

Resolution No. ____ : of 2016

Date: June 23, 2016

Motion:

Second:

Table of Roll Call Votes:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF TOWN OF NEW PALTZ APPLICATION TO NYS DEC'S HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY PROGRAM (HREP) FOR A ROUND 18 LOCAL STEWARDSHIP PLANNING GRANT TO PROVIDE NEW PALTZ STORMWATER VULNERABILITY ASSESMENT

WHEREAS, the 'Wallkill River Watershed Conservation & Management Plan', in discussing watershed issues, particularly challenges to biodiversity, notes that a major impact is degradation of habitat and that few habitats in the watershed are unaffected by the presence of humans, and even remote areas are vulnerable to the effects of global warming;

WHEREAS, the Village and the Town of New Paltz have municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) and both communities are working to comply with the SPDES General Permit for stormwater discharges from MS4s;

WHEREAS, infrastructure vulnerability assessment involves a process of identifying existing stressors facing systems and projecting how climate change will impact and/or introduce new stressors in the future, and applying the findings of vulnerability assessment can be used to assess, prioritize, and address vulnerabilities, and likewise, vulnerability assessment can also be used to identify current and future stressors on ecological resources, particularly the urbanized sub-watershed that overlays New Paltz and the component water resources of the Village and Town;

WHEREAS, Round 18 of the Stewardship Planning Grants of the Hudson River Estuary Program provides for applications that improve flood resiliency and restore habitat;

WHEREAS, the Town of New Paltz is interested in collaborating with the Village of New Paltz and other interested local and regional parties to enhance community resiliency and prepare for the effects of climate change, including by advancing joint participation in the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Climate Smart Community Program, under Element 7 of that Program; and

WHEREAS, Element 7 of the Climate Smart Community Program, in-part, promotes establishing a climate resiliency vision, associated goals, and identifying vulnerabilities to climate change effects on government operations and the community, and one sub-part, or sub-element, of such an effort could involve assessing unique characteristics of this area's urban watersheds, including soils, geology, age and conditions of stormwater infrastructure, and urban development patterns,

gathering watershed-level information to describe uses and threats, including land use and impervious surface cover, and studying how current and future watershed nonpoint source flows as well as pollution conditions and contaminant flows may relate to watershed vulnerability;

WHEREAS, it is contemplated that Walkill River Water Alliance (WRWA) could participate in deliberations on such matters;

WHEREAS, a New Paltz grant already awarded for development of a 'Green Infrastructure Capital Improvements Feasibility Plan' can benefit from vulnerability assessment that helps inform the relative benefits of alternative investments and actions;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the New Paltz Town Board supports a Hudson Round 18 Hudson River Estuary Grant application for the underwriting of a joint 'Stormwater Vulnerability Assessment', likely in the amount of \$50,000, with the required match being derived from in-kind resources, such as the contributions of time by volunteers and the involvement of staff of one or both municipalities;

AND BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the Supervisor, or his designee(s), are hereby authorized and directed to execute and deliver such application, and if awarded to develop, execute and deliver any and all contract documents, with NYSDEC, or any other governmental agency, including, but not limited to, the master contract for the aforementioned grant program, as well as to implement and administer the grant award, subject to review and approval by the Town Attorney.