

# Planning in Delaware County

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## Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) by Kent Manuel

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC), with offices in the Village of Margaretville, was established as part of the 1997 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), to distribute information and funding to West of Hudson (WOH) Watershed communities and to advocate for their viability.

The CWC offers a range of financial and technical assistance to watershed municipalities, area residents and businesses, and is largely funded through New York City,

One focus of the CWC is economic development. The Catskill Fund for the Future (CFF), created with an initial appropriation from NYC, is managed and maintained through investment by the CWC. These monies have leveraged millions of dollars in other funding and have financed loans for business start-ups and expansions, hospital and healthcare facility improvements, community development projects and, following the 2006 floods, emergency, interest-free loans to damaged businesses in Walton. The CFF is also funding a pilot historic building rehabilitation project in Stamford.

The CWC maintains water quality protection and improvement programs; It helps pay for repair and replacement of failing septic systems and also runs a maintenance program, paying half the cost of pumpouts and inspections of residential systems installed after 1995.

Community waste water treat-

ment systems have been successfully installed in Bovina, Hamden, Delancey, Bloomville and Boiceville and projects are in the planning, design, and/or construction phase in Lexington, Trout Creek South Kortright, and Ashland. These facilities are providing quality wastewater treatment for hundreds of residences, removing individual septic systems of varying age and conditions, and providing a boon to community sustainability and water quality.

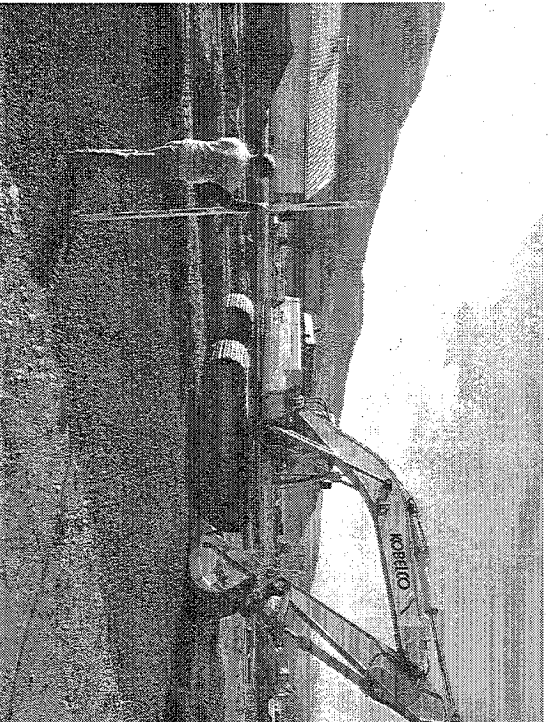
Municipalities and businesses have also benefitted from CWC funding of stormwater treatment systems to correct existing problems that affect water quality, and to help meet New York City regulations for new construction.

The CWC has also provided for various planning efforts within Delaware County by means of the Local Technical Assistance Pro-

gram (LTAP), including funding for comprehensive plans, highway management plans, and land use law updates for watershed towns and villages. Other assistance to area municipalities from the CWC has come in the form of programs to fund the construction of modern, enclosed salt and sand storage facilities.

The CWC also administers Watershed Education Grants to schools and not for profit organizations in both the West of Hudson Watershed and in New York City. Funded projects encourage understanding of the NYC water supply, the WOH Watershed and its residents and about the importance of maintaining water quality and conserving this precious resource.

Each year, the CWC sponsors Catskills Local Government Day, when land use training sessions, economic development topics, and environmental discus-



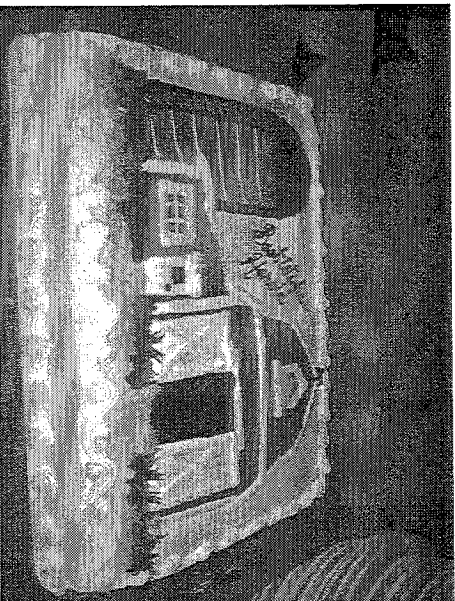
sions are held. Geared towards local officials, planners and zoning board members and interested citizens, these sessions feature representatives from the Department of State, local and regional planning agencies and organizations and seek to share information and promote dialogue on topics of interest in the Catskills. This year's Local Government Days will be held September 22 in Stamford; contact the CWC offices at 845-586-1400 to learn more or register online at [www.cwconline.org/](http://www.cwconline.org/).

The leach field for the Hamden community wastewater system as it was being constructed in 2008. The plant, visible in background, is now treating 8,000 gallons of wastewater per day from 85 properties. The CWC coordinated and funded the project, and the Town of Hamden now owns and maintains it.



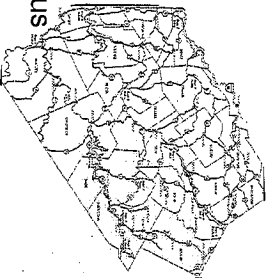
**THANK YOU HAROLD!**

On July 6<sup>th</sup> the Delaware County Planning Board met at Vasta's in Stamford for dinner to thank Harold Bedford for his forty-two years of service on the Delaware County Planning Board. Harold was joined by his wife Ethel, County Planning Board members and spouses, Planning Department staff and family, and several representatives of the Town of Harpersfield. The regularly scheduled Delaware County Planning Board Meeting took place following dinner.



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**Delaware County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan Update by Tetra Tech**

The mission of the Delaware County Multi-Jurisdictional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan is to identify and reduce, through cost-effective and sustainable mitigation efforts, our vulnerability to natural and man-made hazards. In doing so, Delaware County seeks to create an informed and prepared community while protecting its health, safety, property, economy, quality of life, and environment.

The goal of the plan update is to identify projects that can reduce damages from future natural hazards. The plan will include a Risk Assessment and a Hazard Mitigation Strategy. The primary hazards of concern in Delaware County include Flooding, Severe Storms, Severe Winter Storms, Dam Failure, Wildfire and Extreme Temperatures.

The plan will focus on existing and future buildings, infrastructure, and critical facilities that might be impacted. Critical facilities include police, fire, shelters and hospitals, and infrastructure such as power-generation facilities, water utilities, roadways, railroads, and communication systems.

Delaware County's original HMP was approved by FEMA in June 2006, and may be seen at <http://delawarecountyp planning.com/HazardMitigation.aspx>. By regulation, local HMPs must be formally updated every five years. The update process is an opportunity for Delaware County and its municipalities to re-examine its vulnerability to natural hazards, evaluate progress on the mitigation strategies identified in the original plan, and add new mitigation actions/projects/initiatives

so that the County can continue to lower its overall natural hazard risk. Delaware County's Department of Emergency Services and the Planning Department are leading this plan update effort, which is expected to continue through Spring 2012. The County and all 29 municipalities have committed to participating in this update process, and thus continue to be eligible for predisaster mitigation grant funding for eligible projects.

Please take a moment and fill out a public survey, accessible through the Delaware County Hazard Mitigation website at: <http://www.dcdes.org/AHMP%20page.htm>, or directly at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/V8JFKQ2>.