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NEWS from the CWC

CWC approves funding for Phoenicia wastewater design phase

MARGARETVILLE, NY, February 13, 2012 –The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) Board of Directors has authorized the expenditure of nearly \$2 million to begin design of a wastewater treatment system for the hamlet of Phoenicia.

The Board voted February 7 to authorize a \$1,980,789 contract with Lamont Engineers to enter the pre-construction (design) phase of the project. The Shandaken Town Board on February 6 voted to proceed with the long-discussed project and now must establish a sewer district for the hamlet of Phoenicia.

The project is being developed with a block grant of \$17.2 million from New York City, funded pursuant to the 1997 Watershed Memorandum of Agreement. At the Town's request, the CWC agreed in July of 2010 to help review several proposals that had been made for wastewater treatment solutions in the hamlet, and to come up with a preferred project.

Lamont Engineers, coordinator of the CWC's Community Wastewater Management Program (CWMP), conducted the review and proposed a 130,000-gallon-per-day membrane bioreactor treatment plant to serve the hamlet, which is located at the intersection of the Stony Clove and Esopus Creeks upstream from New York City's Ashokan Reservoir.

Tasks to be accomplished by Lamont in the preconstruction phase include project design and coordination, environmental and archaeological examinations and permits, property surveys and easements and establishment of a sewer district for approval by the Town Board.

The Town has the option of backing out of the project at any time up to the start of construction.

The CWC has completed wastewater management projects in Bovina, Bloomville, Hamden, Delancey and Boiceville. A sixth, in Ashland, is nearing completion. Three others – in Lexington, South Kortright and Trout Creek -- are in the planning and design stages. The hamlets of Shandaken, West Conesville, Halcottsville, New Kingston and Claryville are the remaining communities that were identified in the 1997 NYC Watershed Memorandum of Agreement as needing wastewater solutions.

The CWC is a non-profit Local Development Corporation based in Margaretville. It is committed to protecting water resources, encouraging environmentally friendly economic development and supporting watershed education in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River, a region encompassing parts of five counties – Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan and Ulster.

To learn more about other CWC programs to assist residents and businesses in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River, visit www.cwconline.org.