

RESTORATION PROJECT IDEA FORM
TARRYTOWN
NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE RESTORATION



**Department of
Environmental
Conservation**

Instructions:

Please complete as many sections as possible. All suggestions will be considered. If you need more space, please use additional paper and label appropriate sections. This form is also available online at: www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html.

Send completed forms via email to caryn.bower@dec.ny.gov, or via mail to: Caryn Bower, Esq.
NYSDEC Office of General Counsel
625 Broadway, 14th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-1500

Deadline: Thursday, October 15, 2015

THIS IS NOT A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP).

Trustee consideration or selection of a project idea, in whole or in part, does not imply that the individual or organization suggesting the project will be selected for or otherwise involved in project implementation.

Background:

The former General Motors North Tarrytown Assembly Plant historically discharged wastewater into the Hudson River, contaminating river sediments with pollutants including mercury, lead, copper, zinc and chromium. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has approximately \$880,000 available to fund restoration projects that compensate for these injuries to natural resources.

We invite you to submit your suggestions for restoration projects to restore, rehabilitate, or conserve aquatic habitat and species in the vicinity of the Hudson River's Southern Haverstraw Bay near the villages of Tarrytown and Nyack, New York. Project ideas will be evaluated in accordance with 43 C.F.R. § 11.82(d). Evaluation criteria include: nexus to injured resources (contaminated Hudson River sediments); likelihood of success; basis in best available science; cost effectiveness; ability to produce demonstrable and quantifiable benefits; and compatibility with NYSDEC's resource management goals.

Name of Individual or Organization Suggesting the Project:

Dr. Dorothy M. Peteet

Street Address:

Room 15 Old Geochemistry, LDEO, 61 Route 9W

Email:

peteet@ldeo.columbia.edu

City, State, Zip:

Palisades, NY 10964

Phone:

845-365-8420

Participants: If known, please identify individuals, organizations, or other entities that may be interested in participating in the project.

Riverkeeper and

Project Location and Cost: If you have a specific site in mind, briefly describe its location, including: town/city and county; other identifying landmarks; historic conditions of site; potential cost (if known) and the landowner.

- 1) Pocantico River and its entry into the Hudson...this river needs to be remediated as it is contaminated with heavy metals in the history of the region. The river mouth should be re-instated, and the sediments removed.
- 2) Eel ladders for this river to facilitate increased eel use.
- 3) Protection of Haverstraw Marsh across the river.

Project Description and Objectives: Please describe the suggested project and its objectives. Explain how the project would restore, rehabilitate, or conserve aquatic habitat and species in the vicinity of the Hudson River's Southern Haverstraw Bay near the villages of Tarrytown and Nyack, New York. Please specifically mention any nexus to the injured resources (contaminated Hudson River sediments). If possible, please also provide us with information relating to the following: likelihood of success; basis in best available science; cost effectiveness; ability to produce demonstrable and quantifiable benefits; and compatibility with NYSDEC's resource management goals.

The Pocantico

Actions to date: If known, briefly describe any actions, studies, or funding commitments that have already been initiated for this project or a similar project.

Please use the contact information above if you have any questions.

Thank you very much for your time.

Feasibility of Oyster Restoration on the Hudson River

Name:

Pocantico River Watershed Alliance

Mary Hegarty, Co-Coordinator, [REDACTED], [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] - [REDACTED]

Participants:

Pocantico River Watershed Alliance and its members, including Pace University. Pocantico River Watershed Alliance, a new group in midst of becoming established to address flooding, water quality, and conservation of the Pocantico Watershed. It includes representatives of major landowners, such as Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Westchester County, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Historic Hudson Valley, Pace University, and Villages of Briarcliff and Sleepy Hollow, plus advocates such as Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Riverkeeper, and numerous community activists.

Project Location and Cost:

Hudson River at the mouth of the Pocantico River in the area of Kingsland Point Park in Sleepy Hollow and north

Cost would be approximately \$50-75,000.

Project Description and Objectives:

The project entails the following:

- Collect data and research from DEC, Pace University, Stony Brook University, Hudson River Foundation, Bronx River Alliance, NY/NJ Baykeeper, and others who have studied the possibility of restoring Hudson River oyster populations
- Collect information and lessons learned from Billion Oyster Project in New York Harbor and other local projects undertaken in the East River and Bronx River
- Conduct feasibility study of restoring oyster populations in Hudson River at Kingsland Point Park and north
- Start-up funding to launch Oyster Project to restore oyster populations in Hudson River

Oyster reefs once thrived across thousands of acres of the Hudson River Estuary, providing ecosystem services to the region by filtering water and providing habitat for other fish species. Today, there may be remnant oyster beds in the Hudson River in the area of Kingsland Point Park and north. These populations have been devastated over the years due to overharvesting, dredging and pollution. The absence of oysters has

impaired the Hudson River Estuary's ability to clean the water and absorb excess nitrogen. The loss of oyster reefs has reduced protective habitat, destabilized the riverbed and left the shoreline vulnerable to destructive wave action, especially in times of heavy storms and flooding.

This project seeks to explore the possibility and feasibility of restoring oyster populations in the Hudson River in the area of Sleepy Hollow and north. Restoring oysters can ultimately result in cleaner water and a healthier estuary ecosystem.

The main objective of this project is to conduct a feasibility study to determine the likeliness of success and understand research and data that has already been collected. The feasibility study is cost-effective because it will weigh the costs and benefits of investing in restoration efforts. If deemed appropriate, this project could include initial funds to start a new restoration project. As the Billion Oyster Project has demonstrated, oysters represent a charismatic species that can eventually be used as a connection to schools, the public and river education programs. Volunteers and schools can eventually become involved, thus increasing the potential to raise greater public awareness about oysters and their connection to the health of the Hudson River Estuary.

This project is directly in line with the Hudson River Estuary Program's Action Agenda, focusing on the benefits of clean water, vital estuary ecosystem and estuary fish. Specifically, as stated in the Action Agenda, this project is in line with the target to "reestablish oyster populations where feasible for the ecological benefits they provide."

Actions to date:

Pace University, Stony Brook University, DEC and others have both conducted research on the remnant oyster populations at Kingsland Point Park. This project will build on these efforts and include all prior data and research in the proposed feasibility study.

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Name of Individual or Organization Suggesting the Project: HISTORIC HUDSON VALLEY

Street Address: 639 BEDFORD ROAD

Email: ebevilacqua@hudsonvalley.org

City, State, Zip: Pocantico Hills, NY 10591

Phone: 914-366-6954

Participants: If known, please identify individuals, organizations, or other entities that may be interested in participating in the project. please see attached sheet

Project Location and Cost: If you have a specific site in mind, briefly describe its location, including: town/city and county; other identifying landmarks; historic conditions of site; potential cost (if known) and the landowner.

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Project Description and Objectives: Please describe the suggested project and its objectives. Explain how the project would restore, rehabilitate, or conserve aquatic habitat and species in the vicinity of the Hudson River's Southern Haverstraw Bay near the villages of Tarrytown and Nyack, New York. Please specifically mention any nexus to the injured resources (contaminated Hudson River sediments). If possible, please also provide us with information relating to the following: likelihood of success; basis in best available science; cost effectiveness; ability to produce demonstrable and quantifiable benefits; and compatibility with NYSDEC's resource management goals.

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Actions to date: If known, briefly describe any actions, studies, or funding commitments that have already been initiated for this project or a similar project.

please see attached sheet

Please use the contact information above if you have any questions.

Thank you very much for your time.

**Historic Hudson Valley
DEC / Restoration Project Idea Form**

The former General Motors North Tarrytown Assembly Plant historically discharged wastewater into the Hudson River, contaminating river sediments with pollutants including mercury, lead, copper, zinc and chromium. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has approximately \$880,000 available to fund restoration projects that compensate for these injuries to natural resources.

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Organization Information:

Historic Hudson Valley
639 Bedford Road
Pocantico Hills, NY 10591
Contact: Liz Bevilacqua
Email: ebevilacqua@hudsonvalley.org
Phone: 914-366-6954

Participants: If known, please identify individuals, organizations, or other entities that may be interested in participating in the project.

Historic Hudson Valley (HHV) is part of a coalition of organizations and community members who meet regularly to advance common interests in the Pocantico River. This project is a major interest of the group, which includes the Village of Sleepy Hollow, the towns of Briarcliff Manor and Mount Pleasant, Westchester County, Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Riverkeeper, Pace University, and Hudson Watershed, among others.

Edge-on-Hudson, developer of the former General Motors Assembly Plant site adjacent to North Tarrytown, who has submitted an idea form for restoration of the lower Pocantico River, also has interest in this project.

Project Location and Cost: If you have a specific site in mind, briefly describe its location, including: town/city and county; other identifying landmarks; historic conditions of site; potential cost (if known) and the landowner

Philipsburg Manor is a 26-acre National Historic Landmark site that attracts 90,000 visitors annually for tours, events, and school programs. The property is owned and maintained by Historic Hudson Valley and encompasses an 18th-century manor house and mill along with other historic structures. It serves as the *de facto* center of heritage tourism in the lower Hudson Valley and makes a major contribution to the regional economy. The project site is located at the first dam, the head of tide, on the Pocantico River within the Philipsburg Manor property in the Village of Sleepy Hollow, Westchester County.

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. has provided an initial cost estimate, totaling approximately \$25,000, for engineering and construction of an upstream fish passage system (eel ladder) for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) at the first dam on the Pocantico River. This is more expensive than the average fish passage system due to the use of special materials that respect the historical integrity of the site. Because the fish passage system will be part of a National Historic Landmark site, improvements will need to be approved by the New York State Historic Preservation Office.

Please describe the suggested project and its objectives. Explain how the project would restore, rehabilitate, or conserve aquatic habitat and species in the vicinity of the Hudson River's Southern Haverstraw Bay near the villages of Tarrytown and Nyack, New York. Please specifically mention any nexus to the injured resources (contaminated Hudson River sediments). If possible, please also provide us with information relating to the following: likelihood of success; basis in best available science; cost effectiveness; ability to produce demonstrable and quantifiable benefits; and compatibility with NYSDEC's resource management goals.

The project encompasses the design and construction of an upstream fish passage system (eel ladder) for American eel (*Anguilla rostrata*) at the first dam, the head of tide, on the Pocantico River at Philipsburg Manor. This dam has been documented as a barrier to the American eel population.

We propose to incorporate the eel ladder into the existing shovel-ready project to restore the bridge and wharf at Philipsburg Manor. The planning phase of the bridge and wharf restoration is nearly complete. It is a \$2.7 million project supported by the New York State Department of Transportation with matching support from private donors and construction to begin in Spring 2016.

We are proposing to take advantage of the opportunity presented by the bridge and wharf rehabilitation to use NYSDEC funds to incorporate the eel ladder into the project. The eel ladder is an add alternate, not in the original budget.

Daniel Miller, DEC Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program/NEIWPC, has discussed feasibility of the proposed project with Historic Hudson Valley's Director of Buildings and Grounds, Brian Blaney. Mr. Miller visited the site and performed an evaluation of the location on June 24, 2015.

Fish biologist Bob Schmidt, in a 1996 report, identified the dam on the Philipsburg Manor site as a priority barrier to fish passage and named this dam one of the top five priority sites in tributaries to the Hudson River.

The eel ladder would provide upstream passage for juvenile eels to the 3.5 miles of the upper Pocantico River and to Pocantico Lake. The project also includes a holding tank for counting and sorting eels and other aquatic bycatch, enabling study of the species as well as any other species that are detained in the holding tank. The tank will make it possible to analyze the eels making the passage and allow for DEC trained volunteers to collect data that can be submitted to the DEC for tracking the resource. It also allows for control and prevention of invasive species in the Pocantico River, and facilitates NYSDEC in its resource management goals as the eels will be available for research, testing, and release.

In support of the DEC's resource management goals and the Hudson River Estuary Action Agenda 2015-2020, this project benefits vital estuary ecosystems as well as estuary fish, wildlife, and habitats.

In alignment with the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Plan set forth by the DEC, this project targets one of the four priority habitats: tributary habitats. It also satisfies two of the restoration actions: promote and implement fish passage; and implement programs to control and prevent introduction of invasive plant and animal species.

The construction of an eel ladder will aid young eels in their migration upriver and help to restore the population of this native species in the Pocantico River. It will also contribute to sustaining a healthy and thriving ecosystem of which eels are an integral part. According to the American Eel Sustainability Association, eels are a top-order predator in freshwater streams and help regulate the population of other animals. They are a significant source of food for fish, mammals, turtles, and birds. They can also be used as an indicator for pollution since they are long-lived, up to 15 years, and often spend their time in the same ecosystem.

Additionally, Philipsburg Manor hosts school programs for some 12,000 K-12 students every year, making this project a tremendous educational opportunity for New York State school children.

Actions to date: If known, briefly describe any actions, studies, or funding commitments that have already been initiated for this project or a similar project.

Brian Blaney, Director of Buildings and Grounds at Historic Hudson Valley, met with Daniel Miller, DEC Habitat Restoration Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program/NEIWPC, on June 24, 2015 to discuss and evaluate the project.

In a 1996 report, fish biologist Bob Schmidt identified the dam on the Philipsburg Manor site as a priority barrier to fish passage and named it one of the top five priority sites in tributaries to the Hudson River.

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. has performed an evaluation and provided a project cost estimate for engineering and construction totaling approximately \$25,000.

The design of the eel passage system will be incorporated into the existing \$2.7 million capital project to restore the bridge and wharf at Philipsburg Manor. Project construction will begin in Spring 2016. Historic Hudson Valley has secured \$1.9 million from the NYSDOT and \$800,000 from private sources including the Gerry Charitable Trust, Con Edison, and individual donors. Stantec Consulting Services is currently completing final drawings for the bridge and wharf restoration and will incorporate the eel passage system into those drawings.

The bridge and wharf restoration project is being progressed as a Class II categorical exclusion under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and a Type II project under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR). The Municipality will grant or obtain design approval from or through the NYS Department of Transportation.

Permits obtained:

NYS Dept. of State Federal Consistency Assessment 7/1/14

NYS OPRHP Div HP 9/3/14

NYS DEC Art 15 Protection of Waters Permit & Sec. 401 Water Qual Cert 10/20/14

VSH Plan Board Prelim Site Plan Approval 11/6/14

FHWA Sec 106 Consult 3/6/15

US ACE Sec 404 Permit 3 Maint. Existing Structures 3/15/15

Village of Sleepy Hollow Planning Board Final Approval: 10/31/15

Village of Sleepy Hollow Building Dept. Final Approval: 10/31/15

NYS DOT Final Design Approval: 11/15/15

Restoration Project Idea Form – Tarrytown

Ideas for use of GM Settlement Funds

Contact: Susan Antenen, Manager
Rockefeller State Park Preserve
125 Phelps Way
Pleasantville, NY 10570
914-215-0582
Susan.antenen@parks.ny.gov

Potential Participants: Pocantico River Watershed Alliance, a new group in midst of becoming established to address flooding, water quality, and conservation of the Pocantico Watershed. It includes representatives of major landowners, such as Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Westchester County, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Historic Hudson Valley, Pace University, and Villages of Briarcliff and Sleepy Hollow, plus advocates such as Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Riverkeeper, and numerous community activists.

Project: Restore connectivity for American Eel passage up the Pocantico River

Project Location and Cost:

Project: Restore riverine connectivity for the American eel on the Lower Pocantico River in Sleepy Hollow, NY, Westchester County in western Haverstraw Bay. Primary properties involved:

- A. Historic Hudson Valley which owns Phillipsburg Manor and historic dam
- B. Westchester County which owns the newly reconstructed Pocantico Lake dam

Potential cost: Unknown. Main cost is the construction materials.

Project Description and Objectives:

The project includes:

- Installing an eel ladder at Phillipsburg Manor dam as part of historic dam bridge reconstruction
- Installing an eel ladder at Pocantico Lake dam
- Training and organizing volunteers to monitor the ladders and seasonally move eels, as needed

How project restores, rehabs or conserves aquatic habitat and species: Eel passage would be facilitated for ___ miles of river for the first time since late 1700s, when Phillipsburg Manor built the first dam. Connectivity would extend for the eels from the river's mouth upstream through Kingsland Point Park, DeVries Park, Phillipsburg Manor, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery and Rockefeller State Park Preserve to Pocantico Lake. Eel could move further upstream from the dam, but we expect they would choose to stay in Pocantico Lake.

Nexus with injured resources: Indirect nexus.

Likelihood of success: Very high. Glass eels were documented in the river's mouth by Pace University student (MA thesis). Some eels make it upstream, as there is a low density of eels in the Pocantico River (Bob Schmidt electro-shock survey, Rockefeller Preserve, 2015). There is more habitat available, but it is sparsely occupied. Historic Hudson Valley has verbally committed to incorporating the electricity for water flow and eel ladder into their reconstruction of the pedestrian bridge which runs above the historic dam. Westchester County has not yet been approached with this idea.

Basis in science: Eel ladders to restore riverine connectivity have proven to be successful in the Hudson Valley and elsewhere.

Cost effectiveness: Very good. Eel do not require expensive or elaborate fish ladders. A simple "ladder", comprised of pvc pipe with ladder and running water, has been designed and successfully utilized by NYSDEC in other tributaries.

Ability to produce demonstrable and quantifiable benefits: Volunteers would monitor and document eels that make it up the ladders into the buckets. Subsequent electro-shock monitoring could provide informal comparison of before and after level of effort, size and number of eels.

Compatibility with DEC's resource management goals: this project directly implements one of the DEC's natural resource restoration priorities -- Promote and implement fish passage in tributaries to the Hudson.

Actions to date:

Actions, studies, funding commitments: Dan Miller, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program, has met with Brian Blaney of Historic Hudson Valley to discuss the ladder and the NYSDEC's design has been given to the contractor who is rebuilding the pedestrian bridge over the dam (2015). A core of volunteers has expressed commitment to helping manage the ladder.

Restoration Project Idea Form – Tarrytown

Ideas for use of GM Settlement Funds

Contact: Susan Antenen, Manager
Rockefeller State Park Preserve
125 Phelps Way
Pleasantville, NY 10570
914-215-0582
Susan.antenen@parks.ny.gov

Potential Participants: Pocantico River Watershed Alliance, a new group in midst of becoming established to address flooding, water quality, and conservation of the Pocantico Watershed. It includes representatives of major landowners, such as Rockefeller State Park Preserve, Westchester County, Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, Historic Hudson Valley, Pace University, and Villages of Briarcliff and Sleepy Hollow, plus advocates such as Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Riverkeeper, and numerous community activists.

Project: Conservation and restoration of tidal reach of the Pocantico River

Project Location and Cost:

Project: Contract a technical team to work with landowners to design an integrated set of conservation and restoration treatments for the tidal Pocantico River that addresses habitat conservation and restoration, flooding, sea level rise, and (potential leaching of toxins from the GM brownfield?). This conservation project encompasses about 1/2 mile of tidal river in Sleepy Hollow, NY, Westchester County, from the Phillipsburg Manor dam downstream to where the river empties into the western Haverstraw Bay at the north end of Kingsland Point Park. Properties involved:

- A. Historic Hudson Valley which owns Phillipsburg Manor and the dam
- B. Village of Sleepy Hollow which owns DeVries Park and shoreline natural area
- C. Sleepy Hollow Development Corporation which owns the east parcel of the GM property
- D. Westchester County which owns Kingsland County Park

Potential cost: Cost would include engineer and ecologist consultants plus

Project Description and Objectives:

The funds would be used to contract team of engineer with expertise in Sustainable Shorelines and estuarine ecologist to design and recommend an integrated set of site-specific sustainable shoreline treatments to guide how the landowners manage the river corridor.

Document and map in-stream and shoreline habitats

Determine strategies for conserving and restoring in-stream, shoreline and wetland habitats, such as the native Submerged Aquatic Vegetation beds (*Vallisneria americana*) and coastal sedges and wildflowers along the edge

Recommend and design site-specific treatments for sustainable shoreline restoration

Develop recommendations and plans for reducing impacts of floods and managing flood waters, including issues related to flooding/control erosion of DeVries Park. The solution that's been mentioned is to dredge the mid-channel sandbar and build a wall at river's edge to protect the ballfields from flooding.

Help Historic Hudson Valley design a "green" parking lot for Phillipsburg Manor. As part of the development of the GM parcel, a __ acre parcel of land along the Pocantico will be donated to Historic Hudson Valley, which intends to build a new "overflow" parking lot for Phillipsburg Manor. There are 30 events per year which require additional parking. It is our understanding that this parcel is not clean enough for farming purposes. The current parking lot could possibly become farm area or natural area for Phillipsburg Manor. Between the current lot and the river channel is a large tangle of porcelainberry vine.

This project would provide the NYS agencies, Village of Sleepy Hollow, and local residents with a set of specifics and standards to promote during the planning phase of these projects.

How project restores, rehabs or conserves aquatic habitat and species: The goal is provide technical expertise to the landowners so that they manage the shoreline in ways that create ecological benefits instead of simply dredging the sand bar and bulkheading the shore., such as transitional nursery and feeding habitat for estuarine plants, fish, birds, invertebrates, and other wildlife.

Nexus with injured resources: While this does not directly mitigate contaminated sediments, it has potential of conserving and improving nearby benthic and shoreline habitats.

Likelihood of success: There are some engineers who have worked with the Hudson River Sustainable Shoreline Project who have the essential expertise so hiring the consultant engineer and estuarine ecologist to develop a site-specific plan is relatively easy. Success of getting the technical recommendations incorporated into site planning and landowners is possible, but not guaranteed. It will take advocacy from NYSDEC and local citizens.

Basis in science: There is ample scientific evidence that a more physically diverse and "soft" shoreline encourages ecological diversity. See www.hrnerr.org/hudson-river-sustainable-shorelines. This project would help landowners understand their issues and options for applying the best available science to when they plan their land and shoreline management activities.

Cost effectiveness: The comparatively modest cost of the consultant engineer and ecologist has the potential of leveraging public and private land management investments.

Ability to produce demonstrable and quantifiable benefits: Volunteers would gather information and photo-document before and after habitat and biodiversity.

Compatibility with DEC's resource management goals: This technical assistance and planning project would ultimately lead to (a) implementation of side channel habitat restoration, including tidal wetlands, vegetated shallow waters, back waters and intertidal habitats; (b) preservation of existing estuary habitat, including protection of buffer lands that will be inundated in the future as sea level continues to rise; (c) promote and implement use of ecologically enhanced shoreline structures if shoreline stabilization is planned to protect DeVries Park and Phillipsburg Manor's parking lot/property. A goal of this project is advance the recommendations and goals of the Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines Project.

Actions to date:

Actions, studies, funding commitments: SunCal has (deeded?) the east parcel to the Sleepy Hollow Development Corporation, which has made commitment to convey a portion of the east GM parcel to Historic Hudson Valley for the development of a "green" parking lot.

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Project: Restoration Plan for hardened shoreline of Kingsland County Park and “Edge of Hudson”

Project Location and Cost:

Project: Restoration of $\frac{3}{4}$ mile of hardened shoreline of two contiguous properties immediately south of the mouth of the Pocantico River and adjoining the former GM site along the eastern bank of Haverstraw Bay. The lighthouse is one of the landmarks

- A. Shoreline of Kingsland County Park in Sleepy Hollow, NY, Westchester County. Owner is Westchester County.
- B. Shoreline of “Edge on Hudson”, the housing complex being planned by SunCal to redevelop the GM site. Owner is SunCal.

Potential cost: Cost would include engineer consultant.

Project Description and Objectives:

The funds would be used to contract an engineer with expertise in Sustainable Shorelines to design and recommend site-specific sustainable shoreline treatments to influence how Westchester County rebuilds the shoreline of Kingsland Point County Park and “Edge on Hudson” treats its shoreline bulkhead. Westchester County Parks is going to rebuild the failing Kingsland Park walls and bulkhead along the edge of the Hudson River. Having a Sustainable Shoreline design will give the NYS agencies, Village of Sleepy Hollow, and local residents a set of specifics and standards to promote during the planning phase of these projects.

Restoration Plan for hardened shoreline of Kingsland County Park and “Edge of Hudson”

Without site-specific recommendations, it’s highly probable that the result will be another vertical bulkhead or rock wall and shoreline a “softening” opportunity will be lost. Without additional technical expertise and advocacy, County Parks planner admits that they intend to replace what’s there –low stone wall plus a long vertical bulkhead---“as is” without any sustainable shoreline features. It’s unknown at this time what SunCal plans for its shoreline, which is currently a bulkhead.

How project restores, rehabs or conserves aquatic habitat and species: The goal is provide technical expertise to the County so that they reconstruct the shoreline in ways that create ecological benefits. A “softer” shoreline will create transitional nursery and feeding habitat for estuarine plants, fish, birds, invertebrates, and other wildlife and reduce wave reflection and bottom scouring.

Nexus with injured resources: While this does not directly address contaminated sediments, it will create new shallow water benthic and shoreline habitat.

Likelihood of success: There are some engineers who have worked with the Hudson River Sustainable Shoreline Project who have the essential expertise so hiring the consultant engineer to develop a site-specific plan is relatively easy. Success of getting the technical recommendations incorporated into the County and “Edge of Hudson” plans and budgets is possible, but not guaranteed. It will take advocacy from NYSDEC, the Village of Sleepy Hollow, and local citizens.

Basis in science: There is ample scientific evidence that a more physically diverse shoreline encourages ecological diversity. See www.hrnerr.org/hudson-river-sustainable-shorelines.

Cost effectiveness: The comparatively modest cost of the consultant engineer has the potential of leveraging considerable design and construction investments by Westchester County and “Edge of Hudson”.

Ability to produce demonstrable and quantifiable benefits: This is a highly visible shoreline of a very popular local park and very high profile new development. It has wider strategic value as an example for the Hudson Valley. Volunteers would gather information and photo-document before and after habitat and biodiversity.

Compatibility with DEC’s resource management goals: A “softened” shoreline will restore shallow water, shoreline, and intertidal habitats. It will promote and implement use of ecologically- enhanced shoreline structures where shoreline stabilization is required to protect property, infrastructure or other economic assets. The goal of this project is advance the recommendations of the Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines Project.

Actions to date:

Actions, studies, funding commitments: Westchester County Parks has proposed a \$370k allocation for design of reconstruction of the. County Executive and Board approval is still needed. \$6.2M bond is planned.

Restoration Plan for hardened shoreline of Kingsland County Park and “Edge of Hudson”

The Hudson River Sustainable Shorelines Project has already collected hydrologic and bottom data for this specific area.



Ms. Caryn Bower, Esq.
NYSDEC Office of General Counsel
625 Broadway, 14th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-1500

Dear Ms. Bower;

I am writing in response to the Restoration Project Idea request on behalf of Lighthouse Landing Venture LLC. We are the developer of the former General Motors Assembly Plant, and would like to propose a restoration and habitat conservation project that is appropriate for construction using the funds available from the Natural Resource Compensation Fund. We believe that the proposed project meets or exceeds all of the desired criteria for such funding, and believe further that it will constitute a tremendous benefit to the surrounding communities by enhancing the connectivity between such important recreational amenities as the Old Croton Aqueduct trail, the Rockefeller State Preserve and the Westchester County Riverwalk.

Rather than attempt to fill in a printed form by hand, I have addressed all of the items and questions as asked in the Restoration Project Idea Form below:

Potential Project Participants:

Additional parties that might be interested in participating in the Project include:

- The Village of Sleepy Hollow
- The Village of Sleepy Hollow Local Development Corporation
- Scenic Hudson
- Historic Hudson Valley
- The Rockefeller State Preserve



Proposed project location: The Lower Pocantico



Project background:

The lower Pocantico River was rerouted in the 1920s by General Motors to accommodate an expansion of its assembly plant. Since that time, in spite of the existing dam at the upstream end of this reach of river, it has experienced bank erosion and silt deposits that have rendered the river too shallow, and at times dry, to support a strong plant ecosystem and has become all but impassable for migrating aquatic species.

As a result of the siltation and bank erosion that has occurred over the past century, the portion of the General Motors assembly plant known today as the East Parcel and currently owned by the Village of Sleepy Hollow Local Development Corporation (the Village) is subject to flooding during rain events.

The Phillipsburg Manor Historic site has recently begun work on a project immediately upstream of the Project area to rehabilitate the dam and restore migratory access by incorporating an eel ladder into the restoration. Further upstream, representatives from the Rockefeller State Preserve have also expressed

EDGE-ON-HUDSON
A New View On The River

interest in restoring aquatic migratory access to the portion of the Pocantico that runs through the Preserve and encouraging the reintroduction of eels into the river.

Proposed Project

1. Dredge the lower reaches of the river to restore eel grass and other habitat to create tidal wetlands, backwaters and intertidal habitat to encourage the reestablishment of aquatic species and migration along this reach of the river and specifically to enable eels to reach the eel ladder at the upstream dam.
2. With the use of ecologically enhanced shoreline structures, stabilize the southern shoreline to protect the Village property from flooding.
3. Remove invasive species from the banks of the river and construct a multi use trail along the north bank of the river to connect the Riverwalk trail to the Phillipsburg Manor Historical site and enable a future connection across Route 9 into the Rockefeller State Preserve.

Project Cost

Without preliminary engineering and biology investigation and design it is difficult to estimate a precise budget, although the general scope of the proposed project seems appropriate for a budget of \$880,000. In addition, the fact that the fine is considered private funds would potentially make the Project eligible for applying to the State of New York for a matching funds grant, possibly increasing the available project budget by as much as 50%.

Thank you for your consideration of this suggestion for restoring and improving the Lower Pocantico . Please do not hesitate to contact me at 909 528 2288 should you have any questions.

Sincerely

Edge on Hudson



Peter K Johnson
Corporate Vice President
National Director of Land Development

EDGE-ON-HUDSON
A New View On The River

Restoration of free flow conditions between Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook in Ossining, NY and elimination of the first barrier to fish migration upstream.

Grant Opportunity ID: DEC01-HRE-2015

2015 Hudson River Grants for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency

Department of Environmental Conservation

DEC Contact Lorie King, Lorie.King@dec.ny.gov

Submitted by:

Gareth Hougham, Ph.D.

Hudson Valley Arts and Science, Inc. (HVAS)



Summary:

A feasibility study would be carried out regarding the restoration of the now separate Sparta Brook and Kemeys* Cove water bodies to a single ecologically enriched shallow tidal cove more suitable for spawning and migration by diadromous fish such as River Herring and the American Eel. This would be accomplished by re-establishing free water passage between them. The study would also investigate the barriers to upstream migration in the Sparta Brook.

In addition to the feasibility study, which is the primary objective of this proposal, the first barrier to fish migration on Sparta Brook will be physically retrofitted to allow fish passage and a community cleanup effort for Kemeys Cove will also be conducted.

Introduction:

Sparta Brook is a small freshwater stream that runs from the hills in Briarcliff Manor, NY, through the Village of Ossining to the Hudson River. It empties to the Hudson through a railroad underpass and has just 50 meters of tidal inlet before turning purely fresh upstream.

Kemeys Cove is a 10.5 acre tidal inlet with no freshwater input. It is connected to the Hudson River via a railroad underpass which allows tidal movement. Historically, before the Metro North railroad was built, Sparta Brook emptied directly into Kemeys Cove and the combined waterbody was likely an important spawning ground given its wide and shallow nature with a salinity gradient resulting from the freshwater infusion. It is now a neglected flotsam garbage-

collecting area of presumed marginal ecological value. See figures 1 and 6-10, and 17-18 existing conditions.

This document proposes reestablishing a connection between the two waterbodies in order to enhance the ecological, aesthetic and civic value of the cove. It also proposes other activities striving to enhance the fecundity of this tidal shallows/freshwater stream system including removal of the first upstream barrier to fish migration and planting of native marsh plants.

*Official spelling of Kemeys Cove is without an apostrophe.

Proposal Components:

- 1) An ecological survey of the two water bodies in their existing conditions. The purpose of this is to establish baselines for comparison after the restoration. Follow up studies in subsequent years, under separate funding, would carefully document the ecological succession.
 - a. Fish survey during spring of 2016 to determine presence of River Herring, American Eel and other diadromous fish in Kemeys Cove, Sparta Brook tidal inlet and Sing Sing Kill tidal inlet.
 - b. Vegetation surveys in aquatic and terrestrial zones.
 - c. Bird survey.
 - d. Water Quality measurements including DO₂, turbidity, conductivity, E. coli and enterococcus, nitrogen, phosphorous and temperature.
- 2) Physical topographical survey of area between Sparta Brook and Kemeys cove.
- 3) Benthic survey of depth in Kemeys Cove relative to an established sea level datum.
- 4) Engineering firm to be contracted to design the water channel, land moving logistics and native marsh plant plantings.
- 5) Engineering firm to be hired to do soil borings to confirm continuous path availability through low lying fill.
- 6) Locating and characterization of barriers to fish migration upstream in Sparta Brook.
- 7) Construction to modify the first barrier to fish migration.
- 8) Historical description of both waterbodies supported by historical maps and land surveys.
- 9) A table with contact information for all known stakeholders and interested parties. Including adjacent property owners and links to PDF's of their deeds and available plat and lot surveys. Also including Town and Village of Ossining and Briarcliff land use authorities, neighborhood organizations and Metro North representatives.
- 10) Design, printing and mounting of engaging signage concerning the waterbody, its wildlife and history.
- 11) Organizing and carrying out a cleanup of the Kemeys Cove with community volunteers.
- 12) The possibility of adding one or more small docks for kayak and rowboat launching would also be assessed.

Feasibility Study and Baseline Ecology:

The proposed work would constitute a combination of a feasibility study for ecological restoration of an historic waterbody and characterization of existing conditions. Requested funding would support hiring of wildlife, water, planning, surveying and graphic design professionals in addition to administration and support staff.

Deliverables would include a report documenting all findings and would constitute both a statement of feasibility and of probable ecological benefit regarding increasing the Kemeys cove suitability for diadromous fish spawning. Should the findings support pursuing the restoration after this one year study, this report could be used as supporting documentation for further grant proposals, permitting, SEQRA studies, and related applications.

Re-opening a Channel between Sparta Brook and Kemeys Cove:

Currently, between the two water bodies is a landfill bridge from the 1860's timeframe. See figures 1, 2 and 6-10. This reaches an apparent height of 1-3 feet above mean sea level. A connection could be made by digging a 215 foot channel for the Sparta Brook to reach Kemeys Cove. This would require relocation of approximately 360 cubic yards of earth. Figure 3 illustrates water flow after opening a connection.

Such a reorientation of the Sparta Brook outflow would make the entire cove available for spawning or upstream migration of diadromous fish such as River Herring, American Eel as well as others.

An environmental engineering firm would be contracted to design the channel and transition zones. Soil borings may be necessary to ideally locate the channel while avoiding bedrock which slopes into the landfill from the east side of the landfill bridge in one area.

Planting of Native Marsh plants:

The engineering firm will also be contracted to design a replanting of native marshland vegetation in disturbed zones. And also possibly extending this to a broader area to replace invasive phragmites which dominate the landfill zone.

Barriers to Fish Migration:

Elimination of barriers to fish movement upstream in Hudson River tributaries is one of the most promising approaches to restoration of the Hudson River estuary. This proposal would:

1. Locate and characterize all potential barriers along Sparta Brook.
2. Physically retrofit the first identified barrier to migration to make it passable by the American Eel and other diadromous fish.

Barrier Characterization: include locating, photographing and characterizing all potential barriers along Sparta Brook according to criteria established by Michelle Brown and Craig Cheeseman of The Nature Conservancy¹ in "Identification of Biologically Important Barriers in the Hudson River Estuary"

Some diadromous fish, such as the American Eel, migrate up freshwater tributaries. Declines in eel populations are thought to be due in part to the increasing number of barriers to migration that accompany housing development. Such barriers include dams and culverts under roads

which improperly empty above streambed level. Dams have proliferated on small streams with the development of ponds in subdivision and condominium developments.

Preliminary stream walk observations in Sparta Brook show that the first major road crossing culvert is likely not a barrier. See figure 11 (identified as the first potential barrier). The second road crossing, about 1 stream-mile inland, has the stream entering and exiting the culvert at the streambed level but has a waterfall-like barrier about 20 feet within the culvert. See Figures 12 and 13 identified in photo as the second potential barrier, but is the first real barrier. The third road crossing, see figure 14 comprises two large corrugated pipes which empty at just a few inches above streambed level.

Physical retrofitting of first barrier to migration: The first real barrier, shown in figure 12 and 13 (again, identified as the second potential barrier) will be physically altered to allow easy upstream fish migration. This barrier consists of an approximately one-foot high step waterfall located approximately 20 feet inside a route 9 road underpass. It is at the approximate GPS location Latitude 41.145637 Longitude -73.860981. Retrofitting would require only three cubic yards of concrete to be poured and shaped into a roughly six foot long wedge bridging the vertical gap of the step. This wedge will likely also be slightly tapered from both sides to allow somewhat deeper water in center. The exact shape is to be designed under advice from fish passage authorities. This could be accomplished before the end of 2015, allowing migrating fish passage in the spring of 2016.

Major Stakeholders:

Any proposed studies or physical work would require the permission, interest and involvement of all landowners and municipalities. Figure 16 identifies land owners and municipal boundaries. Meetings would be conducted in the community to give all stakeholders time to discuss, shape, support or reject the concept. The Town and Village municipalities have indicated their support of this proposal in writing. See endorsements file.

- 1) Kemeys Cove Condominiums.
- 2) Village of Ossining. The northern end of Kemeys Cove is within the Village.
- 3) Town of Ossining. The southern half is owned by the Town of Ossining, including access from the east shore.
- 4) Metro North Railroad: Adjacent to Kemeys Cove.

Aesthetic and Civil amenity improvements:

- 1) **Kayak docks:** The possibility of adding one or more small docks for kayak, canoe and rowboat launching would also be assessed. Either at the southern end, location as shown in Figure 4 or on the eastern extreme which would require a shorter dock to accommodate low tide. See Figure 5 showing a low tide condition. Further, Kemeys Cove may wish to provide a dock on the northern extreme for the private use of their residents. Such docks bring people to the water² and give them a tangible connection to it that they cannot otherwise have. The Kemeys Cove after restoration would be a much cleaner waterbody that people would want to experience up close. Such docks would be an asset to the condominium and the neighborhood alike.
- 2) **Public Signage:** Engaging artistic signage would further enhance the public's interaction and appreciation of Hudson River shallow tidal zones. Proposed signage would include results of the fish and other wildlife surveys, as well as historic maps, images, historical and oral historical information. See figures 15 and 16 showing examples of signage produced by Hudson Valley Arts and Science from previous projects.
- 3) **Kemeys Cove cleanup days:** A community cleanup of the Kemeys Cove out to the low tide line will be organized and carried out. This will provide a way to actively engage different stakeholder groups and to give them an opportunity to build a sense of community centered on the cove and the Hudson River shoreline. This could take place on one or two days, possibly coinciding with earth day celebrations and the annual municipal "stash the trash day".

Table 1: Participant and supporter contact information

Name	Role	Address	Phone	Email
Professor John Walman, Ph.D.	Fisheries Biologist to carry out fish survey.	Office NSB 320 Queens College 65-30 Kissena Boulevard Queens, New York 11367	718-997-3603	John.Waldman@qc.cuny.edu
Erik Kiviat, Ph.D., Executive director of Hudsonia.	Wildlife biologist to carry out vegetation and bird survey	P.O. Box 5000 / 30 Campus Road, Annandale NY 12504	845-758-7273	kiviat@bard.edu
Susanne Donnelly, Town of Ossining Supervisor	Municipal contact Town of Ossining	16 Croton Avenue, 1st Floor Ossining, NY 10562	914-762-6001	SDonnelly@townofossining.com
Victoria Gearity, Mayor, Village of Ossining.	Municipal contact Village of Ossining	16 Croton Avenue Ossining, NY 10562	914-941-3554	Gearity@villageofossining.org
Catherine Borgia, Majority Leader, 9th	Westchester Cnty. Legislator	800 Michaelian Bldg. 148 Martine Ave. White Plains, 10601	914-995-2812	Borgia@westchesterlegislature.com
Doug Turshen	Sparta Community and Historic Jug Tavern Society Board Member	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Robert Little	Save Scarborough community organization		914-923-3656	paralegal123@msn.com

Proposed Budget:

Table 2: Project Budget	
Budget Item	Estimated cost (USD)
Ichthyologist for fish survey	5,000
Wildlife biologist for vegetation and bird survey	16,000
Environmental chemist for water quality evaluation	2,000
Environmental engineering firm for channel design, test borings, native replanting design	10,000
Surveyor	3,000
Construction of retrofit to first migration barrier	5,000
Title company to compile deed information	2,000
Graphic designer	2,000
Signage printing and mounting	1,000
HVAS salaries and expenses	10,000
Total	56,000

Budget:

Table 2 shows estimated costs for project components. The total cost is \$56,000. A match of 25%, or \$14,000 will be met by commitments of participating professionals and volunteers. at rates commensurate with their professions when donating same professional services. Municipal contributions of labor and equipment during cleanup and other activities will be counted at municipal hourly rates. Volunteer hours doing Kemeys Cove cleanup work and clerical work will be counted at minimum wage rates. Additionally, other not for profit grant sources will be sought to help reach the match requirement.

Table 3: Estimated Timeline																
Work Item	2015				2016											
	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Fish survey																
Vegetation survey																
Bird survey																
Benthic macroinvertebrate survey (tentative)																
Water Quality measurements																
Topographical survey																
Benthic survey of water depth																
Engineering-water channel design																
Engineering -soil borings																
Description of the land-moving																
Characterization migration barriers																
Construction Sparta Brook 1st barrier																
Historical description of both waterbodies																
Compilation of stakeholder information																
Design production of signage																
Kemeys cleanup day																
Assessment of dock feasibility																
Stakeholder feedback meetings																
Writing Final Report																

Sing Sing Kill (aka Kill Brook):

There is another Hudson River Tributary about a mile north of Sparta Brook called Sing Sing Kill. It runs about twice the fresh water volume/minute as Sparta Brook and has perhaps a quarter mile of tidal inlet before turning purely fresh. Because of this combination of traits it has become of interest to learn if it is currently used for spawning by herring and other fish in the springtime. This has not been studied. This component would be included for economy.

If the Sparta Brook / Kemey's cove were to be studied in the spring of 2016, it would be relatively easy to extend the fish survey work to the nearby Sing Sing Kill to answer this question. Use of the Sing Sing Kill by migrating glass eels was established by us in the spring of 2015 in collaboration with Bridget Bauman of the Ossining High School Environmental Science Club and with Chris Bowser and the NYS DEC eel population citizen science program he directed.



G.G.Hougham 03/14/2015

Figure 1: Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook. Existing condition

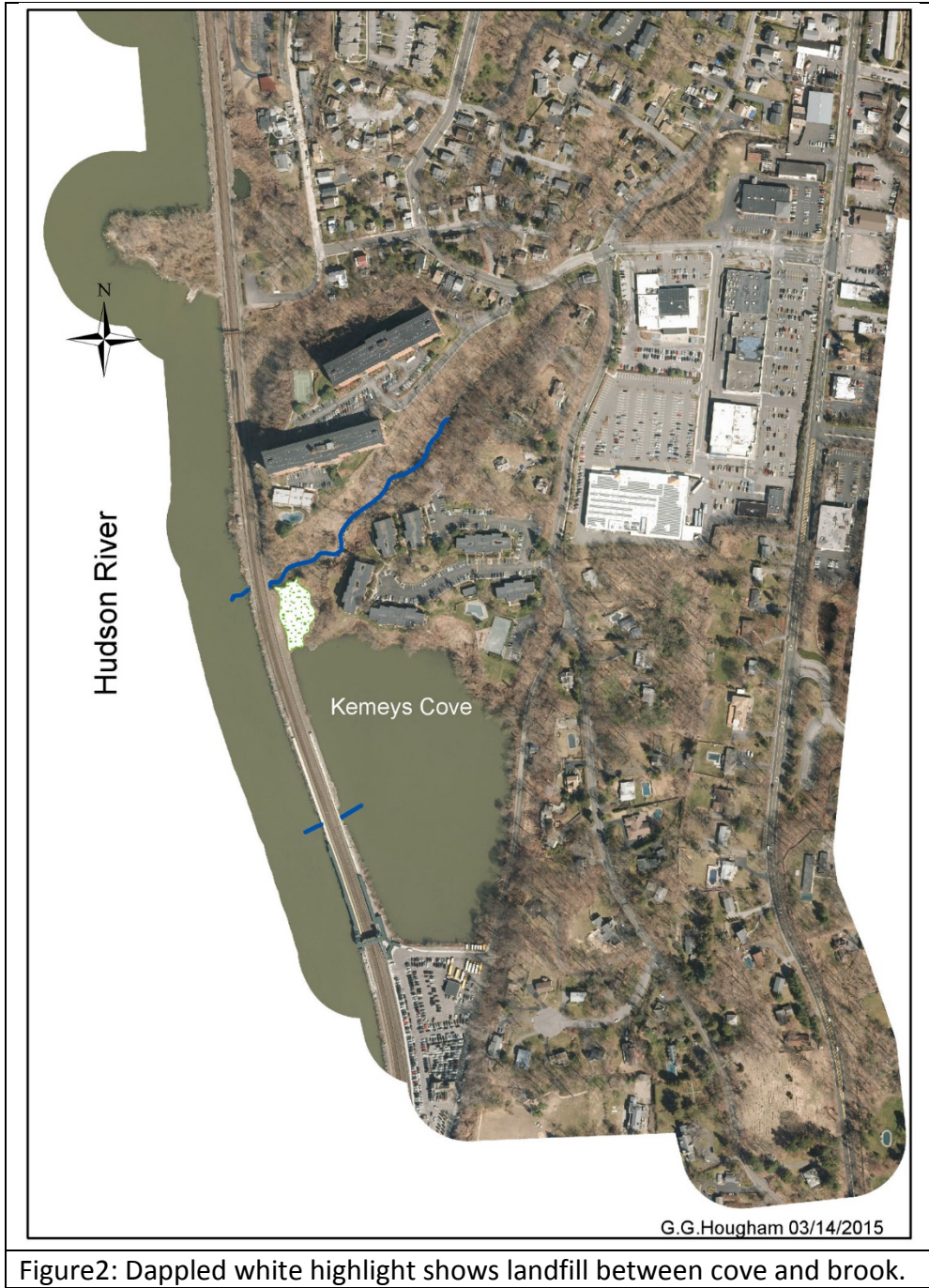


Figure2: Dappled white highlight shows landfill between cove and brook.



Figure 3: Illustrated water path from stream into cove after restoration.



Figure 4: Potential town rowboat/kayak dock shown on southern end. This is a secondary part of proposal intended to engage citizens with the Hudson River and its tributaries. Could also be located on east shore to better accommodate low tide.



Figure 5: Kemeys Cove at low tide



Figure 6: Kemeys Cove looking North. Tide coming through railroad underpass.



Figure 7: Kemeys Cove at north end looking NE



Figure 8: Sparta Brook MTA railroad underpass. Looking north



Figure 9: Sparta Brook at high tide. Looking south toward Kemeys Cove.



Figure 10: Kemeys Cove looking south.

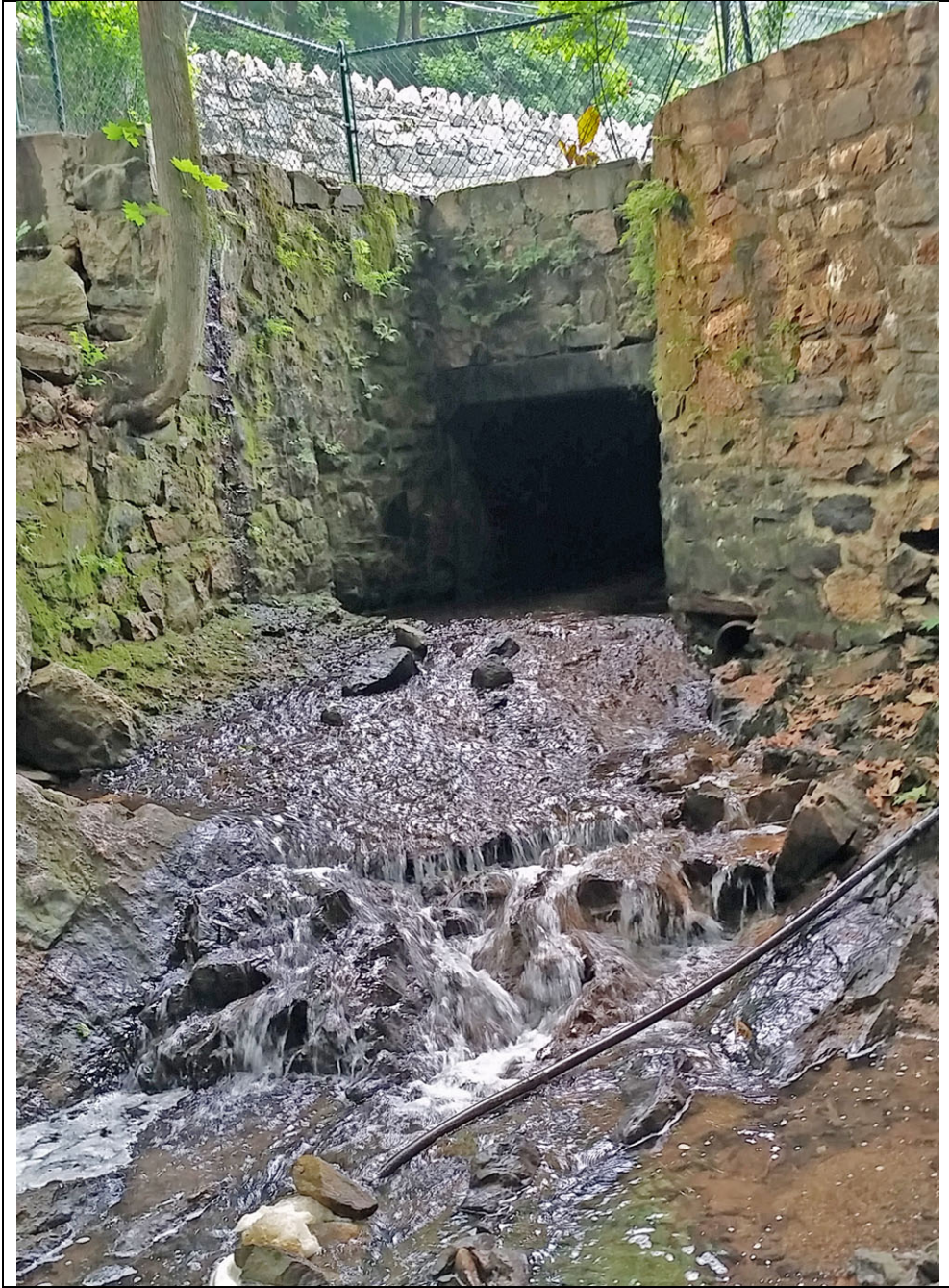


Figure 11: Sparta Brook. First potential barrier to fish migration.



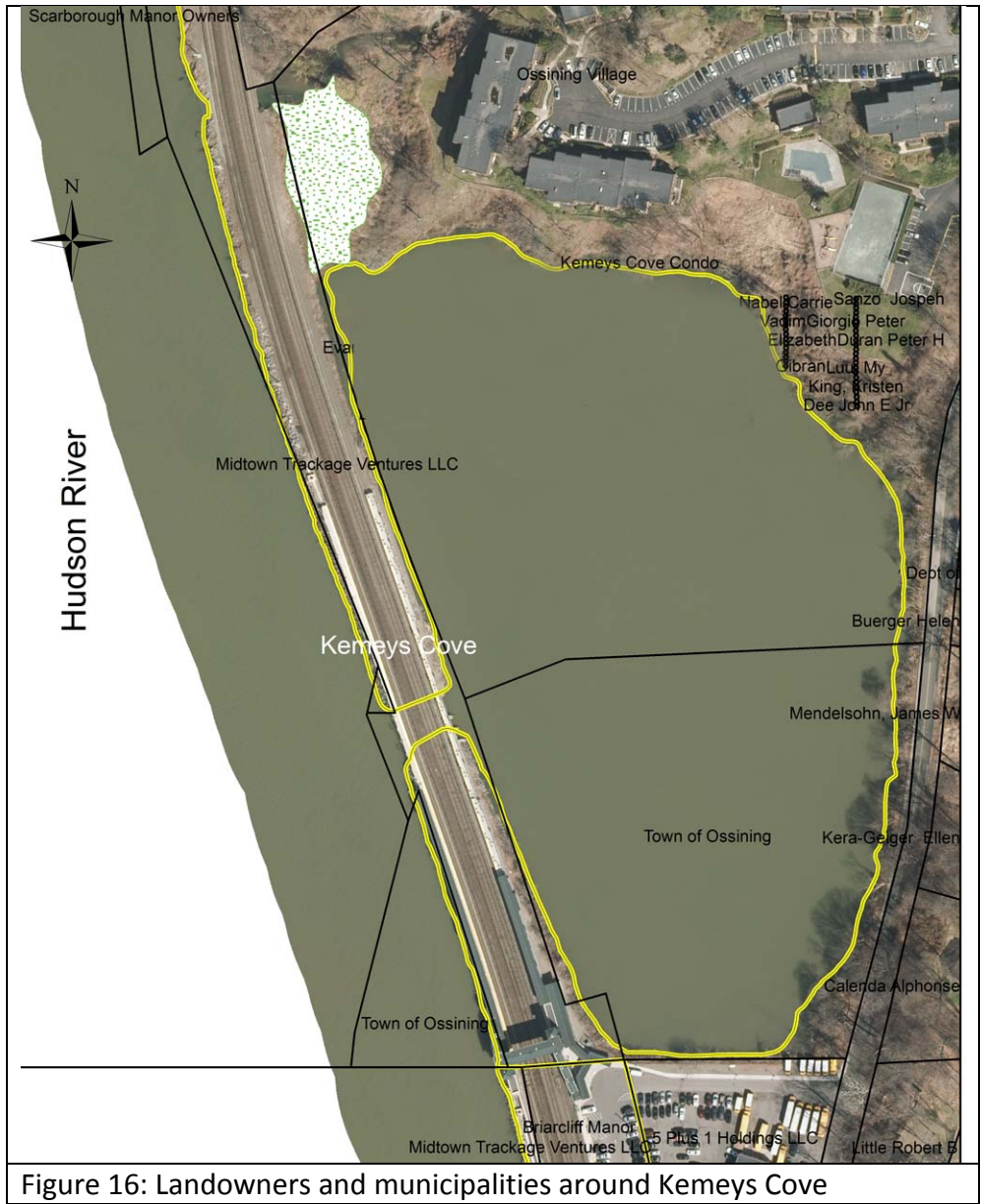
Figure 12: Sparta Brook. Second potential barrier to fish migration, left side. First real barrier.



Figure 13: Sparta Brook. Second potential barrier to fish migration. Right side. First real barrier.



Figure 14: Sparta Brook. Third potential barrier to fish migration.



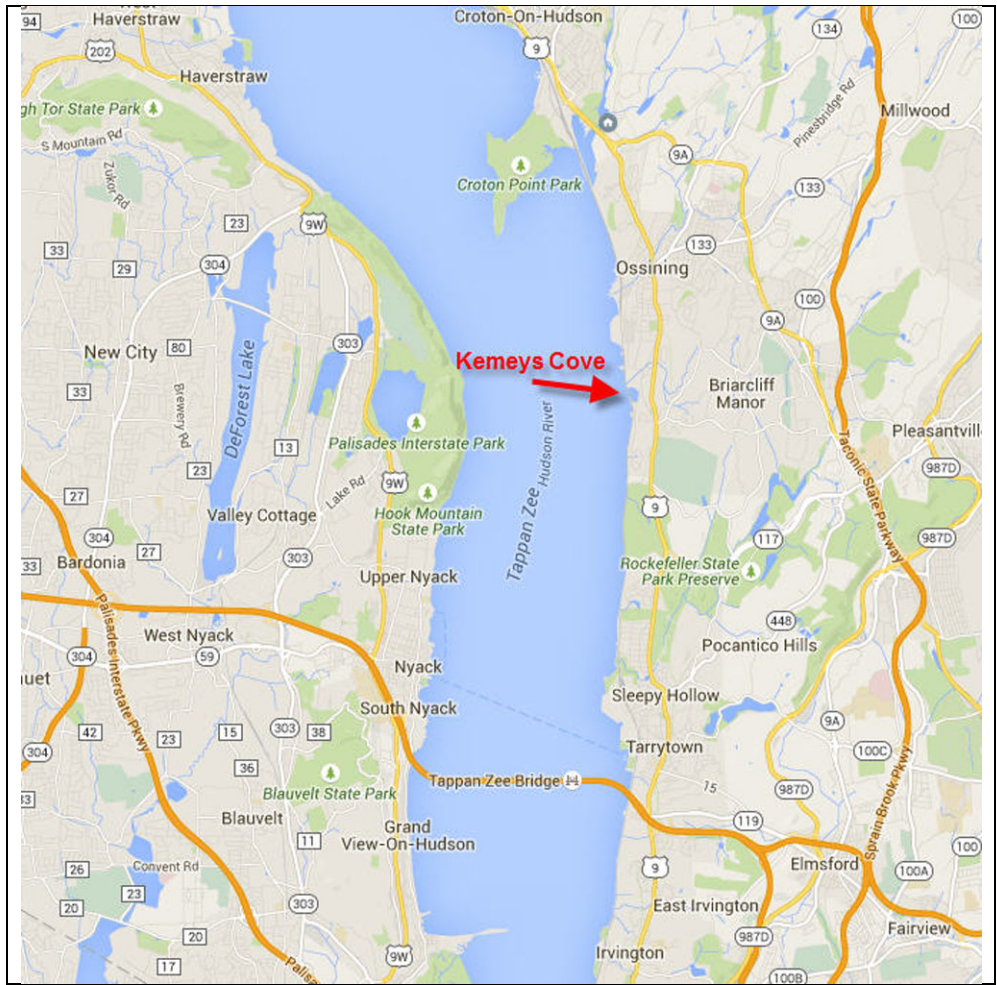


Figure 17: Map of Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook.

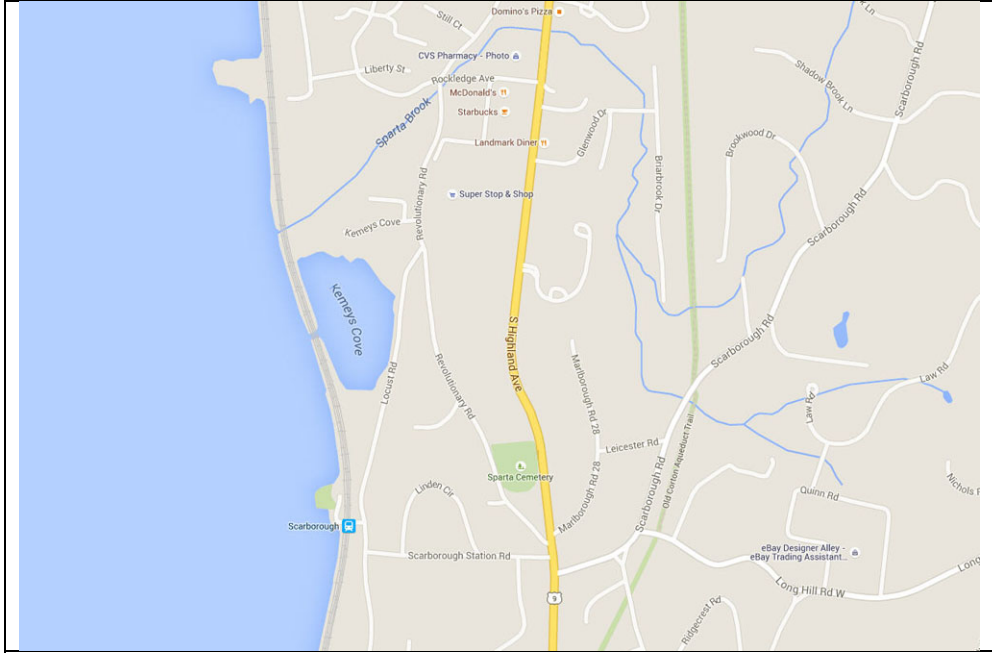


Figure 18: Map of Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook.



TOWN OF OSSINING

The Volunteer Spirited Town

16 CROTON AVENUE
OSSINING, N.Y. 10562

PHONE: 914-762-6000 FAX: 914-762-0833

www.townofossining.com

Susanne Donnelly
Supervisor

Eric Blaha
Council Member

Geoffrey J. Harter
Council Member

Kim Jeffrey
Council Member

Northern Wilcher
Council Member

June 15, 2015

New York State
Department of Environmental Conservation
DEC Contact Lorie King


Dear Ms. Lorie King:

The Town of Ossining would like to express our support for the proposal being submitted by Dr. Gareth Hougham of Hudson Valley Arts and Science to the **DEC grant opportunity ID# DEC01-HRE-2015, 2015 Hudson River Grants for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency.**

The project, entitled “**Restoration of free flow conditions between Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook in Ossining, NY and elimination of the first barrier to fish migration upstream**” would explore an initiative to reconnect two water bodies that were separated by landfill when the Hudson line railroad was built in the 1860’s. Reintroducing the Sparta Brook freshwater stream to Kemeys Cove would result in a cleaner more ecologically vital tidal shallow and would encourage fish spawning and upstream migration. While it has tremendous aesthetic and civic potential, it is littered with used car tires, thought to be a dead zone and is currently unused by the community.

The proposal represents a **first step in** the revitalization of Kemeys Cove and I along with the entire Board and Administration of the Town of Ossining strongly support this proposal.

Sincerely,


Susanne Donnelly
Supervisor
Town of Ossining
16 Croton Ave
Ossining NY 10562
914-762-6001
sdonnelly@townofossining.com



VILLAGE OF OSSINING

Municipal Building

16 Croton Avenue
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VICTORIA GEARTY

Mayor

JOHN CODMAN III

ROBERT R. DARAIO

OMAR J. HERRERA

MANUEL R. QUEZADA

Trustees

June 8, 2015

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to express my support for the proposal being submitted by Dr. Gareth Hougham of Hudson Valley Arts and Science regarding Hudson River shoreline restoration at Kemeys Cove in Ossining, NY.

The project, entitled "Sparta Brook / Kemeys Cove Restoration" would explore an initiative to reconnect two waterbodies that were separated by landfill when the Hudson line railroad was built in the 1860's. That separation left Kemeys Cove an ecologically barren tidal basin that currently has little value to the Hudson River or to the communities of Ossining, Briarcliff and Scarborough in which it lies. Reintroducing the Sparta Brook freshwater stream to Kemeys Cove would immediately result in a cleaner, more vital tidal shallows, and would encourage fish spawning and upstream migration. While it has tremendous aesthetic and civic potential, it is littered with used car tires, thought to be a dead zone and is currently unused by the community.

The proposal represents a first step in its revitalization and I strongly support it.

Sincerely,

Victoria Garity

Mayor, Village of Ossining



Catherine Borgia
Majority Leader
Legislator, 9th District



Committee Assignments
Rules, Co-Chair
Families Task Force, Co-Chair
Legislation
Labor, Parks, Planning & Housing
Community Services
Environment and Energy
Hispanic Affairs Task Force
Minority Affairs Task Force

June 15, 2015

Lorie King
Grants in Aid Program Administrator
Division of Management and Budget
Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, NY 12233-1080

Dear Ms. King,

I am writing to express my support for the proposal submitted by Dr. Gareth Hougham of Hudson Valley Arts and Science to the DEC grant opportunity, ID# DEC01-HRE-2015, 2015 Hudson River Grants for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency.

The project, entitled "Restoration of free flow conditions between Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook in Ossining, NY and elimination of the first barrier to fish migration upstream" would explore an initiative to reconnect two water bodies that were separated by landfill when the Hudson line railroad was built in the 1860's. A feasibility study would be carried out regarding the restoration of the now separate Sparta Brook and Kemeys Cove water bodies to a single ecologically enriched shallow tidal cove more suitable for spawning and migration by diadromous fish such as River Herring and the American Eel. This would be accomplished by re-establishing free water passage between them. The study would also investigate the barriers to upstream migration in the Sparta Brook.

Reintroducing the Sparta Brook freshwater stream to Kemeys Cove would result in cleaner more ecologically vital tidal shallows and would encourage fish spawning and upstream migration. While Kemeys Cove has tremendous aesthetic and civic potential, it is littered with used car tires, thought to be a dead zone and is currently unused by the community.

The proposal represents a first step in its revitalization and I strongly support it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Catherine Borgia". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Catherine Borgia

Independent Democratic Conference Whip
Chair
Social Services

Committees:
Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
Energy and Telecommunications
Infrastructure and Capital Investment
Insurance
Investigations and Government Operations
Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities
Racing, Gaming and Wagering
Rules
Veterans, Homeland Security
and Military Affairs

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK



DAVID CARLUCCI
SENATOR, 38TH DISTRICT

Albany Office:
Room 311, LOB
Albany, New York 12247
(518) 455-2991
Fax (518) 426-6737

Rockland Office:
20 South Main Street
New City, NY 10956
(845) 623-3627
Fax (845) 708-7701

Westchester Office:
2 Church Street, Ste. 210
Ossining, NY 10562
(914) 941-2041
Fax (914) 941-2054

E-Mail Address:
Carlucci@nysenate.gov

July 6, 2015

Lorie King
New York State DEC
Division of Management and Budget
625 Broadway, 10th Floor
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Ms. King,

Please accept this letter in support for the proposal submitted by Dr. Gareth Hougham of Hudson Valley Arts and Science.

The project, entitled "Restoration of Free Flow Conditions Between Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook in Ossining, NY", will explore an initiative to reconnect two water bodies that were separated by landfill when the Hudson line railroad was built in the 1860's. According to Dr. Hougham, reintroducing the Sparta Brook freshwater stream to Kemeys Cove will result in cleaner, more ecologically vital tidal shallows, which will encourage upstream migrations and ultimately a greater amount of fish spawning. While Kemeys Cove has tremendous aesthetic and civic potential, it is littered with used car tires and is unfit for any use by the community.

This represents a first step in the revitalization of this concern, and I urge you to consider Dr. Gareth Hougham's proposal. Please feel free to contact me at (845) 623-3627 if you would like to discuss this further. Thank you, for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Carlucci". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Senator David Carlucci
38th Senate District



53 Croton Avenue
Ossining, NY
10562

June 12, 2015

Ms. Lorie King
NYS DEC

RE: DEC Grant Opportunity ID# DEC01-HRE-2015/2015 Hudson River Grants for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency

Dear Ms. King:

Green Ossining is proud to support a feasibility proposal being submitted to you under the DEC grant opportunity (ID#DEC01-HRE-2015) – **2015 Hudson River Grants for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency**, by Dr. Gareth Hougham of Hudson Valley Arts and Science is entitled, *"Restoration of Free Flow Conditions Between Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook, Ossining, NY And Elimination of the First Barrier to Fish Migration Upstream."*

Green Ossining's mission is to promote environmental sustainability community-wide, and develop practical methods that protect our natural resources. As well, our goals and objectives include:

- Create a forum for those in the community that are concerned about the environment
- Explore and prioritize sensible "green" methods and practices
- Identify ways to promote "green" methods and practices.

Green Ossining has recently had success as a community outreach arm in the past in launching such efforts as Energize Ossining (under the Energize Westchester umbrella), completed our roll-out of Solarize Ossining this past month (under Sustainable Westchester's Solarize Westchester effort), have worked with our local Farmer's market (in coordination with Riverkeeper) to ban single use plastic bags from our market (acknowledging the abundance of plastic waste in the Hudson River and general waterways), among many other community-based efforts to make Ossining an environmental watchdog all while helping people understand the true fragility of our natural resources and the need to advocate for it and protect it.

Dr. Hougham's proposal would explore an initiative to reconnect two abused and neglected waterbodies that could once again serve a positive purpose. At a time when there is so much attention in the lower Hudson River to the concerns over the new Tappan Zee Bridge – this would be a welcomed and acknowledged effort by the State to do something positive for the environment.

On behalf of the members of Green Ossining, we strongly support this effort.

Sincerely,



Suzie Ross
Chairperson



June 15, 2015

Lorie King
NYS DEC
625 Broadway, 10th Floor
Albany, NY 12233

Dear Ms. King:

I would like to express my support for the proposal being submitted by Dr. Gareth Hougham of Hudson Valley Arts and Science to the DEC grant opportunity ID# DEC01-HRE-2015, 2015 Hudson River Grants for Tributary Restoration and Resiliency.

The project, entitled “Restoration of free flow conditions between Kemeys Cove and Sparta Brook in Ossining, NY and elimination of the first barrier to fish migration upstream” would explore an initiative to reconnect two waterbodies that were separated by landfill when the Hudson line railroad was built in the 1860s. Reintroducing the Sparta Brook freshwater stream to Kemeys Cove would result in a cleaner, more ecologically vital tidal shallows and would encourage fish spawning and upstream migration.

Riverkeeper supports habitat restoration and specifically barrier removal to fish migration.

We ask for your favorable consideration of this proposal. If I can be of any further assistance, please contact me at dshapley@riverkeeper.org or 914-478-4501 x226.

Sincerely,

Dan Shapley
Water Quality Manager