

Oakland Flood Commission Meeting
Informal Meeting General Notes
Bergen County, Oakland, New Jersey
November 13, 2023

- The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.
- Roll Call
- Lew Levy participated via telephone
- Lauren Venin from Desdner Robin was present at the meeting and reviewed the proposal for the River Restoration.
- Lauren Venin discussed that Dresdner Robin has been involved with the restoration for approximately four years. The current proposal will cover an updated survey, drone flight to view the current condition of the river, grading, topography, and the ground condition. The next step will be for Trout Scapes, subconsultant, to investigate the river condition and present preliminary plans. The goal is to increase habitat, decrease habitat degradation, and decrease erosion of banks. The following step will be a pre application meeting with the DEP to discuss the existing condition and the plan to proceed with the project.
At this time, an updated lampmussel study cannot be conducted with the timeline. Lauren Venin stated that it is up to the DEP as to how to proceed in regards to the mussel habitat.
- Lauren Venin reviewed each page and line item of the proposal. She indicated that Trout Scapes will attend the preliminary meeting with the DEP. Roy Bauberger reviewed the Flood Commission's history with Trout Scapes.
- Bill Wohlford asked what will occur between now and May of 2024. Lauren Venin stated that an aerial survey will be conducted while the leaves are off the trees. This will be conducted between now and February 2024. The information will be provided to Trout Scapes. A pre application meeting will then be held with the DEP. In addition, Bill Wohlford inquired about stocking the river with trout and whether this will impede the work. Lauren Venin stated that this will need to be discussed with the DEP.
- Lew Levy put the proposal to a vote. All were in favor, none opposed. Lew Levy stated that we are moving forward with the project. He asked Councilman Saliani to speak with Richard Kunze regarding steps for a purchase order. Roy Bauberger stated that he will meet with members of the council to fill them in. Lew Levy mentioned comparing the two drone fly-overs to compare the degradation that has occurred. Lauren Venin mentioned that there are noticeable changes. Roy Bauberger stated that he will reference previous CRS meetings in regards to degradation. Oakland can score CRS points with this project.
- Motion was made to approve minutes of the meeting held on September 11, 2023 by Michael Pritchard and seconded by Bill Wohlford. All were in favor.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

In attendance:

Lew Levy-chair-via telephone

Roy Bauberger

Charles DiPalma

Steve Farley

Michael Pritchard

Bill Wolford

Councilman Saliani

Councilman Talamini

Respectfully submitted,

Zulema Sanchez

Recording secretary