

**TOWN OF JAY SPECIAL BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2021  
6:00 PM @ TOWN OF JAY COMMUNITY CENTER**

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Archie Depo, Councilman Tom McDonald, Councilman Spencer Reynolds, Deputy Town Clerk Carol Hackel

**OTHERS:** DPW Director Chris Garrow

**PRESENT VIA "GO TO MEETING":** Councilman Knut Sauer, Councilman Adam Coolidge, Eric Sandbloom

Meeting was called to order by Supervisor Depo at 6:00 pm

Eric Sandbloom (Engineer from Schroder Rivers) began the meeting with a presentation about the East Branch/West Branch Riverbank Restoration Project. After a lengthy discussion, he made the following points;

1. 13 possible sites were identified by US Fish and Wildlife and Au Sable River Association and were evaluated for priority placement
2. Top focus was put on project #13 - located at the confluence of the East and West Branch, however GOSR will not fund this project as it is located in two counties (Essex and Clinton)
3. Projects #2 and 3 were moved to top priority and the river sections were surveyed and design plans were developed and plans were implemented to improve river function by keeping the river more resilient and adding to flood reduction including;
  - a. Modification of a narrow cross section
  - b. Deepen some areas
  - c. Install J hooks (to keep debris moving through)
4. Flood Wall Project
  - a. The geotechnical survey/study is complete
  - b. Environmental permitting for the structure has been obtained
  - c. DEC Permit has been accepted
5. Bid pricing is likely to reflect a jump in construction costs of approximately 15-20% as a result of COVID
6. Per GOSR- this is the last year the funds will be available
7. Proposed Projects to be as follows-(a and b to be bid together)
  - a. East Branch #2 upstream of Route 9 bridge- +/- 1800 ft- approx. cost = \$757,218.00
  - b. East Branch #3 downstream from Route 9 bridge (near old firehouse) – approx. cost = \$457,509.00
  - c. Flood Wall (to be bid separately)-West Branch in Au Sable Forks-approx. cost=\$345,950.00
  - All bids w/ 10% contingency

**Board Questions and Comments for Mr. Sandbloom:**

**Question:** How does the Flood Wall project compare to the East Branch project in possible flood loss?

**Answer:** the floodwall would provide immediate benefit in the protection of public and private infrastructure. However, he stated that a floodwall provides no benefit to the health of the river and therefore was not considered at the top of the list. He added that in his opinion, Projects #2 and #3 on the East Branch when fully realized over time, would improve the natural function of the river and that goes "hand in hand" with flood resiliency.

**Question:** Do we have full designs on all three projects?

**Answer:** Almost done. Designs are being reviewed by GOSR. Of the three necessary easements two have been acquired and one is waiting on the last of the paperwork

**Question-** Can Project #13 not be considered?

**Answer:** No, GOSR will not approve as it is located in two counties (Essex and Clinton)

**Question-** Can this be ready to go to bid by April?

**Answer:** Possibly, may be later. However, must be timely as per DEC permitting, work in the river is allowed May 1- September 30

Eric Sandbloom signed off at 7:08 pm

A motion to adjourn made by Councilman McDonald, second by Councilman Reynolds, all in favor, none opposed, adjourned at 7:11 pm