

## Third Waterfront Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

---

<b>Date/Time</b>	Friday, October 04, 2024, 1:30 PM	
<b>Location</b>	Steele Memorial Library, 101 East Church Street, Elmira, New York	
<b>Attendees</b>	Dan Mandell	Mayor, City of Elmira
	Nicholas Vosburg	Commissioner of Public Works, Chemung County Department of Public Works
	Bruce Whitmarsh	Director, Chemung Valley History Museum
	Emma Miran	Director of Community Development, City of Elmira
	Janet Thigpen	Flood Mitigation Specialist, Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board (STC)
	Joshua Hunn*	New York State Department of State (DOS) – DOS Representative for Elmira LWRP
	Kevin Meindl	Commissioner of Planning, Chemung County Planning Department
	Alison Herman	Grants Manager, Chemung County Planning Department
	Jim Diederich	District Manager, Chemung County Soil and Water District
	Liv Lovejoy	Planner, Southern Tier Central Planning & Development
	Andy Avery	Former Commissioner of Public Works, Chemung County Department of Public Works
	Sean McGranaghan	Associate Planner, Chemung County Planning Department

*\* attended virtually*

---

### **Introduction and Project Overview**

- Chemung County Associate Planner Sean McGranaghan was introduced to WAC committee.

### **Section II Inventory Review**

- Janet commented that “Map 2-21: Floodplain” should be updated- nobody should be using the preliminary FEMA map for city of Elmira. Janet commented that levees need to be certified to keep sections of Elmira outside of SHFA.
- Andy Avery recommended including a map showing flood potential without levees, emphasizing how important it is to get levees certified.
- Janet recommended that specific projects within the Hazard Mitigation Plan be referenced.
- Janet commented that the water quality strategy paragraph contradicts the heading on update date.
- Janet recommended adding reference to STC Economic Strategy Plan and possibly adding example of specific projects from the plan. Janet recommended doing the same thing with the STEG Plan.
- Janet commented that the City of Elmira Stormwater Management Plan should be referenced.

- Janet commented that she had never heard of the Levee safety oversight group.
- Janet commented that the current levees maybe not be high enough- they're based on 1980's analysis at which time they were built with 2 feet of freeboard above the flood of record. Andy commented that the current FEMA standard for freeboard is 3 feet.
- Janet commented on the possibility of adding more information regarding Newtown creek and Seelt Creek.
- Andy responded that there was an Interior drainage study completed in 1990's that examined Newtown Creek more in depth than FEMA- joint project between DPW and City of Elmira, with state funding.
- Janet commented on the potential to include Levee analysis.
- Janet and Andy discussed how most of the riverfront trail west of boat launch is privately owned and how the map should reflect this. While the trail is in a floodplain easement, there would need to be a separate easement for recreational activities.

### **Draft Visions & Goals Review**

- Janet recommended that language regarding safety be added.
- Andy agreed and also recommended adding language in regard to education (for safety)- this could help with fire dept support for the plan.

### **Draft Section III Review**

- Janet commented that language regarding policies that don't apply (ex- beachcombing) should be reduced or removed. Liv agreed these should be looked at.
- Janet commented that there should be a reference to flood risk in Policy 1 (Ex- possibility that levee will overtop) and that we should balance the desire for recreation with the possibility for flooding.
- Janet commented that Section II intro should be revised as it concerns how state policies apply to Elmira, not city policies.
- For Policy 19 Janet commented that levees pose a public access challenge.

### **Next Steps**

- Alison announced that a second public meeting for the LWRP is scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup> from 5PM-7PM at The Clemens Center.
- Emma will add announcement regarding meeting to City of Elmira newsletter.
- Alison announced there would be another public meeting second week of December- as well as another WAC meeting in November to continue revisions. The project is on track to finish in April 2026.