

Cattaraugus Creek Integrated Watershed Action Plan

Public Meeting #1

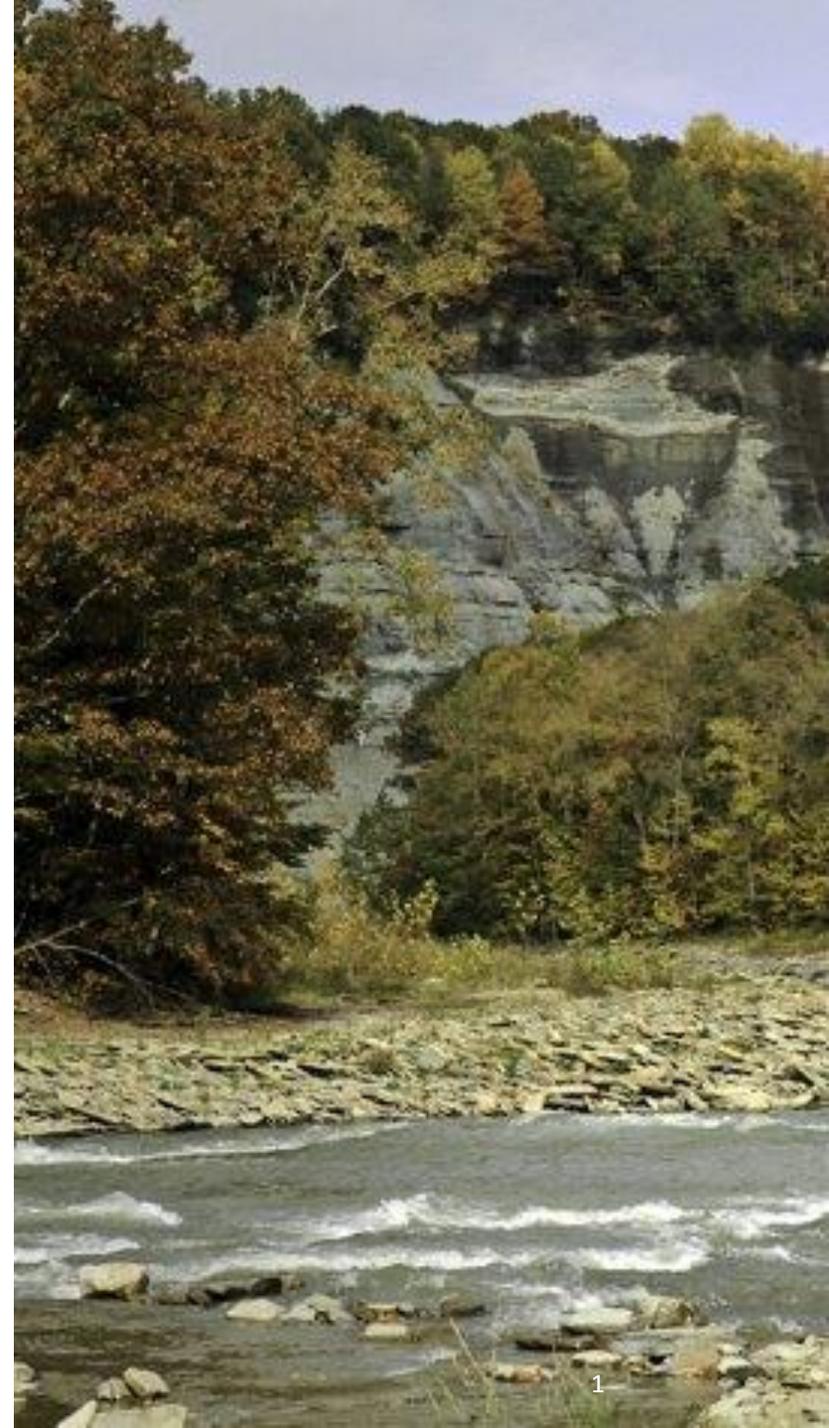
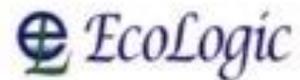
March 1, 2022



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

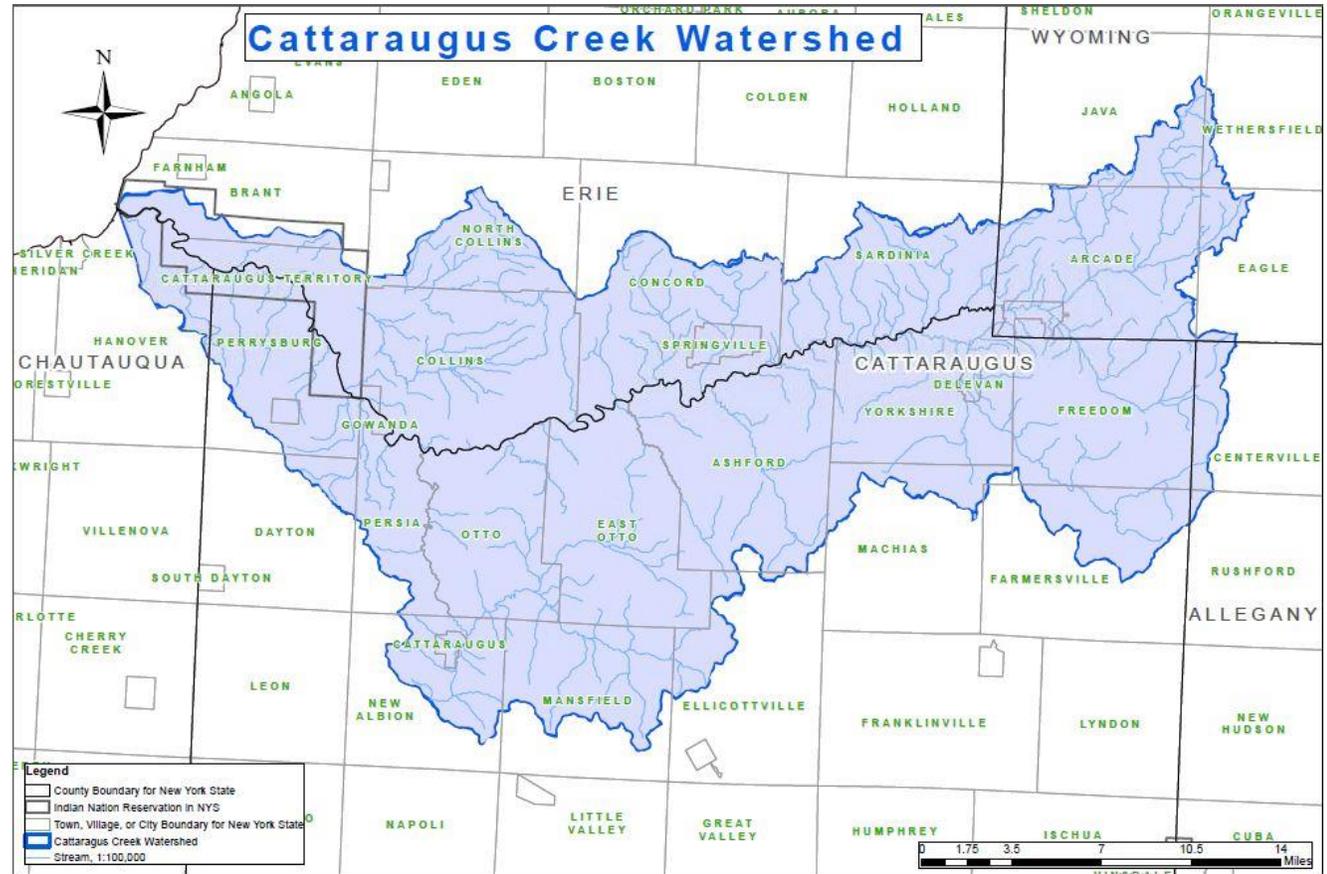


Office of
General Services



Use Zoom Chat to Share

- Your name, where you're from, and any affiliation
- How do you benefit from the Cattaraugus Creek watershed?



Reminder of Zoom Controls



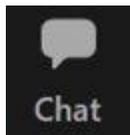
See who is here, which **participant** is talking



Turns your **camera on and off**. Limiting video use can optimize performance



Turns your **microphone on and off**. Please mute when not speaking to reduce background noise.



Use Zoom chat to **ask questions, make comments**, and find hyperlinks to resources

Today's Speakers



Shannon Dougherty
Great Lakes Watershed
Coordinator
NYSDEC



Ryan Elliott
Western Great Lakes
Watershed Coordinator
NYSDEC



Tony Eallonardo
Senior Project Manager
Ramboll



Andrew Brainard
Project Manager
Ramboll



Liz Moran
Principal Scientist
EcoLogic LLC



Sharon Anderson
Outreach Specialist
EcoLogic LLC



Agenda

- Opening Remarks
- Introduction to Cattaraugus Creek IWAP
- Partners and Schedule
- Progress to Date: Conceptual Model and Goals
- Next Steps and Opportunities for Input

Opening Remarks

Tony Eallonardo (Ramboll)



Overview

Purpose:

To identify, protect, and restore key aspects of the Cattaraugus Creek watershed that support human health and well-being

Vision:

*An engaged and empowered community protecting and restoring the watershed based on actions identified through this project. **A healthy watershed for families and communities into the future!***

Approach:

Science-based, collaborative, focused on ecosystem processes

This meeting:

We're just getting started!

Introduce project and process, encourage participation, and receive input on goals

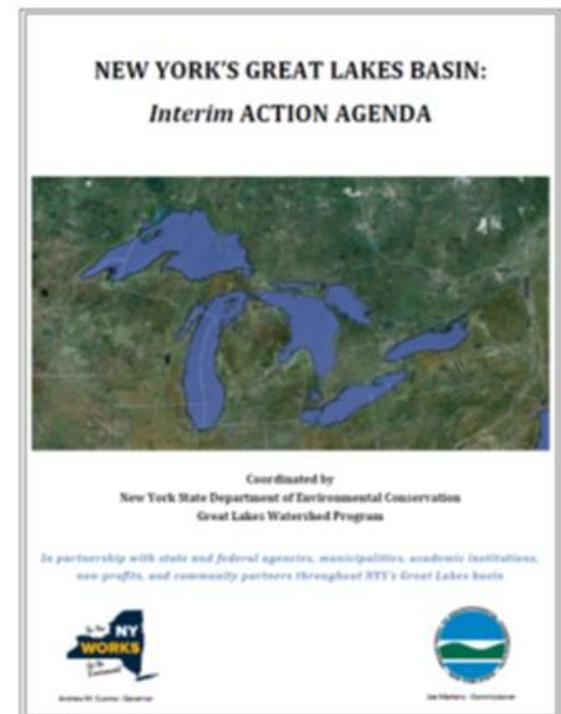
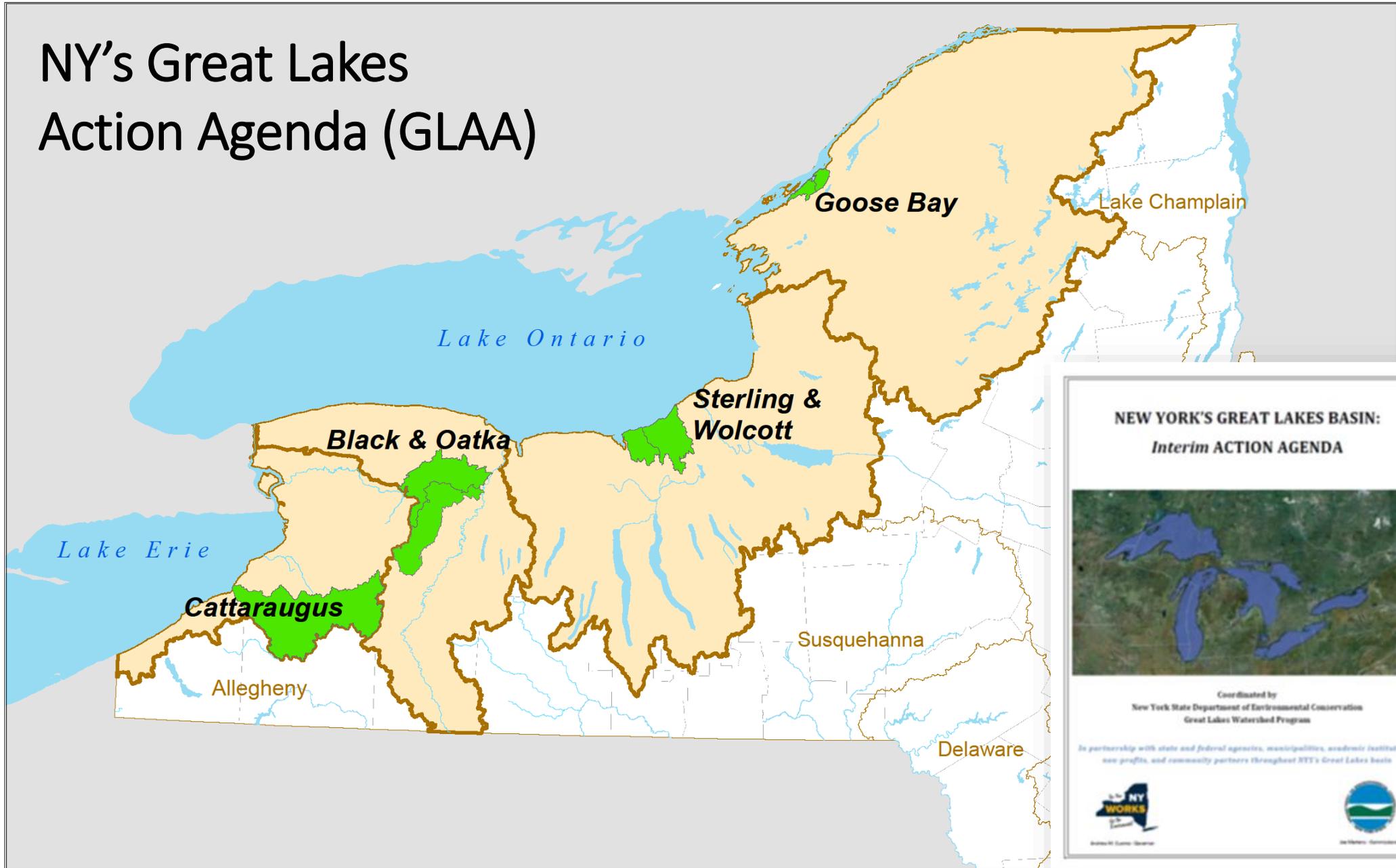
Cattaraugus Creek Integrated Watershed Action Plan

Shannon Dougherty and Ryan Elliott (NYSDEC)

- Key Concepts and Definitions
- Why Cattaraugus Creek was Selected for IWAP

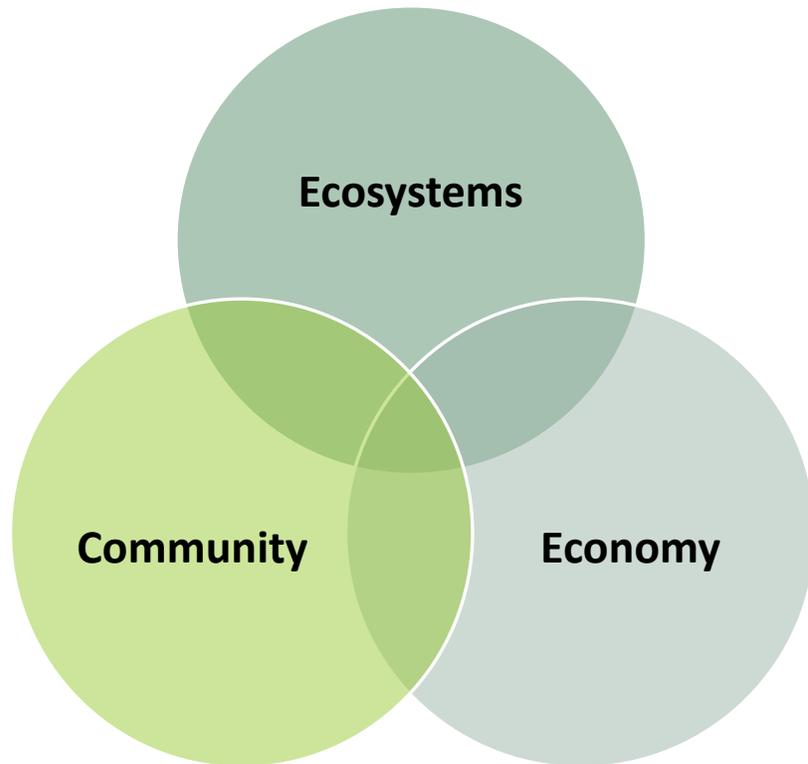


NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA)



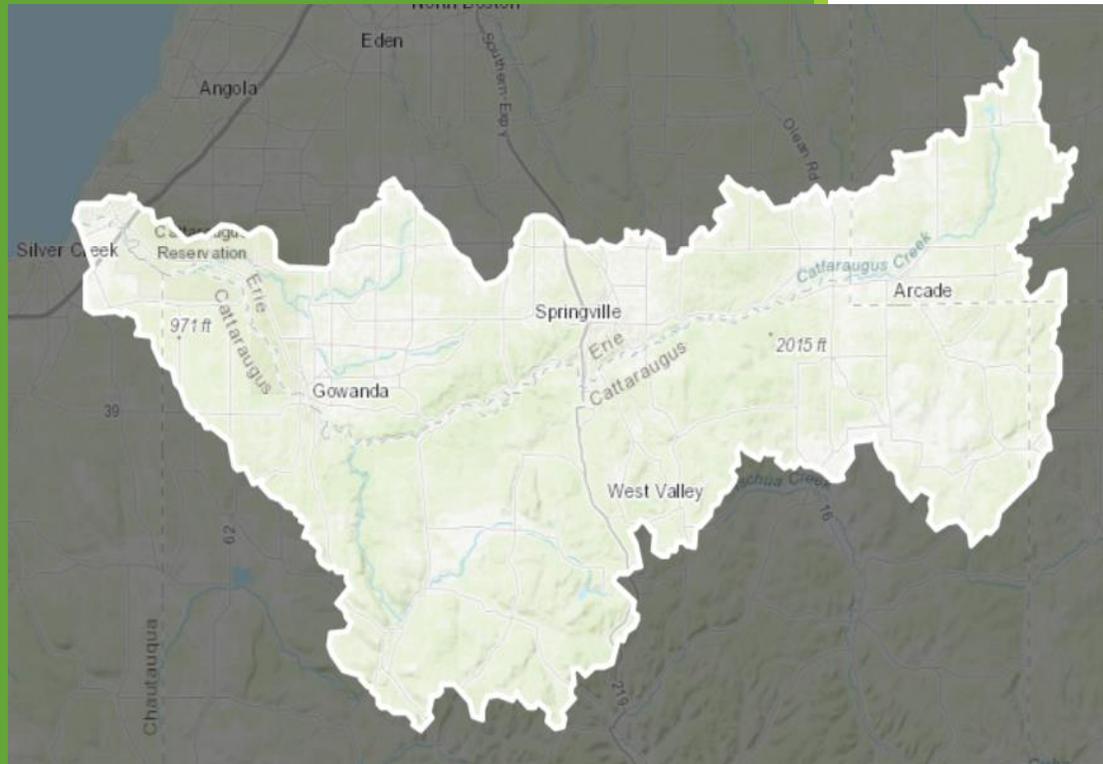
Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM)

A systems approach that strives to balance the needs of people, nature, and the economy through science-based decision making



- Place-based
- **Protection of ecosystem structure, function, and key processes**
- Interconnectedness within and among systems
- Integration of **ecological, social, economic, and institutional** perspectives
- Sustainable human uses of the ecosystem
- Stakeholder involvement & collaboration
- Scientific foundation for decision-making
- Adaptive management

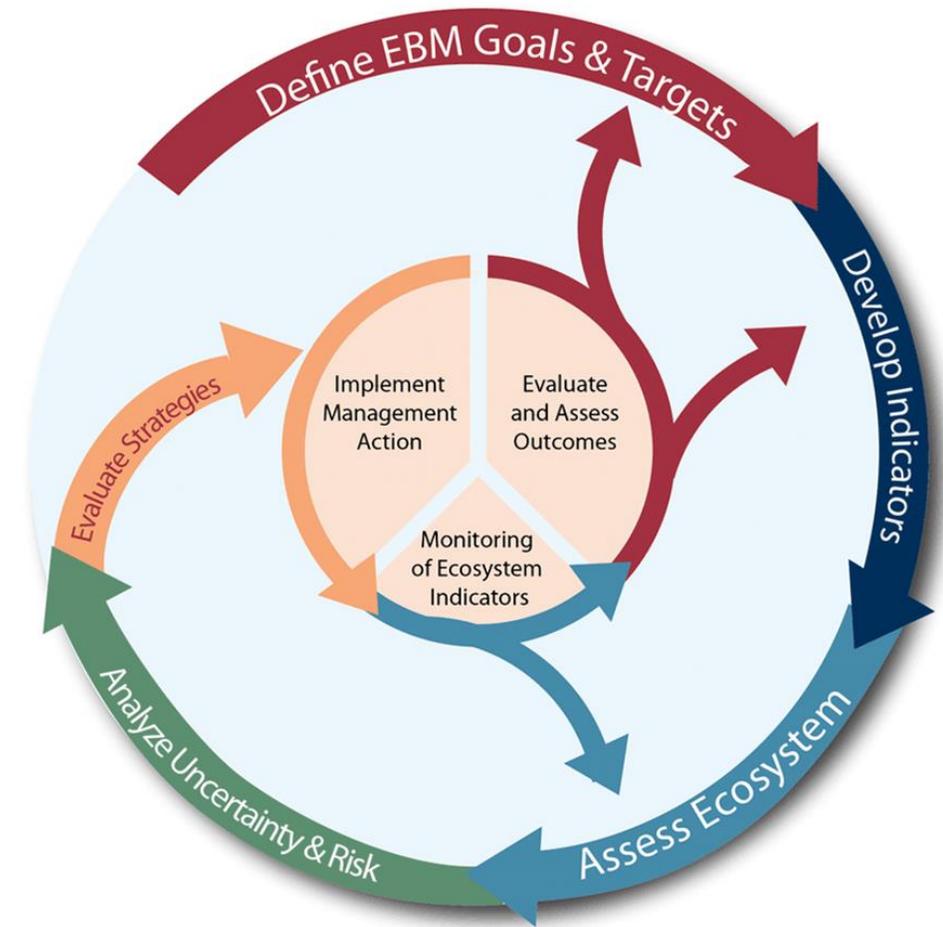
Why Cattaraugus Creek Watershed?



- Keep it healthy!
- Key opportunity areas: water quality & erosion, flooding, outdoor recreation, native species protection, fishing, etc.
- Strong foundation of planning and partnerships
- Largest NY tributary to Lake Erie

Integrated Watershed Action Plan (IWAP)

- Improve shared **understanding and values** of the Cattaraugus Creek watershed and the ecosystem services that benefit us all
- Develop **indicators of ecosystem benefits** (e.g., water quality, recreation, forest health, habitat, and connectivity) to track progress
- Identify **“best bet” management strategies, actions, and projects** that maintain ecosystem services
- Increase **local community involvement, partnerships, and funding opportunities**



NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Process

Healthy ecosystems for families and communities into the future!



Potential Outcomes & Actions

- Identify and protect critical areas for ecosystem services
 - Drinking water
 - Fish and wildlife habitat
 - Flood mitigation
 - Food production, medicinal plants, forest products
- Recommend best management practices (BMPs) to reduce risk of pollutant transport
- Enhance opportunities for outdoor recreation
- Revitalize community waterfronts
- Promote climate resilient community planning
- Increase community awareness

Chat Back



Summary: Ecosystem-Based Management and IWAP

- Focus on place
- Analyze current conditions and trends, identify risks
- Prepare for change
- Identify opportunities
- Build partnerships

Comments or questions?

Path Forward

Liz Moran (EcoLogic LLC)



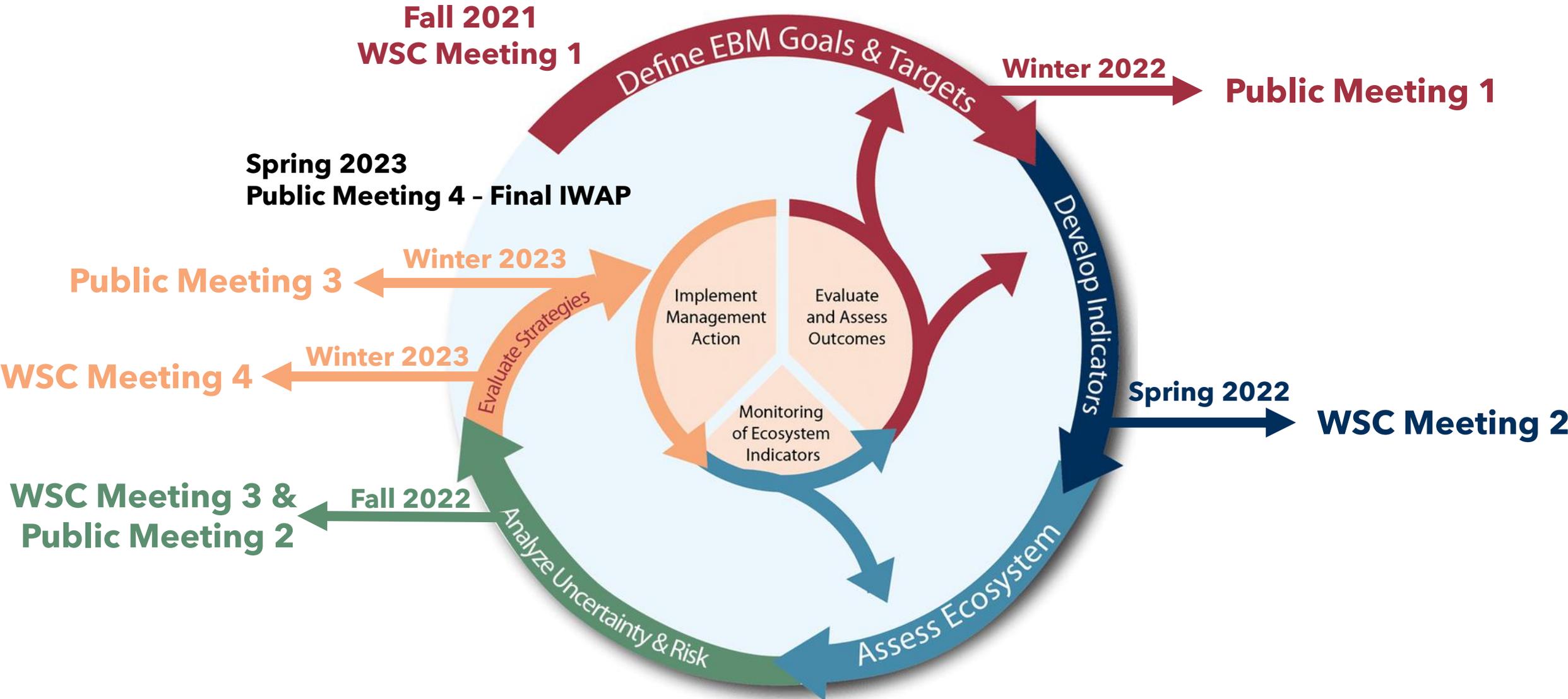
Partners:

- Watershed Stakeholder Committee
- Community Leaders
- Involved Public

Schedule:

- Target Completion Date: March 2023

Tasks and Schedule



Status of IWAP Development

October 2021

Watershed Reconnaissance

- Toured the watershed
- Met with some key stakeholders

November 2021

Convened Watershed Stakeholder Committee (WSC)

- First meeting in November 2021
- Look and Listen Tour: feedback on areas and issues to address in IWAP

December 2021
- February 2022

Developed Goals and Targets

- Drafted goals and targets for review

Chat Back



- What are your highest priorities for the Cattaraugus Creek watershed? How might IWAP help?
- What opportunities do you envision arising from this project?
- Who else should be part of the conversation?
- What other initiatives should our team be aware of?

Conceptual Model and Goals

Tony Eallonardo and Andrew Brainard (Ramboll)

- Conceptual Model of Cattaraugus Creek Watershed
- Place-Based Goals for IWAP





Cattaraugus Creek IWAP Goals

1. Water Quality
2. Floodplains and Riparian Areas
3. Forests
4. Streams
5. Invasive Species
6. Sustainable Working Lands
7. Heritage and Sense of Place

Keep these questions in mind:



- Are the goals clear?
- What's missing from the goals?
- Do some goals resonate more than others?



1. WATER QUALITY:

Maintain and improve high quality surface and ground water resources to support aquatic habitat, drinking water supplies, and water-dependent recreation

Why?

Direct requirement for human well-being, and protecting water quality contributes to many other economic, social, and ecological benefits



2. FLOODPLAINS and RIPARIAN AREAS:

Enhance functioning floodplains and riparian corridors to minimize infrastructure impacts from flood events, improve water quality, and support natural shorelines

Why?

Flooding can cause significant risks within the watershed. Improving floodplain function and streamside habitat provides for a broad range of benefits



3. FORESTS:

Promote healthy and connected forests and upland communities to support clean air and water, biodiversity, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and sustainable use of natural resources

Why?

Forests represent the greatest landcover in the watershed and provide a wide range of benefits, but there are few regulatory protections for them - relative to other habitats, e.g., wetlands



4. STREAMS:

Facilitate and improve stream health through connectivity and natural sediment transport to support quality habitat for fish and wildlife

Why?

Streams are abundant in the watershed, with a variety of types – headwaters, to the main stem of Cattaraugus Creek. Vital to recreational opportunities and overall sense of place



5. INVASIVE SPECIES:

Minimize the negative impacts caused by invasive species to support fish and wildlife, forest and agricultural productions, and natural physical conditions

Why?

Invasive species have the potential to negatively effect all other goals – causing ecological and economic harm

Examples:

- (1) lamprey impacts on recreational fisheries
- (2) Hemlock wholly adelgid (HWA, pictured to the left) in Zoar Valley



6. SUSTAINABLE WORKING LANDS:

Promote, implement, and improve sustainable land uses to provide future generations with the ability to use and prosper from natural resources

Why?

Working lands play a major role in the local economies – what is done now can influence characteristics of the watershed for many years to come



7. HERITAGE and SENSE OF PLACE:

Inspire and facilitate a connection with nature to support physical, social, and mental well-being

Why?

Growing evidence that suggests a relationship with nature and the out of doors contributes to a happier, healthier life

1. Water quality

Maintain and improve high quality surface and ground water resources to support aquatic habitat, drinking water supplies, and water-dependent recreation.

2. Floodplains and riparian areas

Enhance functioning floodplains and riparian corridors to minimize infrastructure impacts from flood events, improve water quality, and support natural shorelines.

3. Forests

Promote healthy and connected forests and upland communities to support clean air and water, biodiversity, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and sustainable use of natural resources.

4. Streams

Facilitate and improve stream health through connectivity and natural sediment transport to support quality habitat for fish and wildlife.

5. Invasive species

Minimize the negative impacts caused by invasive species to support fish and wildlife, forest and agricultural productions, and natural physical conditions

6. Sustainable working lands

Promote, implement, and improve sustainable land uses to provide future generations with the ability to use and prosper from natural resources.

7. Heritage and sense of place

Inspire and facilitate a connection with nature to support physical, social, and mental well-being.

Next Steps



- Near-Term:
 - Email comments on goals CattCreek@ramboll.com
 - Project team will finalize goals, begin to develop indicators
 - WSC Meeting #2: Spring 2022
- Second Public Meeting Fall 2022:
 - Review indicators and what they tell us about current conditions and trends
 - Discuss strategies, priorities, and projects
 - Explore built-out Conceptual Model and StoryMap
- Check the NYSDEC IWAP website for updates!
 - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/124314.html>

Thank you!

Final questions or comments?

Email: CattCreek@ramboll.com

Website: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/124314.html>

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Tony Eallonardo, Ramboll
tony.eallonardo@ramboll.com



Discussion

Email: CattCreek@ramboll.com

Website:

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- What other initiatives should our team be aware of?