

Esopus Creek Stream Management Planning Process  
Education & Outreach Working Group Meeting  
CCE Phoenicia Office  
Wednesday, February 8, 2006  
Meeting Report

Present: Christine Baltz, Aaron Bennett, Michael Courtney, Dan Davis, Jenn Greiser, and Michelle Spark

1. Community News:

- Review of Streamside Landowner Focus Group– 8 participants – good information, backing up main themes of erosion, flood hazards, community development, and working together with neighbors

2. Planning for Upcoming Events:

- Open House - Reviewed suggestions for Open House

Additional Upcoming Events:

- Bob Titus – Geologist, March 29 – 7pm-8:30pm
- Kayakers/whitewater focus group- Feb. 28 6pm-7:30. (This is the new date since meeting)

3. Budget:

- Michael provided an estimate of the education budget for this year (through the calendar year) to be approximately \$15,000 – including all training for staff, hiring special instructors for courses, etc.

4. Working Group Suggested Activities:

- Youth Mural Project – Michelle Spark – Michelle described process for developing a watershed-themed mural in Phoenicia. Project would take three weeks to develop at 3-4 hours/day, would include time on the stream and speakers on stream issues for youth. Art exercises would be used to develop theme. It was proposed to submit a Catskill Watershed Corporation Education grant application for less than \$2,000 by Feb. 10 to do the short form, and seek other matching funds. Cost would be around \$6,000 for the project itself. **Next Steps: Michael and Michelle will follow-up to submit CWC application for project implementation in Summer, 2007.**
- Stream Clean-up: Ted French has notified Michael he does not have time for this project, but would like to see it pursued.

Discussion: do very simple stream clean-up events. Potlucks, speaking events, etc with landowner groups were discussed to start this process. Broadstreet Hollow will be doing a cleanup in June.

Trout Unltd also leads regular stream cleanups and should be contacted as well. (They have been invited to this group, but don't have a person available) UC SWCD also has been invited.

Possible speaker topic – what debris can be cleaned up by landowners?  
Norm- erosion control info/speakers, riparian planting info

- Knotweed Magnet: Discussion: Take regional approach – contact other organizations to help complete. Regarding volunteers/committee members contacting other agencies –useful if volunteers have relationships with agency staff; requests resources should come directly from CCE staff.
- Stream Surveying: Ros from ZESI unable to attend this meeting, but there is interest in supporting/training local stream surveying teams.

5. Visioning Comprehensive Education/Outreach Program:

Discussion:

- Focus on volunteer-based stream projects with train-the-trainer models by neighborhoods/Stream reaches
- Use master watershed stewards as model – would take 1 yr to gear up.
- Rebuild local sense of what can/can't be done
- Build data base of volunteers by “level of interest”
- Consider training in organizational as well as stream/ecological skills
- Train leaders for each hollow.

Timeline:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Step: Get information out/build awareness - potlucks, slide shows
  - Build volunteer base – ongoing events, speakers, etc
- Summer,Fall 2006 – pilot volunteer events with volunteer base
- 2007 – Certificate trainers/Master program startup.

6. Other Announcements:

- Stream-side Buffer Workshop – April 22 1pm-5pm at Windham by Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District  
RSVP required – **Jen will send flyer/website to Michael to send to group.**
- Streamside guide brochure is being worked on by regional partners in the watershed. Will be completed by June 1. Enough copies to mail to our newsletter list have been requested.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 10AM-12PM**