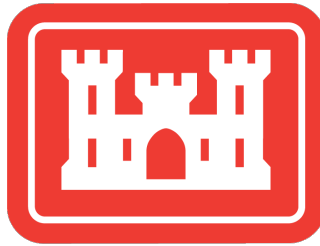


HUDSON RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION

**ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION
DRAFT INTEGRATED FEASIBILITY REPORT AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Appendix G7: Public Comments



**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
NEW YORK DISTRICT**

August 2020

Organization	Contact	Comment Summary	District Response
Public Citizen	Helene Browning, Bernice Jerry, Nancy Gill	Concerned that water levels behind Eddyville Dam will create unwanted mudflats, reducing property value	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	Vincent Pidone	Do not remove Eddyville dam. Construct a fish ladder instead	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	Jason Charest	Removal of Eddyville dam will negatively impact fish	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	Glenn Debrosky	Supports partial removal of Eddyville Dam	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	Ethan Rapp, Paul Gemma, Dave & Amy Coviello, Susan Leiching, Joe Yurcik, K. Wick, Gene Tozzi, Kelly Ulrich	Concerned that removal of Eddyville Dam will reduce property values, reduce aesthetic values, reduce recreation and navigability, reduce commerce, create a safety issue, dam is historic	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan

Organization	Contact	Comment Summary	District Response
Public Citizen	Paul Gorn	Concerned removal of dam will negatively impact boating and recreation	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	Brian Cahill	Removal of dam will be a negative impact and USACE should install a fish ladder	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	Nick Mercurio	Removal of dam will negatively impact fish	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	John P. Newton III, Jack Gingold	Owens land on Binnen Kill project and will not sell	Binnen Kill has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	Dan and Donna Ratner	Binnen Kill landowner who supports plan but wants to discuss with the District	Binnen Kill has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Public Citizen	Christopher C. Nack, John Waldman, John Mylod	Supports plan	Thank you
Lawyer for Citizens	Keane & Beane	Request 60-day extension of draft FR/EA	District provided a 30-day extension

Organization	Contact	Comment Summary	District Response
Business Owner	Cathy Roberti-Hicks, Jesse Hicks	Concerned that removal of dam will negatively impact his kayak business	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Non- Governmental Organization	Rensselaer Land Trust, Bethlehem Tomorrow, Scenic Hudson, Riverkeeper, Wallkill River Watershed Alliance, Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation, Hudson River Watershed Alliance, Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance, Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission, Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, Kingston Conservation Advisory Council, Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance	Supports plan	Thank you
Non- Governmental Organization	D&H Canal Historical Society, Delaware & Hudson Transportation Heritage Council	Concerned with the Eddyville Dam historic significance and does not support the removal of the dam	Rondout River has been removed from the Recommended Plan
Town of Bethlehem	David VanLuven, Town Supervisor	Supports plan	Thank you

Organization	Contact	Comment Summary	District Response
Town of Ulster	James E. Quigley 3 rd , Town Supervisor	Request 30-day extension of draft FR/EA	District provided a 30-day extension
Town of Esopus	Shannon Harris, Town Supervisor	Request 60-day extension of draft FR/EA	District provided a 30-day extension
NYSDEC	Fran Dunwell	Investigate the feasibility of options for restoration that do not involve the use of herbicides	The District will evaluate during the next phase of the project

Notice of Availability



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (NY District), is currently conducting a Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study of the Hudson River Basin from the Troy Lock and Dam to the Governor Mario M. Cuomo (formerly Tappan Zee) Bridge. The non-Federal project partner for the study is the New York Department Environmental Conservation. The study was authorized by section 551 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-303).

Purpose: The NY District has evaluated and prepared a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Hudson River Basin. Alternatives developed were evaluated and compared to identify a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). The TSP consists of ecosystem restoration at five sites including:

- Restoration of 2 side channels with adjacent wetlands (38 acres) and wetlands (144 acres) at Binnon Kill and Schodack Island;
- Restoration of shorelines (0.5 miles) and wetlands (4 acres) at Henry Hudson Park; and
- Restoration of Tributary Connectivity through the removal or partial removal of 4 dams and or impediments along Rondout and Moodna Creeks opening up a total of 17 miles of high quality habitat for migratory fish. The report and associated documents are available on New York District's web site:
<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Restoration/Hudson-River-Habitat-Restoration/>

The Draft Integrated FR/EA will be out for a 30-day public review period. The public review period will end July 26, 2019.

Please submit comments¹ on this Draft Integrated FR/EA via email to HRHR_FREA_Comments@usace.army.mil

For questions associated with the Environmental Assessment, please contact:

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY 10279-0090
(917) 790-8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

For questions about the project, please contact:

Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY 10279-0090
(917) 790-8306
Lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

July 26, 2019

Contact: Michael Embrich
Public Affairs, 917-790-8007
cenan-pa@usace.army.mil

U. S. Army Corps Of Engineers Announces The Extension Of The Comment Period For The Draft Integrated Feasibility Report And Environmental Assessment For The Hudson River Habitat Restoration Study

NEW YORK – Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District (NY District), is currently conducting a Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study of the Hudson River Basin from the Troy Lock and Dam to the Governor Mario M. Cuomo (formerly Tappan Zee) Bridge. The non-Federal project partner for the study is the New York Department Environmental Conservation. The study was authorized by section 551 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-303).

The New York District, announces the extension of the comment period of Hudson River Habitat Restoration Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (Draft FR/EA) for an additional 30-days to close on August 26, 2019.

The District is requesting comments and information to assist in gathering data to further inform the decision making process and the refinement of the restoration plan.

Purpose: The NY District has evaluated and prepared a Draft FR/EA for the Hudson River Basin. Alternatives developed were evaluated and compared to identify a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP). The TSP consists of ecosystem restoration at five sites including:

- Restoration of 2 side channels with adjacent wetlands (38 acres) and wetlands (144 acres) at Binnen Kill and Schodack Island;
- Restoration of shorelines (0.5 miles) and wetlands (4 acres) at Henry Hudson Park; and
- Restoration of Tributary Connectivity through the removal or partial removal of 4 dams and or impediments along Rondout and Moodna Creeks opening up a total of 17 miles of high quality habitat for migratory fish.

The report and associated documents are available on New York District's web site:

<https://www.nan.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/Environmental-Restoration/Hudson-River-Habitat-Restoration/>

Please submit comments¹ on this Draft Integrated FR/EA via email to HRHR_FREA_Comments@usace.army.mil

For questions associated with the Environmental Assessment, please contact:

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY 10279-0090
(917) 790-8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

For questions about the project, please contact:

Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY 10279-0090
(917) 790-8306
Lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil

Public Comments

From: helene browning <helenebrowningpr@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 1:11 PM

To: Ethan Rapp <ethanrapp@gmail.com>; paul gaffat <gaffat@hotmail.com>

Subject: our comments on dam

Hi,

This is my letter that I streamlined last night - realize it is longer than you want, but I do have questions and am utterly amazed about their thoughts on land values, access to river and recreational uses - not sure what their interpretation of "adversely affected" means.

I was going to send this letter out early this week. Should I send it out today or after I hear back from you regarding their meeting tomorrow??

Helene

We are very concerned about the possible plan to remove the Eddyville Dam. We own a home on Creek Locks Road that abuts the Rondout Creek and is close to the dam; when we bought our home, it had been advertised as waterfront property. We are deeply concerned about the possible plan to demolish the Eddyville Dam and its ramifications on life on the Rondout Creek.

1. Land values, access to river & recreational uses

From the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study,

page 84, it says:

"Since the river would remain adjacent to existing riverfront properties, land values related to river views, and access to the river are not anticipated to be adversely affected."

On page 151 of the study, it says: "In the long-term, implementing the TSP would result in minor impacts to the site's potential recreational uses."

a. We do not understand what your interpretation of "adversely affected" means. We have heard of estimates of water levels possibly becoming 8-10 feet lower; considering that the water outside our dock rarely approaches a foot, I see no hope for a view other than mudflats with dead tree limbs and tossed out tires and other debris, and the end of water access if this dam is demolished. Therefore, our waterfront property would be adversely affected: our property value would go down significantly, our river view would be compromised, and access to the creek would be non-existent.

- **Main Office**
445 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601
Phone 914.946.4777
Fax 914.946.6868
- **Mid-Hudson Office**
200 Westage Business Center
Fishkill, NY 12524
Phone 845.896.0120
- **New York City Office**
505 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10022
Phone 646.794.5747

July 18, 2019

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD

VIA UPS

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
U.S. Army Corps. of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
Room 17-401 (PPMD)
New York, New York 10278-0090

Re: Draft Integrated FR/EA – Hudson River Habitat
Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study

JOEL H. SACHS
Senior Counsel
Also Admitted in FL

Dear Mr. Voisine:

This office is in the process of being retained by the owner of the Eddyville Dam, as well as by other impacted property owners and commercial businesses in the Town of Ulster and Esopus, all of whom have significant concerns related to the land use, environmental and legal impacts related to the proposed removal of the Eddyville Dam as one of the projects set forth in the FR/EA. Based upon the above, we would respectfully request that your office grant a 60 day extension of the public review period so that our clients have an opportunity to review the report, retain the necessary consultants to evaluate the same and submit written comments.

I should indicate that our law firm has significant background and expertise in environmental law issues at both the State and Federal level. Over the years, we have been involved in a number of matters involving the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Under the circumstances and since the proposed project is a significant one, we believe that an extension of the public review period is warranted.

Further, we understand that a FONSI has already been issued by the ACOE, which agency appears to be taking the lead on this project. We would appreciate receiving a copy of the FONSI as well as the documents upon which the FONSI was based.

Moreover, our office would like to see the entire file of the ACOE and the NYSDEC in regard to the FR/EA, with specific reference to the Eddyville Dam. If necessary,

Mr. Matthew Voisine
July 18, 2019
Page 2

we can make a formal request both to the ACOE and to the NYSDEC under the Federal and State Freedom of Information Laws. Further, the requested documents can either be scanned or alternatively, we could send a member of our law firm to your office or to the NYSDEC office in New Paltz to review the files. Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Lastly, please be advised that the within request for an extension of the public review period and the request to review the various documents in the files of the ACOE and the NYSDEC is limited to the Eddyville Dam project proposal.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Very truly yours,



Joel H. Sachs

JHS/sb

cc: Lisa Baron, Project Manager, ACOE
Kelly Turturro, Regional Director, NYSDEC Region 3
John Urda, Regional Attorney, NYSDEC, Region 3
Paul Gallay, The Hudson Riverkeeper
Nicholas Ward-Willis, Esq.

From: [Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Subject: FW: Objection to the demolition of the Eddyville Dam
Date: Monday, August 26, 2019 05:29:34 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: paul g [<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 9:08 PM
To: Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD (USA) <Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil>; Ethan Rapp
<erapp100@yahoo.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Objection to the demolition of the Eddyville Dam

From: Steve Gorn <steve@stevegorn.com>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 8:58 PM
To: gaffat@hotmail.com <gaffat@hotmail.com>
Subject: Objection to the demolition of the Eddyville Dam

August 19
Objection to the demolition of the Eddyville Dam

As a resident on Creek Locks Road in Rosendale, I am seriously concerned that the removal of the Eddyville Dam will reduce the water flow of the Roundout Creek, drastically effecting the recreational use of the Creek for kayaking and have a severely negative affect on the natural beauty of the waterway. This in turn will diminish property value.

Concerned resident

Steve Gorn
Creek Locks Rd
Rosendale, NY

From: jmylod@aol.com
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Feasibility Study.
Date: Friday, July 26, 2019 03:38:05 PM

John Mylod
P.O. Box 1169 Beechwood Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York 12602
jmylod@aol.com

July 26, 2019

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10279-0090

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental
Assessment for Hudson River Habitat Restoration
Ecosystem
Restoration Study, and Tentatively Selected Plan

Dear Mr. Voisine and Ms. Baron,

As a licensed commercial fisherman on the Hudson River, I am expressing support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study, design and implement projects that will restore habitat and ecological function in the Hudson River Estuary and its tributaries.

For the past 45 years I have fished for American shad, (until closure) Atlantic sturgeon (until closure) striped bass (until closure) river herring, and blue crab in the Hudson River at Poughkeepsie. For much of that time, too, I have served on the Hudson River Estuary Management Advisory Committee and its predecessor, The HR Fishery Management Advisory Committee. From this perspective, the proposals put forth by the Corps are following many of the concerns expressed over time for the need to pursue substantial habitat restoration in and along the estuary.

The five projects identified in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), would restore 2 side channels, 186 acres of wetlands, 0.5 miles of shoreline and 17 miles of high quality tributary habitat, including habitat for American eels, American shad and river herring.

Specifically our organization supports the following proposed restoration projects:

- Large River Mosaic restoration of the Binnen Kill in Albany County, which would result in the creation or restoration of a side channel and 154 acres of wetlands; and at Schodack Island in Rensselaer County, which would result in the restoration of a side channel and 29 acres of wetlands.
- Shoreline Restoration at Henry Hudson Park, a Town of Bethlehem park in Albany County, which would result in a 0.5-mile living shoreline and 3.6 acres of wetlands.
- Tributary Connectivity through the removal or partial removal of an unused sewer trunk line and the Firth Cliff and Orr's Mills dams on the Moodna Creek, which would result in 7.8 miles of restored habitat; and the Eddyville Dam on the Rondout Creek, which would result in 9 miles of restored habitat.

As the USACE describes in the FR/EA, the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem has suffered from “dramatic losses” for over 200 years due to impacts from the creation and maintenance of the Hudson River navigational channel, and from other shoreline

and tributary transportation and industrial activity. Under the TSP, of the 4,000 acres of aquatic habitats and 71 miles of shoreline lost, less than 5% would be restored. Of more than 1,600 dams and thousands of culverts that block tributaries, a fraction of 1% would be removed or partially removed.

Therefore, if any of these projects cannot be accomplished,, I urge the USACE to pursue the other projects 4 projects for habitat restoration in the Hudson River Basin, as authorized by Congress in the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Mylod

From: [paul g](#)
To: [Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD \(USA\)](#); [Ethan Rapp](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Potential Good News, but action required today.
Date: Monday, August 19, 2019 03:17:56 PM

From: kelly ulrich <misskelly2727@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 12:18 PM
To: paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Potential Good News, but action required today.

Kelly Ulrich, LMSW
555 Main St
St Remy NY 12401-8750

Re: Removal of Eddyville Falls

To Whom it May Concern at the Army Corp of Engineers,

As a lifelong resident of St Remy the possible removal of the historic and beautiful Eddyville Falls is a matter of great concern to me. I am not convinced that the research merits this action. I am deeply concerned about the environmental impact as well as the impact to the surrounding landowner's property values and quality of life. While I appreciate the great deal of time and effort required to complete your research I implore you not to proceed with this project.

Thank you,

Kelly Ulrich LMSW

On Monday, August 19, 2019, 9:33:16 AM EDT, paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com> wrote:

The ACOE is having an internal meeting tomorrow about reasons to abandon removal of Eddyville falls, and possibly pursue fish ladder with DEC. They have asked for everyone's input, send short email (reply here to me and Ethan, not reply all) it can be impassioned if you want, today. We will get it to Lisa at ACOE, tonight and she will present it tomorrow.
Thanks

From: paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 4, 2019 9:33 PM
Subject: Progress!

We got everything we asked for from the Town of Ulster, at the Town Board meeting and Betty from Church Hill stood up, talked about George Eddy's mill and asked the Town to work on getting the Eddyville falls declared a historic monument. The Town voted unanimously to start the process.

See the 2 emails the Supervisor sent out today and my message to him below.

Also we are getting some clues, that ACOE /DEC is starting to understand we are going to keep sending letters to them and politicians and that we will submit a long list of important questions, requiring a lot of work on their part. So if we do a good job at those and they learn we have submitted a factual report on the Falls history to the appropriate authority's, that could be discouraging for their plan to move forward.

We need a name for this group. 2 people seconded- STEM Stop The Eddyville Mistake.

But if you have another idea, submit it in next few days, and I will list them in next email for a vote.

He sent the following to everyone on our list below+ the town attorney and board :
Matthew,

At the Town of Ulster Town Board Meeting held Thursday, August 1, 2019 residents of the Town of Ulster presented to the Town Board their unhappiness with the fact that a 60 day extension was requested and only a 30 day extension was granted to the Public Comment Period. In addition, since the majority of the property owners impacted by the proposed actions with the Eddyville Dam are residents of the Town of Ulster they are upset that meetings have not been held in the Town of Ulster.

On behalf of the Town of Ulster Residents I am requesting the following:

1. An immediate addition of an additional 30 days in the Public Comment Period.
2. I am offering the opportunity for the USACOE / NYSDEC to hold meetings in the Town of Ulster at the Town Hall.

In addition, I am requesting via this e-mail assistance from NYS Assemblyman Kevin Cahill and Senator George Amedore for intersession with NYS DEC (the State Partnering Agency) on these issues with these requests.

James E. Quigley 3rd, CPA
Supervisor
Town of Ulster
1 Town Hall Drive
Lake Katrine, New York 12449

Tel: (845) 382-2765 Office
(845) 663-3686 Cell
(845) 336-0082 Fax

To: James.Finelli@parks.ny.gov Cc: gaffat@hotmail.com; Eric Kitchen; Jason J. Kovacs; Joel Brink; John Morrow; Rocco Secreto

Mr. Finelli,

The US Army Corp of Engineers along with NYS DEC has proposed modifications to a Dam constructed on the Rondout Creek for the Delaware & Hudson Canal in 1825.

Residents of the Eddyville Hamlet of the Town of Ulster have requested the Town to investigate the possibility of a Historic Designation for this structure.

Please advise me on the process for this review.

Thank you for your assistance.

James E. Quigley 3rd, CPA

Supervisor

Town of Ulster

Thank you very much for both emails.

We are working on adding to our list of comments, and perfecting them in the form of questions that they must answer by law.

We will also start working on a report about the history of the falls that contains only facts.

Thanks again, Paul Gemma

Matthew Voisine,
Project Biologist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
New York District
26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY
10279-0090
(917) 790-8718
matthew.m.voisine@usace.army.mil

Lisa Baron,
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
New York District 26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY
10279-0090
(917)
790-8306
Lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil

Fran Dunwell
Estuary Program, Hudson River Coordinator
The Hudson River Estuary Program
NYSDEC Region 3
21 S Putt Corners Rd
New Paltz, NY 12561
fax: (845) 255-3649
845-256-3016
Or
Fran Dunwell
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-0001

Ulster County Office of Economic Development (OED)

Suzanne Holt, Director (in charge of tourism)

244 Fair Street, 6th Floor
Kingston, NY 12401
Phone: (845) 340-3556

Email: oed@co.ulster.ny.us

US Congressman Antonio Delgado

Kingston Office
256 Clinton Ave
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 443-2930
Monday to Friday, 9AM - 5PM

Washington, DC Office
1007 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5614
Monday to Friday, 9AM - 5PM

Blocked <https://delgado.house.gov/contact/email-me>

State Senator George A. Amedore, Jr.
Albany Office
188 State Street, Legislative Office Building
Room 408
Albany, NY 12247
Phone: (518) 455-2350
Fax: (518) 426-6751

Email Address:
amedore@nysenate.gov

Assembly Member Kevin Cahill
District Office
Governor Clinton Bldg. Suite G-4
1 Albany Ave
Kingston, NY 12401
845-338-9610
[District Office Directions](#)
Albany Office
LOB 716

Albany, NY 12248
518-455-4436

cahillk@nyassembly.gov

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [paul.g](#)
To: [Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD \(USA\)](#); [Ethan Rapp](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Removal of Eddyville Dam Proposal
Date: Monday, August 19, 2019 03:20:23 PM

From: Gene Tozzi <hdgambagene@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 3:02 PM
To: gaffat@hotmail.com <gaffat@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Removal of Eddyville Dam Proposal

Regarding the proposal to remove the Eddyville Dam. The stated purpose is to return the Rondout Creek to its habitat previous to the dam's installation, especially regarding fish populations.

First of all, since the dam is likely more than 200 years old, the ecosystem above the dam has evolved to a degree that there is no reason to believe the ancient ecosystem would return. The result may very well be the destruction of the present ecosystem and the plant and animal species who have evolved in that system resulting in significant harm to the Creek as a whole with no guarantee the original ecosystem and fauna would return,. We have seen the fish and bird population thrive in this system, we even have eagles now as well as heron, egrets. and more. Besides the dam is built on an existing ledge which I believed would be removed as well. How does removing part of the creek that has been there for possibly thousands of years restore anything. It is, in reality, creating a new situation.

There are historical reasons for keeping the dam as well. The dam has been a part of the historical presence on the Creek for 200 years being the home for a number of mills (including the Mill of the Eddy family) and a part of the D&H Canal system as well.

As for the quality of life of the property owners above the dam, the report suggests the removal of the dam would lower the water level by 8-12 feet. This would severely impact the recreational value of the Creek should the water level experience such a drastic drop, essentially eliminating the local swimming, boating, kayaking, fishing and use of the Creek. The scenic value of our property would also deteriorate. I believe property values would also be adversely affected.

My wife and I are avid kayakers and swimmers and one of the main reasons we bought this house almost 30 years ago was its location on the Creek. We would hate to see our enjoyment of this resource, of which we are very proud and protective, be so drastically altered.

With this in mind, we see the only logical alternative is the fish ladder proposal. I feel it is the only reasonable compromise that both addresses the fish habitat and spawning as well as keeping this remarkable resource we cherish so much . I understand the goals of the proposals, but I feel if the dam is removed, we will spend the rest of our lives remembering how nice it used to be.

Especially since there s a viable alternative, I don't understand the push to go to such an extreme, threatening long existing species and ecosystems and drastically altering the environment and life styles of those who have lived on the Creek and loved it all these years.

Sincerely,
Gene Tozzi
927 Creek Locks Rd
Rosendale, NY

From: antispam@hvc.rr.com
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments; "antispam@hvc.rr.com"](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Razing of Eddyville NY dam
Date: Thursday, July 18, 2019 10:49:35 PM

To whom it may concern:

I wish to go on record as most strongly opposed to removal of the Eddyville dam.
The plan is ill considered, unnecessary, and potentially very harmful in several venues.

- 1) This dam dates to ca. 1796 when it supplied a rolling and splitting mill for Armstrong and Greir (see 'Esopus' and 'Kingston / Ulster' - Arcadia Press). Mills continued at the site until at least the early 20th century. This structure is of great historical significance and an application for historical designation will shortly be pending.
- 2) The eco-system surrounding the dam is and has been stable for over two centuries. Fish (of the same varieties) are found both above and below the dam. It apparently presents no impediment.
- 3) The adjoining properties stem from ancient title and have riparian rights to the center of the Rondout, and include the dam. (See Ulster County Clerk's office, grants and deeds.)
- 4) The dam is and has been for centuries, a local landmark and a recreational site. There is also an associated public fishing site associated with same (see Freer./Delamater land records).
- 5) Removal of the dam will likely destroy underwater historical artifacts along with the structure itself. A full study is required.
- 6) There is nothing to be gained from this project and very much to be lost.

You need to scuttle this project or, at a minimum, delay it and schedule proper public hearings.

Sincerely,

K. Wick
Historian

**Blackburn Island LLC
2447 Third Avenue
Bronx, NY 10451**

November 20, 2018

Ms. Nava Tabak
Director of Science, Climate & Stewardship
Scenic Hudson
One Civic Center Plaza, Suite 200
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601-3157

Dear Ms. Tabak,

I am writing to inform you of my decision regarding the meeting held on 9/25/2018, at the Bethlehem Town Hall, and relating to your "Hudson River Habitat Restoration Plan", at which I was unable to attend.

Representing me at the meeting was Drew Hingson. He informed me of what transpired at this meeting which involved my privately held property bordering the Binnenkil Creek, Jolly Creek and the old dredge-filled Shad Island creek bed. These areas, being the same as those outlined at the meeting.

I have no interest in selling any property or transferring any interests, rights, or easements of any kind relating to the above referenced property.

Drew has spoken with John Newton, the owner of properties to the North and West of my property, and he has similarly expressed his wish to decline any involvement with the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Jack Gingold, Manager

Blackburn Island LLC

From: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Cc: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source]
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2019 07:36:11 AM

Matthew Voisine
Biologist
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421
NY, NY 10278
917.790.8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason Charest [<mailto:jcharest9508@gmail.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2019 20:23
To: Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN (USA) <Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source]

To who ever it may concern,
My only connection to the damn is during the spring for the spring striper run. I love going to the falls to catch herring with my son and head out to try and get a striper. Effecting that would put a damper on my spring. But I realize my spring time activities don't dictate this decision. But I do think that the migratory patterns of both of these fish should. Along with it just being strange to hear, should striped bass and herring be allowed to get into the wallkill? Besides the enviornmental concerns of putting a predatory fish into a river with other fish a quarter of it's fully grown size , I believe it would distrust there migration and possibly put a dent in repopulating the species which is in decline. NYS has got to a point where river herring takes have been reduced and if the trend continues the possession of them will be outlawed as it is in Massachusetts. Allowing both species to migrate further would reduce the chance they make it back into the Atlantic AND increase the difficultly of law enforcement to try and police fisherman doing the wrong thing in regards to harvesting. I believe this will result in both populations to decline (in the way we see them now as migratory fish in the Hudson for a couple months) and for both populations to increase there chances of holding over in any of the bodies they would now have access to and causing an inbalance in the current food chain. Not a tree hugger, not an environmental warrior, it's just how I see it going . The next article in the paper should explain a benefit of removing damn because I haven't heard an environmental reason yet so until I do I'll just assume it's because of money. Not a knock , just saying it like it usually is. Would love to hear more about this project .
Jay

From: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(US\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Cc: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(US\)](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Binnen Kill North
Date: Monday, July 22, 2019 08:09:28 AM

Matthew Voisine
Biologist
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421
NY, NY 10278
917.790.8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Dan Ratner [<mailto:dan@hudsonriverfoods.com>]
Sent: Sunday, July 7, 2019 9:57
To: Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN (US) <Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Binnen Kill North

Hi Matthew

We are not willing to sell our land.

Some of the shaded area is actively managed for agricultural purposes and is not wet, but other areas were impacted due to poorly designed, built or maintained private roads and culverts that cut off natural drainage and therefore created a man made retention basin killing trees spilling over to productive lands.

We are in support of a reclamation project and would be willing to discuss a private public partnership on a smaller portion of the shaded wet lands as long as it does not interfere with agricultural uses and allow us to reclaim useful land. We are also interested in receiving surplus fill dirt from any adjacent sites.

We recognize the Binnen Kill is an intermittent natural fresh water source that feeds the area and that the area has interesting habitat. We would like to discuss more about up stream environment that feeds the shaded basin area.

Please let us know if you want to discuss further.

Dan and Donna Ratner
203 856 8550

From: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Cc: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns regarding the potential remove of the Eddyville Dam on the Rondout Creek
Date: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 08:32:02 AM

Matthew Voisine
Biologist
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421
NY, NY 10278
917.790.8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Joe Yurcik [<mailto:joe@yurcik.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2019 23:06
To: Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN (USA) <Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Joe@ Yurcik <joe@yurcik.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Concerns regarding the potential remove of the Eddyville Dam on the Rondout Creek

Sir and Ladies/ Gentlemen (who may also consider this email):

I am extremely concerned of potential unintended consequences should the Eddyville Dam be removed from the Rondout Creek.

I am a 30 plus year property owner on the Rondout Creek yet I was only just informed of plans to remove the dam by a neighbor. How could I not been given official of notice proposed plans as a property owner? What are the supposed benefits of removing the dam? What is the impact on the upstream portions of the creek from any changes to the dam? What are the potential downsides of any changes to the dam?

As you must be aware the dam is said to have been in place since early in the first term of George Washington's presidency (that is 230 years give or take). This historic fact raises a much greater burden as to what any removal of the dam would do to benefit anyone or thing near or in the Rondout Creek.

Among the potential concerns I have of any changes to the dam include:

What would happen to the water levels in the creek? Would there be loss of water flow or only seasonal water flow in portions of the creek?

What impact would tides have on the creek upstream from Eddyville?

Would removal of the dam make the Rondout Creek upstream of Eddyville passable to motor boats from down stream of Eddyville? If so, what would the impact be of pollution from such motor craft in terms of fuel, oils, waste, and sound? Upstream from Eddyville has been free of virtually all motor craft and commercial boating and pollution associated with the Rondout Creek downstream from Eddyville.

Upstream from Eddyville a number of historic locks still exist. How will these structures be protected and/or improved?

The dam has worked for 11 score and 10 years. I question the so-called benefits of fixing what "ain't" broken.

Concerned and respectfully submitted,
Joe Yurcik

Sent from my iPad

From: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Cc: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] DIADROMOUS FISH ACCESS TO STURGEON POOL
Date: Monday, August 26, 2019 07:33:56 AM

Matthew Voisine
Biologist
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421
NY, NY 10278
917.790.8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: glenn Debrosky [<mailto:troutman108@gmail.com>]
Sent: Friday, August 23, 2019 16:35
To: Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN (USA) <Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] DIADROMOUS FISH ACCESS TO STURGEON POOL

THE DAM LOCATED IN EDDYVILLE ON THE RONDOUT CREEK HAS NO CURRENT BENEFIT OR ECONOMIC VALUE RELATED TO ITS ORIGINAL PURPOSE.' HOWEVER IT DOES CREATE A BARRIER FOR MIGRATING FISH TO ACCESS THE PORTION OF THE RONDOUT ABOVE THE EDDYVILLE DAM.

IT'S A WELL KNOW FACT THAT THE DECLINE OF SEVERAL DIADROMOUS FISH IS ATTRIBUTED TO DENYING THEIR PASSAGE TO ORIGINAL SPAWNING GROUNDS. FURTHER STUDIES SHOW THAT RETURN OF PASSAGE TO ORIGINAL SPAWNING GROUNDS WOULD OFFER SAID FISH A CHANCE TO EXPAND THEIR POPULATIONS.

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT MINIMAL A PARTIAL DAM REMOVAL, I AM NOT SURE A FISH LADDER WOULD ALLOW STURGEON ACCESS ABOVE PRESENT DAM SITE.

BOTTOM LINE: MIGRATING FISH DESERVE TO HAVE ACCESS TO ORIGINAL SPAWNING AREAS AND ANY BARRIERS THAT HAVE OUTLIVED THEIR PURPOSE MUST BE REMOVED.

TIGHT LINES

GLENN A DEBROSKY..
108 MOSSYBROOK ROAD
HIGH FALLS, N.Y. 12440

PHONE 845-687-9988

EMAIL" TROUTMAN108@GMAIL.COM <<mailto:TROUTMAN108@GMAIL.COM>>

From: [Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Eddyville Dam
Date: Monday, August 26, 2019 05:31:44 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Brian Cahill [<mailto:yankee1158@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 9:51 AM
To: Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD (USA) <Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil>
Cc: gaffat@hotmail.com; erapp100@yahoo.com
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Eddyville Dam

Hello Ms. Baron

I am a current candidate and former Ulster County Legislator for the district in which the Eddyville dam is located in the Town of Ulster, N.Y..

I am writing today to encourage the installation of a fish ladder vs. the removal of the Dam in Eddyville, NY. The removal of the dam will cause significant changes to the shoreline, potentially impacting many businesses which could also have an impact on the livelihood of hundreds of people who are employed in those businesses.

The goal of this project will be minimally impacted if the dam is removed and a fish ladder would likely have the same impact on spawning. The fish that spawn in the Hudson estuaries are being decimated by over fishing, not by this small barrier which is located 2.5 miles from the mouth of the Rondout Creek. Further, just south of the dam is another barrier which will not be removed. Seems like very little gain that would result in a great impact to many people.

Please consider using a fish ladder while keeping the Eddyville dam intact.

Thank you,

Brian Cahill
1106 Dalewood St.
Kingston, N.Y. 12401

From: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Cc: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] eddyville dam
Date: Thursday, August 1, 2019 09:07:32 AM

Matthew Voisine
Biologist
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421
NY, NY 10278
917.790.8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: briarstone@hvc.rr.com [<mailto:briarstone@hvc.rr.com>]
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2019 9:04
To: Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN (USA) <Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil>
Cc: 'Supervisor@esopus.com' <Supervisor@esopus.com>; 'Mellison@hvc.rr.com' <Mellison@hvc.rr.com>;
'planning-zoning@esopus.com' <planning-zoning@esopus.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] eddyville dam

My name is Susan Leiching and I am a citizen of the Town of Esopus and have resided here for the majority of my life. The Eddyville Dam is important to the community for several reasons.

1. It provides a usable area in the upper Rondout Creek for small boating, canoeing, kayaking and swimming. The DEC put a boat ramp to the Rondout from Creek Locks road which is very popular. If the dam is destroyed, the upper Rondout will become a rocky creek bed with drop offs (as in Rosendale) and no longer easily accessed.
2. The spawning fish in the Rondout are seasonable and honestly have not gone past the dam since 1828. What about the fish in the upper Rondout? The DEC stocked the upper Rondout with walleyes in 1999 and they have thrived well along with smallmouth and largemouth bass. What happens to these fish?
3. Lastly it is the terminus point of the Delaware Hudson Canal built in the 1800's to transport coal from Pennsylvania and later cement from Rosendale. The dam should have a plaque and not be taken apart.

Thank you for your consideration and please do not remove the "eddy" (ice fishing spot) from Eddyville, NY.
Respectfully, Susan Leiching

From: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Cc: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Habitat Restoration Ecosystem
Date: Tuesday, August 27, 2019 07:24:58 AM

Matthew Voisine
Biologist
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421
NY, NY 10278
917.790.8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Coviello [<mailto:sandyc15@icloud.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 15:34
To: Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN (USA) <Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Habitat Restoration Ecosystem

Sent from my iPad I own a home on Creeklocks Rd in Rosendale N.Y. I also own property across the road that also continues into the Roundout Creek! I do not want what your proposing to do with the falls. I have a couple of questions for you.....

1. What will this do for the value of my home? Right now I have water front property....
 2. At low tide....will I be looking at dirt? No thanks!!
 3. What is this going to do for the fish, snapping turtles,birds (eagles,herons) the ducks and the geese...the frogs, snakes, etc..When the water is at low tide? How can they survive?
 4. We bought this property because we love this Creek . My family enjoys the privacy that it brings when swimming, paddle boating etc. How will this affect that?
- You should not mess with nature! Leave it be!!

In conclusion, I and all who support this document, request responses to the above questions and concerns individually to support this project.
Many thanks for your consideration

Dave & Amy Coviello
939 Creek Locks Rd.
Rosendale N.Y 12472
845-331-7741

From: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Cc: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Removal of Eddyville Dam, Rondout Creek, Ulster County, NY Comment
Date: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:33:16 AM

Matthew Voisine
Biologist
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421
NY, NY 10278
917.790.8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

From: Nick Mercurio [<mailto:ironick@aol.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 26, 2019 11:11
To: Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN (USA) <Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil>
Cc: 'Nick Mercurio' <ironick@aol.com>; 'UPDATE' <cquick2121@aol.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Proposed Removal of Eddyville Dam, Rondout Creek, Ulster County, NY Comment

Dear Matthew,

The possibility of removing this dam seems like a solution in search of a problem. I have reason to believe that removal of the dam would have negative effects on the viability of the Creek upstream of the dam and that dam removal would have no effect on upstream fish movement.

Removal, as far as I can see, renders unusable a recently created NY State Department of Environmental Conservation creek access from public use by draining the water the dam now impounds. The area above the dam is used for recreation in the form of fishing, swimming, and kayaking in the form of a five-mile loop course between the dam and a set of rapids and is accessed from a State-designated and constructed public access point.

And, from looking at the dam and the ledges it's built on, it appears that there would still be a difference in elevation between the tidal Rondout and the "upstream" Rondout that would prevent upstream passage of fish regardless of whether the dam was there or not. I'm no fish biologist, just a swimmer, kayaker, and sometime fisherman, but my friends who fish for striped bass indicate that bass aren't in the same category as salmon and don't swim upstream through rapids to spawn.

In summary, I believe that removal of the dam is unnecessary and would accomplish nothing other than to deprive the public of recreational opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dominick Mercurio
161 Cottekill Road
Cottekill, NY 12419

From: [Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Subject: FW: Eddyville falls
Date: Monday, August 26, 2019 05:30:00 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: paul g [<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 5:20 PM
To: Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD (USA) <Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil>; Ethan Rapp <erapp100@yahoo.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Eddyville falls

From: Cathy Roberti-Hicks <cathy@lousboatbasin.com>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 4:56 PM
To: gaffat@hotmail.com
Subject: Eddyville falls

Attention ACOE & DEC:

As a marina owner located at the end of the Rondout Creek in Eddyville I am extremely concerned about the possibility of removing the falls.

Firstly, I'd like to know how this will effect the tides and the water flow. This could be extremely damaging to my business(that has been established since 1953)should the tide go any lower or higher for that matter. Since both hurricanes Irene and Sandy the channel has become increasingly shallower, this dictates the size boats that dock here and come in for fuel. If it gets any higher it will effect our bulkhead in such a way that could cause hundreds of thousands of dollars to repair to make adjustments to accommodate an increase. This would be devastating for us.

Secondly, fishing is a very big part of my business. Not one fisherman has come to me and complained that there is a lack of fish in the past years. As a matter of fact most come here because there is an abundance.

Thirdly, many boaters from all over come to the end of the creek to see the falls. If it is taken away I will see a dramatic decline in my gas and store sales. It's difficult enough for us as we are at the end of the creek away from the Hudson River, without the attraction of the falls many will not come at all.

Lastly, I do believe that this is a historic site, that should not be touched.

Thank you,
Cathy Roberti-Hicks
Owner and operator of
Lou's Boat Basin
944 Abeel St.
Kingston, N.Y. 12401

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Subject: FW: Lisa- 2 letters from me
Date: Monday, August 26, 2019 05:30:51 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: paul g [<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 4:34 PM
To: Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD (USA) <Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil>; Ethan Rapp <erapp100@yahoo.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Lisa- 2 letters from me

I lived on a sailboat until I was 23 and traveled up the Rondout to ck. out the D&H Canal history in Eddyville. For 7 years after that I worked hard to save up enough to buy a run down house with a view of the Eddyville Falls. I ended up buying and renovating 4 more houses on Church Hill. All 5 have views of the falls, as well as its soothing sound.

When I rent the other 4, and put a photo of falls in ad, I immediately must chose between many qualified candidates that love the view. I average a 4.5 yr stay for tenants and never have to use lawyer/court, because they only move for family reasons.

Removal of Falls would actually be a economic hardship for me, now that I have a family and stack of mortgage bills every month. Lower rent and typical high turnover, would also discourage me and my wife from further improvements to neighborhood. On a more personal note, when my 5 year old daughter overhead about removing the falls she said; "what the heck"?

Paul Gemma

From: paul g
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2019 5:36 PM
To: frances.dunwell@dec.ny.gov <frances.dunwell@dec.ny.gov>
Cc: Supervisor@Esopus.com <Supervisor@Esopus.com>
Subject: RE: Proposed removal of Eddyville "dam".

Hello, my name is Paul Gemma , I live in Eddyville, 500 feet below the Eddyville falls. I believe its important to note that locals refer to them as falls and not a dam, as it may appear to be.

300 years ago they were a natural waterfall, not with as level a top edge as now, but distinctly falls. That is why a Iron mill was added on the north side, (nails and rods from this mill were used to build warships for the revolutionary war) and why George Eddy was able to add only little to the height of falls and power a substantial cotton/wool/saw mill (part of which remains today). Then 195 years ago, Irish workers for the D&H canal removed much of the loose/flaky shale, that formed the top half of falls, down to about 5-6 feet, to provide a stable base for the huge bluestone blocks Italian stone masons placed, that remain today. The purpose was to support wood boards (now removed) , that added only 14" height to Mr. Eddy's work, allowing navigation above the falls on the D&H. The Historic D&H improvements to the falls appear to be in excellent condition and very strong.

So for us locals to learn last week that the ACOE and NY DEC are planning to "remove the dam to restore fish habitat and for public safety" strikes us as a thrice erroneous idea.

Everyone here that I spoke with immediately noted that to help fish the most, the money is much better spent first on the sewer overflow problem in Kingston.

Then, I think, on a real study, with a panel of 5 independent marine biologists , deciding if the un-natural idea of allowing fish from the Hudson to Travel up Wallkill and possibly Rondout into native fish habitat is a good one. I guess it probably is. BUT the D&H improvements to waterfalls would not need to be removed. (There are SO MANY strong reasons not to, some should be obvious and we will send list of others next week after a community meeting). American eel and other fish already bypass falls via the mills spillway, its about 8 feet wide with a 50 foot avr.(depending on tide) inconsistent grade. The grade would just need to be evened out and possibly extended.

THATS IT!

The fishway listed in draft study at \$300,000 more than "dam" removal, is not a contemporary idea. A "natural rock fish path" is. More than half of such already exists and the rock/boulders needed to even grade are right there. So that would cost much less than a 4.2M fishway. And everyone I talked to would be happy about it.

Thank you,
Paul Gemma
134 Church Hill
Eddyville, NY 12401
845-380-6480

From: [Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Subject: FW: Potential Good News, but action required today.
Date: Monday, August 26, 2019 05:29:14 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: paul g [<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 8:38 PM
To: Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD (USA) <Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil>; Ethan Rapp <erapp100@yahoo.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Fw: Potential Good News, but action required today.

From: Jesse Hicks <JHicks@takeadayaway.net>
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 7:01 PM
To: paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com>
Subject: Re: Fw: Potential Good News, but action required today.

Paul,

Thank you again for continuing to keep me in the loop here. Apologies in advance for the length and/or grammar /spelling etc. It is 1 AM here in Rotterdam and I have to go to bed - can't spend more time on this at the moment.

Wishing us all luck,
Jesse

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Jesse Hicks, and I am the owner and founder of A Day Away Kayak Rentals located an est. 15 minute paddle from the Eddyville Falls.

I'm sure you have received a significant amount of outcry from the community on the damage to appeal, the emotional damage, the implications to property values etc. . Though I want to echo some of the comments already made as I was born and raised in the area - I will spare you added text to that notion - I will however stress to you that your proposed project has serious economic implications to the local business community - including my own small business.

The Eddyville Falls have and continue to be a major attraction that influences people in their decision making to visit the area, as well as provides additional value for tourists already in process of visiting the County. The falls are viewed by many via the Eddyville Bridge but most traffic to the falls is generated by water travel via a small boat or kayak. The falls have and continue to attract day trippers to the area from an array of regions with most of its visitors (from what I have been able to gather in my 8+ years of being in business) visiting within the 1-2 hour travel time with some outliers traveling between 2-3 hours with their initial mission to kayak to the falls.

In attempt to help quantify your proposal in potential review's implications, let's say only 2 people come kayaking from far out of the area to visit my business that fit the specific target market I explained briefly above. Let's say we have a perfect season, arguably open 5 days on average per week, open 4 weeks a month, open for est. 4 months

(2 kayakers per day * 5 days open per week = 10 kayakers per week = 40 kayakers per month = 160 paddlers per

season)

Average cost per meal per person lets say is = \$10 - \$20 per person

That's conservatively \$1,600 - \$3,200 opportunity cost for our local eateries JUST from the LEAST likely types of people who come kayaking who immediately ask me for food recommendations.

Just from a tiny sample of this small sliver of my market - this project you have proposed has already taken away 13 - 27 full work days per year for a worker getting paid the soon to be minimum wage in the state of New York to help support our local eateries. And all of this is from a small use case - imagine the real impacts this has on my business and others I channel business to. I support thousands of guests from out of the area visiting per year. That's THOUSANDS of lost dollars to me and geometrical dollars lost to this community in numerous industries (not just local eateries) PER YEAR.

So in short summary, this proposal, had it had legs to stand to begin with per what I assume you've already heard from others on various other topics - sucks. It has arguably caused several businesses to close or be significantly impacted - including a kid like me at 14 who is saving every dollar they have to start their first business or put money towards supporting their future to getting in/through college a job all together, at least a few more people effected from a half-to-full month of work towards those goals, and THOUSANDS of people who decided to paddle on the Rondout Creek BECAUSE we have such great views to offer (along with a great customer experience, humble brag) that may not even consider visiting the area in the first place because THERE'S NOTHING HERE!

The goal of my business from day one wasn't to become rich - I've said this a million times - it was to bring people to the area in support of economic development and to one day be able to support full time employment for someone else - like someone else similar at the age I started my business, to offer them the same path to success I had followed growing up. With your current proposal, you threaten the thousands of guests I get year-over-year who visit us to enjoy a nice relaxing paddle to the Eddyville Falls. Thousands of dollars in revenue I receive annually that fuels my business growth towards that noted goal, thousands of dollars for local businesses who I directly partner with and channel thousands of dollars to, and quite frankly you threaten the interests of anyone ever showing interest in the Eddyville area again. The not-so far-fetched spiral effect this implies - less things to do in the area = less interest to go to that area (our already interest deprived area) = less tourists = less business in a tourist-driven economy like ours = less businesses = less interest in the area = less people = no local economy.

With that said, I am in full support for your proposed notion - supporting the presence and general well being of the local ecology etc. - but it's the 21st century - you can't sell me on the proposed study being the best option for that dam. Had I not been a world traveler in my career you may have been able to convince me otherwise, but sorry - there are hundreds of examples out there where municipalities and other government related orgs here in the US and especially abroad find effective, attractive, creative and unique ways to solve their toughest challenges all the while preserving centuries worth of history in the process. Propose to spend your time with that in the focus of your study vs. completely destroying the falls.

Please consider a better, more well thought out, worth-while study than whether or not to eliminate the Eddyville Falls. It's for the best for the community and arguably your careers - you can either be known as the ones who pull off a kick ass project that is forever praised and rewarded for doing the right thing, or known as a member of the team that prepared a plan to demolish a beautiful, iconic landmark that in hindsight could have been preserved and used for a modern purpose today - forever living in shame. A history lesson in Kingston will prove that's impossible and definitely never happened. Ever.

Thank you for your consideration, and let me know if you have any questions or if there is anything I can do for you or for the support of a better alternative to the process you are currently pursuing.

Best,
Jesse Hicks

Founder - A Day Away Kayak Rentals
jhicks@takeadayaway.net <<mailto:jhicks@takeadayaway.net>>

845-389-8458

P.S - I am incredibly disappointed in your organization and whoever is in charge of PR/ outreach/ lets just call it "letting key stakeholders know about projects like these being proposed or in process". Shame on you for not engaging with me and most (if not all) other key stakeholders on this beforehand. Incredibly disgusted with your approach to this process, let alone the actual proposal in question. I shouldn't have heard about this through the grapevine. Your team should have engaged with us independently and directly in tandem with the public announcements.

P-P.S. Hope you got my sarcasm on the whole Kingston history lesson thing. If not, I'm sure you can easily dig up a few examples.

On Mon, Aug 19, 2019 at 9:49 PM paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com <<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>> > wrote:

From: paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com <<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>> >
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 9:33 AM
To: Ethan Rapp <erapp100@yahoo.com <<mailto:erapp100@yahoo.com>> >; paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com <<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>> >
Subject: Potential Good News, but action required today.

The ACOE is having an internal meeting tomorrow about reasons to abandon removal of Eddyville falls, and possibly pursue fish ladder with DEC. They have asked for everyone's input, send short email (reply here to me and Ethan, not reply all) it can be impassioned if you want, today. We will get it to Lisa at ACOE, tonight and she will present it tomorrow. Thanks

From: paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com <<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>> >

Sent: Sunday, August 4, 2019 9:33 PM

Subject: Progress!

We got everything we asked for from the Town of Ulster, at the Town Board meeting and Betty from Church Hill stood up, talked about George Eddy's mill and asked the Town to work on getting the Eddyville falls declared a historic monument. The Town voted unanimously to start the process.

See the 2 emails the Supervisor sent out today and my message to him below.

Also we are getting some clues, that ACOE /DEC is starting to understand we are going to keep sending letters to them and politicians and that we will submit a long list of important questions, requiring a lot of work on their part. So If we do a good job at those and they learn we have submitted a factual report on the Falls history to the appropriate authority's, that could be discouraging for their plan to move forward.

We need a name for this group. 2 people seconded- STEM Stop The Eddyville Mistake. But if you have another idea, submit it in next few days, and I will list them in next email for a vote.

He sent the following to everyone on our list below+ the town attorney and board :

Matthew,

At the Town of Ulster Town Board Meeting held Thursday, August 1, 2019 residents of the Town of Ulster presented to the Town Board their unhappiness with the fact that a 60 day extension was requested and only a 30 day extension was granted to the Public Comment Period. In addition, since the majority of the property owners impacted by the proposed actions with the Eddyville Dam are residents of the Town of Ulster they are upset that meetings have not been held in the Town of Ulster.

On behalf of the Town of Ulster Residents I am requesting the following:

1. An immediate addition of an additional 30 days in the Public Comment Period.
2. I am offering the opportunity for the USACOE / NYSDEC to hold meetings in the Town of Ulster at the Town Hall.

In addition, I am requesting via this e-mail assistance from NYS Assemblyman Kevin Cahill and Senator George Amedore for intersession with NYS DEC (the State Partnering Agency) on these issues with these requests.

James E. Quigley 3rd, CPA

Supervisor

Town of Ulster

1 Town Hall Drive

Lake Katrine, New York 12449

Tel: (845) 382-2765 Office

(845) 663-3686 Cell

(845) 336-0082 Fax

To: James.Finelli@parks.ny.gov <<mailto:James.Finelli@parks.ny.gov>> Cc: gaffat@hotmail.com <<mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com>> ; Eric Kitchen; Jason J. Kovacs; Joel Brink; John Morrow; Rocco Secreto

Mr. Finelli,

The US Army Cory of Engineers along with NYS DEC has proposed modifications to a Dam constructed on the Rondout Creek for the Delaware & Hudson Canal in 1825. Residents of the Eddyville Hamlet of the Town of Ulster have requested the Town to investigate the possibility of a Historic Designation for this structure.

Please advise me on the process for this review.

Thank you for your assistance.

James E. Quigley 3rd, CPA

Supervisor

Town of Ulster

Thank you very much for both emails.

We are working on adding to our list of comments, and perfecting them in the form of questions that they must answer by law.

We will also start working on a report about the history of the falls that contains only facts.

Thanks again, Paul Gemma

Matthew Voisine,

Project Biologist

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

New York District

26 Federal Plaza,

New York, NY

10279-0090

(917) 790-8718

matthew.m.voisine@usace.army.mil <<mailto:matthew.m.voisine@usace.army.mil>>

Lisa Baron,

Project Manager

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,

New York District 26 Federal Plaza,

New York, NY

10279-0090

(917)

790-8306

Lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil <<mailto:Lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil>>

Fran Dunwell

Estuary Program, Hudson River Coordinator

The Hudson River Estuary Program

NYSDEC Region 3

21 S Putt Corners Rd

New Paltz, NY 12561

fax: (845) 255-3649

845-256-3016

Or

Fran Dunwell

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

625 Broadway

Albany, New York 12233-0001

Ulster County Office of Economic Development (OED)

Suzanne Holt, Director (in charge of tourism)

244 Fair Street, 6th Floor

Kingston, NY 12401

Phone: (845) 340-3556

Email: oed@co.ulster.ny.us <<mailto:oed@co.ulster.ny.us>>

US Congressman Antonio Delgado

Kingston Office

256 Clinton Ave

Kingston, NY 12401

(845) 443-2930

Monday to Friday, 9AM - 5PM

Washington, DC Office

1007 Longworth HOB

Washington, DC 20515

(202) 225-5614

Monday to Friday, 9AM - 5PM

Blocked <https://delgado.house.gov/contact/email-me>

State Senator George A. Amedore, Jr.

Albany Office

188 State Street, Legislative Office Building

Room 408

Albany, NY 12247

Phone: (518) 455-2350

Fax: (518) 426-6751

Email Address:

amedore@nysenate.gov <<mailto:amedore@nysenate.gov>>

Assembly Member Kevin Cahill

District Office

Governor Clinton Bldg. Suite G-4

1 Albany Ave

Kingston, NY 12401

845-338-9610

District Office Directions <Blocked<https://maps.google.com/?q=Governor%20Clinton%20Bldg.%20Suite%20G-4%20%3Cbr%3E1%20Albany%20Ave%20Kingston,%20NY%2012401>>

Albany Office

LOB 716

Albany, NY 12248

518-455-4436

cahillk@nyassembly.gov <[mailto:cahillk@nyassembly.gov?_xts_="](mailto:cahillk@nyassembly.gov?_xts_=)>

Get Outlook for Android <Blocked<https://aka.ms/ghei36>>

--

<Blocked<http://www.takeadayaway.net/publishImages/~master~master~~master34.png>>

Jess Hicks II

Owner and Founder

Office: (845) 750-6538

Cell: (845) 389-8458

Blockedwww.TakeADayAway.net <Blocked<http://www.TakeADayAway.net>>

Matthew Voisine,
Project Biologist U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
New York District 26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY
10279-0090
(917) 790-8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

Lisa Baron,
Project Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
New York District 26 Federal Plaza,
New York,
NY 10279-0090
(917) 790-8306
Lisa.a.baron@usace.army.mil

THE FOLLOWING REPRESENT THE LITERAL COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS DEVELOPED BY ETHAN RAPP AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE IMMEDIATE COMMUNITY. THIS DOCUMENT SHOULD BE ACCEPTED AS SUCH UNDERSTANDING THAT OTHER COMMUNITY MEMBERS MAY SUPPORT THIS DOCUMENT AND ALSO SUBMIT THEIR OWN COMMENTS

Over 5 dozen community residents reviewed this document and many have given their permission to be counter signatories. That list can be provided on request.

**Comments Regarding: “Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study”
June 2019**

Introduction:

While there are many important considerations here, paramount is the significant impact on property and property value of many homes in the area. This issue is the “make or break” issue for myself and many others. It is for this reason that the vast majority of residents that have contributed to this set of comments, as well as others you likely received will not accept the total removal option, and anything resembling this would be met with the full resistance of the community members that have organized and expressed their interest. This includes members with water front property, households with views and ones that are in earshot, local businesses and commercial entities that would be adversely affected.

The outcome that we have collectively would consider would be a fish passage (ladder et al) that left the aesthetics and function of the Falls in place. The passage would have to be aesthetically acceptable to the eye and either disguised or hidden (perhaps behind the existing stone wall that runs perpendicular to the falls. Anything that looked like a man made monolith would detract significantly from the aesthetic. With that said I (and some others) value the opportunity to allow fish passage and would work with the DEC to compromise.

Lastly if a fish ladder concept were to be introduced I (we) would want to be ensured that it would have the desired effect and insist the questions and comments in this document be addressed individually.

Thank you for your attention and I (we) look forward to your response.

With Further Specification Regarding Restoration of Tributary Connectivity through the removal of the Eddyville Dam:

1. Private Property Impact Above “the Falls”

a. Aesthetic Value

i. Water view

- 1. Many homes on Church Hill Road and Creek Locks Road have a significant premium on the value of the property due to the ownership, impact of and close proximity to the Falls**
- 2. Many properties above the falls, In the towns of Ulster, St. Remy, Bloomington and Creeklocks have direct river views and direct water access to the river due to the impoundment area between the falls to the DEC boat launch and 7,400 feet beyond that. Based on observation of occasional water level drops and measured water depth many of these properties would completely or partially lose both water views and water access. This will impact the values of all of the said properties. (See example of residence on Creek Locks Road in the Appendix.**

ii. Auditory value

1. There is significant premium attached to many of these same properties due to the significant auditory impact of the Falls.

b. Direct Property impact

i. Erosion

1. Many properties above the Falls directly border current water levels. Will drop in water levels and increase in velocity erode land left exposed and result in exposed natural or altered rock formations as property Borders? Will this present aesthetic degradation and/or safety issues?

ii. Resulting dry land and loss of river access

1. Because these properties directly border the impoundment area they have docks or boat launches. The drop in water level would leave many of these access points unusable. How would this be mitigated?
2. The resulting land left over after water level drops would include large areas of unusable wetlands, exposed refuse and large swaths of sediment, significantly impacting the properties bordering the river upstream of the Falls. They would no longer have "River access" or "River views" but rather swamp, marsh, wetland, or forest views and subsequent mosquito populations. How would this be mitigated?

iii. Loss of navigability and recreational activities

1. The impoundment area and river as far upstream to the rapids is used frequently by boaters, fisherman, kayakers, skull rowers, jet ski's, canoes, and rowboats. Will the resulting drop in water levels impede or prohibit these recreational activities?

2. Private Property Impact Below "The Falls"

a. Aesthetic Value

i. Water view

1. 170 Church Hill Road and others have a significant premium on the value of the property due to the ownership and close proximity to the falls. How would this be mitigated?
2. Many properties below the falls have direct views of the falls and direct water access to the river. The loss of the view of the falls will impact several properties on Church Hill Road. How would this be mitigated?

ii. Auditory value

1. There is significant premium attached to 170 Church Hill Road and other properties due to the significant auditory benefits of the Falls. How would this be mitigated?

2. There is a significant premium on several properties below the falls due to the auditory benefits of the falls. The loss of this will directly impact the property values. How would this be mitigated?
3. Does the spray from the falls provide any cooling or tempering effect to local temperatures? How would this be mitigated?

b. Direct Property impact

i. Erosion

1. Will increased velocity of the river erode some of the “beach area” on both sides of the river, which has significant recreational value?

ii. Loss of navigability and recreational activities

1. Will the loss of the Falls, increased velocity of the water further impede boat and personal craft (kayak, canoe, paddleboard) movement up the river?
2. Will the increased velocity of the water decrease fishing activity due to loss of environment
3. 170 Church Hill Road has riparian rights to the creek bed below the Falls. Would the removal of the Falls leave unwanted and dangerous debris on this property?

c. Velocity and water levels

- i. There are docks and marina’s within ¼ mi of the Dam. Will this be a safety issue?
- ii. The Anchorage Marina regularly floods during large storms. Does the dam impoundment slow the water and keep water levels lower than they ordinarily would be below the dam, or would flooding of properties in close vicinity to the dam be impacted?

3. Commercial Impact

1. Marina’s

- a. The Falls are the single point of interest for tourism in the area. The many marina’s in the area rent slips to boats that regularly visit the falls. The removal of the falls would be a detriment to their businesses as it would remove the major Point of Interest (POI). How would these establishments be compensated?

2. Rental business

- a. Several marina’s in close vicinity to the dam rent kayaks and paddle boards with the Falls being the POIs. The removal of the falls would remove what is the arguably the most significant tourist draw for these commercial establishments. How would these establishments be compensated?

4. Impact on Tourism

1. Whether above or below the Falls, The Eddyville falls have gained popularity with people who visit the Catskill area. The falls are referred to in many books as

a tourism POI (“[A Kayaker's Guide to the Hudson River Valley: The Quieter Waters--Rivers, Creeks, Lakes and Ponds](#)” by [Shari Aber](#) | Mar 15, 2007)

2. The loss of the falls would divert important tourism from the Eddyville/Lower Roundout to other parts of the area, significantly adversely impacting local businesses such as:
 - a. White’s Dairy Barn
 - b. Canal Deli
 - c. Anchorage Marina, bar and restaurant
 - d. Lou’s Marina and fuel

5. Biological/Ecological Impact

1. Above the Dam

- a. Will slow water/warm water species above the Falls be impacted, including but not limited to?
 - i. Large mouth bass
 - ii. Small mouth bass
 - iii. Green Herron
 - iv. Swans
 - v. Beaver
 - vi. Muskrat
 - vii. Turtles: The sand bank on the 170 Church Hill Property that is formed by regular flooding of the impoundment area creates active habitat for Turtle nests. Presumably this would be lost if the drop in the water level could no longer refresh this sand/sediment area.
- b. The large Eddyville pond gets an unknown and varying (based on river water level) percentage of its water from under the Creek Locks Road dyke. Said amount may be significantly more than direct rain and spring water combined, as there is no inlet, yet considerable outfall. Thus without current average river level, would this feature dry up and to what extent? Would this result in a loss of a variety of wildlife? Will the State be required to acquire land for and to construct a pumping station, automated monitoring station, and design a way to deliver water to the pond. How would these be mitigated?

2. Below the Dam

- a. Will increased velocity at the site of the falls impact the presence of local species that can be disrupted by higher velocity water? For example but not limited to:
 - i. Small mouth bass
 - ii. Large mouth bass
 - iii. Needlefish
 - iv. Blue crab
- b. Will invasive species that have NOT been detected above the dam be able to spread? Including but not limited to
 - i. Zebra Mussels

- ii. **Hydrilla**
- iii. **Didymo**
- iv. Grass Carp: Exist above the falls but gather in very concentrated, large numbers below the falls.

6. Fish Passage Efficacy

1. Potential for restoring populations/Potential for non-impact
 - a. It has been made clear that the decline in the fish population below the Falls has occurred over the past 75 years.
 - i. **[Citation]: The Kingston Daily Freeman Thursday April 3, 1947**
“Smelts Run Heavy, Shad Due Soon...”
 “A heavy run of Smelts was reported in the Rondout Creek near the Eddyville Falls today by the fisherman who took from 10-20 pounds apiece last night but the spawning invasion of the shad in the Hudson is not expected to be effective here until next week...”
 - b. Why is it assumed that restoring a few miles of sedimentary, artificially altered river bed will help restore this population? It clearly played no part in the decline of the populations. **Isn't it true that introducing solutions to problems that were not directly or indirectly a cause of that problem necessarily result in unpredictable and unintended consequences? What is the Risk vs. Reward and shouldn't local landowners be able to help with that equation?**
 - c. Will partial removal of the dam (Teeth) mitigate the concerns in this document and others:
 - i. Aesthetics
 - ii. Ecology
 - iii. Biology
 - iv. Water levels and property value
 - v. Etc
 - d. Will a fish ladder be aesthetically unpleasing and/or is their the possibility of creating a natural ladder that uses existing loose rock to create the appropriate gradation without losing the head (water level above) of the falls?
2. Construction Comments
 - a. Will it be feasible to place the proper equipment at the site:
 - b. See assumptions made in a past removal feasibility study:

DAM NOTCHING

Dam Notching

At the Eddyville Dam on Rondout Creek, this element, proposed as Alternative 3, involves removing a portion of the spillway, likely in the center, to provide for fish passage and leaving the remainder of the spillway intact at its existing elevation. The extent of the notch (width and depth) of the spillway would be determined through detailed site survey and hydrologic and hydraulic analysis to create optimal hydraulic conditions for upstream fish passage for as many target species as possible.

Notching, as opposed to full removal, allows a portion of the spillway to remain as an enduring feature on the site and physical marker of the historic dam. Similar to current conditions, the remaining spillway would be subject to slow deterioration due to weathering and river conditions (freeze/thaw, ice floes, scour, abrasion, debris impact, etc.).

The notching of the dam would also result in a reduction in normal water surface elevation albeit less than the full removal, in addition to an upstream tidal influence likely less than the full removal would create.

It is assumed that adequate shallow bedrock or consolidated river bottom exists immediately upstream and/or downstream of the dam to allow for a rock-lined construction accessway to convey an excavator to the portion of the spillway to be notched. The dam and shallow bedrock at the notch would remain as a barrier to boat navigation from downstream of the dam to the upstream reaches. A detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analysis would be required to affirm the extent and magnitude of this effect.

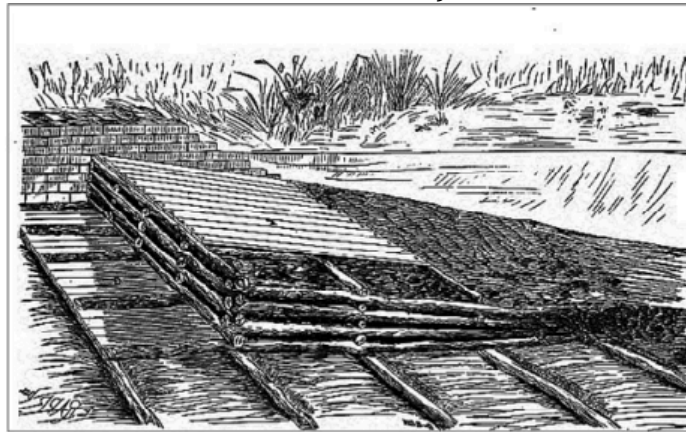
Chester Hartwell July 18, 2019

- A notch in the dam already exists where the breast type waterwheel was located.
- Private property exists next to this notch.
- Making a notch on the far side of the dam and a road would be less of an impact.

- c. The assumption that the proper river bottom exists is unlikely.
 - i. Below the falls is a field of very uneven large angular rock strata and large angular boulders. This rock rises out of the water +2 feet in places during low tide and falls to as low as -12 feet within close proximity to each other. There are stone risers carved from bedrock near the falls that are

intended to permit boats from approaching the falls at low tide.

- ii. Above the falls is the extension of the timber dam that is a quick gradient comprised of timber and sediment that runs from 1 to about 20 feet deep in about 50 yards. This grade which allows the water to run up will likely be unstable with the uneven pressure of heavy equipment (See illustration below)



DAM on a muddy river bottom.

A TIMBER DAM is a crib dam made of notched timbers, held in place by available stone. The dam is held in place by the stones and the weight of the water pressing against the boards.

The dam can be further anchored at each end by notching it into the river bank or stone walls in the case of the Saugerties Dam or by anchors in the mud.

From the book: Mill Dams by James Laffel (Special Thanks to GOOGLE BOOKS)

May 23, 2011 Chester Hartwell

- 3.
 - a. Access to through either side of the property abutting the falls may be prohibitive.
 - i. On the south side of the dam there are sheer stone walls over 30' high below the falls, and sharp jagged stone walls above the falls.
 - ii. On the north side below the falls are sheer stone walls and very steep cliff that cannot even be navigated by foot at about 20' high. Above the dam there are long underwater stone jetties that are carved into the natural bedrock as well as drop offs that go from 2 to 20' feet deep in a matter of a few lateral feet. (Photos available through Ethan Rapp)

7. Safety

1. Private Property

- a. **Because of man made pools, mined bluestone, dredged out areas. there are several sections above the dam where water levels drop off dramatically after a few feet. Presumably the resulting drop in water level in the impoundment area would expose these drop offs (at 170 Church Hill Road for example, water levels above the Falls go from 0-35 feet deep in just a few horizontal feet. This artificial, man made, "Cliff" would be exposed with the resulting water level drop and be potentially unsafe, and at best unsightly. (Additionally it would reduce the utility of the property to launch personal watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, affixing docks , etc This is true for many properties with water access as far north as the rapids by Rosendale.)**

2. Public Land

- a. How would the drop in water level affect the public boat launch on Creek Locks Road?

3. Water Toxicity

- a. Unacceptable concentrations of bacteria have been found both above and below the falls. There is a significant project underway to reduce the bacteria levels above the falls in the upper Rondout and Walkill rivers. The Falls obviously create a natural barrier for high concentrations of bacteria below the falls (where there is currently no formal improvement initiative) to move to the upper Rondout (Above the Falls). Would the removal of the Falls render the efforts in the upper Rondout less effective due to contamination from water below the Falls?

8. Historical

- a. The construction of the Eddyville dam can be traced back to the early 1700's, built by George Eddy the industrialist himself. The Dam played many important roles over the centuries. At various times the Dam enabled:
 - i. A mill that rolled iron nails for battleships for the revolutionary war
 - ii. A Grist Mill
 - iii. A Wool mill
 - iv. A Machine shop
 - v. Later in the 1800's the Dam was used to raise the water level for the last few critical locks of the Delaware and Hudson Canal. This was the terminal point of the canal through which much of the coal to power NYC was delivered.
 1. The D&H Canal Museum considers the Dam an important landmark of great historical significance.
- b. Artefacts from many of those uses can still be found in and around the Falls. The areas both above the falls and below the falls have never been properly investigated for significant historical artifacts
- c. Lock 2 and Lock 3 of the D&H Canal are among the very few original canal era locks in New York State to have water in them. leaving them high and dry, would alter their historical value.
- d. The D&H canal guard lock above the falls, although filled in, has a pipe allowing water from the river to flow to a stretch of canal directly below it, the water then exits the canal via a culvert back into the river below falls. This was done to prevent stagnant water in the canal with the resultant mosquitos and to maintain canal era water level in one of the very few sections of D&H canal to still have water. Will the State be required to obtain land and construct a pumping station to replace this system and incur regular costs to maintain such a system?
- e. The long planned restoration of this section and guard lock, with addition of a replica canal boat, as a historically important potential POI. How would The Proposal impact this plan?

- f. It is the view of many that this historical significance of the Eddyville Dam must be acknowledged, respected and preserved.
- g. It behoves the community and project to complete a thorough historical study.

In conclusion, I and all who support this document, request responses to the above questions and concerns individually to support this project.
Many thanks for your consideration

Ethan Rapp
170 Church Hill Road
Kingston NY 12401.
917-202-8414

-----Original Message-----

From: paul g [mailto:gaffat@hotmail.com]

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 5:17 PM

To: Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD (USA) <Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil>; Ethan Rapp <erapp100@yahoo.com>

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] More letters

Lisa- The next 3 came in during last few min. Sorry my computer does not want to copy/paste them together. I didn't see message from Ethan until late last night, thus I did not get word to members of our group until few hours ago. I'm proud of what they are doing on short notice. I hope we do not have to start serious fundraising for additional lawyers and environmental consultants. Thanks, Paul

Letter Below

From: Bernice Jerry <bjerry5068@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 4:53 PM

To: paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com>; erapp100@yahoo.com <erapp100@yahoo.com>

Subject: Re: Potential Good News, but action required today.

Hi Paul....Jim and Bernice .. here is our response:

We are the owners of 108, 110, and 114 Church Hill Road, Kingston (Eddyville) NY., and our property is located on the Town of Ulster side of the Rondout Creek next to and thru the old bridge abutment to the center of the creek. We dock our 35' boat there on the water. We are writing to you today to advise you that we are against the removal of the Eddyville falls. Our concerns are as follows:

- 1.) Removal of the dam may result in lower navigable water due to fill in with silt and debris from above the falls. This severely impacts our enjoyment and lifestyle of boating on the Rondout.....and having our boat available on the water at our property.
- 2.) The aesthetic value, peace and serenity, of being able to open our windows and listen to the rush of water over the falls, all day long and especially at nighttime will be taken away from us. These 2 factors were a major reason for purchasing property on the Rondout.
- 3.) Loss of the aforementioned items could significantly reduce the real estate value of our property, which we have worked enormously hard to improve and beautify from the neglectful condition the property was in when we purchased in 2008.
- 4.) The dam has existed for over 200 years, is in good condition according to your reports and has historical value as related to the D& H canal system and Lock # 1 which is still in excellent condition in Eddyville. Do not destroy the value of existing history! Preserve it!
- 5.) We understand the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Wallkill River. Disrupting the Wallkill River up to the Wallkill may cause more polluted sediment reaching further down the lower part of the Rondout to and including our property. And many others as well. Don't want that.

Hudson River Habitat Restoration Wallkill River

Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment

August 2020

Appendix G7

From: Nancy Gill <hudsonsailor27@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 2:46 PM

To: paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: Some folks didnt get email earlier- Potential Good News, but action required today.

Here is my letter to be included with being sent to the Army Corps of Engineers.

Nancy Gill
927 Creek Locks Rd.
Rosendale, NY 12472
hudsonsailor27@gmail.com

To: Army Corps of Engineers
Re: Destruction of Eddyville Dam

I am writing to oppose your plan to destroy the Eddyville Dam.

I've lived along the Rondout Creek, up stream from the dam for over 27 years. One of the main reasons I purchased my home was the natural, clam nature of the creek. I spend time swimming and kayaking in the creek often. I see an abundance of wildlife in the creek including, a variety of fish, turtles, frogs, ducks, herons, dragonflies and recently, bald eagles. I pass by the falls regularly and enjoy the natural beauty.

It is my understanding that the goal of your project is restoration of fish habitat. Since Central Hudson owns a massive dam at Sturgeon Pool, the water level is controlled by that company. That dam still blocks the natural flow of the creek. During the summer, the water level is often extremely low in front of my house. If as you predict in your report, the water level would drop by eight feet, the drop in the water level would leave the creek dry just 3 miles west of the dam. I don't understand how this would benefit the fish or any other wildlife.

There would be no recreational value of the creek for people. I imagine the creek would be tidal up to by home. This would result in a near dry level in my area. Changes to the water level would effect the value of my property and damage the wildlife habitat. Fish can't live in a dry stream bed. I have property rights that extend to the middle of the creek. How can you make changes to my property without consulting me or compensating me?

The dam has historical value and that should be investigated before any changes to are begun.

Your report discusses the possibility of a fish ladder being installed. That option need further investigation and public comment.

Please extend the public comment period, and do proper environmental studies before adopting and plan to alter the dam in Eddyville and include notification to the Hudson River Habitat Restoration team to the Central Hudson Dam. August 2020

Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment Appendix G7

Sincerely,
Nancy Gill

July 26, 2019

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10279-0090

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and Tentatively Selected Plan

Dear Mr. Voisine and Ms. Baron,

I write to express strong support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study, design and implement projects that will restore habitat and ecological function in the Hudson River Estuary and its tributaries.

The five projects identified in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), would restore 2 side channels, 186 acres of wetlands, 0.5 miles of shoreline and 17 miles of high quality tributary habitat, including habitat for American eels, American shad and river herring.

Specifically our organization supports the following proposed restoration projects:

- Large River Mosaic restoration of the Binnen Kill in Albany County, which would result in the creation or restoration of a side channel and 154 acres of wetlands; and at Schodack Island in Rensselaer County, which would result in the restoration of a side channel and 29 acres of wetlands.
- Shoreline Restoration at Henry Hudson Park, a Town of Bethlehem park in Albany County, which would result in a 0.5-mile living shoreline and 3.6 acres of wetlands.
- Tributary Connectivity through the removal or partial removal of an unused sewer trunk line and the Firth Cliff and Orr's Mills dams on the Moodna Creek, which would result in 7.8 miles of restored habitat; and the Eddyville Dam on the Rondout Creek, which would result in 9 miles of restored habitat.

River channelization, shoreline hardening, dredge and fill operations, and community and industrial development, have been detrimental to a wide variety of aquatic organisms that rely on the Hudson River and its tributaries. The restoration projects identified in the TSP are the largest opportunity for habitat and ecological restoration in the half century since citizens and governments began the long project of restoring health to the Hudson River. Few restoration projects affecting the physical landscape of the Hudson River have been implemented, and none at the scale contemplated by the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study. Accordingly, these projects would help return critical habitat for several

species of migratory fish, which are in significant decline and have been greatly impacted by human alterations to the Hudson and its watershed. The projects would also restore many acres of shallow water habitat which has been significantly reduced historically due to channelization efforts to support the Port of Albany.

As the USACE describes in the FR/EA, the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem has suffered from “dramatic losses” for over 200 years due to impacts from the creation and maintenance of the Hudson River navigational channel, and from other shoreline and tributary transportation and industrial activity. Under the TSP, of the 4,000 acres of aquatic habitats and 71 miles of shoreline lost, less than 5% would be restored. Of more than 1,600 dams and thousands of culverts that block tributaries, a fraction of 1% would be removed or partially removed.

Thus, if any of these projects proves unviable, we urge the USACE to pursue other projects in order to “carry out not fewer than 4 projects for habitat restoration in the Hudson River Basin,” as authorized by Congress in Section 551 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

We applaud the USACE for this historic initiative. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Christopher C. Nack', written in a cursive style.

Christopher C. Nack
Aquatic Ecologist

From: Vincent Pidone <pidone.vincent@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, August 19, 2019 11:11 AM

To: paul g <gaffat@hotmail.com>

Subject: Re: Potential Good News, but action required today.

ACOE,

Removal of the falls at Eddyville, NY is not something that those of us living on the creek consider acceptable or desirable.

If fish is what you want, build a fishway of some sort.

Leave the dam intact.

Sincerely,

Hudson River Habitat Restoration 62
Final Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment

August 2020
Appendix G7

Vincent Pidone

Non-Governmental Organization Comments

From: chartwel1990.
To: [Bill Merchant](#)
Cc: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Re: DON'T REMOVE THE EDDYVILLE DAM
Date: Monday, July 29, 2019 03:55:59 PM

Very interesting!

On Mon, Jul 29, 2019 at 2:35 PM Bill Merchant <historian@canalmuseum.org>
<<mailto:historian@canalmuseum.org>> > wrote:

To whom it may concern-

I am the Deputy Director, Historian and Curator at the D&H Canal Historical Society, Vice President of the D&H Transportation Heritage Council and Vice President of the Ulster County Historical Society. The removal of the Eddyville dam should NOT occur. The dam is a natural shelf of slate that was added to in the Canal era to allow boats of greater draft to utilize the tidewater section of the Rondout Creek when the Canal was enlarged in the 1840s. There was a mill at the site, starting with Cornelius Delamater's mill of 1739. In 1820 George Eddy utilized that same natural dam to power his 2 mills at that same site. There has always been an obstruction for spawning fish there but it is highly probable that these mills made it impassable by adding to that natural formation to capture the Creek's flow to power their water wheels. So there hasn't been historic spawning activity for going on 300 years now. The 2 miles of spawning Creek that this removal would facilitate would destroy this important history while giving minimal benefit to these fish. Once history is erased you seldom if ever get it back!

You may be aware of a similar project on the Neversink River in, I believe, 2004. An historic dam feeding the 17 mile Summit Level of the D&H Canal was removed by the Nature Conservancy, with help from the Army Corp. of Engineers, to aid the dwarf mussel. Assurances were given that the flow to that section of the Canal, watered for over 170 years, would still occur. They claimed they would fix it if it didn't. The dam was removed, at a cost of over \$1,000,000. The Canal dried up and the dwarf mussels were swept away in the next big storm. So the result was the loss of a public amenity- after the Canal closed in 1898 this watered section was a tourist attraction, with a replica Canal boat plying the waters, a swimming hole, an ice skating venue and a source of water for the Huguenot Fire Department- with no positive result for the species it was supposed to aid. Now a group of concerned citizens are fighting to get it re-watered, with NO help from the Nature Conservancy or the Army Corp, despite their culpability and assurances. It will now take as great a sum of money to remedy what should have never occurred- a terrible waste of public resources, with NO benefit to the species it was supposed to help. They claimed they were restoring "historic spawning grounds", too (A dubious assertion given that no fish had gone higher than that since 1828). They were proven wrong and have not stepped up to fix it. I fear that this history is about to be repeated, with similar negative consequences on the Rondout Creek and the property owners adjacent to it.

Changing the water level on this section of Creek will also negatively impact home owners and businesses that utilize that section of the Rondout. I predict a flood of lawsuits should this ill-advised action take place.

--

Bill Merchant
Deputy Director for Collections,
Historian & Curator
D&H Canal Historical Society
Blockedwww.canalmuseum.org <Blocked<http://www.canalmuseum.org>>
historian@canalmuseum.org <<mailto:historian@canalmuseum.org>>
Vice President
Delaware & Hudson Transportation Heritage Council

Vice President
Ulster County Historical Society



Bethlehem Tomorrow

July 21, 2019

SUPPORT: USACE Assessment for Henry Hudson Park (Town of Bethlehem, NY) Shoreline Restoration and Tidal Wetland Creation

Dear Colonel Asbery:

Bethlehem Tomorrow supports the findings and recommendations of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Henry Hudson Park in the Town of Bethlehem, NY.

Bethlehem Tomorrow is a group of concerned citizens in Bethlehem, NY seeking to improve the future of our town through guided development and sustainability.

Climate change is a challenge facing all communities, and it is vital that we implement innovative strategies now to help ensure that our natural and public resources persist and succeed as our weather patterns change and sea levels rise. The USACE's shoreline restoration and tidal wetland construction plans at Henry Hudson Park would meet these goals well.

1. The project will demonstrate active approaches to shoreline management that can be replicated not just within the Hudson Valley, but in all shoreline communities.
2. The project will allow park visitors to interact with and enjoy the Hudson River in ways they cannot with a shoreline of crumbling concrete bulkhead.
3. The project will create wildlife habitat that can shift as sea level rises.

Further, New York's tax cap on municipalities will keep the Town of Bethlehem from pursuing these important restoration efforts on its own. We are grateful for the USACE's consideration of this important project, and strongly support moving it to completion.

Sincerely,

Pattie Beeler

Jeremy Snyder

Cc: David VanLuven, Town of Bethlehem
Jason Gallo, Town of Bethlehem



415 River Street
Troy, NY 12180
518-659-5263
www.renstrust.org



July 26, 2019

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10279-0090

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and Tentatively Selected Plan

Dear Mr. Voisine and Ms. Baron,

On behalf of Rensselaer Land Trust, I write to express strong support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study, design and implement projects that will restore habitat and ecological function in the Hudson River Estuary and its tributaries.

The mission of the Rensselaer Land Trust is to conserve watersheds and natural habitats for the benefit of our communities and future generations. We recently prepared a conservation plan that included protecting and restoring key habitats in our region, including those at Schodack Island in Rensselaer County identified in your report. We also wrote a report on increasing access to the Hudson River. Restoring ecosystems will benefit those using the river.

The five projects identified in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), would restore 2 side channels, 186 acres of wetlands, 0.5 miles of shoreline and 17 miles of high quality tributary habitat, including habitat for American eels, American shad and river herring.

Specifically our organization supports the following proposed restoration projects:

- Large River Mosaic restoration of the Binnen Kill in Albany County, which would result in the creation or restoration of a side channel and 154 acres of wetlands; and at

Schodack Island in Rensselaer County, which would result in the restoration of a side channel and 29 acres of wetlands.

- Shoreline Restoration at Henry Hudson Park, a Town of Bethlehem park in Albany County, which would result in a 0.5-mile living shoreline and 3.6 acres of wetlands.
- Tributary Connectivity through the removal or partial removal of an unused sewer trunk line and the Firth Cliff and Orr's Mills dams on the Moodna Creek, which would result in 7.8 miles of restored habitat; and the Eddyville Dam on the Rondout Creek, which would result in 9 miles of restored habitat.

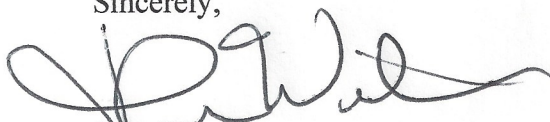
River channelization, shoreline hardening, dredge and fill operations, and community and industrial development, have been detrimental to a wide variety of aquatic organisms that rely on the Hudson River and its tributaries. The restoration projects identified in the TSP are the largest opportunity for habitat and ecological restoration in the half century since citizens and governments began the long project of restoring health to the Hudson River. Few restoration projects affecting the physical landscape of the Hudson River have been implemented, and none at the scale contemplated by the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study. Accordingly, these projects would help return critical habitat for several species of migratory fish, which are in significant decline and have been greatly impacted by human alterations to the Hudson and its watershed. The projects would also restore many acres of shallow water habitat which has been significantly reduced due to channelization efforts to support the Port of Albany.

As the USACE describes in the FR/EA, the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem has suffered from "dramatic losses" for over 200 years due to impacts from the creation and maintenance of the Hudson River navigational channel, and from other shoreline and tributary transportation and industrial activity. Under the TSP, of the 4,000 acres of aquatic habitats and 71 miles of shoreline lost, less than 5% would be restored. Of more than 1,600 dams and thousands of culverts that block tributaries, a fraction of 1% would be removed or partially removed.

Thus, if any of these projects proves unviable, we urge the USACE to pursue other projects in order to "carry out not fewer than 4 projects for habitat restoration in the Hudson River Basin," as authorized by Congress in Section 551 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

We applaud the USACE for this historic initiative. Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,



John Winter
Executive Director

Hudson River Watershed Alliance



Board of Directors

Ryan Palmer, President
*Center for the Urban River
at Beczak*

**Katherine Meierdiercks,
Ph.D., Vice President**
Siena College

Phil DeGaetano, Treasurer
*Albany Water Quality
Coordinating Committee*

Mary McNamara, Secretary
*Lower Esopus
Watershed Partnership*

Dr. Michael Finewood, Ph.D.
Pace University

Nicole Laible, M.P.A.P
*Rockland County Soil &
Water Conservation District*

Greg Mercurio
*Sparkill Creek
Watershed Alliance*

Amanda Post
AMRI

Dan Shapley
Riverkeeper

Matthew Shook
*Palisades Interstate
Park Commission*

Emily Svenson
*Law Office of
David K. Gordon*

July 26, 2019

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10279-0090

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and Tentatively Selected Plan

Dear Mr. Voisine and Ms. Baron,

On behalf of the Hudson River Watershed Alliance, I write to express strong support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study, design and implement projects that will restore habitat and ecological function in the Hudson River Estuary and its tributaries.

The Hudson River Watershed Alliance unites and supports communities to protect local water resources. We are a network of people, grassroots groups, municipalities and active citizens working in the Hudson River region to protect their local creeks, streams and waterways. We know the health of the Hudson River is closely connected with the health of its tributaries. The Hudson River Watershed Alliance envisions a future where informed citizens and municipalities are effective stewards of local waters, ensuring that the Hudson River's tributaries are healthy for the diverse needs of people and nature in the watershed. The Hudson River Watershed Alliance participated as one of the Partners Restoring the Hudson to develop the Hudson River Comprehensive Management Plan in 2018.

The five projects identified in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), would restore 2 side channels, 186 acres of wetlands, 0.5 miles of shoreline and 17 miles of high quality tributary habitat, including habitat for American eels, American shad and river herring.

River channelization, shoreline hardening, dredge and fill operations, and community and industrial development, have been detrimental to a wide variety of aquatic organisms that rely on the Hudson River and its tributaries. The restoration projects identified in the TSP are the largest opportunity for habitat and ecological restoration in the half century since citizens and governments began the long project of restoring health to the Hudson River. Few restoration projects affecting the physical landscape of the Hudson River have been implemented, and none at the scale contemplated by the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study. Accordingly, these projects would help return critical habitat for several species of migratory fish, which are in significant decline and have been greatly impacted by human alterations to the Hudson and its watershed. The projects would also restore many acres of shallow water habitat which has been significantly reduced historically due to channelization efforts to support the Port of Albany.

As the USACE describes in the FR/EA, the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem has suffered from “dramatic losses” for over 200 years due to impacts from the creation and maintenance of the Hudson River navigational channel, and from other shoreline and tributary transportation and industrial activity. Under the TSP, of the 4,000 acres of aquatic habitats and 71 miles of shoreline lost, less than 5% would be restored. Of more than 1,600 dams and thousands of culverts that block tributaries, a fraction of 1% would be removed or partially removed.

Thus, if any of these projects proves unviable, we urge the USACE to pursue other projects in order to “carry out not fewer than 4 projects for habitat restoration in the Hudson River Basin,” as authorized by Congress in Section 551 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

We applaud the USACE for this historic initiative. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



Emily Vail
Executive Director
Hudson River Watershed Alliance



July 26, 2019

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10279-0090

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and Tentatively Selected Plan

Dear Mr. Voisine and Ms. Baron,

On behalf of the Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance (RCWA), I write to express strong support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study, design and implement projects that will restore habitat and ecological function in the Hudson River Estuary and its tributaries.

The Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance was founded to restore the Rondout Creek and its tributaries to their prime, to act as the voice of the Creek, and to advocate for the protection and improvement of the watershed by increasing community awareness and implementing collaborative conservation efforts.

The five projects identified in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), would restore 2 side channels, 186 acres of wetlands, 0.5 miles of shoreline and 17 miles of high quality tributary habitat, including habitat for American eels, American shad and river herring.

Specifically our organization supports the following proposed restoration project:

- Tributary Connectivity through the removal or partial removal of an unused sewer trunk line and the Firth Cliff and Orr's Mills dams on the Moodna Creek, which would result in 7.8 miles of restored habitat; and the Eddyville Dam on the Rondout Creek, which would result in 9 miles of restored habitat.

River channelization, shoreline hardening, dredge and fill operations, and community and industrial development, have been detrimental to a wide variety of aquatic organisms that rely on the Hudson River and its tributaries. The restoration projects identified in the TSP are the largest opportunity for habitat and

ecological restoration in the half century since citizens and governments began the long project of restoring health to the Hudson River. Few restoration projects affecting the physical landscape of the Hudson River have been implemented, and none at the scale contemplated by the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study. Accordingly, these projects would help return critical habitat for several species of migratory fish, which are in significant decline and have been greatly impacted by human alterations to the Hudson and its watershed. The projects would also restore many acres of shallow water habitat which has been significantly reduced historically due to channelization efforts to support the Port of Albany.

As the USACE describes in the FR/EA, the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem has suffered from “dramatic losses” for over 200 years due to impacts from the creation and maintenance of the Hudson River navigational channel, and from other shoreline and tributary transportation and industrial activity. Under the TSP, of the 4,000 acres of aquatic habitats and 71 miles of shoreline lost, less than 5% would be restored. Of more than 1,600 dams and thousands of culverts that block tributaries, a fraction of 1% would be removed or partially removed.

Thus, if any of these projects proves unviable, we urge the USACE to pursue other projects in order to “carry out not fewer than 4 projects for habitat restoration in the Hudson River Basin,” as authorized by Congress in Section 551 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

We applaud the USACE for this historic initiative. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Laura Finestone
Steering Committee Member
Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance



ecc

**Marbletown Environmental
Conservation Commission**

**Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC)
Marbletown, NY**

July 26, 2019

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10279-0090

**RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River Habitat
Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and Tentatively Selected Plan**

Dear Mr. Voisine and Ms. Baron,

On behalf of the Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC), I write to express strong support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study, design and implement projects that will restore habitat and ecological function in the Hudson River Estuary and its tributaries.

The Marbletown, NY Environmental Conservation Commission (ECC) is charged with advising the Town Board in the development, management and protection of the natural resources and environment of the Town of Marbletown, and promotes community awareness and raise the visibility of such issues and activities. On Matters pertaining to the Rondout Creek Watershed, the ECC works with the Rondout Creek Watershed Alliance, a group that was founded to restore the Rondout Creek and its tributaries to their prime, to act as the voice of the Creek, and to advocate for the protection and improvement of the watershed by increasing community awareness and implementing collaborative conservation efforts.

The five projects identified in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and the Tentatively Selected Plan

(TSP), would restore 2 side channels, 186 acres of wetlands, 0.5 miles of shoreline and 17 miles of high quality tributary habitat, including habitat for American eels, American shad and river herring.

Specifically our organization supports the following proposed restoration project:

- Tributary Connectivity through the removal or partial removal of an unused sewer trunk line and the Firth Cliff and Orr's Mills dams on the Moodna Creek, which would result in 7.8 miles of restored habitat; and the Eddyville Dam on the Rondout Creek, which would result in 9 miles of restored habitat.

River channelization, shoreline hardening, dredge and fill operations, and community and industrial development, have been detrimental to a wide variety of aquatic organisms that rely on the Hudson River and its tributaries. The restoration projects identified in the TSP are the largest opportunity for habitat and ecological restoration in the half century since citizens and governments began the long project of restoring health to the Hudson River. Few restoration projects affecting the physical landscape of the Hudson River have been implemented, and none at the scale contemplated by the Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study. Accordingly, these projects would help return critical habitat for several species of migratory fish, which are in significant decline and have been greatly impacted by human alterations to the Hudson and its watershed. The projects would also restore many acres of shallow water habitat which has been significantly reduced historically due to channelization efforts to support the Port of Albany.

As the USACE describes in the FR/EA, the Hudson River Estuary ecosystem has suffered from “dramatic losses” for over 200 years due to impacts from the creation and maintenance of the Hudson River navigational channel, and from other shoreline and tributary transportation and industrial activity. Under the TSP, of the 4,000 acres of aquatic habitats and 71 miles of shoreline lost, less than 5% would be restored. Of more than 1,600 dams and thousands of culverts that block tributaries, a fraction of 1% would be removed or partially removed.

Thus, if any of these projects proves unviable, we urge the USACE to pursue other projects in order to “carry out not fewer than 4 projects for habitat restoration in the Hudson River Basin,” as authorized by Congress in Section 551 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

We applaud the USACE for this historic initiative. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Tom Konrad, Ph.D., CFA, Chairman
Marbletown Environmental Conservation Commission
Marbletown, NY

July 22, 2019

SUPPORT: USACE Assessment for Shoreline Restoration and Tidal Wetland Creation at Henry Hudson Park in the Town of Bethlehem, NY

Dear Colonel Asbery,

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy supports the findings and recommendations of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Henry Hudson Park in the Town of Bethlehem, NY.

The Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that protect the natural, scenic, agricultural and cultural landscapes of the Mohawk and Hudson River valleys. We have protected more than 12,000 acres of land in Albany, Schenectady, and Montgomery counties.

We have been partnering with the Town of Bethlehem to protect lands adjacent to Henry Hudson Park with the goals of conserving intertidal shoreline, creating opportunities for intertidal wetland creation, and expanding public access to the river.

We consider the USACE's proposal for shoreline restoration and tidal wetland creation at Henry Hudson Park to be vital for the park's future. The project would restore vital shoreline habitat for wildlife, create new intertidal wetlands, and promote the Town's vision for a public park that serves people and nature.

For these reasons, the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy supports the USACE's proposal for Henry Hudson Park.

Sincerely,



Mark King
Executive Director

Cc: David VanLuven, Town of Bethlehem

Jason Gallo, Town of Bethlehem



Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
420 Broadway
Kingston, NY 12401
(845) 481-7339

To: HRHR_FREA_Comments@usace.army.mil

Re: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River
Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study

Dear Army Corps of Engineers,

The Conservation Advisory Council of the City of Kingston supports the feasibility study and Tentatively Selected Plan for the removal of the Eddyville Dam in order to reconnect 9 miles of the stream for both migratory and resident fish. The City of Kingston's municipal boundary is the Rondout Creek and is downstream of the dam, which is 3.6 miles upstream of the creek's confluence with the Hudson River. The tidal reach of the Rondout Creek has been designated a Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat by NY State and is an important migratory habitat for American eel, blue back herring and alewife. Removal of the dam would connect blueback herring, and alewife to 9 more miles of stream for spawning and to adult habitat for catadromous American eel. The populations of all these fish are in decline. Resident fish would also have access to 9 more miles of high-quality habitat.

Private landowner support is needed for the dam mitigation to be recommended for construction.

Assuming land owner support, we suggest that the USGS stream gauge (USGS 01372007), located in Kingston, on the Rondout near the Hudson River Maritime Museum, be recommissioned. This would allow for gathering baseline, immediate and long-term post dam removal stream discharge data. Removal of the dam will change the stream discharge. We recommend Army Corps of Engineers fund the operation of the gauge, starting in 2020 and continue for five years after dam removal. This gauge has important functions for recreation, science and as an early warning system for surge and floods. The gauge operated from March 2011 to March 2015, a time period that included storms Irene (gauge height 11.86 ft), Lee and Sandy (maximum peak height 13.42 ft).

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and suggestions.

Sincerely,

Kingston CAC

Elizabeth Broad

Lorraine Farina

Emilie Hauser

Lynn Johnson

Kevin McEvoy

Julie Noble

Sebastian Pillitteri

Casey Schwarz



July 26, 2019

Matthew Voisine, Project Biologist
Lisa Baron, Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10279-0090

RE: Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and Tentatively Selected Plan

Dear Mr. Voisine and Ms. Baron,

On behalf of the Quassaick Creek Watershed Alliance, I write to express strong support for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study, design and implement projects that will restore habitat and ecological function in the Hudson River Estuary and its tributaries.

The Alliance's mission is to involve individuals and entities, both public and private, as advocates for the development and implementation of a Quassaick Creek Watershed Plan. Our efforts will focus on the protection and restoration of water quality and quantity, recreational values and biodiversity of the Quassaick Creek and its tributaries to promote the health, safety and welfare of our communities. This will be done by making recommendations for sustainable land use, flood and erosion control practices and relevant regulations in this watershed. The Quassaick Creek is a tributary of the Hudson River, and the Alliance supports any actions that would help to enhance, restore and protect the Hudson River watershed's natural resources.

The five projects identified in the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report (FR) and Environmental Assessment (EA) for Hudson River Habitat Restoration Ecosystem Restoration Study, and the Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP), would restore 2 side channels, 186 acres of wetlands, 0.5 miles of shoreline and 17 miles of high quality tributary habitat, including habitat for American eels, American shad and river herring. These projects would help return critical habitat for several additional species of migratory fish, which are in significant decline and have been greatly impacted by human alterations to the Hudson and its watershed.

If implemented, these five projects would be a major and positive accomplishment of the USACE. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

John Gebhards



Executive Director



c/o Parks and Recreation Dept.
261 Elm Avenue
Delmar New York 12054
info@friendsofbethlehemparks.org

Our Board of Directors

Joan Gavrilik, President
Mary Lyn Koval, Vice President
Alan Lobel, Secretary
Pete deVries, Treasurer
Jason Gallo, Administrator, Parks and
Recreation Dept., Town of Bethlehem
Nan Lanahan
Kimberleigh Phelan
William Reinhardt

July 21, 2019

Dear Colonel Asbery,

SUPPORT: Findings and Recommendations of the USACE Assessment for Henry Hudson Park in the Town of Bethlehem, NY

Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation strongly supports the findings and recommendations of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Henry Hudson Park in the Town of Bethlehem, NY.

Friends of Bethlehem Parks and Recreation is a Section 501(c)(3) charitable organization that collaborates with the Town of Bethlehem to improve our parks, recreational programming, and their usership.

Henry Hudson Park is a vital recreational resource for our community. Beyond that, it is a resource for the region because it is one of the few places where the public can reach the Hudson River shoreline. Unfortunately, the concrete cap that lines the park's entire Hudson River shoreline has degraded over the years. Today it is not only unsightly, but in places is a potential safety hazard for visitors. The new shoreline that the USACE has designed in partnership with the State of New York and the Town of Bethlehem would transform our already wonderful park. It would make the shoreline safer, maintain access to the water and views of the river, and improve the experience of park visitors.

Thank you for all your work so far on this project, and please keep the project moving forward from design to completion.

Sincerely,

Joan Gavrilik
President

Cc: David VanLuven, Town of Bethlehem
Jason Gallo, Town of Bethlehem

*Vibrant parks and outstanding recreation activities are essential to
the high quality of life in our community.*

Governmental Agency Comments

From: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
To: [HRHR-FREA-Comments](#)
Cc: [Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN \(USA\)](#)
Subject: FW: Comment on HRHR
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 08:46:51 AM

Matthew Voisine
Biologist
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza, Room 17-421
NY, NY 10278
917.790.8718
matthew.voisine@usace.army.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Dunwell, Frances (DEC) [<mailto:frances.dunwell@dec.ny.gov>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 17:42
To: Baron, Lisa A CIV CENAN CENAD (USA) <Lisa.A.Baron@usace.army.mil>; Voisine, Matthew F CIV USARMY CENAN (USA) <Matthew.Voisine@usace.army.mil>
Cc: Dan Miller <demiller152@gmail.com>
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] Comment on HRHR

Dear Lisa and Matt-

Please accept this comment on the HRHR TSP. I request that USACE investigate the feasibility of options for restoration that do not involve the use of herbicides. There are several sites that currently anticipate "treatment of invasives". I notice that public support for the use of herbicides is steadily decreasing. It would be good to know if there are feasible alternative restoration scenarios that would not require herbicide treatment.

Thank you. It was great to see you today and yesterday.
Regards. Fran Dunwell.

July 19, 2019

SUPPORT: Findings and Recommendations of the FR/EA for Henry Hudson Park in the Town of Bethlehem, NY

Dear Colonel Asbery,

I am writing to express my strong support for the findings and recommendations of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for Henry Hudson Park in the Town of Bethlehem, NY.

Henry Hudson Park is a cultural gem for our community, and it has the potential to be a biological gem as well.

One of the strengths of our park is the publically accessible shoreline: roughly 2,700 feet along the Hudson, and about 1,600 feet along the tidal Vroman Kill. As you know, this is a rarity along the Hudson River Estuary, as almost all of the shoreline is either blocked by railroad lines or in private ownership.

Although we have access to the shore in Henry Hudson Park, almost the entire length of the Hudson shoreline in our park is crumbling concrete bulkhead atop timber cribbing. USACE installed this infrastructure many, many years ago to help create the shipping channel. Unfortunately, it has been gradually failing for decades, does not contribute to the experience of visitors to the park, and has little habitat value for the majority of the Hudson's aquatic and shoreline species.

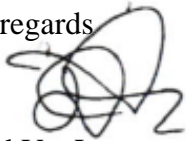
The USACE proposal will change this for the better.

1. The redesigned shoreline will create wildlife habitat, adding structure and life to a stretch of shoreline that is largely lifeless.
2. Replacing the crumbling concrete with a gentler vegetated slope will make the shoreline more attractive while still supporting the navigation channel, maintaining clear views of the water, and providing access to the river edge for fishing.
3. The sloped, vegetated shoreline will be safer for visitors than the crumbling concrete.
4. The reconstructed shoreline will showcase innovative approaches to climate change resiliency: accommodating flooding from storms, adapting to rising sea levels, and expanding habitat for wildlife in a setting that is welcoming to families picnicking, fishing, boating, and enjoying the view.

The changes described above will never happen without the USACE's and New York State's expertise and financial support. New York municipalities operate under a tax cap that limits our levies to less than 2% each year. This amount is not sufficient for us to cover the costs of annual medical insurance increases, let alone needed work on roads and sidewalks, repairs to our water and sewer systems, and delivery of critical services like police protection and snow plowing. It certainly constrains us from ever undertaking a project like the one you've drafted with us for Henry Hudson Park.

For these reasons, I enthusiastically support the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment's recommended activities for Henry Hudson Park in the Town of Bethlehem, NY.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David VanLuven', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David VanLuven
Bethlehem Town Supervisor

Cc: Lisa Baron, USACE
Matthew Voisine, USACE
Daniel Miller, Hudson River National Estuarine Research Reserve
Fran Dunwell, Hudson River Estuary Program
John Lipscomb, Riverkeeper
Nava Tabak, Scenic Hudson



Town of Esopus

P.O. Box 700
284 Broadway
Ulster Park, NY 12487

Phone (845) 339-1811

Fax (845) 338-5598

July 23rd, 2019

Ms. Lisa Baron, Programs and Project Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers, New York District
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

RE: Request for 60-Day Extension of Eddyville Dam Feasibility Study Public Review Period

Dear Ms. Baron,

I am writing you on behalf of the Town of Esopus and its 9,100 residents. We are pleased the Army Corps of Engineers, in partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC"), has opened a dialogue with our community about the potential benefits of the Eddyville Dam Hudson River Habitat Restoration Program. In order for the benefits of this program to be fully understood by the public, I am **requesting a 60-day extension of the public comment period ending July 25th** so that residents have a meaningful opportunity to share concerns and information with you and your staff.

The Town would like to work constructively with you. However, it has come to our attention that there is confusion regarding the process, impact and intent of the habitat restoration program. The July 20th story in the [*Daily Freeman Eddyville Dam on Rondout Creek might be removed*](#) further established the perception that the dam is slated for elimination without ample time for discussion and understanding. It might be helpful to share some of the questions that have been raised by residents and should be addressed before the public review period concludes. These include:

- the potential upstream and downstream effects of removal of the dam,
- concerns about rising tide levels, flooding from heavy rainfalls, and storm surge resiliency on affected property owners downstream from the dam,
- considerations of the historic and aesthetic values of the waterfall, and
- observations of current fish migratory patterns including any evidence that removal of the dam could restore habitat for eel, sturgeon, herring and other species.

As the comment period is set to close in two days, our fear is that residents feel rushed and undervalued. The Town would like to support a continuation of the investigation phase. With an additional 60 days for public participation, our hopes are that the Army Corps of Engineers

and the DEC will **utilize the time to address these concerns and convene a face-to-face community meeting** that could ultimately generate support for the project. In doing so I am confident in stating that our residents will thank you for your commitment to public participation and willingness to provide them with adequate time to further assess the broad range of impacts on the community.

Sincerely,

Shannon Harris



Shannon Harris

Town of Esopus Supervisor

Cell: 845-706-8600

Office: 845-331-0676

284 Broadway

Ulster Park, NY 12487

With unanimous support from the Esopus Town Board:

Chris Farrell

Town of Esopus

Councilman

Catherine Quick

Town of Esopus

Councilwoman

Jared Geuss

Town of Esopus

Councilman

Gloria Van Vliet

Town of Esopus

Councilwoman

CC: Ethan Rapp, Eddyville Dam property owner
Hon. James Quigley, Town of Ulster Supervisor
Hon. Steve Noble, Mayor of the City of Kingston
Hon. Jeanne Walsh, Town of Rosendale Supervisor
Hon. Laura Petit, Ulster County Legislator for Esopus
John Petronella, DEC Region 3 Acting Regional Director
Frances Dunwell, DEC Hudson River Estuary Program Coordinator
Daniel Miller, DEC Habitat Restoration Coordinator
Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning Director
Amanda LaValle, Ulster County Department of Environment
Dean Sommer, Esq., Environmental Counsel to the Town of Esopus