The next round of funding for LWRP funding is due November 30.
Jennifer Fais, Jennifer Miller and Linda Couchon are meeting tomorrow to discuss the application.
Discussion included following points:

City of Corning is interested in pursuing a “complimentary” LWRP grant.

There is a 50:50 match on the grant. We can only apply for projects we have a full match for. Can be cash or in-kind.
We might want to include:

- Land owner open house(s) and meetings
- Identification of priority trail segments based on land owner discussions
- Securing easements and permits
- Marketing to local businesses/individuals

4) 2008 Walk and Talk

Jim Pffifer and Amy Wilson (Chemung Valley History Museum) are planning river history “walks and talks” for Spring and Summer 2008

5) Next meeting is Tuesday, October 23 @ 3:00 at Cornell Extension

Attachments from meeting
Project Segments/funding sources

Projects Segments

	Funding (match)	Regulation/ Difficulty	Cost	Locale	Tourism/ connections	Visibility/ high use
North Side of River						
Big Flats connecting trails (Rail Trail, Comm. Park)	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium	BF		
Botchers to Miniers river trail	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium	BF		
Miniers to Curren Road river trail	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium	BF		
Big Flats Loop: Trolley trail /Curren Rd /River Trail	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium			
Fitch's to City line river trail	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium	T of Elmira/ City		
Pirozzolo Park to Grove levee trail	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium	City		
Grove to Holiday Inn inside flood wall trail	City-Federal (none)	High	High	City		
White water park						
Main St Bridge access and flood wall promenade						
Over the wall stairs/access	City-Federal (none)	Med/High?	Medium	City		
River Front Park	City Federal (none)	Med	Med	City		
Gateway Park (at Water & I86)	City-Federal (none)	Medium	Medium	City		
Rail trail along I86, Elmira to Lowman to Chemung	TEP? (min 20%)	High	High	Multi		
South Side of River						
Southport to Hibbard Dam levee trail	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium	City		
Walnut Bridge to Brand inside flood wall trail						
Portage trail & access near dam	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium	City		
Clemens Center to Brand Levy Trail						
Brand to Southport Levee Trail	LWRP (50:50)	Medium	Medium	City		
White Wagon launch site Park	Municipal	Medium	Medium	Chemung		
Other						
Kiosks						
Signage						
Composting toilets						
Wheelchair/elder access sites						
Picnic areas						
Benches						
Bridge lighting						
Bridge overlook extensions						

Other Funding

Community Foundation of Elmira/Corning Area

Corning Enterprises

Corporate: Fortuna, Howell, Vulcraft, Chemung Canal.....
Member item

Chesapeake Gateways Program

NY OPRHP

Rec Trail Program

Acquisition Grant

Land and Water Conservation Fund

Transportation Enhancement Program (DOT)

National Trails Endowment

Under \$10,000 = Kodak Greenways, REI Recreation/Conservation Grants, Bikes Belong
American Rivers (for dam work)