

AWSMP Education and Outreach Working Group Meeting Notes
March 28, 2012
AWSMP Office, Phoenicia, NY

In attendance:

Brent Gotsch, CCE Ulster County
Liz Higgins, CCE Ulster County
Gretchen Rae, CCE Ulster County
Chris Baltz, Phoenicia Rotary Club
Diane Galusha, Catskill Watershed Corporation
Mary McNamara, Woodstock Resident, Lower Esopus group
Todd Spire, Trout Unlimited (Ashokan-Pepacton Chapter)
Aaron Bennett, Ulster County Department of the Environment
Beth Reichheld, NYC DEP

AWSMP Staff Roles/Responsibilities

Bob McCormack is no longer with the program. He has moved to Long Island. The following AWSMP/CCE staff have picked up his responsibilities after his departure.

Elizabeth Higgins: Annual Report, Action Plan, Catskill Environmental Research Conference, general staff supervision, SMIP administration, coordination between UCSWCD and DEP, training program development, and long-range planning. Lead staff member for: Ashokan E&O Group, West of Hudson E&O Group, Highway Manager Working Group (co-lead with UCSWCD), SAFARI, NFIP technical assistance.

Brent Gotsch: Newsletters, factsheets, marketing and press, other publications, training program implementation, meeting and event coordination and planning (With G. Rae) CRISP liaison, CSBI liaison. Lead staff member for: Recreation and Access Working Group.

Gretchen Rae: Volunteer program management, meeting and event coordination and planning (with B. Gotsch), public program implementation, triage request for information, grant program assistance, financial reporting assistance, database management, office management.

AWSMP Publications

Newsletter: publication will continue three times a year. New format has received mostly positive praise from public. Summer 2012 issue has been sent to the printer and will be mailed to public soon.

LWD Factsheet: Currently undergoing internal review.

Stony Clove Landowners Guide: Currently undergoing internal review. Expected publication within 2-3 months.

Stream Stewards/Volunteer Brochure: In progress.

Upcoming Publications:

1. Update "Flood Emergency Preparedness Guide"
2. Gravel Extraction factsheet
3. Native Riparian Plants factsheet
4. Restoration Techniques factsheet
5. Permitting Process factsheet
6. Agency Roles & Responsibilities factsheets
7. Woodland Valley Creek Landowner's Guide
8. Broadstreet Hollow Landowner's Guide
9. Espous Creek Landowner's Guide
10. Beaverkill Landowner's Guide
11. Birch Creek landowner's Guide
12. Publication on successful projects that AWSMP has completed

Volunteer Programs

Two Spring CSBI Plantings: April 28 and May 19

Stream Cleanups: May 5 and June 23

WAVE Program: DEC sponsored program where volunteers take samples of streams and the data will be used for analysis by DEC. Training expected in August 2012

Potentially have volunteers help with trail cleaning at Kenneth Wilson State Park during Family Fish Day on July 28 (see below).

Public Programs

Stream Hike: Rochester Hollow May 12

Arm of Sea Production of "City that Drinks the Mountain Sky" July 14. This is a mask and puppet theater at the Phoenicia Playhouse. It is a family friendly event.

Family Fish and Fun Day: July 28 at Kenneth Wilson State Park

Fairs and Festivals: Shandaken Day, Olive Day, Woodstock Library Day [dates TBA], possibly Shandaken Duck Race (July 15), Ulster County Fair (July 31-August 5).

Research Symposia/Conferences

Trout Research Presentation: February 4, hosted at SUNY Ulster. T.J. Ross (Cornell University graduate student) presented his findings on how Shandaken Tunnel effects Brown Trout populations in the Esopus.

Catskill Environmental Monitoring Conference: October 25-26

Trainings

Contractors' Training (joint with Schoharie Watershed Stream Management Program, DEP, NRCS, and TU): March 19 [Emerson Resort], March 6 and 27 [Greene County Emergency Services Building]. Very successful—reached over 150 contractors and municipal equipment operators. Very positive feedback.

May consider partnering with other agencies (such as TU) to prepare training for a wider audience state-wide. This is a long-term (5+ year) project.

3rd Annual Ashokan Watershed Conference: April 21 at Bearsville Theater, Woodstock NY. Bill Nechamen (DEC) will give training for code enforcement officers.

Floodplain Management Training: May 1-3, Binghamton, NY. Several staff and local code enforcement officers will be taking the test to become certified floodplain managers.

Aquatic Passage Culvert Training: Partnering with US Forest Service to teach how to best install and size culverts to allow for passage of aquatic organisms.

Kiosks

Woodland Valley Kiosk will be updated with new information and replace a panel on the back (facing the stream). Will partner with local artist and UCSWCD to repair and update.

Back of Phoenicia kiosk (facing Stony Clove) will be redone to have information about the stream work that that was done there. May partner with Phoenicia Rotary to paint and landscape around kiosk.

Consider having a kiosk or information signage at Belleayre Lake and Kenneth Wilson. Also consider partnering with Central Catskill Collaborative (scenic byway).

Coordination

1. Investigate the possibility of having a joint calendar located on the Catskillstreams.org website to help deal with any conflicts that may occur amongst the various agencies.
2. Ashokan E&O Working Group will meet every other month from here on out.

Future Actions

Next meeting will occur in May 2012. Exact date TBA. Doodle Poll will be sent out to determine group members availability.