

The Cattaraugus Creek Tributary to the Lake Erie/St. Lawrence River System

- 1. Provide the name of all non-Federal interests planning to act as the sponsor, including and non-Federal interest that has included or is expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.** – *Chautauqua County is the sole non-Federal interest that is anticipated to act as a sponsor or contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study.*

- 2. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project or feasibility study and, if a modification, specify the authorized project or study.** – *This proposal is for a feasibility study.*

- 3. State the purpose of the proposed study or modification.** – *As depicted in Figure 2, the Town of Hanover and the hamlet of Sunset Bay are located at the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek, where it flows into Lake Erie. The mouth of Cattaraugus Creek is positioned in Chautauqua County; however, less than one percent of the watershed is located with the County. The majority of the 550 square mile watershed is located within Cattaraugus, Erie, Chautauqua, Wyoming and Allegany Counties, as well as within the Seneca Nation. Cattaraugus Creek is a well-known fishery and attracts thousands of anglers, especially during the steelhead and salmon migrations. As a result of erosion from the upland areas of the Cattaraugus Creek watershed, large amounts of sediment and debris have accumulated at the mouth of the Creek. These sediment deposits and debris have reduced the hydraulic capacity of the main channel of the stream and contribute to the formation of ice jams, and as a result, this portion of Chautauqua County experiences repeated flooding events that cause repeated property loss, health and safety issues for residents. These sediment and debris deposits also pose a hazard to recreational boaters and limit their access to harbors and marinas located near the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek. Together, these conditions have caused negative economic impacts locally and regionally. It is hoped that feasibility study that that examines dredging this area will lead to a strategy that would mitigate these problems.*

- 4. Provide an estimate, to the extent practicable, of the total cost of the proposed study or modification.** - *The dredging feasibility study of the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek is estimated at approximately \$100,000.*

- 5. Describe, to the extent practicable, the anticipated monetary and non-monetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.** – *This proposal, if funded, will increase the probability that a larger scale dredging project will be funded and undertaken, thereby reducing the risks to public health and safety and property loss related to flooding and ice jams. There are a number of additional anticipated benefits to dredging through reduced navigational hazards to recreational boaters, improved access to the harbors and marinas, improved fish passage and habitat.*

6. **Describe if local support exists for the proposal.** – *Chautauqua County government and Chautauqua County Association of Mayors and Town Supervisors support this proposal. In addition the proposal is closely aligned with the mission of several non-governmental organizations.*

7. **State if the non-Federal interest has the financial ability to provide for the required cost share.**
– *ER 1105-2-100, Appendix F, Amendment #1, 31 January 2006 provides a formula for program cost sharing for the feasibility phase of Continuing Authorities Program, where initially up to \$100,000 is provided by Federal funds with the remaining costs being shared equally (50/50) with the non-Federal sponsor. Since the proposed feasibility study to dredge the mouth of Cattaraugus Creek is estimated to be approximately \$100,000, the estimated cost is at, or below the threshold required for the non-Federal sponsor (Chautauqua County) contribution. The County's history of delivering successful environmental restoration projects throughout Chautauqua County demonstrates its capacity to provide the required cost share, if it is deemed appropriate by the USACE.*

8. **Submit a letter or statement of support from each associated non-Federal interest.** – *Letters of support are attached.*



Ice jam related Flooding in the hamlet of Sunset Bay during February of 2011.



Cattaraugus Creek – Hamlet of Sunset Bay, NY
Figure 2 – Project Location Map