



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

TIMOTHY T. BURTIS
Chairman

TAMMY BARBER
Deputy Clerk

401 Montgomery Street • Court House • Room 407 • Syracuse, New York 13202
Phone: 315.435.2070 • onondagacountylegislature@ongov.net • www.ongov.net/legislature

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2025 JULIE ABBOTT, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Kelly, Ms. Cody, Mr. Romeo, Mr. Brown

ALSO ATTENDING: Chairman Burtis; also see attached list

Chair Abbott called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and the previous meeting's minutes were approved.

1. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Shannon Harty, Commissioner

a. Authorizing the Execution of Agreements to Accept Grant Funding From the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation in Connection with the Prospect Hill Green Corridor Project (\$2,000,000)

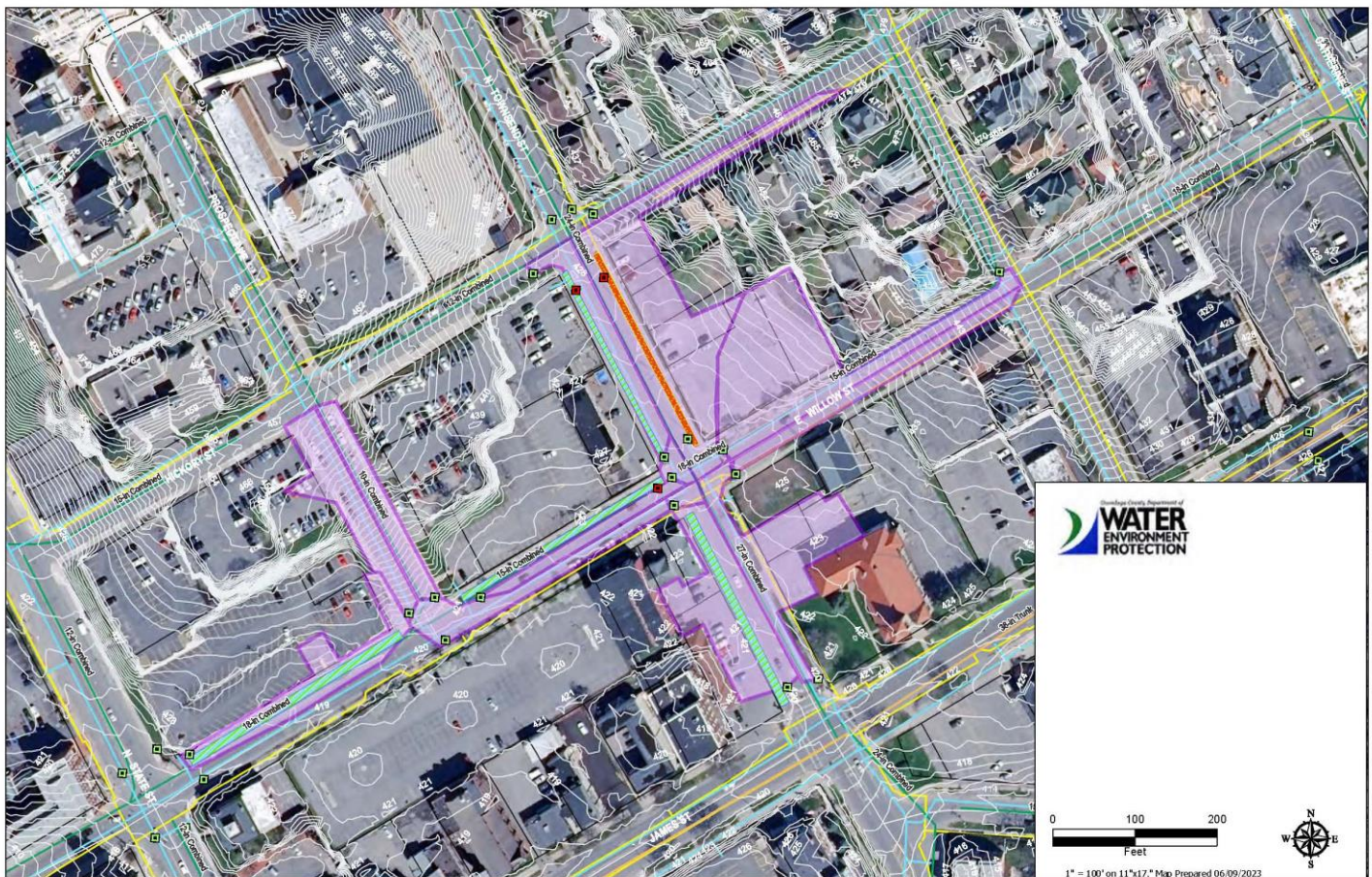
***Purpose:** Onondaga County has received a grant in the amount of \$2,000,000 from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (NYS EFC) and its Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP) to support the Prospect Hill Green Corridor Project (Project), implementing green infrastructure, including porous paver systems and tree trenches.*

***Summary:** This \$3.05M project involves the installation of green infrastructure including enhanced street tree trenches and porous pavers along Townsend and E. Willow Streets in the City of Syracuse. This CSO abatement project will remove over 2.6 million gallons of stormwater from the combined sewer system annually from the Clinton CSO sewer shed. The GIGP grant requires a minimum local match of 10% of the total eligible project costs. Funding for green infrastructure CSO abatement projects in the Clinton CSO sewer shed, which includes this Project, are authorized under a bond resolution dated April 5, 2011 (Resolution No. 387 – 2011). Water Environment Protection Commissioner Shannon Harty is designated to act as the County's point of contact for implementing and administering this grant.*

The project is a Type II action in accordance with 6 NYCRR 617.S(c), consistent with paragraphs 1, 2, and 8 within Resolution No. 144-2014 – which includes 1) maintenance and repair of existing facilities, 2) rehabilitation and replacement in kind and located at the same site, and 3) advancement of green infrastructure for the management of stormwater and reduction of combined sewer overflows (CSOs). As a Type II action it is therefore not subject to further review under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

***Fiscal Impact:** This will have no impact on the budget – net \$0.*

- This is one of the Green Street Projects
- Part of CSO (Combined Sewer Overflows) stormwater abatement program (Save the Rain)
- Authorized under the original 2011 bond resolutions set up for 3 different CSO sewer sheds
- This project is in the Clinton Sewer Shed; tributary to Onondaga Creek
- WEP partnering with city for street redevelopment



- Willow Street (*purple shaded area*)
- Brick pavers, trees, anything to collect off the surface runoff
 - Detain it, hold it from going into storm sewers
 - Keep it collecting from sanitary waste, and out of the creeks
- Improvements will remove 2.6 million gallons of stormwater out of the sanitary sewer system
- Successful partnership with the Environmental Facility Corp. - funding arm for a lot of infrastructure
- Green Infrastructure Grant Program, requires a 10% local match (cap of \$2M)
- \$3M project, getting \$2M in grants and \$1M from a local match is coming under Clinton CSO Capital Project Auth.
- Have all prior authorizations, only need authorization for the execution of grant agreement to get money

Questions/Comments from the Committee

- In terms of process, could it be over 5 years, is there a limit, are there earmarked projects; how does that work?
 - Had a team that met with city under the “Dig Once” program
 - i.e. City needed a street rebuilt or a waterline project, they would come to WEP to see which sewer shed it was in, if it was a viable area
 - Try to partner with city to bundle up projects with something already being done
 - Local community would get the biggest bang
 - Met attainment in all CSO watersheds; program starting to slow down
 - Last major Green Streets project until new program starts up
 - New Collection Systems Program – executed the contract and will come back in next year or two with it
- Will WEP wait for city to come to County?
 - Not necessarily; under new program, WEP will prioritize areas where there is a lot of capacity or issues
 - Will want to partner with city for projects
 - 2-way, yes want to work with city, but also drive things to meet priorities

- How does that translate to “more bang for your buck” or taking a load off the county’s system?
 - Dollars/gallon/treatment – will have to get back to the committee
 - On the total reduction at Metro - will get back to the committee
 - DOT building a new storm sewer system; numbers are orders of magnitude higher than this, so the question at a public meeting was, “What does this mean for Metro, and what kind of capacity is WEP getting back?”
 - Commissioner will get back to committee
- When talking about DOT, is this the I81 Project?
 - Yes
- A lot of it looks like it is in the right-of-way, but then there are private parcels, what is going to happen?
 - Yes, all work is in the right-of-ways
 - Some of the purple shaded area on the map is the watershed; it is delineating what the impervious areas are that are going to contribute to this - trying to figure out how much water will run to it
 - Purple outline is the area where the storm water will drain from into the streets and WEP will capture
 - The large purple area is a parking lot and the line cutting it is the direction of the runoff
 - WEP is not doing work in that area, but will manage water coming from that area
- Are these topographic lines?
 - Yes, some look massive because the drawings of topographic lines are around buildings
- When was the last project done?
 - Salina, which was finished (started during COVID); last major Green Streets
 - There have been smaller ones, but nothing of this magnitude recently
- In terms of a percentage, where is the County at?
- Is the County at a level where it has the capacity to deal with the adverse weather events seen over last several years?
 - Two separate issues
 - Under consent order with state related to combined sewer system
 - WEP obtained capture of rainwater for storm level event (in compliance)
 - Not in compliance with water quality within receiving water bodies
 - WEP working with DEC – where is it coming from, how much is the county contributing to it, and how much is coming in from upstream sources
 - New Program will look at next step, and how to deal with water quality issue

A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Cody, to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

2. ONONDAGA COUNTY WATER REDEVELOPMENT CORPORATION: Cydney Johnson, Deputy County Executive/Physical Services
a. INFORMATIONAL: Amending the 2025 County Budget to Make Funds Available in Support of the Onondaga County Water Redevelopment Corporation (\$20,000,000)

- Connected to LDC which is called (OCWRC)
- Water Redevelopment Corporation in place to handle the Industrial Wastewater Treatment Facility project
- Supports the semiconductor industry being built in northern part of County
- Not about Micron, but an industry and the economic development that goes with it
- 30 day study done on project, and project moving at a quick pace
- This loan will allow project to continue forward with the design/build/operate part of project to start getting people in place and contracts done

Questions/Comments from the Committee

- What is the process for the \$20M, and how is it spent?
 - \$20M is a loan

- 30% DBO (Design/Build/Operate) point of the project
 - Getting design built and RFP out
- Loan gets LDC to critical point (30%)
- At that 30%, LDC will go out to do financing for entire project
- This resolution will be made priority for repayment for this loan

- What is the timeframe for this to go out?
 - Mid/late fall

- Can you explain the mechanics of a cash flow loan
 - Finance:
 - Have done this with OCIDA – loaning money with repayment term on it
 - Do not know the final discussions on how to traunch out the \$20M
 - More to come as they get further down with design

- How long does it take to hear back on getting the loan?
 - County Executive:
 - Loan from County to LDC is used to get to 30% design
 - 30% design will help to identify costs to get industrial up and running
 - At that point, County will negotiate with end users (their agreement) to use that facility
 - The end user agreements collateralizes the LDC to go out to the market and finances
 - In the fall, will have end user agreements in place that will allow LDC to issue the debt
 - Will also allow LDC to repay short-term financing the Legislature is being asked to consider

- Is this related to the industrial treatment facilities?
 - Yes, Industrial Wastewater Park

- Is this strictly going to be used for that, or residential?
 - It is industrial only
 - WEP did work on Oak Orchard, which has been renovatd/expanded to handle Municipal Park

- Is this a closed circuit or will it feed out somewhere?
 - County Executive’s Office:
 - May coexist parallel to each other
 - WEP:
 - Working on details for that
 - LDC and County each have a Program Management team working parallel, also with DEC
 - Will be environmental vetting – where the water goes

Meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Respectfully submitted,

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE
 DATE: JANUARY 14, 2025

Debbie Kaminski

DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk
 Onondaga County Legislature

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
<i>Cydney Johnson</i>	<i>CE</i>
<i>Brian Donnelly</i>	<i>CE</i>
<i>Nancy Zang</i>	<i>ce</i>
<i>Isabelle Harris</i>	<i>CE</i>
<i>Aleann Cain</i>	<i>Syracuse Co</i>
<i>Shanna Hartig</i>	<i>WEP</i>
<i>Kristi Smiley</i>	<i>Firemer</i>
<i>Ethan LaMontagne</i>	<i>leg</i>
<i>John DeSantis</i>	<i>leg</i>
<i>Jim Beebe</i>	<i>leg</i>
<i>Joe Frakeschi</i>	<i>Counsel</i>