

# **NEWS** from the Catskill Watershed Corp

Contact: Diane Galusha, Communications Director  
845-586-1400 ext. 306  
[galusha@cwconline.org](mailto:galusha@cwconline.org)

October 19, 2015

## **CWC awards first Flood Mitigation Implementation grant**

A \$10,000 grant from the Catskill Watershed Corp. (CWC) will fund a study to determine the feasibility of relocating a telecommunications tower out of the floodplain in the Village of Walton.

The grant, made to the Town of Walton, is the first to be awarded under the CWC's Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation (FHMI) Program. Established in 2014, the program is intended to help pay for projects identified in Local Flood Analyses (LFA) conducted by municipalities in the NYC Catskill-Delaware Watershed.

The LFA and FHMI programs are intended to reduce repetitive flood losses that also pose a threat to water quality. They are funded by the NYC Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as a condition of the Mid-Term Filtration Avoidance Determination Review.

The communications tower is located on Town-owned property between Water Street and the West Branch of the Delaware River in the Village of Walton. The parcel and adjoining Delaware County-owned property are part of a proposed flood plain restoration project recommended in Walton's LFA. The goal of the feasibility study is to identify alternative locations for the multi-use tower that would allow it to continue the same level of service for residents, businesses and emergency services.

The Walton Flood Commission will solicit bids for a consultant to do the study, which is expected to take a year. Other agencies assisting with the study and the flood plain restoration project include the Delaware County Departments of Public Works, Emergency Services and Planning; and the Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District.

The next deadline for submission of grant applications under the CWC's FHMI program is December 1, 2015. Most projects must be identified through an LFA conducted by consultants hired by towns and funded by the DEP's Stream Management Program, or consultants engaged through other flood response programs. For more information, contact Program Manager John Mathiesen, 845-586-1400, ext. 308.

A related CWC program -- the Sustainable Communities Planning Program -- was set up to fund revisions to local zoning codes or zoning maps or to upgrade comprehensive plans in order to identify areas within those municipalities that can serve as new locations for residences and/or businesses to be moved after purchase under the voluntary NYC Flood Buyout Program. Grants of up to \$20,000 are available through this program.

For more information on flood hazard mitigation programs and related stream projects, visit [http://cwconline.org/flood\\_hazard\\_mitigation.html](http://cwconline.org/flood_hazard_mitigation.html), or [www.catskillstreams.org](http://www.catskillstreams.org)

The CWC is a non-profit, Local Development Corporation responsible for several environmental protection, economic development and education programs in the New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River. [www.cwconline.org](http://www.cwconline.org).

.....