



NEWS from the CWC

For immediate release

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CWC commits \$1.25 million to four community projects and Broadband initiative

MARGARETVILLE, August 10, 2009 – The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) Board of Directors recently approved funding for four major projects of a new “Watershed Education, Job Creation and Energy Conservation Initiative.”

In approving the \$250,000 grants to non-profit organizations in four Watershed counties, the Board offered unanimous support for projects that will combine educational services with job-inducing renewable energy initiatives.

In addition, the CWC Board authorized \$250,000 in matching funds for a federal grant application by Margaretville Telephone Company which is seeking to extend high speed Broadband and Wi-Fi internet access to underserved parts of Delaware and Schoharie Counties. The grant application to the Rural Utilities Service and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, is to be submitted by M-ARK on behalf of MTC.

The \$1.25 million for these projects will come from the Catskill Fund for the Future for economic development. “We believe these projects will create jobs, enhance community character and the potential for business development, provide educational opportunities, and help protect the environment,” CWC Executive Director Alan Rosa said.

Community projects to receive CWC support include:

- The Daniel Pierce Library in Grahamsville, Town of Neversink, Sullivan County, currently undergoing an ambitious \$4 million expansion which has attracted extraordinary community, labor and business support. The 23,500 square-foot addition will house the Time and the Valleys Museum and a Children’s Literacy Center, as well as a reading room, computer learning stations and community meeting rooms, and will expand shelf space for an additional 40,000 books, audio books, periodicals, videos, DVDs, and CD-ROMs. A key element to controlling energy costs in this enlarged structure is enhanced insulation and a geo-thermal heating and cooling system. CWC participation in the project will be to partially fund the over-all cost of \$900,000 for the geo-thermal system that is estimated to have a seven-year payback on the initial investment.
- The Margaretville eCenter, Town of Middletown, Delaware County, being developed by the Catskill Development Foundation. Like the pilot project in Delhi, which was also supported by the CWC, the Margaretville Center will serve as a small business incubator to accelerate the growth and success of new and existing entrepreneurial companies with a focus on the attraction and development of high tech and technology dependent businesses. The project is estimated to cost \$650,000 and will utilize the first floor of an existing Main Street building, constructed in 1908 as a Masonic Lodge. The structure is being renovated inside and out, and energy conservation will be an important component of the project.
- The Ashokan Center (formerly the Ashokan Field Campus of SUNY New Paltz), planning a major relocation and redesign of its outdoor education and cultural center in the Town of Olive, Ulster County. The present Ashokan property was transferred to the Open Space Institute in 2008. A portion of the 395-acre parcel was then sold to NYCDEP to accommodate flood control measures that will require the Center’s buildings to be relocated to higher ground to be transferred to the Ashokan Foundation, a not-for-profit organization. The Foundation will construct a new campus at an estimated cost of \$7.5 million. Its goal is to create an energy efficient, carbon neutral, sustainable facility for environmental, agriculture and forestry study, as well as a music, history, culture and community center. CWC funds will be used for the relocation and re-construction of “green” buildings.

- The Mountain Top Library and Learning Center, whose major expansion involves renovating a long vacant building. For over 100 years the Haines Falls Free Library has served the Village of Tannersville and surrounding area from the 1,500-square-foot former Methodist Church in Haines Falls. It is moving to the long-vacant 8,000-square-foot Marian Center on Main Street, Tannersville where, in addition to expanded shelving, a 12-terminal computer center will be set up. Continuing education (including college level courses) may be provided. The estimated project cost is \$2,500,000. Utilizing NYSERDA services, the project is designed to qualify for LEEDS designation. Energy savings are expected to be around 40% over the current building energy needs.

For more information on these and other public benefit programs offered by the CWC, go to www.cwconline.org, or call toll free 877-WAT-SHED, or 845-586-1400.

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