

FUTURE OF THE WALLKILL 4/23 AGENDA

4:00 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND NETWORKING

5:00 WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

KT Tobin, SUNY New Paltz, CRREO

Jason West, Mayor of the Village of New Paltz

5:10 OVERVIEW OF THE WALLKILL WATERSHED CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

Kevin Sumner, Orange County Soil & Water Conservation

5:30 WATERSHED EFFORTS AND MODELS

David Church, Orange County Department of Planning

Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Department of Planning

5:50 OUR ROLE IN IMPROVING WATER QUALITY, TODAY AND TOMORROW

Dan Shapley, Riverkeeper

6:00 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

DRINKING WATER

The planned interruption of water supply from the Catskill Aqueduct has prompted the community to consider the Wallkill River as a source of drinking water, raising issues about water quality, regulations and cost. What is the future of the Wallkill River as a drinking water source? What steps would have to be taken in the short and long term to use the Wallkill as a source of drinking water? Are there issues facing those who currently use groundwater under the influence of the Wallkill?

Moderators

Don Kerr, Chair, Village of New Paltz Environmental Policy Commission

Matthew Geho, Northern Westchester Joint Waterworks

LAND USE

From urban stormwater runoff and sewage treatment to agricultural uses, the way people use the land has a major influence on water quality. The river in turn has a role in the lives of the people living near it. How can housing, food production, and other important societal needs support water quality sufficient for drinking water and recreation? How does land use affect flooding, and flooding affect land use?

Moderators

David Church, Commissioner, Orange County Planning Department

Dennis Doyle, Director, Ulster County Planning Department

RECREATION

What would it take for the Wallkill River to join the Shawangunk Ridge as a world-class recreational asset? Public concern about water quality has increased with community monitoring in recent years. What steps are needed to improve water quality and public access to the river?

Moderators

Craig Chapman, Owner, New Paltz Kayaking Tours

Dan Shapley, Water Quality Program Manager, Riverkeeper

FARMING

The Wallkill River watershed includes some of the region's most productive farmland, and a population that values locally grown food. How can water quality support farming, and farms support water quality improvement? How can flooding be managed to support both farms and water quality?

Moderators

Amanda LaValle, Coordinator, Ulster County Department of the Environment

Kevin Sumner, District Manager, Orange County Soil and Water Conservation District

FISH, WILDLIFE, and HABITAT

The Wallkill River and its watershed includes areas of heavily degraded habitat as well as high-quality features, including a tributary stream designated for protection under the New York State Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers Act. What is the status of fish and wildlife in the river and watershed, and what steps can be taken to improve habitat both on land and in the water?

Moderators

Laura Heady, Conservation and Land Use Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program/Cornell University

Mike Flaherty, Region 3 Fisheries Manager, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

7:20 BREAKOUT REPORTS

Facilitators

KT Tobin, SUNY New Paltz, CRREO

Jason West, Mayor of the Village of New Paltz

7:45 SETTING A VISION WITH AN ACTION AGENDA

Emily Vail, Hudson River Estuary Program

8:00 WRAP UP AND ADJOURN

POST-EVENT MIXER AT GILDED OTTER