

AGAWAMUCK CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN WATERSHED ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING #4 SUMMARY NOTES

Location: Town Hall/Zoom

Date: August 9, 2023

Time: 7:00PM

<u>Meeting Attendance</u>	
Committee Members	
Barbara Sagal	Chair, Watershed Advisory Committee
David Lewis, Esq	Chair of the Conservation Council, Town of Hillsdale
Sally Baker	Project Manager, PBI, Inc.
Gretchen Stevens	Conservation Council, Town of Hillsdale
Greg Vogler	Deputy Supervisor, Town of Austerlitz
WAC Advisors	
Emily Vail	Hudson River Watershed Alliance
Consulting Team	
Matthew Rogers	LaBella Associates
Steve Winkley	LaBella Associates
John Behan	Behan Associates

Meeting was convened at 7:05 pm

August 4, 2023 Draft Report:

1. The Committee began a review of the August 4, 2023 Draft Report.
2. Matthew Rogers and Sally Baker discussed the process of revising the documents on ensuring track changes are used. All report drafts will be saved with track changes and the date the draft is released.

Vision, Goals, and Objectives:

3. Each goals was read aloud, and edits made in real time as requested by the Committee.
4. Under Goal #5, the Committee discussed the need for a vulnerability assessment to identify the highest risk climate issues applicable to the watershed.
5. Upon completion of the inventory and analysis, key issues will be flushed out and prioritized.
6. The Committee discussed the history of Summit Lake and when the change was made to switch over to wells. Steve Winkley and John Behan provided input and Steve referenced a 1982 inventory by the NYS

Dept. of Health that predates the current Philmont wells. Steve noted that he previously worked with the Village when they had to stop using Forest Pond as a water source. Forest Pond is not in the watershed. Steve noted that NYSDEC classifies the Philmont Reservoir as a drinking water source, and this may be a misclassification as it is not a drinking water source. Additional research is needed to clarify this issue.

7. Matthew requested the Committee review and provide any additional comments on the draft vision, goals, and recommendations. Greg Vogler requested a copy of the vision, goals, and recommendations to review and provide comments.

Structures, Water Classification, Impairments, Stormwater Management:

8. Steve Winkley provided an overview of the following draft report sections: Waterbodies and Dams; Water Quality Classifications and Impairments; SPDES Permitted Sources & Stormwater Hot Spots; and Roads & Bridges, Flow Constriction Structures, Stormwater.
9. Sally requested that Steve review the CT Male water testing report regarding pollutants (CT Male Associates Letter dated September 17, 2015, Summary of Surface Water and Sediment Sampling – Summit Reservoir).
10. When discussing Figure 13A-Potential Stormwater Hotspots Map, Steve recommended highlighting Harlemlive and other hamlets and clusters of developments when there are key findings, issues. Matthew indicated that inset maps can be prepared after key issues/findings have been identified and confirmed.
11. Gretchen Stevens noted that culvert data has been mapped for the Hillsdale part of the watershed along with Austerlitz. The mapping was funded by the Estuary Program and completed by Trout Unlimited and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Gretchen will forward the data for incorporation into the report.

Land Use Analysis:

12. There was some concern that the data may be misleading if the reader is unaware of the data source/ how it was collected and represented. Matthew explained that land use classifications from Columbia County Real Property are an important part of getting an initial understanding of existing land uses. However, the land use data has to be reviewed along with the land cover type to get a broader picture of current land uses and the potential implications on water quality.
13. John noted that it is important to review land use data in order to understand current uses, e.g., what is commercial vs. residential vs. industrial. However, it may not necessarily indicate the actual land use for the entire property and therefore, must be reviewed in parallel with land cover type. An example raised by Gretchen is that a parcel classified as Agriculture may only have a small section actually in agriculture use. The land use data provides one land use for the entire parcel which may be misleading as the entire parcel may have different land covers. There was agreement that land cover is the primary data source to

understand land uses throughout the watershed and should be supplemented by parcel data to get a broader understanding of overall land uses in the watershed.

Next Steps:

14. Matthew reviewed next steps/report draft which will include Living Resources, Buildout Analysis, Estimated Impervious Cover, Pollutant and Nutrient Loading; and Assessment of Laws.
15. Next meeting scheduled for September 13.
16. Agreement to provide the current draft to Irene Hallock at NYSDOS to begin internal review.
17. Gretchen will provide recommended edits on report maps. Gretchen also noted that there are flood hazard areas outside of FEMA maps and that text should be included in Section 2.3.6 along with a note on the flood hazard map.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm

ITEM	Action item	Owner
1	Confirm classification of Philmont Reservoir	LaBella Team: In process
2	Incorporate CT Male water testing report	LaBella Team: Completed
3	Create inset maps to highlight key findings throughout the watershed, including hamlets	LaBella Team: In process
4	Gretchen Stevens will provide Culvert Data.	Gretchen Stevens: Completed
5	Continue to clarify differences between Land Use and Cover type.	LaBella Team: In process
6	Include a note in Section 2.3.6 stating that there are flood hazard areas outside of the locations noted on the FEMA Maps. Include a similar note in Fig. 12.	LaBella Team: In process

The preceding minutes represent the author's understanding of the matters discussed and decisions reached. The Committee will determine completeness and accuracy at their next scheduled meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
LABELLA ASSOCIATES, D.P.C.

Matthew Rogers, Senior Planner, LaBella Associates

Cc: All Attendees