

Post-Flood Recovery Building Workshop for the Village of Sodus Point

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New York's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program (2017)

Through funds provided by the
Environmental Protection Fund under the
authority of the New York Ocean and
Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act and
by agreement with New York Sea Grant.



<http://seagrantsunysb.edu/articles/t/new-york-s-great-lakes-basin-small-grants-program-home>

NEW YORK'S GREAT LAKES BASIN:

Interim ACTION AGENDA



Coordinated by
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
Great Lakes Watershed Program

*In partnership with state and federal agencies, municipalities, academic institutions,
non-profits, and community partners throughout NYS's Great Lakes basin*



Andrew M. Cuomo • Governor



Joe Martens • Commissioner

GLAA Goal 7
“Enhance Community
Resiliency and Ecosystem
Integrity through restoration,
protection, and improved
resource management”



<http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/91881.html>

Great Lakes Action Agenda Work Group Meetings



Questions or comments?

Lake Erie & SW Lake Ontario Work Groups:

Shannon Dougherty, greatlakes@dec.ny.gov, 716-851-7070

SE & NE Lake Ontario Work Groups:

Emily Sheridan, greatlakes@dec.ny.gov, 315-785-2382

Sea Grant
New York



Project Team

1. Project Leads:
 - Mary Austerman
 - Jayme Thomann
2. Environment: Ron Thorn, Lindsey Gerstenslager
3. Infrastructure: Kevin Rooney
4. Economic Development/Tourism: Christine Worth
5. Municipal/Community Member: Maxine Appleby
6. Wayne County Planning: Bret DeRoo



Others

Project Leads/Workshop Facilitators

- Mary Austerman and Jayme Thomann will serve as overall facilitators

Keeping Informed:

Shannon Dougherty (NYSDEC)

Rob Breen (NYSDOS)



Project Team Responsibilities

- ✓ About four to six meetings from Summer 2018 through June 2019
- ✓ Help in identifying stakeholders to participate in the community engagement workshop
- ✓ Participation in the workshop
- ✓ Review of the Summary of Findings report



Post-Disaster Recovery

Research has long shown that, in the absence of some larger vision for the future, residents of disaster stricken communities have an operative idea of their rebuilt community—almost invariably it resembles the community they already knew.

*Effective visioning may help expand the **window of opportunity** to marshal support for change after a disaster.*

Following a disaster, look for opportunities to properly plan for and mitigate hazards rather than to quickly rebuild back to “normal.” Such haste only serves to create disasters in the future.

After a disaster, opportunities to create greater resilience are only limited by the imagination of the community!



Figure 1: Water levels of Sodus Bay threaten Shaker Tract Road at Third Creek.

*Remember, the post-disaster **window of opportunity** lasts for a relatively short period of time.*



Figure 3: Sodus Bay encroaches homes on Wickham Boulevard.

Not all hazard mitigation solutions have to be million-dollar solutions. Higher codes and standards, prearranged agreements, and local collaboration are important tools that can be used for hazard mitigation.

Participation of the “Whole Community,” involving all stakeholder groups including underserved populations, is essential to long-term recovery.

Speed of recovery is not always effective in building a more resilient community. Taking the time to do proper deliberate planning is more important. There are some compelling reasons why the vision behind a **post-disaster recovery plan** should take account of the existing community policies in the comprehensive plan. It makes sense to align those policies whenever possible. However, a community stricken by a disaster may well have to venture into new territory not anticipated by its comprehensive plan and then find ways to reconcile that plan and its **recovery vision**, all in a compressed timeframe.



Figure 2: Sodus Bay inundates shoreline properties.

For more information, please contact: Mary E. Austerman, Great Lakes Coastal Community Specialist, New York Sea Grant: mp357@cornell.edu or (315) 331-8415.

Jayne B. Thomann, AICP, CFM, Senior Planner, G/FLRPC: jbreschard@glrpc.org or (585) 454-0190 x12.

Project Goals

1. Define the flooding and erosion event
2. Identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths
3. Develop and prioritize actions for the community and broader stakeholder networks
4. Identify opportunities for the community to advance actions to reduce risks and build resilience



Deliverables

1. Three completed Risk Matrix structures that capture the community's vulnerabilities, strengths, and actions (e.g., infrastructural, environmental, and economic development/tourism)
2. Summary of Findings report, to be presented at a general public meeting
3. An implementation agenda with timelines, possible funding sources, and estimated costs



Timeline

- August 20, 2018 – Establish the Planning Team.
- October 16-18, 2018 – Conduct the Post-Flood Recovery Building Workshop.
- Winter 2019 – Integrate and generate one master Risk Matrix for the community. Distill the principal vulnerabilities and strengths, ownership, and locations and organize the list of actions.
- April 30, 2019 – Convene the Sodus Point Village Board to review the final action list.
- May 31, 2019 – Present draft Summary of Findings report to the Planning Team.
- June 30, 2019 – Finalization of the Summary of Findings report and general public presentation.



Community Engagement Workshop

Community Resilience Building Risk Matrix				www.CommunityResilienceBuilding.com						
H - M - L priority for action over the Short or Long term (and Ongoing) V = Vulnerability S = Strength				Top Priority Hazards (tornado, floods, wildfire, hurricanes, earthquake, drought, sea level rise, heat wave, etc.)						
Features		Location	Ownership	V or S					Priority	Time
									H - M - L	Short Long Ongoing
Infrastructural										
Societal										
Environmental										



<https://www.communityresiliencebuilding.com/>

Community Engagement Workshop Agenda

1. Large group in morning (Introductions, Hazard Characterization)
2. Breakouts (Small groups that will complete a Risk Matrix that captures the community's vulnerabilities, strengths, and actions for each of the three community sectors)
3. Reconvene (Identify highest-priority actions)
4. Next Steps



Stakeholder Exercise

1. Identify remaining stakeholders for workshop:

- 10-12 people per group
- Three groups: infrastructural, environmental, and economic/tourism.

2. Three breakout facilitators needed:

- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Eco. Development/Tourism

3. Three note takers needed



Next Steps

1. Characterize the Hazard: NYSG and G/FLRPC will research and describe the 2017 Lake Ontario flooding and erosion event for presentation to stakeholders at the workshop and document response.
 - *Schedule with the Village: early September*
 - *Possibility of including a local resident testimony/oral history?*
2. Identify Facilitators and Note Takers
3. Stakeholder Invitations
4. Project Team Meeting: Run through the workshop agenda and day of activities
5. Facilitator and Note Taker Meeting



Project Website

PostFloodRecovery - Ge

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🔍 www.gflrpc.org/postfloodrecovery.html

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Post-Flood Recovery Building Workshop for the Village of Sodus Point

Through funds provided by the Environmental Protection Fund under the authority of the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Act and by agreement with New York Sea Grant, G/FLRPC has been awarded funding from the New York's Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program for the Post-Flood Recovery Building Workshop for the Village of Sodus Point.

This community-based stewardship and education activity will document lessons-learned from the high water levels of the spring and summer of 2017 on Lake Ontario for the Village of Sodus Point in Wayne County. The record-high water levels are an indication that extreme weather can become a stressor for communities. As the means and extremes of climate hazards are observed, municipalities are beginning to consider the reduction of future risk into their planning and development goals to ensure that people, property, and infrastructure are not placed or rebuilt in harm's way.

Research has long shown that, in the absence of some larger vision for the future, residents of communities recovering from a hazard event such as severe flooding and erosion have an operative idea of their rebuilt community—almost invariably it resembles the community they already knew. Effective visioning may help expand the window of opportunity to marshal support for change after an event. Opportunities to properly plan for and mitigate both natural and man-made hazards, rather than to quickly rebuild back to "normal," should be explored.

After a hazard event, opportunities to create greater resilience are only limited by the imagination of the community. Speed of recovery is not always effective in building a more resilient community. Taking the time to do proper deliberate planning is more important. The post-event window of opportunity lasts for a relatively short period of time. However, not all recovery solutions have to be million-dollar solutions. Higher codes and standards, prearranged agreements, and local and intermunicipal collaboration are important tools that can be used for recovery planning and preparedness. Participation of the "whole community" involving all stakeholder groups is also essential to long-term recovery.

The first step of the post-hazard planning discourse is visioning. By working through a public engagement process that produces a common vision for the future, accompanied by goals, and with buy-in among the various stakeholders and subgroups within the community, the Village of Sodus Point can better address the key priorities for promoting community resiliency and ecosystem integrity.

G/FLRPC and New York Sea Grant will coordinate a full-day workshop engagement where invited stakeholders can react to the 2017 flood and erosion event; identify past, current, and future challenges and strengths based on three (3) community components (e.g., infrastructural, environmental, and economic/tourism); and develop and prioritize actions to improve the community's resilience to future high water levels on Lake Ontario. A Summary of Findings report with an implementation agenda (e.g., timelines for each action, possible funding sources, and estimated costs) will be developed and later presented at a general public meeting.

The impacts of flooding and shoreline erosion along Lake Ontario may prompt municipalities to better integrate coastal resiliency efforts into local planning and management, such as restoring natural environmental functions through land acquisition and developing policies for reconstruction to a higher building standard. Preparing a public engagement process for the Village of Sodus Point in response to the historically high water levels and severe erosion in Lake Ontario can serve as a model for other communities interested in developing a Great Lakes coastal restoration and resilience strategy with an implementation agenda to assist in identifying funding sources for increased implementation.



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