

Appendix D

Newspaper Articles

Durham riding on a Rocky Mountain high

By Sean Springer

DURHAM—For once, town officials have deliberately created Rocky relations.

The Durham Town Board has hired a specialized Colorado planning firm to help it on three separate but related projects—farmland preservation, scenic byways management and the town's role in the Hudson River estuary system.

While a local land trust is entirely responsible for the byway project without town funding, the town has contracted with the same consultant, ERO Resources Corp. of Denver for the other two projects. Although grant-funded, the town would pay 20 percent, Supervisor Gary Hulbert said.

Through the town's agriculture and open spaces grant, the town is assessing its farmland and habitat, said Dr. Richard Goldstein, an active citizen on open space and other issues. ERO will help develop a farmland preservation and best practices guide for town farming;

the town Agriculture and Open Spaces Committee would be responsible for program content.

ERO also is handling a state Department of Conservation planning grant to evaluate the town's role as an estuary community that is part of the Hudson River Watershed. Goldstein said the town hasn't really considered its role, so far from the actual river, but town streams and wastewater wind up there. One requirement of this grant is to assess biodiversity, he said, and ERO will do the "boots on the ground" mapping, working with the Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Both grants and projects were part of the same contract.

A third project ERO is handling for the town is developing the town's scenic byways corridor management plan, a requirement the town needs in order to seek additional grant funding to maintain the program, intended to preserve the scenic

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beauty of a network of town hill/mountainside roads south of Route 81, in and around the Cornwallville area, but extending out to Durham hamlet, to the Windham town line, and almost to East Durham and Route 23.

The scenic byways project is in the hands of the Durham Valley Land Trust, which Goldstein represents on the Durham Scenic Byway Coordinating Committee. Two years ago, the town and the Trust began working to get federal funds for the byways program, and with state Department of Transportation support obtained them.

Project Manager Andy Cole of ERO said Durham's needs fit one of his company's niches, scenic corridors like a corridor management program for Chaffee County, CO, a scenic mountain corridor region with 14,000-foot peaks.

ERO's current and past project list ranges from city and county to federal jurisdictions, including evaluating water, vegetation and scenic resources, throughout the western U.S.