

Section 7

Stream Management Plan Implementation

Implementation of the Neversink Stream Management Plan is carried out under contract by the Rondout Neversink Stream Program of Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District. A field office in the Neversink Town Hall is the base where two full-time staff, interns and contract staff work in close collaboration with NYC DEP Stream Management Program, and in partnership with the Towns of Neversink and Denning, Sullivan and Ulster County DPWs, landowner associations and individuals in the basin.

The draft Neversink Stream Management Plan will be released in spring 2011, followed by outreach meetings to gather public input, comments and questions about the stream feature inventory and management recommendations. During this process, sessions will be held in a workshop format with the Watershed Advisory Group (Rondout / Neversink Stream Program's Advisory Committee of 25 members) to determine the priority recommendations for the program's current and future Annual Action Plans. Because of the many similarities among the Rondout and Neversink basins, it is likely that some of the priorities will mirror those in the Rondout (e.g., early detection for the same invasive species), however unique characteristics of both the physical and social context (e.g., the long-term presence of proactive landowner associations) will result in some unique priorities for the Neversink community. More detailed presentations about the plan will be made to the Town Boards, followed by the process steps for formal adoption of the Plan by the Towns, including execution of a Memorandum of Agreement with the Sullivan County Soil and Water Conservation District and endorsement of Stream Stewardship Principles (See Appendix A).

A summary plan document, similar to one created for the Rondout Stream Management Plan in 2010, will be produced and distributed to the public as the working document for the Committee, town officials and as a user-friendly outreach tool for maintaining awareness about the plan goals. In the summary, the implementation of one or more stream restoration demonstration projects will be described, along with the project goals and objectives so that the community will gain knowledge about the new practices being implemented during the construction season. Also, three assisted restoration projects are currently in planning for 2011 implementation under the Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative in the Neversink basin; additional projects will be identified and implemented on an annual basis.

As resources permit, it is anticipated that a watershed grants program will be established for the Upper Neversink (in combination with the Rondout Creek), and that the Watershed Advisory Group will structure and administer this program in accordance with the priorities established in the Plan.