

**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 19, 2011**  
**Glenville Wellfield Study Group**  
**2:30 p.m.**

Attending: Carl George, Phil Adams, Jacqueline Smith, Thomas Coppola and Kevin Corcoran  
Absent: John Garver, Jason Pelton and James MacFarland

- Kevin opened the meeting at 3:35 p.m. Those present noted the addition of Jacqueline Smith to our Group and the fact that Aaron Kelsey of Cranesville Aggregates has resigned from the Group, per an e-mail received from his supervisor Kim Mosher. While we will no longer have anyone present at our meetings from Cranesville, Ms. Mosher has offered to be our contact.
- Discussion followed on the recent severe flooding of the Mohawk River. Carl passed around time-stamped photos that he took of the flooding in various locations, including Collins Park, Maalwyck Park, downtown Schenectady, and Locks 8, 9 and 10. Carl also shared pictures taken by Town staff of the water treatment plant and the erosion channel on the adjacent Scotia Sand & Stone property, where the Town has an easement. It was noted that the dam/dike that Scotia Sand & Stone installed earlier this year to fix the erosion channel from the Mohawk River washed away due to the flooding. The fill material for the dam/dike appears to have been substandard, consisting of a lot of wood and trees.
- Following up on the dam/dike failure discussion, Phil and Carl asked if anyone from NYSDEC had been to the Town's wellfield and Scotia Sand & Stone's property to witness the impacts of the flooding. When Tom Coppola arrived at the meeting he indicated that Jamie MacFarland has contacted Jim Edlred of DEC. Mr. Eldred said that they will get out to the site, but as of this date it has not happened.
- In further discussing the recent flooding, Phil suggested that the Town determine and post the elevations of critical structures such as the finished floor of the pumphouse, outdoor wells, the road to the pumphouse, etc., if it already hasn't done so. It would also be handy if the Town identified elevations of previous floods. Similarly, someone should visit Lock 8 to determine the elevation of the normal pool behind the dam.
- Jacqueline indicated that she has access to numerous photos of the recent flooding, compliments of husband/group member John Garver. If she could access the Town's WiFi system, she could share them with the Group. Kevin noted the Town is reluctant to grant outside access to its wireless network, but that he could set up the Town's laptop and projector at our next meeting and call up John's photos and data at that time.
- Carl then raised the issue of this study group's validity. Since the Town Board did not officially create this committee and appoint its members, he is questioning the worth of serving on the group. The group lacks credibility without Town Board endorsement. Kevin reiterated comments made by Jamie at previous meetings that the Town Board is very appreciative of this group's efforts and it recognizes the very strong credentials of its members. But with contract

negotiations underway for the Town to possibly supply a major company with water, the Board is reluctant to draw any negative attention to our water supply. Carl and Phil don't believe that this Group's "charter" casts a negative light on the Town's water system. Phil noted that the group is currently just trying to establish baseline data and that this does not reflect poorly on our water system. In the absence of any formal endorsement of the Group by the Town Board, any recommendations that come from this Group will lack punch. Carl, Phil and Jacqueline concur that this Group should seek formal endorsement by the Town Board. Kevin will relay this request to Jamie MacFarland.

- The group then turned its attention to our draft mission statement and goals. There was consensus among the members in attendance at July's meeting that the mission statement and goals, as articulated, are acceptable. Kevin asked the rest of the Group members to have a look at the mission statement and goals and formally act upon them at today's meeting. Carl made a motion to amend the mission statement to read as follows (amendment/addition in italics):

"To identify, *as a Town Board-appointed committee*, potential threats to the Town of Glenville water supply and to develop strategies and programs that can be applied to minimize these threats."

The group unanimously approved the mission statement, as amended. The goals were also adopted, without change, as follows:

- Identify, consolidate and make available relevant studies and data on the Town's water supply system.
  - Educate Glenville residents and property owners about the Town's water supply system and articulate what residents and property owners can do to minimize contamination of our water supply.
  - Develop a fruitful relationship with key landowners, stakeholders and decision-makers in an effort to minimize threats to the Town's drinking water.
  - Consider alternative water supply sources for the Town and identify options for intermunicipal connections.
  - Identify funding sources that can be tapped in order to pursue the Study Group's mission and goals.
- With the group no longer having representation at the table from Cranesville Aggregates/Scotia Sand & Stone, Carl asked if it would be appropriate to invite Cranesville to participate in our efforts, even if they do not send anyone to our meetings. Cranesville's participation seems critical given that they own the land that surrounds the Town's wellfield. Kevin wasn't particularly optimistic that Cranesville would want to be involved, but he will ask Jamie if we should extend a written invitation to Cranesville to assist the group with our efforts, and vice-versa.

- At this point Kevin realized that we skipped over the agenda item asking for approval of the minutes of the July 18<sup>th</sup> meeting. The minutes were then approved unanimously, as revised on July 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Tom Coppola was asked if there had been any testing of the Town's drinking water since the flooding. Tom indicated that yes, the Town has tested the water on a couple of occasions, on our own initiative. The results were favorable, and indicative that the flooding did not compromise the quality of the Town's drinking water.
- It was suggested that this Group should invite a representative of the Canal Corps to discuss the operation and maintenance of the locks. How does operation of the locks impact water levels and flooding? This is particularly relevant in respect to Lock 8, which partially controls water levels behind the dam all the way back to Lock 9. As a consequence, flooding in and adjacent to the Town's wellfield could be impacted by operations at Lock 8. Carl recommends that the Group also invite Jim Eldred of NYSDEC Region IV to one of our meetings.
- Tom Coppola noted that the flooding in and around the wellfield as a result of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Irene was the worse he's ever witnessed, and likely the worst since the wellfield began operation in the 1960s. Interestingly, though, Tom observed that while the flooding from Irene was worse than the flooding from Tropical Storm Lee, the force of the flooding and associated erosion was worse from Lee than it was from Irene.
- Carl recommended that Cal Welch be added to the Study Group. Cal is a long-standing member of the GECC, and he has a great many contacts, both in the community and on the political front. Both Kevin and Tom agree with Carl's suggestion. Kevin will run this request by Jamie MacFarland.
- Kevin then reported on what he has learned about pharmaceutical contamination of public drinking water supplies. A 2007/2008 investigation by the Associated Press revealed that of 28 major urban area water supplies tested for the presence of pharmaceuticals, 24 of them tested positive for at least one drug. Philadelphia's water exhibited 56 different pharmaceuticals. This is an emerging health issue for which there is very little information and history to draw upon. There may be value in conducting a baseline test of Glenville's water supply to determine if there are any pharmaceuticals present in the Town's drinking water. Kevin noted that there are no federal or state drinking water standards or testing protocol to follow. However, he will work with Jason Pelton and check with NYSDEC and NYSDOH to determine if any testing has been done in New York State. The Associated Press investigation revealed that New York City did not test their water for pharmaceuticals.
- Tom suggested that we should also invite Andy Sufflita of the Schenectady County Health Department to one of our meetings.
- Phil asked if our Group could be assigned a shorter name than the current "Wellfield Protection Study Group." There was consensus to go with "Wellfield Study Group" from this point forward.

- The next meeting for the Study Group is scheduled for Tuesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> at either 3:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m., either in the court room or the Mel Bartlett Room. If the Mel Bartlett Room is available on the 18th, we will meet there at 4:00 p.m. If the room is not available, we will need to meet in the court room at 3:30 p.m., and wrap up by 5:00 p.m. so as to not interfere with Town Court proceedings that evening. Kevin will e-mail everyone with the time and location within the next couple of days.

With there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:58 p.m.

Prepared by Kevin Corcoran  
September 20, 2011