

Requesting Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) And New York City Department Of Environmental Protection (DEP) Assistance For The Flood Stricken Communities Of Denning And Shandaken, Ulster County, New York

The Highways & Bridges / Buildings & Grounds / Public Works Administration Committee (Chairman Felicello and Legislators Hathaway, McAfee, Meyer, Stock, Berardi, Donaldson, Provenzano and Zimet) and Legislator Shapiro offer the following:

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Towns of Denning and Shandaken experienced severe flood damage to property and infrastructure as a result of the floods of April 2 – 3, 2005, and

WHEREAS, these areas were declared Federal Disaster Areas by the President of the United States on April 19, 2005, and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA – NRCS) has made funds available through the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP), with the intent of reducing hazards to life and property in watersheds damaged by severe natural events, and

WHEREAS, the USDA – EWP Program requires 25% local match consisting of non-federal funding or in-kind contributions from municipalities that request and qualify for EWP funds, and

WHEREAS, in the Town of Denning, County Road #46 at the confluence of the Rondout and Sundown Creeks and Muddy Brook Road and Fox Hollow Road in the Town of Shandaken, an engineering design has been prepared by the USDA – NRCS, permitting has been attained, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Denning is in the process of contracting with the USDA – NRCS, which will fund 75% of the project under the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, and

WHEREAS, the Town of Denning is in the process of organizing the required 25% local match and is looking for partners to assist them, and

WHEREAS, in the Town of Shandaken at Brown Road, an engineering design is in the process of being prepared and funding is in the process of being organized, with several potential partners having already been approached, and

Resolution No. 243 August 11, 2005

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WHEREAS, the project is strongly supported by local landowners, the Town of Shandaken and New York State Electric and Gas, as well as receiving support from New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, United States Army Corps of Engineers and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), and

WHEREAS, the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) in Margaretville, New York, through their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the New York City DEP has been allowed to reserve 1.2 million dollars for stream corridor restoration and repair projects, and

WHEREAS, funding from the CWC and the New York City DEP Memorandum of Understanding could be applied toward offsetting or fulfilling the 25% required match for EWP funding, thus helping communities of Denning and Shandaken meet financial requirements in their efforts to protect life and property, and

WHEREAS, financial assistance from the CWC and New York City DEP for these particular Emergency Watershed Protection programs is an investment in Denning and Shandaken for building community relations, fostering communication between parties and promoting education and training programs that will help develop an understanding of various concepts, such as fluvial geomorphic principles, and

RESOLVED, that the Ulster County Legislature calls upon the Catskill Watershed Corporation and the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to assist the flood stricken communities of Denning and Shandaken with their 25% match requirements as per the USDA – NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection program by allocating to these towns funds designated for stream corridor restoration and repair, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, United States Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, Assembly Minority Leader Charles Nesbitt, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J.

Resolution No. 243 August 11, 2005

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Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin Cahill, Clifford Crouch, Daniel Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, the National Association of Counties and the New York State Association of Counties, New York City DEP Commissioner Emily Lloyd, New York City DEP Municipal Relations Manager Ira Stern, Catskill Watershed Corporation Board members, Catskill Watershed Corporation Executive Director Alan Rosa and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 27

NOES: 0

(Absent: Legislators Dart, DePew, Felicello, Gerentine and Hathaway)

(Legislator Hyatt left at 8:12 PM)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

NONE

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