

Upper Esopus Creek Management Plan
Program Highlights: November 2006 through end February 2007

Management Plan Production:

- A draft Upper Esopus Creek Management Plan was compiled and submitted to NYCDEP on January 26, 2007. CCE staff drafted sections of the report on Education & Outreach, Angling and Recreation, History & Demographics, Stream Use and Aquatic Ecosystem conditions. CCE staff also produced an executive document that summarizes the relevant information. Reports from DEP and contractors were compiled into the plan accordingly, including:
 - Landowner Survey: Final - 46% response rate. Surveys were returned to the Cornell U. Human Dimensions Research Unit (HDRU), who also completed a final report that was incorporated into the management plan. Results are currently guiding program development.
 - Aquatic Ecosystem Study: Walt Keller (PI) submitted final draft report that was incorporated into the management plan. This draft will be reviewed by our Aquatic Ecosystem Work Group and a work plan developed.
 - Riparian Vegetation Characterization Analysis: Contract with Barry Vittor & Associates, Inc. was completed in December 2006 for inclusion into the plan.
- CCE staff are working with the project advisory council, work groups, and the public to communicate the draft plan findings, solicit comments and suggestions, and develop an action plan agenda. DEP anticipates in the 2007 FAD that biennial action plans will be a requirement for DEP funded projects.

Work Group Meetings:

- Project Advisory Council meetings were held 12/12/06 and 2/20/07. Next meeting: Tuesday, March 6th.
- Aquatic Ecosystem Work Group: A conference call is scheduled for March 13th.
- Community Meeting: **May 20th @ 7 pm at the Phoenicia Fish & Game Club**

Education & Outreach Events/Materials:

- Youth Watershed Mural: Local artists Michelle Spark and Christy Scheele received a second mural grant from Kids in the Catskills of \$2,500. This money goes directly to the artists for their time/efforts and complements the \$2,000 materials grant that CCEUC received from the Catskill Watershed Corporation. CCE is providing coordination as matching funds.
- 2007 Education & Outreach Events: A draft schedule is under development.

Education & Trainings

Summary of USDA CSREES National Water Conference 1/28 – 2/1/07: Savannah, GA

The conference provided an opportunity to more intimately understand the role that CSREES and USDA has played in setting the national agenda for water quality issues and policies. In turn, the conference also illustrated the strength of the model that Extension agencies have used to provide innovations through research and bring that information to the community.

Participants met by region, which provided the opportunity to network and share projects with researchers and educators from Cornell, Rutgers and other regional universities. A meeting on an RFA was held, providing a key opportunity to learn about the upcoming grant opportunity.

Excellent workshops were also provided including writing for educational publications by the editor of the national “Volunteer Monitor” newsletter, education and outreach models, non-point source incentive programs, watershed assessment, and many excellent posters.

Jeremy Magliaro, Coordinator
Walt Keller, Aquatic Ecosystem Scientist

Michael Courtney, Educator
Sarah Tarallo, Project Intern