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Flood Response, Recovery and Mitigation Workshop Comes to Kingston

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County's Esopus Creek Management Program hosted a free Flood Response, Recovery and Mitigation Workshop on Friday, March 28 for professionals who manage streams, banks, bridges, and other stream related-structures.

The flood workshop at the Kingston Holiday Inn was attended by over 100 representatives including town supervisors and highway superintendents, New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), County Public Works staff, Environmental Groups, FEMA, local contractors and more.

The day-long workshop included presentations on how to design stream projects in-line with natural stream processes. Using such stream-oriented practices can prevent high costs of repairing repetitively damaged sites. Not only can better practices save money, they benefit aquatic habitats as well.

The keynote speaker, Jim MacBroom Vice President of stream consultant company Milone & MacBroom, Inc. based in Connecticut, spoke about basic stream processes, the importance of maintaining floodplain function, how to predict persistent erosion spots, and methods for flood protection. Jack Isaacs from the NYSDEC shared his many years of reviewing streamwork permits by illustrating types of flood protection projects that usually fail sooner and those that work better.

The afternoon session allowed for participants to learn from each other how they can better coordinate after large flood events. A hypothetical 50-year flood event scenario in Ulster County was presented to the group. Through a facilitated process, the group wrote out timelines starting from the flood event to beyond a year after the flood event to learn what everyone is doing during and after flood events. The group then discussed how to fill in gaps in the timeline and make flood response more efficient. Cooperative Extension is compiling this information into a flood timeline guide for later distribution.

For more information contact Michael Courtney at 845-340-3990.

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