



Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc.

June 2, 2016

Ms. Kimberly D. Bose  
United States Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street, N.E.  
Washington, DC. 20426

Re: FERC Docket # P-2685-026. License Application by New York State Power Authority to re-license Blenheim- Gilboa Pumped Storage Project.

Dear Ms. Bose,

The Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc (SALT) is pleased to provide the following comments regarding the above referenced ISR relating to relicensing of Project Number: P-2685.

SALT will make the points that:

1. NYPA's relicense for 2019 should be a 30 year lease
2. NYPA needs to address Schoharie County's recreation needs

**Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc (SALT) Comments to NYPA's  
Initial Study Report (ISR) of the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage  
Project  
(FERC Project Number: P2685-026)  
June 2, 2016**

Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc, (SALT) is a charitable not for profit corporation founded in December 2012 as a partnership of public and private sector agencies to provide recovery, rebuilding and resource support to those affected by Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee in August 2011.

Since then SALT has leveraged \$7 million worth of volunteer labor and donated materials as well as over \$1 million in private capital to help over 600 families and businesses rebuild. With a solid organizational infrastructure, visionary leadership, well established national and regional partners, and a history of successful collaborative coordination SALT is now facilitating a number of projects that utilize Asset Based Community Development as a strategy for sustainable community driven development, including the Schoharie Creek Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study.



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Various organizations have requested that NYPA cooperate and coordinate activities with SALT when drafting the Recreation / User Contact Study, considering that SALT is the subrecipient of a \$149,876 matching state grant to complete a Trail Feasibility Study along the Schoharie Creek. To date, SALT has not been contacted by NYPA.

### **Submission to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:**

1. NYPA's relicense for 2019 should be a 30 year lease

In section 15(e) of the Federal Power Act it states that "Except for an annual license, any license issued by the Commission under this section shall be for a term which the Commission determines to be in the public interest but not less than 30 years, nor more than 50 years, from the date on which the license is issued."

We echo the concerns and facts brought to your attention by Gail Shaffer in regards to a relicensing of a 50 year license. Within the 50 years NYPA has been in operation of the Blenheim-Gilboa Hydroelectric Power Station, Schoharie County has endured 8 floods, in 1972, 1977, 1980, 1987, 1996, 1999, 2000, and 2011. Most of the Towns and Villages within the Schoharie Creek Watershed (hereafter known as Creek) are in a 100 year flood zone. There is a 39.5% chance of a flood each year within a 50 year period. There is a 26% chance of a flood each year within a 30 year period. It is clear to see that within a 30 year period, there is less of a chance of a flood per year by 13.5%. A 30 year license term will allow for NYPA to evaluate damage sustained along the Creek and in the community so that NYPA may better serve New York State and the host community.

It is undisputed that the Earth's environment and climate is changing. As the climate changes, weather patterns will shift. We cannot expect the Creek will not be affected by the environmental changes. Within the 50 years NYPA has been in operation at the Blenheim sight, the Tecopa Pupfish became extinct, 1 in 12 people have asthma, and average temperatures have increased at a rate of 0.26 to 0.43°F per decade since 1970. Dr. James E. Hansen, former NASA's chief climatologist, and numerous colleagues published *Ice melt, sea level rise and superstorms: evidence from paleoclimate data, climate modeling, and modern observations that 2°C global warming is highly dangerous*, stating that the sea level could rise at least 10 feet in as few as 50 years. NYPA states in their Initial Study Report that "To the extent that releases may be required for other purposes, the storage volume would be depleted at a faster rate and would adversely impact the ability of the Project to replenish the storage and to provide flows comparable to those that would have occurred if the B-G Project had not been built." NYPA cannot state that they are providing flows comparable to if the site had not been built if the environment is constantly changing.



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On September 18, 2014, FERC responded to comments on concerns of climate change in Scoping Document 2 for Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project, P-2685.

*The Commission has typically relied on historical data and project-specific studies to evaluate project effects and inform licensing decisions. We are not aware of any climate change models that are known to have the accuracy that would be needed to predict specific resource impacts and serve as the basis for informing license conditions. However, the appropriate time for considering the usefulness of any existing data and particular models in the context of evaluating project effects and future license conditions would be during the study development phase of the licensing process.*

Climate change is an undisputed fact in the scientific and political sectors. The Commission has stated that it “typically” relies on project specific studies. **We request FERC take into consideration the insurmountable data, published articles, and evidence of climate change when evaluating project effects and inform licensing decisions.**

On September 18, 2014, FERC responded to comments on limiting the license term to 30 years in Scoping Document 2 for Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project, P-2685.

*The Commission typically issues hydropower licenses for a period of 30 to 50 years. For an existing project, we base the license term on the amount of new development, new capacity, or environmental mitigation proposed by the applicant. If severe flood events occur over the term of any license issued for the project, the Commission may require changes to project facilities or operation for the project to adhere to dam safety criteria found in Part 12 of the Commission’s regulations and the Engineering Guidelines. Further, to account for changes in environmental conditions during the period of any license issued for the Blenheim-Gilboa Project that may result in effects to fish and wildlife, the Commission typically includes in its licenses a standard license article with a fish and wildlife reopener provision that could be used to require changes to project facilities upon Commission motion or as recommended by the appropriate federal and state fish and wildlife agencies after notice and opportunity for hearing.*

The Commission has stated that it bases the license term on what is proposed by the applicant. A 50 year term license is preferable and therefore the applicant will submit an application to accommodate the wants of the applicant, not the needs or wants of the host community. FERC should not base the license term on the applicant’s proposal. **We request FERC to base the license term on the needs of the host community.**

As NYPA had stated that, “stream morphology was changed by the extensive stream erosion during Irene.” Even five of their surveyed and interviewed respondents have stated that the “Creek has changed dramatically due to the high flows/erosion associated with Tropical Storm Irene in 2011.” A 30 year license term will allow for NYPA to evaluate damage sustained along



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the Creek and in the community so that NYPA may better serve New York State and the host community. **We request NYPA's license for 2019 is no longer than a 30 year term.**

## 2. NYPA needs to address Schoharie County's recreation needs

In 2016, SALT has received a \$90,000 grant from the New York Council on the Arts through the Regional Economic Development Council Program to develop a GeoToursim website and mobile application. This website will collect and distribute assets from around the County in order to boost tourism and the economy. SALT is also the subrecipient of a \$149,876 matching grant from the Department of State through the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program to conduct a Trail Feasibility Study for a 38-mile multi-use recreational trail connecting communities from Esperance to Blenheim, to be finished December 2017. The Study will express the recreation needs of the community, including greenway and blueway options. It will also provide various trail alignments running along the Schoharie Creek, post-Tropical Storm Irene. SALT has demonstrated that it is a prominent stakeholder in the recreation, land use, and aesthetics of Schoharie County. Please review the contracted Work Plan to be completed for the Trail Feasibility Study in Appendix A. SALT has formed a Project Advisory Committee of prominent stakeholders who will select a consultant to conduct the Feasibility Study and review the Study's progress. The diverse Project Advisory Committee allows for the recreation needs of the community to be heard, member list as shown in Appendix B. **We request FERC and NYPA review the final Trail Feasibility Study before a decision is made on NYPA's relicensing.**

We launched our trail use survey in December 2014 in order to gauge the community's need and want of a multi-use trail along Schoharie Creek. To date we have received 488 survey respondents.

Most of the respondents are from Cobleskill, Schoharie, Middleburgh, and out of the county visitors as shown in Figure 1.

The average age group was 46-55, with the most respondents from the 56-65 (108 respondents) age group as seen in Figure 2. Schoharie County has a population of 31,133 people with an average age of 44.6.

We have had more female respondents at 58.7% compared to male respondents at 41.3% as seen Figure 3. In Schoharie County, the female population is 50.35% and the male population is 49.65%.

About 60% of respondents have stated that they would be interested in the planning and development of a trail in Schoharie County as seen in Figure 4. This demonstrates that the community is interested and engaged in the prospect of a multi-use trail along the Creek.



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It is evident that the respondents would be more likely to hike if there were a trail as seen in Figure 5. There is a 28.3% increase of hiking daily, 20% increase of hiking 4-5 times a week, 22.5% increase of hiking 1-2 times a week, 9.7% increase of hiking 2-3 times a month, 26.7% decrease of hiking once a month, and 28.3% decrease of respondents never hiking. This reveals the trend that respondents are likely to hike more frequently if such a trail were provided.

Respondents would also bike more frequently if there were a trail available as seen in Figure 6. There is a 50% increase of biking daily, 42.4% increase of biking 4-5 times a week, 10.5% increase of biking 1-2 times a week, 32.3% increase of biking 2-3 times a month, 14.8% decrease of biking once a month, and 23.1% decrease of respondents never biking. This reveals the trend that respondents are likely to bike more frequently if such a trail were provided.

Respondents would canoe/kayak more frequently if there were a blueway trail that would provide more access to the Creek available as seen in Figure 7. There is a 27.3% increase of canoeing/kayaking daily, 44.4% increase of canoeing/kayaking 4-5 times a week, 25% increase of canoeing/kayaking 1-2 times a week, 22.4% increase of canoeing/kayaking 2-3 times a month, 2.3 % increase of canoeing/kayaking once a month, and 25.6% decrease of respondents never canoeing/kayaking. This reveals the trend that respondents are likely to canoe/kayak more frequently if such a trail were provided.

In the Recreational Boating Desktop Feasibility Assessment section of NYPA's Initial Study Plan, they mentioned that a survey respondent mentioned the 5-mile Middleburgh-Slougher Canoe and Kayak Race using stream flow data from the Breakabeen site as stated in their latest Initial Study, "Inflows for various locations in the primary study area downstream of the Lower Dam were determined using data from an additional gage on Schoharie Creek at the hamlet of Breakabeen [site number 01350355]." On April 26, 2014 NYPA had stated that the water flow was 869 cfs, but according to USGS site number 01350355, the flow was 819 cfs. On April 25, 2015 NYPA had stated that the water flow was 740 cfs, but according to USGS site number 01350355, the flow was 666 cfs. This year's race was held April 23, 2016 and the water levels were at 113 cfs. A participant of the 2016 race posted that "As A Kid I Thought This Was So dangerous And Too Extreme~ With Barely Any Snow This Winter The Water Levels Were The Lowest I've Ever Seen Making The Racers Get Caught Up On Low Spots And Rocks~ It Made It More Of A Challenge." The Middleburgh-Slougher Canoe and Kayak Race is one of the few blueway activities that draw in tourists to the County to promote the economy. In NYPA's Initial Study, they stated that the "overall goal of the Recreation Use Study is to evaluate recreational use at the B-G Project and to determine the adequacy of existing recreation sites and facilities for meeting current recreation demand at the B-G Project." Other than the mention of the Canoe Regatta in reference to a survey respondent's response, NYPA does not detail the Regatta as a current recreation demand even though it has been a tradition since 1975. **We request FERC to take into consideration the lack of commitment shown by NYPA to recreation use and economic progress in Schoharie County.**



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Respondents would horseback ride more frequently if there were a trail available as seen in Figure 8. There is a 27.3% increase of horse backing riding daily, 10% increase of horse backing riding 4-5 times a week, no change of horse backing riding 1-2 times a week, 50% increase of horse backing riding 2-3 times a month, 19.6 % increase of horse backing riding once a month, and 9.2% decrease of respondents never horse backing riding. This reveals the trend that respondents are likely to horse backing riding more frequently if such a trail were provided.

Respondents would ski/snowshoe more frequently if there were a trail available as seen in Figure 9. There is a 6.7% increase of skiing/snowshoeing daily, 55.6% increase of skiing/snowshoeing 4-5 times a week, 7.5% of skiing/snowshoeing 1-2 times a week, 14.3% increase of skiing/snowshoeing 2-3 times a month, 6.3 % increase of skiing/snowshoeing once a month, and 16.7% decrease of respondents never skiing/snowshoeing. This reveals the trend that respondents are likely to skiing/snowshoeing more frequently if such a trail were provided.

It is evident that trail users would patron businesses in relation to the development of a trail, promoting economic development, as seen in Figure 10.

Schoharie County attracts tourists from out of the County, but with a multi-use recreational trail, the County could attract a greater number of tourists promoting economic development. It is also evident that respondents would be more active if there were a multi-use recreational trail running along Schoharie Creek.

On September 18, 2014, FERC responded to comments about what is being done to encourage more tourism, boating, fishing, hunting, and recreation in Scoping Document 2 for Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Project, P-2685.

*SD1 and SD2 both state that “[t]he adequacy of public access and recreation facilities to meet current and future recreation demand” will be resource issues addressed in the NEPA document.*

**SALT requests FERC and NYPA review the final Trail Feasibility Study before a decision is made on NYPA’s relicensing and included in the NEPA document. SALT requests NYPA invest in the construction and maintenance of a multi-use recreational trail, including greenway and blueway activities, along the Creek.**

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of SALT,

Sarah Goodrich  
Executive Director  
SALT, Inc

Jin Kim  
Schoharie Creek Trail Study Coordinator,  
Americorps Vista  
SALT, Inc



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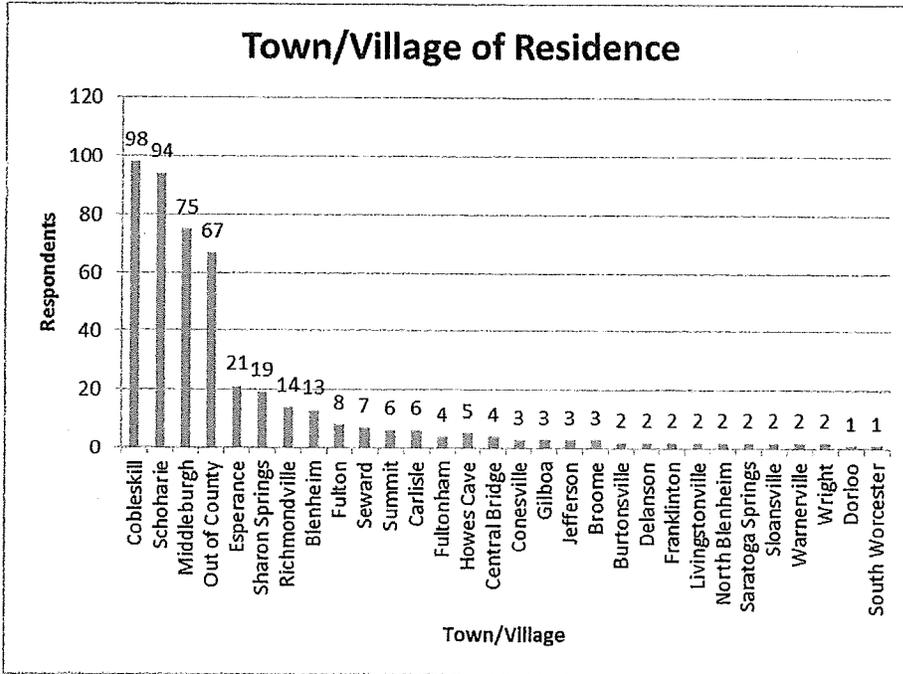


Figure 1. Trail use survey respondent town/village of residence.

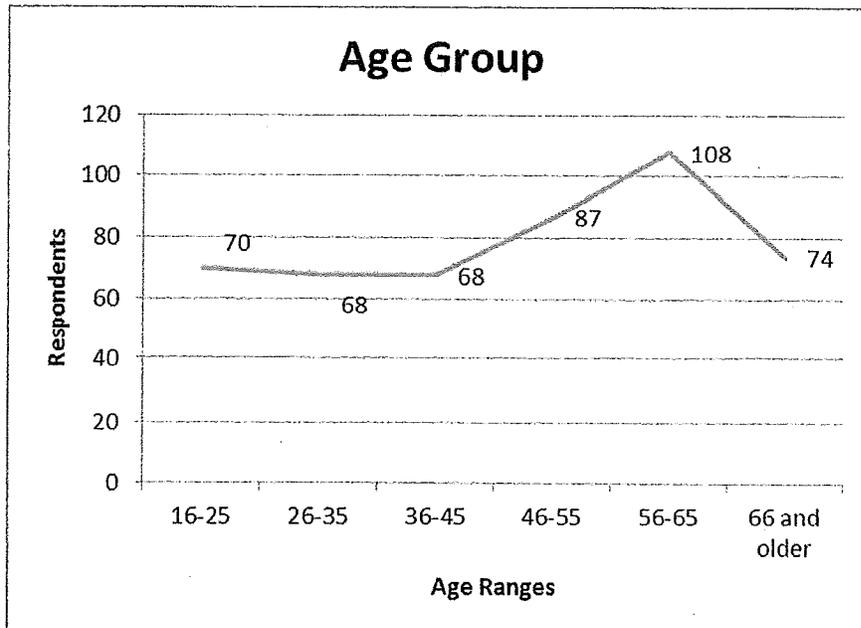


Figure 2. Trail use survey respondent ages.



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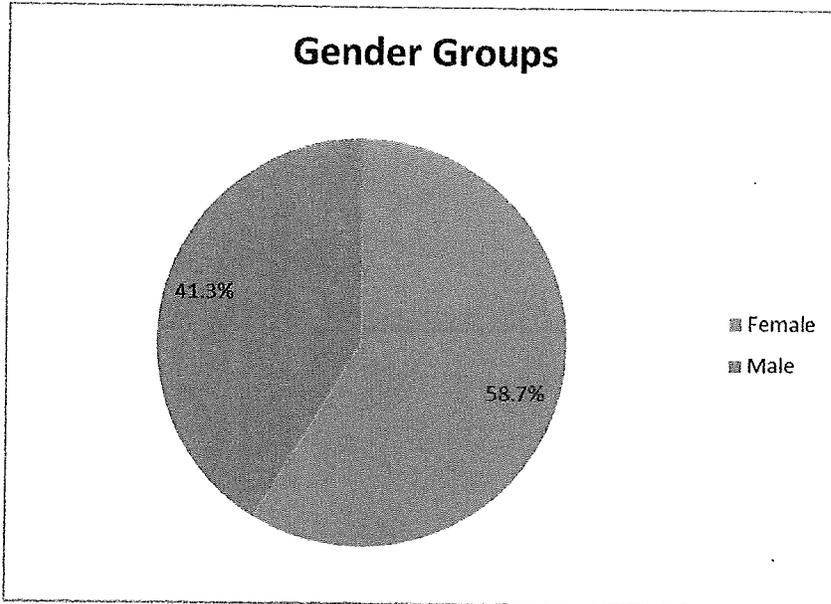


Figure 3. Trail use survey respondent genders.

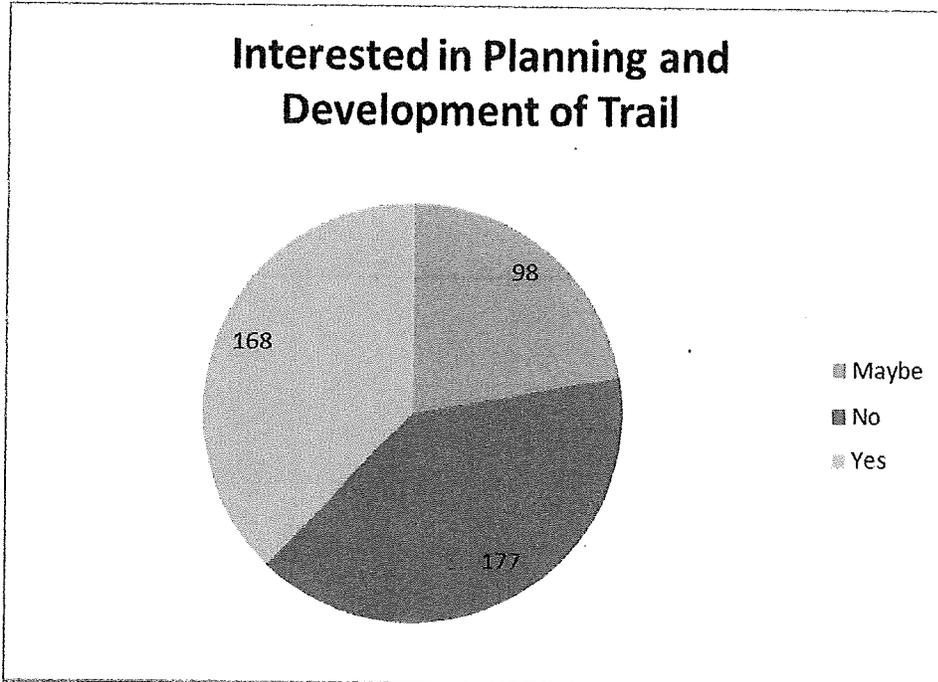


Figure 4. Trail use survey respondents interested in participating in the planning and development of the trail.



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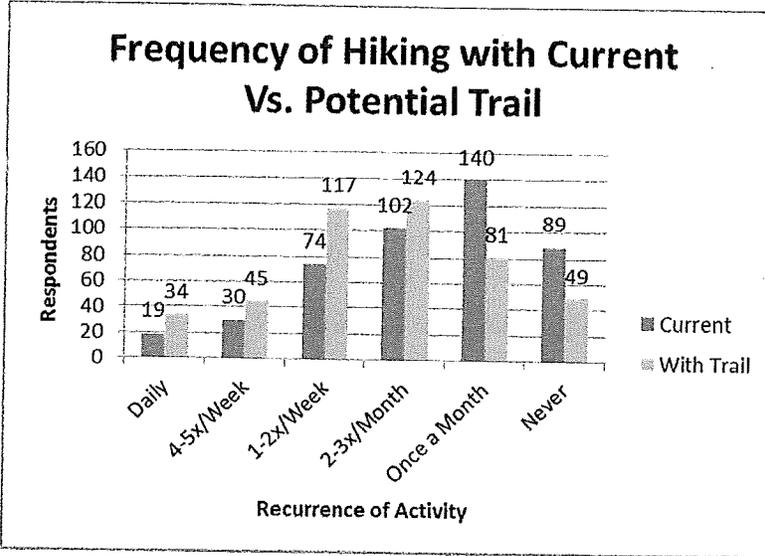


Figure 5. Trail use survey respondent frequency of current versus potential hiking expenditure.

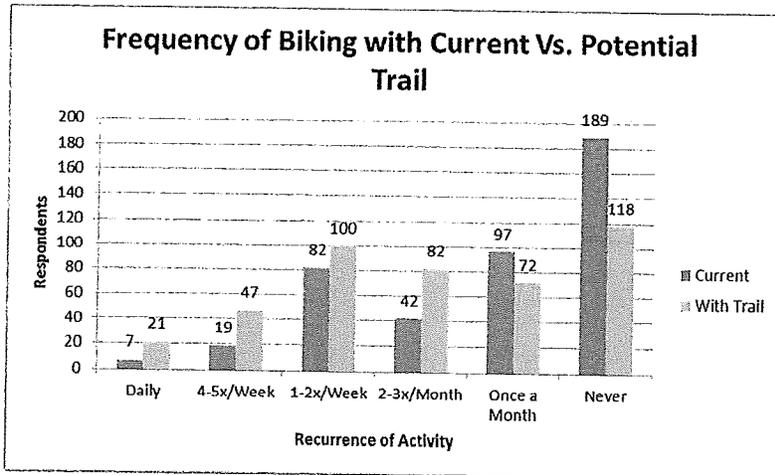


Figure 6. Trail use survey respondent frequency of current versus potential running/walking expenditure.



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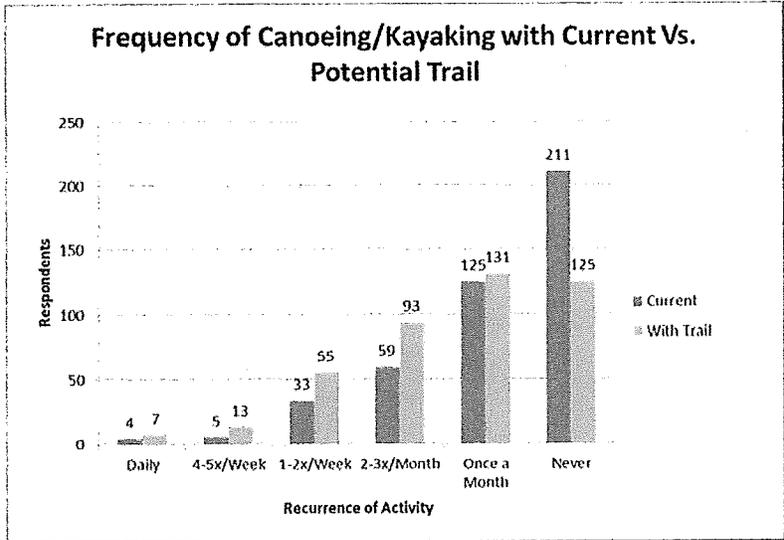


Figure 7. Trail use survey respondent frequency of current versus potential canoeing/kayaking expenditure.

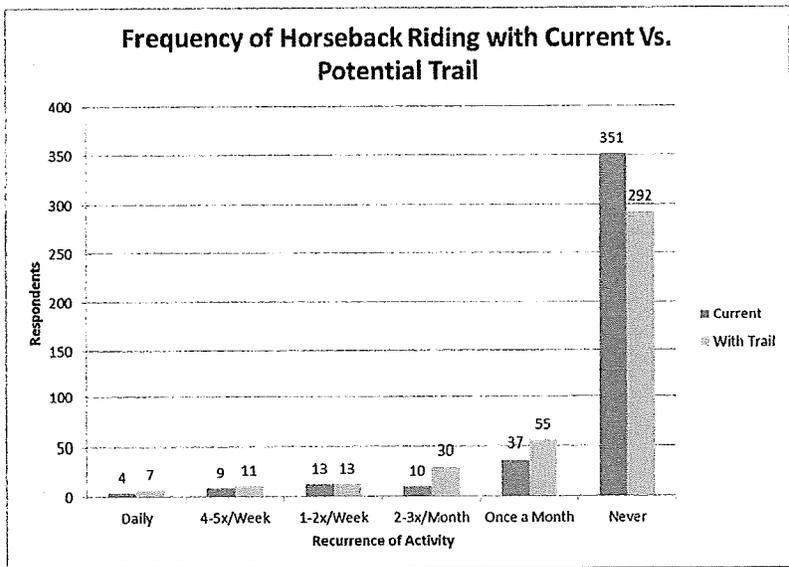


Figure 8. Trail use survey respondent frequency of current versus potential horseback riding expenditure.

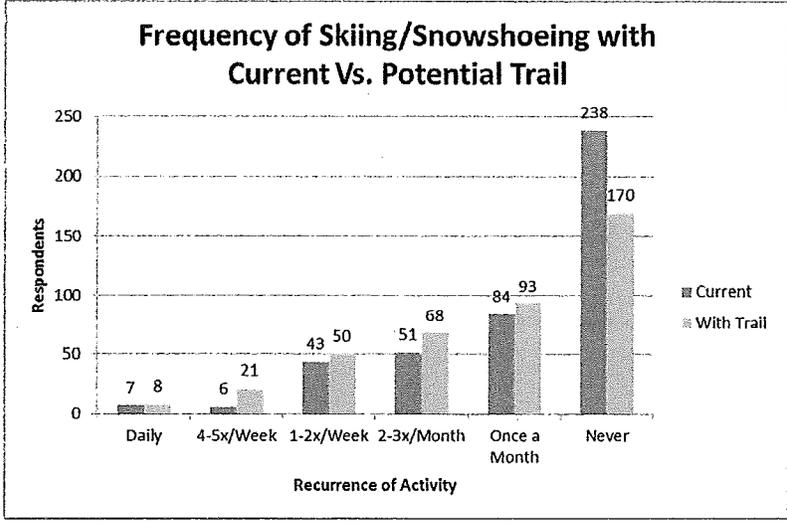


Figure 9. Trail use survey respondent frequency of current versus potential skiing/snowshoeing expenditure.

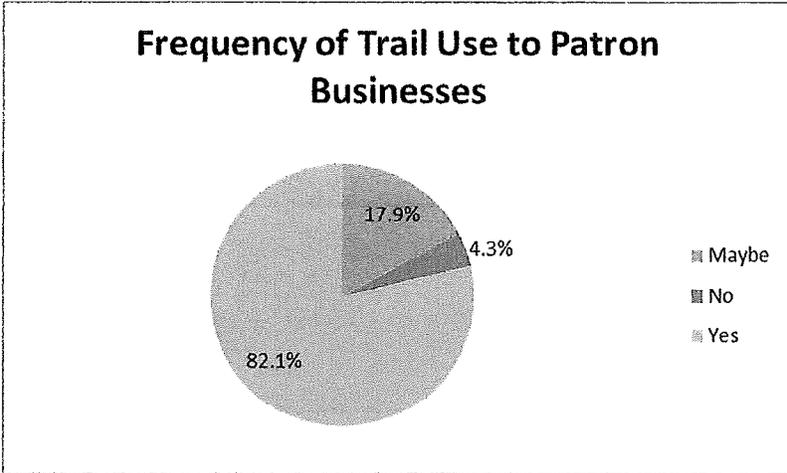


Figure 10. Trail use survey respondent frequency of trail use to patron businesses.



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**Appendix A**  
**Trail Feasibility Study Work Plan**

## ATTACHMENT C - WORK PLAN

**Contractor:** Schoharie County  
**Contract Number:** C1000553  
**Program Contact Person:** Shane Nickle  
**Phone:** 518 295 8770  
**Fax:** 518 295 8788  
**Email:** shanenickle@co.schoharie.ny.us

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### Schoharie Creek Multi-use Trail

#### 1. Project Description

Schoharie County (Contractor) will produce a feasibility study that will examine possible alignments, costs, and development of a multi-use recreational trail beginning at the Blenheim Town Hall in North Blenheim and ending approximately 38 miles further north, in the Village of Esperance. The study will also analyze the combination of greenways, road side trails, and blueways that will be part of the multi-use recreational trail, and the area's demand for enhanced recreational activities and their potential impact on the local economy. The Schoharie Creek Multi-Use Trail Feasibility Study will include municipalities located along the Schoharie Creek: Towns of Blenheim, Esperance, Middleburgh and Schoharie; Villages of Esperance, Middleburgh and Schoharie; and the hamlets of Breakabeen, Blenheim and Central Bridge.

The Study implements recommendations from the Schoharie County New York Rising Community Reconstruction Plan to improve community resilience and to promote tourism and recreation. In addition to identifying the best physical alignment of the proposed multi-use trail, and the sequence of its development, the study will also identify the demand and potential uses for different segments of the trail, as well as potential impact on the local economy.

Schoharie County will enter into an agreement with Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc. (SALT) to develop the project. In-kind local match will be provided through volunteer services donated by college students and faculty, local professionals, park staff, advisory committee members and other volunteers. Cash match will be provided by individual donations and private grants, including ArcGIS, O'Connor Foundation, Dr. Scholl's Foundation and Norcross Wildlife Foundation.

#### 2. Project Attribution and Number of Copies

Schoharie County must ensure that all materials printed, constructed, and/or produced acknowledge the contributions of the Department to the project. The materials must include the Department of State logo and the following acknowledgment:

*"This (document, report, map, etc.) was prepared with funding provided by the New York State Department of State under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund."*

The Contractor must submit to the Department all required products, clearly labeled with the NYS Comptroller's Contract #C1000553 as indicated on the Face Page of this contract and where applicable, the related Task # from this Work Plan. The Contractor shall submit:

- Draft products: two paper copies of each product. In addition, all draft products must be submitted as an electronic copy in Word or Word Perfect and Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format –PDF (created using 300 dpi scanning resolution).
- Final products: two paper copies of each product. In addition, all final products (including reports, designs, maps, drawings, and plans) must be submitted as an electronic copy in Word Perfect or Microsoft Word and Adobe® Acrobat® Portable Document Format - PDF (created using 300 dpi scanning resolution) and be submitted on a labeled CD-R type CD. The CD must be labeled with the contractor name, the Departments contract # C1000553, and project title.
- Electronic data for all Geographic Information System-based mapping products must be included in either ArcGIS format, or similar product acceptable to the Department, and comply with the requirements for Contract GIS Products.
- Electronic data for all designs, drawings, and plans must be submitted in the original software that they were created (such as CAD format or other similar product acceptable to the Department) as well as in JPEG or GIF format.
- Pictures and photographs must be dated and captioned with the location and a brief description of the activity being documented. Electronic data for all pictures and photographs must be submitted in JPG or GIF format or other similar product acceptable to the Department.

The contributions of the Department must also be acknowledged in community press releases and other notices issued for the project, including web site postings and other forms of digital distribution. Project press releases and other notices shall be submitted to the Department for review and approval prior to release, to ensure appropriate attribution.

### **3. Compliance with Procurement Requirements**

The municipal attorney, chief legal officer or financial administrator of the municipality shall certify in writing to the Department that applicable provisions of General Municipal Law were fully complied with.

### **4. Project Components**

#### **Task 1: Project Kick-off Meeting**

The Contractor, Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc. (SALT), the Department, project partners and any other appropriate entities shall hold an initial meeting to review the project scope, project requirements, roles and responsibilities of project partners, the selection process for procuring consultants, State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) compliance requirements, the number of public meetings and techniques for public involvement proposed for the project, and any other information which would assist in project completion. In addition, the composition of a project advisory committee shall be discussed during the project kick-off meeting. The Contractor, or a designated project partner, shall prepare and distribute to all project partners a brief meeting summary clearly indicating the agreements/understandings reached at the meeting. Work on subsequent tasks shall not proceed prior to Department approval of the proposed approach as outlined in the meeting summary.

**Products:** Project kick-off meeting held with appropriate parties. Written meeting summary outlining agreements/understandings reached.

**Task 2: Project Advisory Committee**

The Contractor in collaboration with Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc. (SALT) shall establish a project advisory committee to oversee all aspects of the project in cooperation with municipal officials and the project consultant(s), if applicable. The committee shall be representative of project stakeholders, including representatives of State and municipal agencies with jurisdiction over project activities or the project area, and non-governmental and community based organizations. A draft list of proposed members shall be circulated to the Department for review and approval prior to establishment of the committee.

**Products:** Draft and final list of proposed members of project advisory committee. Project advisory committee established.

**Task 3: Request for Proposals (if applicable)**

The Contractor in collaboration with Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc. (SALT) shall draft a Request for Proposals (RFP) including a complete project description with site conditions, expected final results, a schedule for completion, and criteria for selecting a preferred proposal. The Contractor shall submit the RFP to the Department for review and approval prior to release for solicitation of proposals.

**Products:** Approved RFP released through advertisement in local papers, the New York State Contract Reporter, and other appropriate means.

**Task 4: Consultant Selection and Compliance with Procurement Requirements (if applicable)**

In consultation with the Department, the Contractor and an appropriate review committee shall review all proposals received as a result of the RFP. At a minimum, the following criteria are suggested for use in evaluating consultant responses:

- Quality and completeness of the response.
- Understanding of the proposed scope of work.
- Applicability of proposed alternatives or enhancements to information requested.
- Cost-effectiveness of the proposal.
- Qualifications and relevant experience with respect to the tasks to be performed.
- Reputation among previous clients.
- Ability to complete all project tasks within the allotted time and budget.

Incomplete proposals that do not address all of the requested components should not be accepted for review and consideration.

For preparation/certification of final designs and construction documents, and for supervision of construction, a licensed professional engineer, architect or landscape architect licensed to practice in New York State is required.

The municipal attorney, chief legal officer or financial administrator of the municipality shall certify in writing to the Department that applicable provisions of General Municipal Law were fully complied with.

The Contractor's procurement record and consultant selection is subject to approval by the Department.

**Products:** Consultant(s) selected and approved by the Department. Written certification of compliance with procurement procedures.

#### Task 5: Subcontract Preparation and Execution

The Contractor shall prepare a draft subcontract or subcontracts to conduct project work with the consultant(s) selected. The subcontract(s) shall contain a detailed work plan with adequate opportunity for review at appropriate stages of project completion, a payment schedule (payments should be tied to receipt of products), and a project cost. The subcontract(s) shall specify the composition of the entire consultant team, including firm name and area of responsibility/expertise, and those professionals from the consultant team or consulting firm that will be directly involved in specific project tasks. The Contractor shall submit the draft subcontract(s) to the Department for review and approval, and shall incorporate the Department's comments in the final subcontract(s). A copy of the final, executed subcontract shall be submitted to the Department.

Products: Draft and final, executed consultant subcontracts.

#### Task 6: Second Project Meeting

In consultation with the Department, the Contractor shall hold a second project meeting with the consultant(s), and other project partners as appropriate, to review project requirements, site conditions, and roles and responsibilities; identify new information needs and next steps; and transfer any information to the consultant(s) which would assist in completion of the project. The consultant(s) shall prepare and distribute a brief meeting summary clearly indicating the agreements/understandings reached at the meeting. Work on subsequent tasks shall not proceed prior to Department approval of the proposed approach as outlined in the meeting summary.

Products: Second project meeting held with appropriate parties. Written meeting summary outlining agreements/understandings reached.

#### Task 7: Site Reconnaissance

The Contractor or its consultant(s) shall conduct site-specific reconnaissance, in preparation for design. Work shall include, at a minimum, identification and mapping of the following:

- Site survey showing extent of project boundary
- Ownership/grant/lease status of all lands to be incorporated into the design
- Manmade structures, buildings, or facilities on or adjacent to the site
- Adjacent land and water uses
- Historic and archeological resources
- Recreational uses and sites, current demand for enhanced recreational activities,
- Navigable waters and boating resources
- Agricultural landmarks
- Cultural landmarks
- Overnight accommodations and restaurants
- Recreation-related local businesses
- Above and below ground infrastructure, including stormwater treatment structures
- Transportation/circulation systems (truck, car, bus, ferry, train, pedestrian, bicycle, etc.) that serve or are located near the site
- Soil and, as appropriate, core sampling to determine site stability
- Topography and hydrology

- Natural resources, including location of mature trees
- View corridors
- Zoning and other applicable designations
- Analysis of site constraints, needs and opportunities

Products: Map(s) and written summary describing the above information and any other appropriate information identified during the project kick-off meeting.

#### Task 8: Schematic Designs of Proposed Trail Alignments and cost estimates

The Contractor or its consultant(s) shall prepare schematic designs for each of the proposed trail alignments considering and including a summary of the following:

- Best management practices to be employed to avoid or reduce water quality impairments from upland runoff or in-water activities (e.g. utilization of green infrastructure technology to improve storm water management within the floodplain), and
- Impacts, if any, to State designated Significant Coastal Fish and Wildlife Habitat areas, Scenic Areas of Statewide Significance, other Coastal Management Program special management areas, or other sensitive resources, and how those impacts should be avoided or mitigated.
- Demand and potential uses for different areas of the trail and potential impact on businesses along the trail, involving: boat launches and boating, boat and bicycle rentals and tours, winter sports equipment rental and lessons, nature-based and historical tours; camping facilities etc.
- Identification of greenway, blueway, and roadside sections of proposed alignments.
- Identification of agricultural, historic, conservation, and education trail features

For review by the project advisory committee and the Department, the Contractor or its consultant(s) shall prepare schematic designs and cost estimates for each proposed trail alignment.

Products: Schematic designs of proposed trail alignments and cost estimates

#### Task 9: Construction Requirement Analysis for the Proposed Trail Alignments

The Contractor or its consultant(s) shall prepare an analysis of all federal, state and local requirements for each of the proposed trail alignments, including necessary permits and approvals, and a description of how these requirements will be satisfied by the design. This analysis shall be submitted to appropriate project partners and the Department for review. A pre-permitting meeting with the Department and the identified federal, state and local entities may be required to discuss any revisions needed to satisfy regulatory requirements. Work on the draft final design shall not proceed prior to the Department approval of the construction requirement analysis and the pre-permitting meeting, if necessary.

Products: Written construction requirement analysis. Pre-permitting meeting with identified entities.

#### Task 10: First Public Meeting

In consultation with the Department, a public information meeting shall be conducted to solicit public input on the schematic designs for each of the proposed trail alignments to assist in selecting a preferred alternative, and on the potential demand for a trail to ensure a comprehensive range of proposed uses and demand. A written summary of public input obtained at this meeting shall be prepared and provided to the Department for review and comment.

Products: Public information meeting held. Minutes/Summary of meeting prepared and submitted to the Department.

#### Task 11: Draft Feasibility Study and Final Design

The Contractor or its consultant(s) shall prepare a draft feasibility study including: the site reconnaissance findings; the proposed trail alignments and associated construction analysis, cost estimates, and estimated demand and potential uses; the draft final design of the preferred trail alignment; the segments of the preferred trail alignment and engineering/construction plans and specifications for each segment; cost estimated, funding sources, and potential public and private partners for the development of each trail segment; proposed marketing initiatives to attract investors, the proposed sequence for the development of the trail; the estimated costs, funding sources, and organizational structure for maintaining each developed trail segment.

The preferred trail alignment must be selected based on the public feedback from the public meeting and in consultation with the project advisory committee and the Department. The draft feasibility study shall include all required maps, tables, data, written discussions, and other information identified in the contract and subcontract work plans and during the project kick-off meeting. The draft feasibility study including the draft final design and construction specifications for each trail segment shall be provided to the Department and the project advisory committee for review at least two weeks prior to the due date for comments. Department comments must be addressed to the satisfaction of the Department in subsequent revisions of the products and the final documents.

Products: Draft feasibility study and supporting materials.

#### Task 12: Environmental Quality Review

The Contractor or its consultant(s) shall prepare all documents necessary to comply with the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) through determination of significance. If a positive declaration is made, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement shall be prepared.

Products: SEQRA documents and, if necessary, a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

#### Task 13: Second Public Meeting

In consultation with the Department, a public information meeting shall be conducted to solicit public input on the draft feasibility study and final design to assist in identifying the sequence of developing the trail and the local capacity to ensure maintenance of each of the proposed trail segments. A written summary of public input obtained at this meeting shall be prepared and provided to the Department for review and comment.

Products: Public information meeting held. Minutes/Summary of meeting prepared and submitted to the Department.

**Task 14: Final Feasibility Study**

The Contractor or its consultant(s) shall prepare the final feasibility study and final design. The final feasibility study and designs shall be provided to the Department and the project advisory committee for review at least two weeks prior to the due date for comments. Final design documents are subject to approval by the Department.

Products: Final feasibility study and final designs submitted to and approved by the Department.

**Task 15: MWBE Quarterly Reports**

The contractor and its consultants and/or contractors shall submit MWBE Quarterly Reports (every March 31, June 30, September 30, and December 31) on the form provided, including a breakdown of payments issued to state-certified MWBE firms during the quarter.

Products: MWBE reports submitted to DOS during the life of the contract.

**Task 16: Project Status Reports**

The Contractor or its consultant(s) shall submit project status reports semi-annually (every June 30 and December 31) on the form provided, including a description of the work accomplished, the status of all tasks in this work plan, schedule of completion of remaining tasks, and an explanation of any problems encountered.

Products: Completed project status reports submitted to DOS during the life of the contract.

**Task 17: Final Project Summary Report and Measurable Results forms**

The Contractor or its consultant(s) shall work with the Department project manager to complete the Final Project Summary Report and Measurable Results forms. Final payment shall not be authorized until these forms have been completed and filed with project deliverables.

Products: Completed Final Project Summary Report and Measurable Results forms submitted to DOS.

**5. Project Management Responsibilities**

The Contractor shall administer the grant, execute a contract with the Department, and ensure the completion of work in accordance with the approved Work Plan. Unless otherwise specified in the Project Description or under Project Components, the Contractor and/or its approved consultant(s) or subcontractor(s) shall conduct all work as described in the component tasks.

The Contractor:

- will be responsible for conducting all project work in conformance with the Work Plan included in the executed contract with the Department.
- will be responsible for all project activities including drafting request for proposals and managing subcontracts with consultants and subconsultants.

- will certify to the Department that the procurement record for project consultants and subcontractors complies with the applicable provisions of General Municipal Law.
- will receive approval from the Department for any and all consultant subcontracts before beginning project work.
- will be responsible for submission of all products and payment requests.
- will be responsible for coordinating participation and soliciting comments from local government personnel, project volunteers, and the public.
- will keep the Department informed of all important meetings for the duration of this contract.
- will receive approval from the Department before purchase of any equipment.
- will secure all necessary permits and perform all required environmental reviews.
- will ensure that all materials printed, constructed, and/or produced reflect the Department logo, feature the Secretary of State and the Governor, and acknowledge the contributions of the Department to the project.
- will ensure that all products prepared as a part of this contract shall include the NYS Comptroller's contract # as indicated on the Face Page of this contract.
- will ensure the project objectives are being achieved.
- will ensure that comments received from the Department and the project advisory committee, or other advisory group, are satisfactorily responded to and reflected in subsequent work.
- will recognize that payments made to consultants or subcontractors covering work carried out or products produced prior to receiving approval from the Department will not be reimbursed unless and until the Department finds the work or products to be acceptable.

The Department:

- will review and approve or disapprove of subcontracts between the Contractor and consultant(s) and any other subcontractor(s).
- will participate in initial project kick-off meeting and subsequent meetings that are important to the project.
- will review all draft and final products and provide comments as necessary to meet the objectives.
- must approve or disapprove any and all design, site plan, and preconstruction documents before construction may begin.



Schoharie Area Long Term, Inc.

**Appendix B**  
**Project Committee Member List**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Organization, Role</b>
Daniel Crandell	Schoharie County Office of Public Works, P.E., Commissioner
Scott Danner	Village of Schoharie, LWRP Committee Member
Brian Fleury	Schoharie County, GIS Specialist
Floyd Guernsey	F.A. Guernsey & Co. Nursery, Owner
Glenn Hayton	NYS Snowmobile, County Director
Steve Hoerz	Schoharie County Soil and Water, District Manager
Christopher Kenyon	Minekill State Park and Max Shaul Park, Park Manager
Joseph Kopacz	Middleburgh Rod and Gun Club, President
Bernie Levit	Blenheim Long Term Recovery, Committee member
John McKeeby	Schoharie River Center, Executive Director
Bill Morton	Village of Middleburgh, Board of Trustee
Chuck Rielly	Schoharie Land Trust, Board Member
Fred Risse	Risse Farm, Owner
Carl Stefanik	SCCA, Member
Anne Strauch	Mattice Farm, Owner