

Mohawk River Basin Program and Action Agenda

Paul Bray
NYSDEC
Commissioner's Policy Office

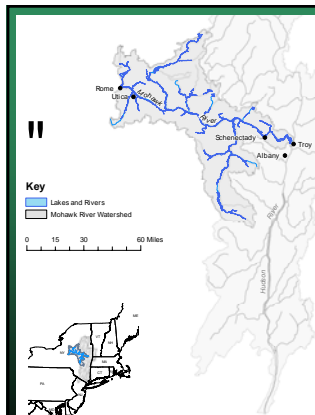
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Introduction

- New roles in hard times
- Beginning as a fact finding mission
- Goal:
 - engage stakeholder interest, receive feedback and develop project ideas
- “Opportunity favors the prepared mind”

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



- 25% of Hudson River Drainage
- 140 miles Rome to Cohoes
- 6,656 river. stream miles

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Introduction

- Predominately forest and agriculture
- Several areas of dense population



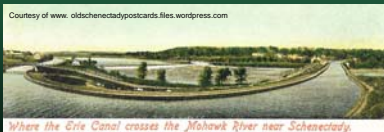
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Introduction



Courtesy of www.paulkeesterbooks.com



Where the Erie Canal crosses the Mohawk River near Schoharie.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Introduction

- Orphaned, despite its history
- This program stems from NY's interest in “Ecosystem Based Management”
- Modeled after other successful basin programs like HREP

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Ecosystem Based Management

- Considers “whole ecosystem”
- Includes humans and the environment
- Not one issue or resource in isolation
- Science based

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Ecosystem Based Management

- Management practices will be:
 - Adaptive and responsive to change
 - Promote coordination and cooperation among sectors
 - Balance competing uses
 - Inspire compromise

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Ecosystem Based Management

- To learn more:
 - www.nyoglecc.org
 - NY Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Introduction

The Mission:

- Coordinate basin-wide activities related to conserving, preserving, and restoring the environmental quality
- Manage the resource for a sustainable future. “Ecosystem Based”
- Involve stakeholders and create partnerships with established programs and organizations

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Action Agenda

Action Agenda:

- A list of measurable goals
- A template by which the basin program will direct its actions.
- Each goal has a specific proposed action
- Each proposed action has a target date for completion
- The targets are steps which lead to the fulfillment of Action Agenda Goals.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Key Partnerships

- Mohawk Valley Heritage Corridor Commission
- Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor Commission
- Army Corps of Engineers
- Ocean and Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Counsel
- NYS Canal Corporation
- Internal DEC Programs
- Department of State
- Agriculture and Markets
- Regional Planning Commissions
- Soil and Water District Coalition
- Colleges and Universities
- Etc.....

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Action Agenda - Goals

1. Understand and manage fish, wildlife and their habitats

while communicating to the public about their value to human communities and natural processes so that people can fish, hunt, trap, bird, and enjoy the unique character of the valley and its living ecosystem.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Action Agenda - Goals

2. Protect and improve water quality in the Mohawk River watershed

so that people are protected from health hazards, drinking water supplies are conserved, aquatic animal communities flourish and natural processes are sustained.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Action Agenda - Goals

3. Reduce the consequences of flooding events

on Mohawk River Valley communities so that cultural, recreational, economic and environmental heritage is protected.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Action Agenda - Goals

4. Revitalize Mohawk Valley communities

using sustainable development principles creating vibrant, healthy, desirable places to live, work and visit, capitalizing on the region's historic, cultural, environmental and recreational resources.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Action Agenda - Goals

5. Preserve working landscapes and open spaces

by supporting well managed farms and forest land that maintains the agricultural economy and land use in the Mohawk Valley while protecting the natural environment.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Next Steps

- Finalize the Action Agenda
 - Distribute action agenda and hold public informational meetings
 - Appoint steering committee
 - Identified Goal Keepers

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation



Mohawk Basin Program Worker Contact Information

- Paul Bray
DEC Commissioner's Policy Office
518-402-8569
pmbay@gw.dec.state.ny.us
- Alexander J. Smith
DEC Division of Water
518-285-5627
ajsmith@gw.dec.state.ny.us
- David Barnet
DEC Commissioner's Policy Office
518-402-9234
dgbarnet@gw.dec.state.ny.us

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

