

For Immediate Release

The Broome County Soil and Water Conservation District (Broome County SWCD) will be holding a series of three different watershed focused public informational meetings where residents of these watersheds can learn about watershed function and hear an overview of field assessments completed in each of these watersheds.

Where: Broome County Public Library
185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY

When: Wednesday June 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: Brixius Creek – Decker Room

Wednesday June 12, 5:00-6:00 p.m.: Chamberlain Creek – Decker Room

Thursday June 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Fuller Hollow Creek – Exhibit Room

The three informational meetings will provide an overview of the “Susquehanna Regional River Initiative” and watershed assessment findings completed in the fall of 2018.

Funding for this work is through the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Block Grant-Disaster Recover (CDBG-DR) for long-term recovery and resiliency projects. Funding is being delivered through the NY Rising Community Reconstruction (NYRCR) Program of New York State Governor’s Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR). The purpose of this project is to establish a regional river initiative to build resilience and capacity in the Broome, Tioga and Village of Sidney NY Rising Communities. The project will link the local communities together with a consistent comprehensive watershed approach to understand and address flooding issues in the Upper Susquehanna River.

The initiative will include two main project components:

- Education and Outreach to municipal officials, county legislators and residents of the NYRCR Tioga, Broome and Sidney Communities
- Watershed Assessment and modeling to identify natural infrastructure practices for implementation

The watershed assessment phase has been completed and an overview of the findings including a list of recommended priorities will be presented at the three meetings for the following watersheds in Broome County.

- Wednesday June 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m.: Brixius Creek – Decker Room
- Wednesday June 12, 5:00-6:00 p.m.: Chamberlain Creek – Decker
- Thursday June 13, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Fuller Hollow Creek – Exhibit Room

All of the meetings will be held at the Broome County Public Library, 185 Court Street, Binghamton, NY.

The purpose of the assessments was to inventory and evaluate a number of physical factors including eroding stream banks, damaged segments of streams, bridges, culverts, and debris jams. The inventory and evaluation consisted of SWCD employees and associates physically investigating the culverts, streams and tributaries and mapping the above criteria. This information is being used to identify and target funding for cost effective practices that can be implemented to reduce flooding impacts in each of these watersheds. The meetings listed above are intended to help present the findings to the residents of the three watersheds, a brief overview

of how streams function and why damaging flooding events occur, have a discussion on flood impacts and resiliency, and gain input on prioritizing potential future projects.

Designs will be based on an integrated, multiple barrier approach across the watershed, looking at implementing practices in the headwaters, across the landscape and finally at the streams edge. The result will provide a chance to reduce the effects of floodwaters by de-synchronizing flows, infiltrating runoff, and spreading flow into the natural floodplain. Watershed assessments will look to identify project areas that will focus on the natural infrastructure in the watershed to address stormwater and implement projects that promote this approach. Wetland creation and restoration with flood attenuation, green infrastructure, natural stream rehabilitation and floodplain enhancement through berm removal along with installation of visual landmark flood signs to educate residents. These are a few examples of natural infrastructure projects we would identify and implement. However in the longer term the watershed assessments will identify numerous cost-effective practices/projects that can be undertaken by a community in order to improve resiliency and reduce flooding. The plans will be ready for future funding and allow for rapid implementation as additional funding becomes available.