



# Sterling & Wolcott Creeks Integrated Watershed Action Plan

## Watershed Stakeholder Committee Meeting #1

November 18, 2021



Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation

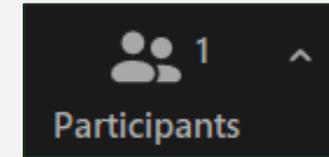




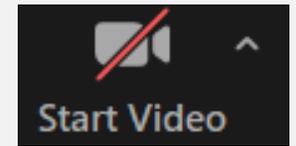
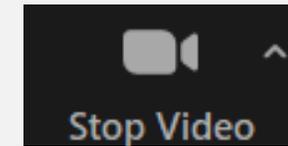
# Welcome!

## Reminder of Zoom Controls

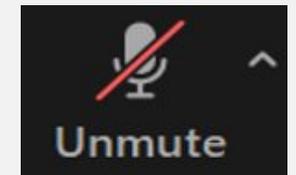
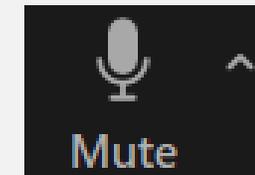
You are not alone! Shows participants in meeting- let us know if anyone is missing to include in future discussions.



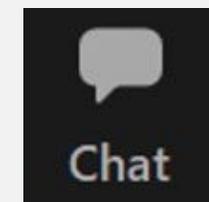
Toggle whether your **video** is on or not. Limiting video can optimize performance.



Toggle whether you are **muted** or not. Keep yourself muted when not speaking.



Look for **links** and share **questions** or **comments** in the chat





# Ice Breaker

## ***In the Zoom Chat:***

- Please enter your name and affiliation
- Question: *What is your favorite place or thing about the Sterling & Wolcott Creeks Watersheds?*



# Today's Speakers



Liz Moran  
President  
EcoLogic LLC



Emily Fell  
Eastern Great Lakes  
Watershed Coordinator  
NYSDEC



Tony Eallonardo  
SME/Technical Manager  
Ramboll



Andrew Brainard  
Aquatic Ecologist  
Ramboll



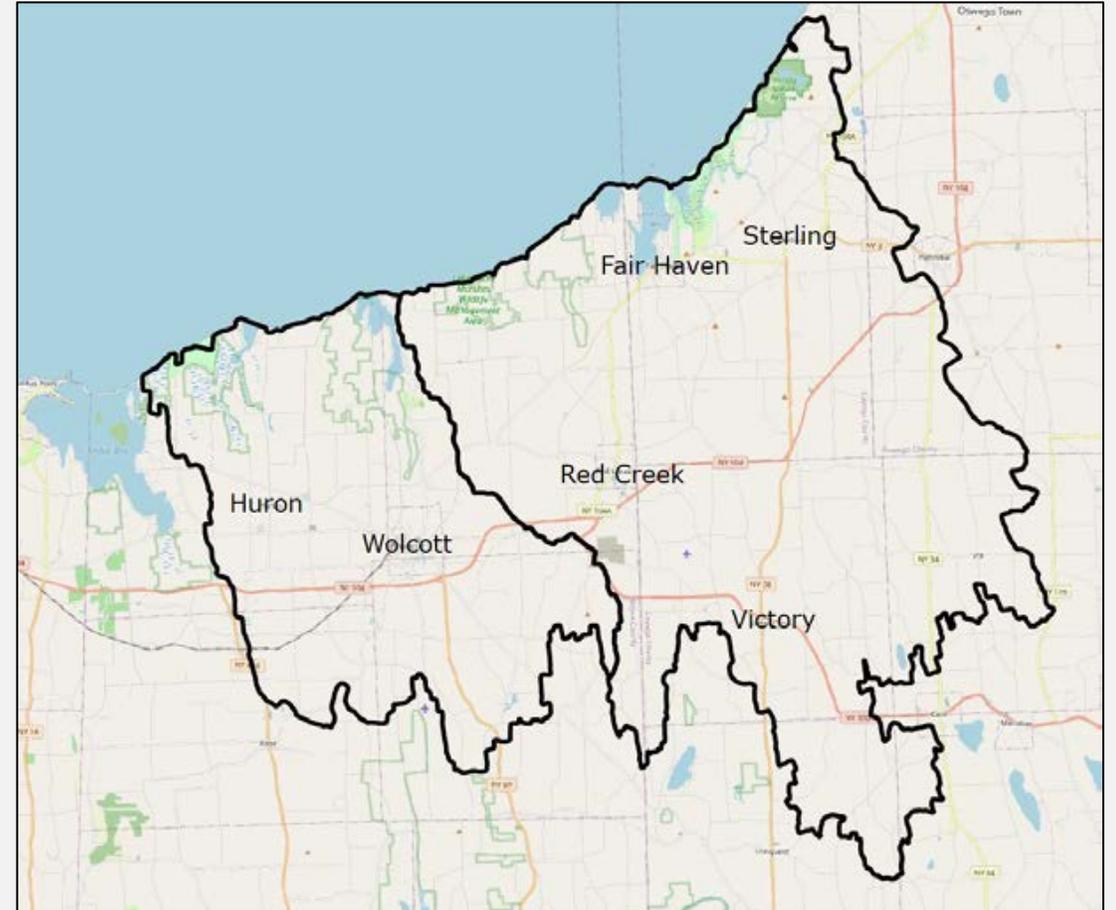
# Project Vision and Purpose

## **Integrated Watershed Action Plan (IWAP):**

*Create goals, indicators, strategies, and actions at the watershed-scale to maintain ecosystem health and resilience for families and communities into the future.*

## **This Meeting:**

*Introduce the stakeholder committee to what the plan is and listen to participant feedback to help create initial goals and targets.*





# Meeting Agenda





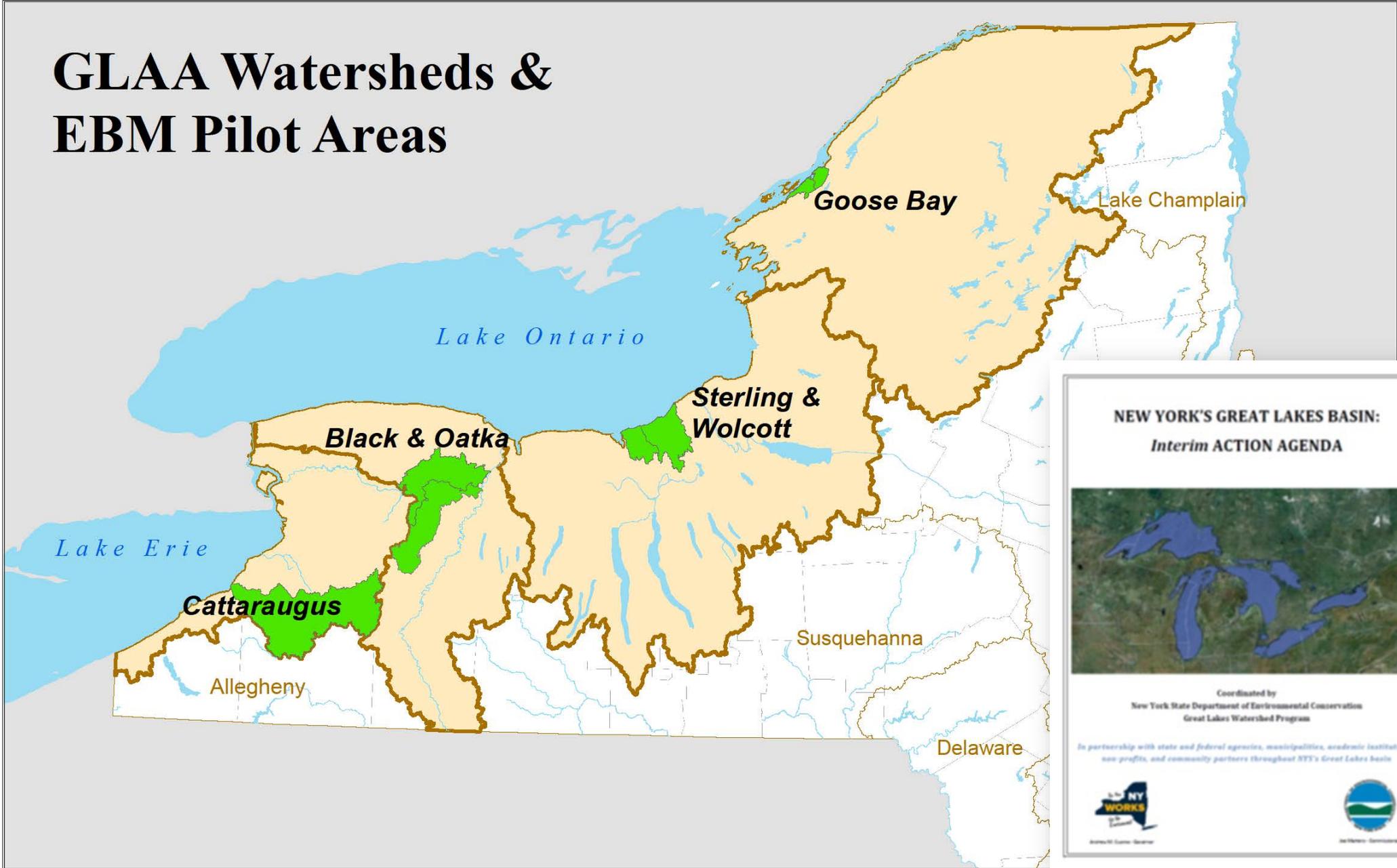
# Introduction to Integrated Watershed Action Plan (IWAP)

*Emily Fell (NYSDEC)*

- Project background
- Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA)
- Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM)



# GLAA Watersheds & EBM Pilot Areas



**NEW YORK'S GREAT LAKES BASIN:  
Interim ACTION AGENDA**



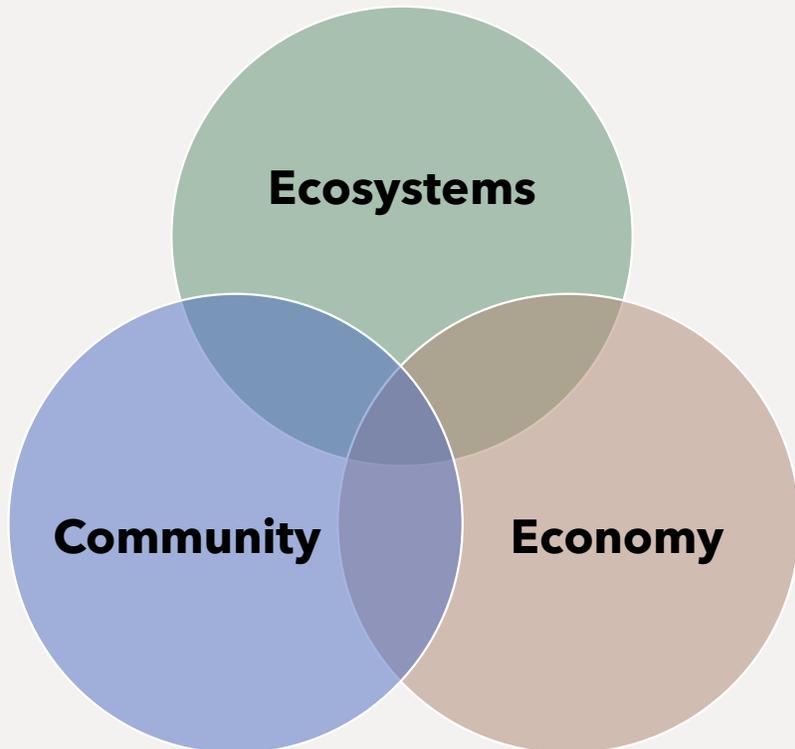
Coordinated by  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Great Lakes Watershed Program

*In partnership with state and federal agencies, municipalities, academic institutions,  
non-profits, and community partners throughout NY's Great Lakes basin*



# Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM)

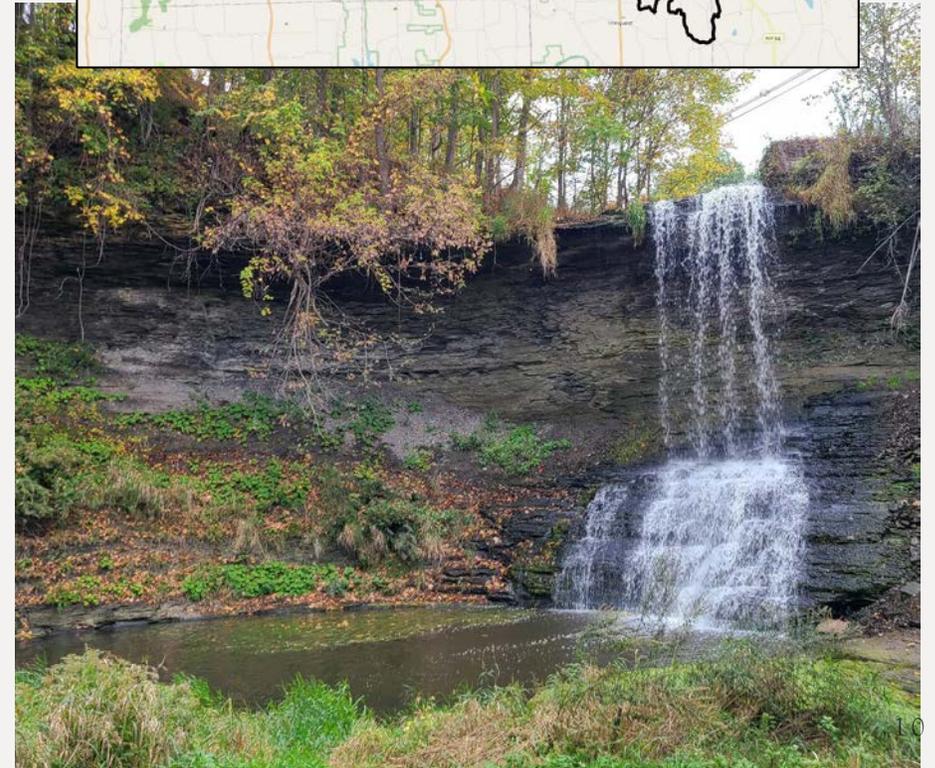
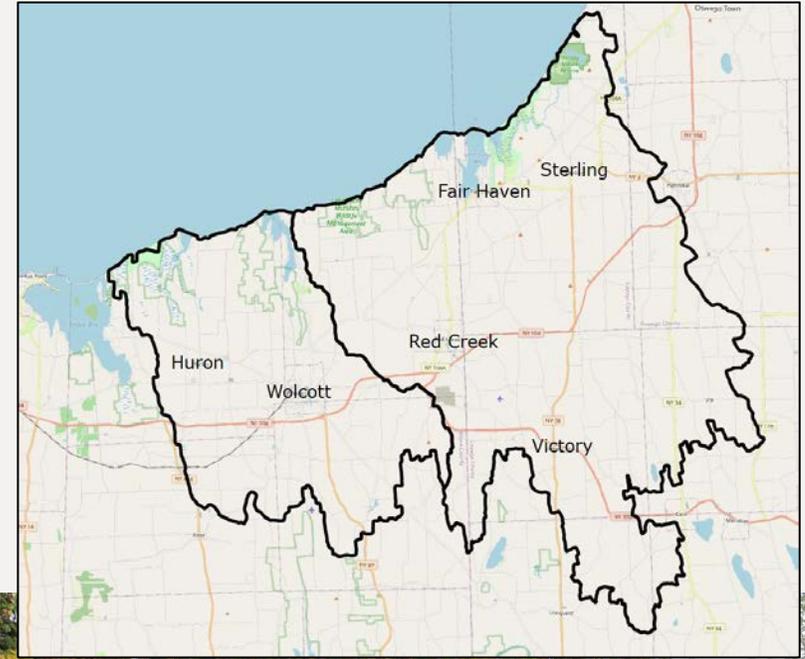
***A systems approach that strives to balance the needs of people, nature, and the economy through science-based decision making***



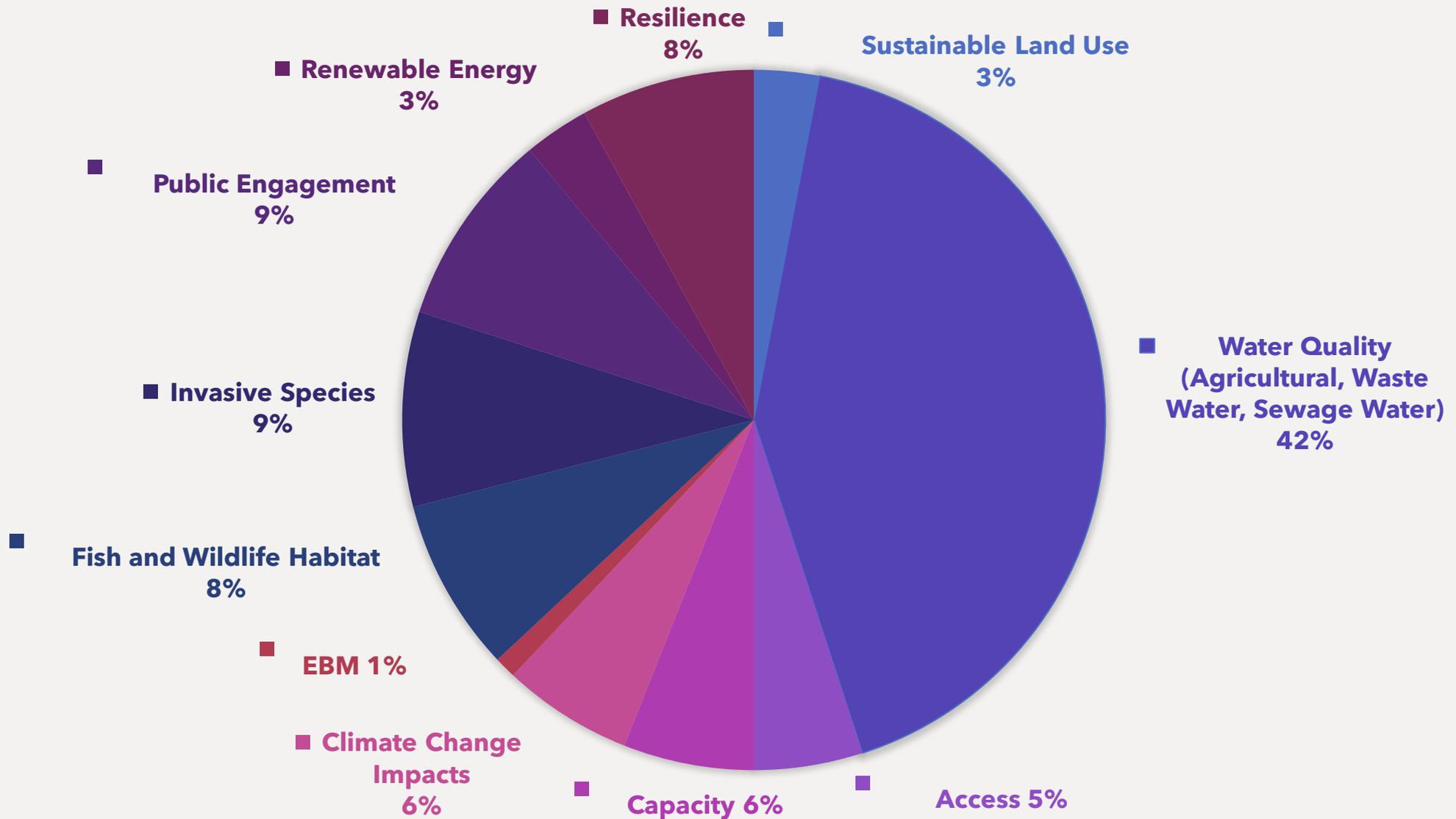
- Place-based
- Protection of ecosystem structure, function and key processes
- Interconnectedness within and among systems
- Integration of ecological, social, economic and institutional perspectives
- Sustainable human uses of the ecosystem
- Stakeholder involvement & collaboration
- Scientific foundation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

# Why Sterling & Wolcott Creeks Watersheds?

- Partner Priority Area under Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA)
- Diversity of people/stakeholders - opportunity for engagement to solve local issues
- Land use & land cover, geological features, settlement patterns
- Key issues including water quality, reducing invasive species, fishing, flooding, and erosion



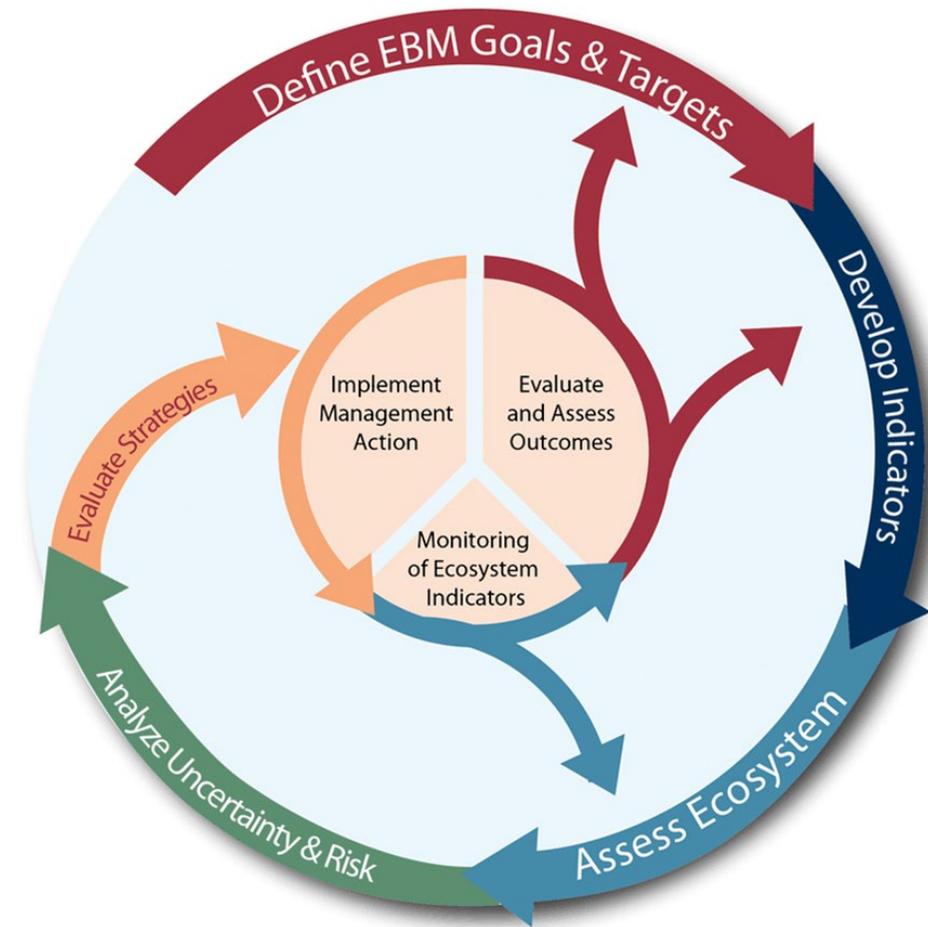
# Watershed Interests – 2018 Stakeholder Survey



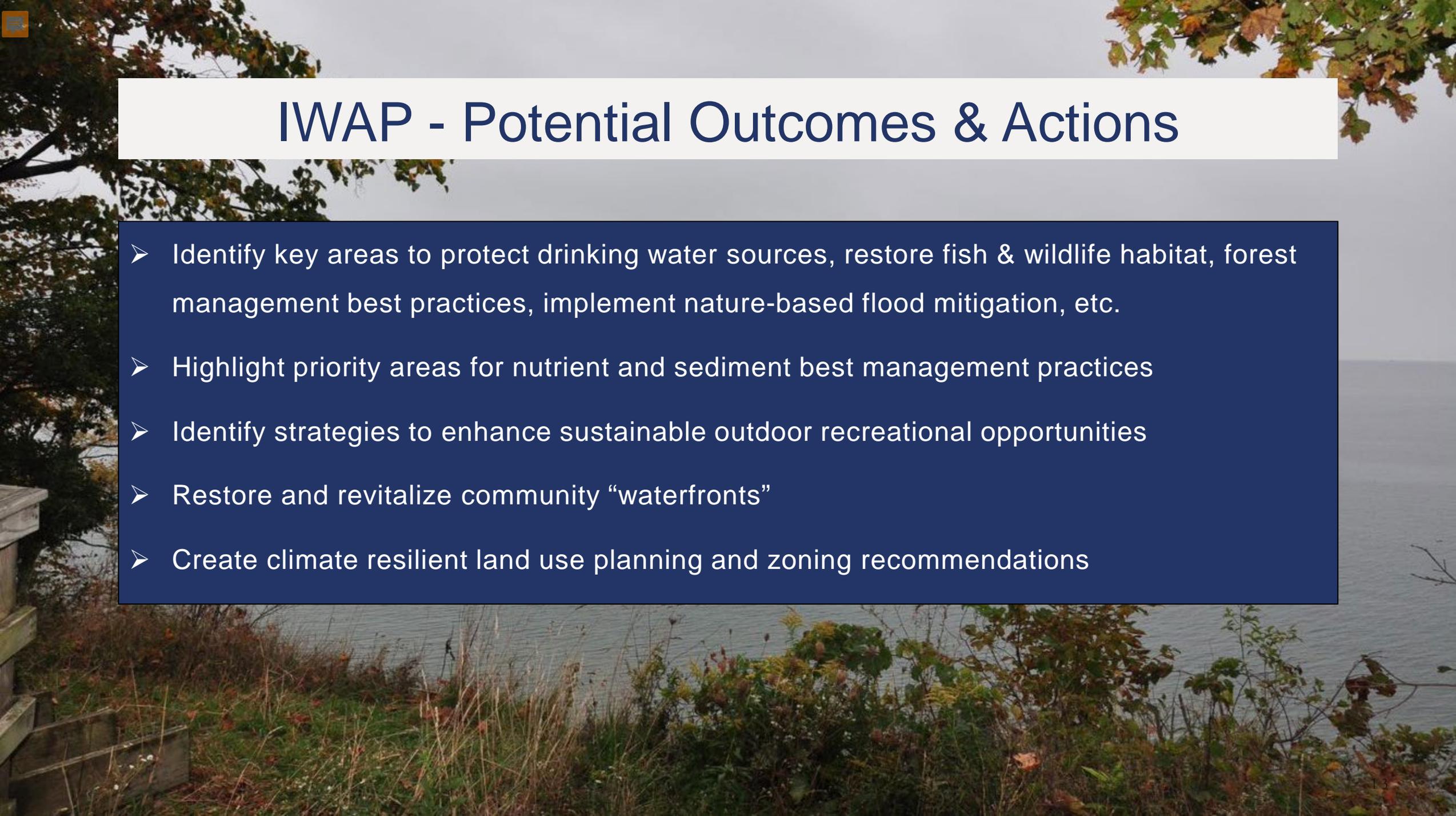
# Integrated Watershed Action Plan (IWAP)

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

***Healthy ecosystems for families and communities into the future!***



NOAA Integrated  
Ecosystem Assessment Process



# IWAP - Potential Outcomes & Actions

- Identify key areas to protect drinking water sources, restore fish & wildlife habitat, forest management best practices, implement nature-based flood mitigation, etc.
- Highlight priority areas for nutrient and sediment best management practices
- Identify strategies to enhance sustainable outdoor recreational opportunities
- Restore and revitalize community “waterfronts”
- Create climate resilient land use planning and zoning recommendations



**Existing and Ongoing Planning Efforts**

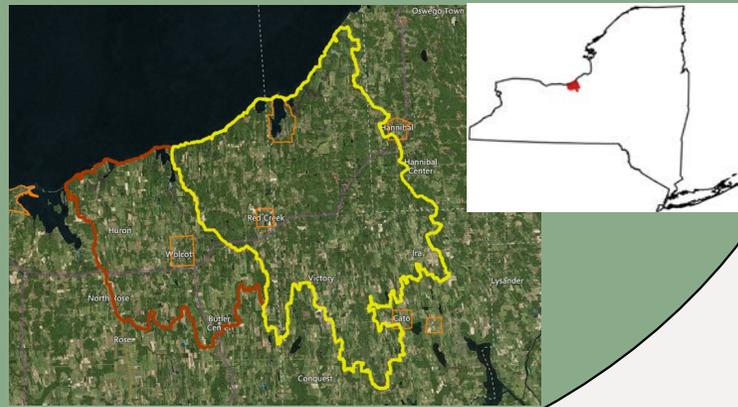
- Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2)
- Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)
- Coastal Lakeshore Economy and Resiliency Initiative (CLEAR)
- Lake Ontario Resiliency and Economic Development Initiative (REDI)
- Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

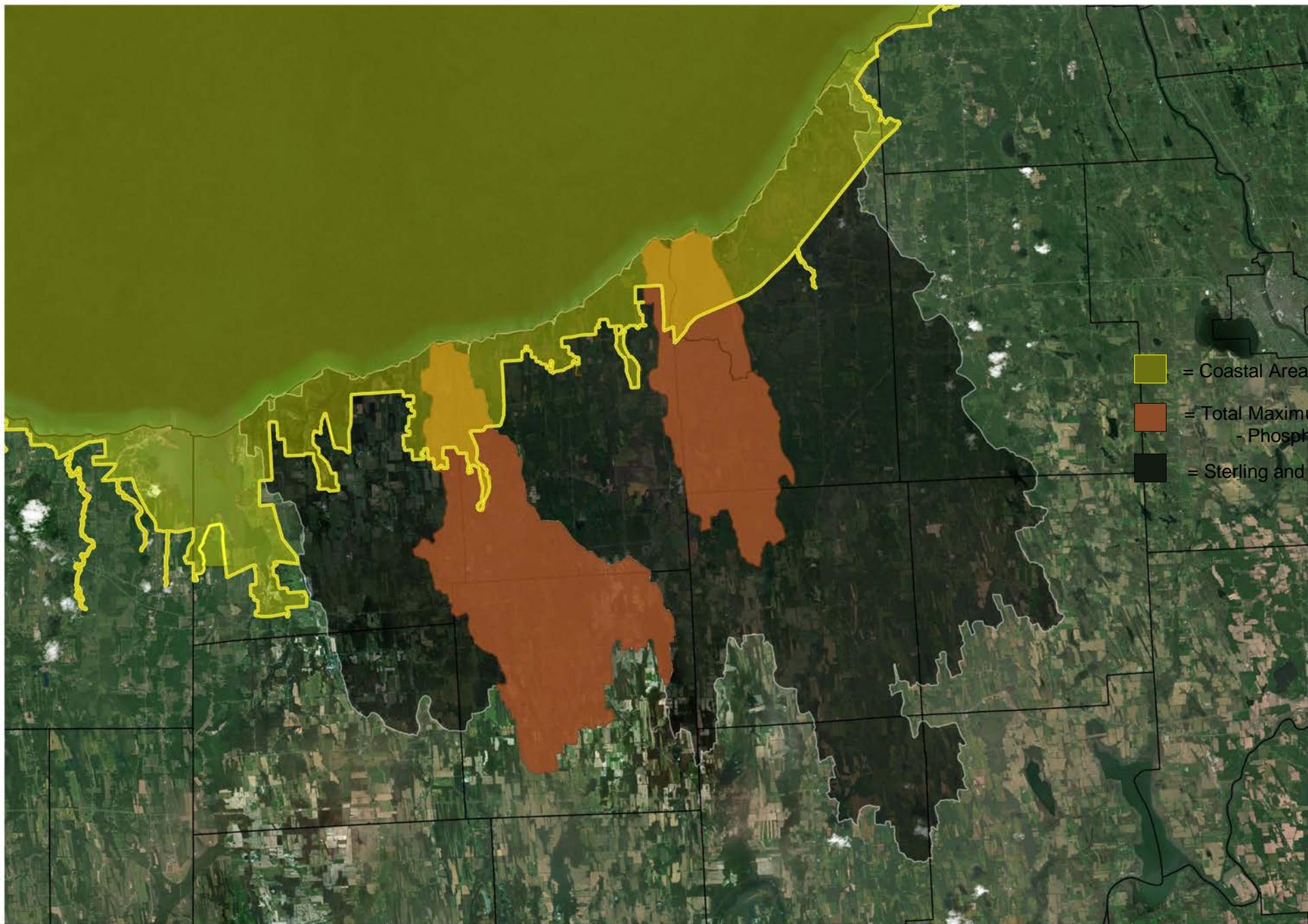


**Community and stakeholder input**

**Sterling and Wolcott Creek Integrated Watershed Action Plans**

**Develop shared goals, indicators, strategies, and actions for sustaining ecosystem benefits**





-  = Coastal Area Boundary (NYS DOS)
-  = Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) - Phosphorus
-  = Sterling and Wolcott Creek Watersheds

# Watershed Stakeholder Committee (WSC)

*Liz Moran (EcoLogic LLC)*

- Roles
- Schedule
- Logistics



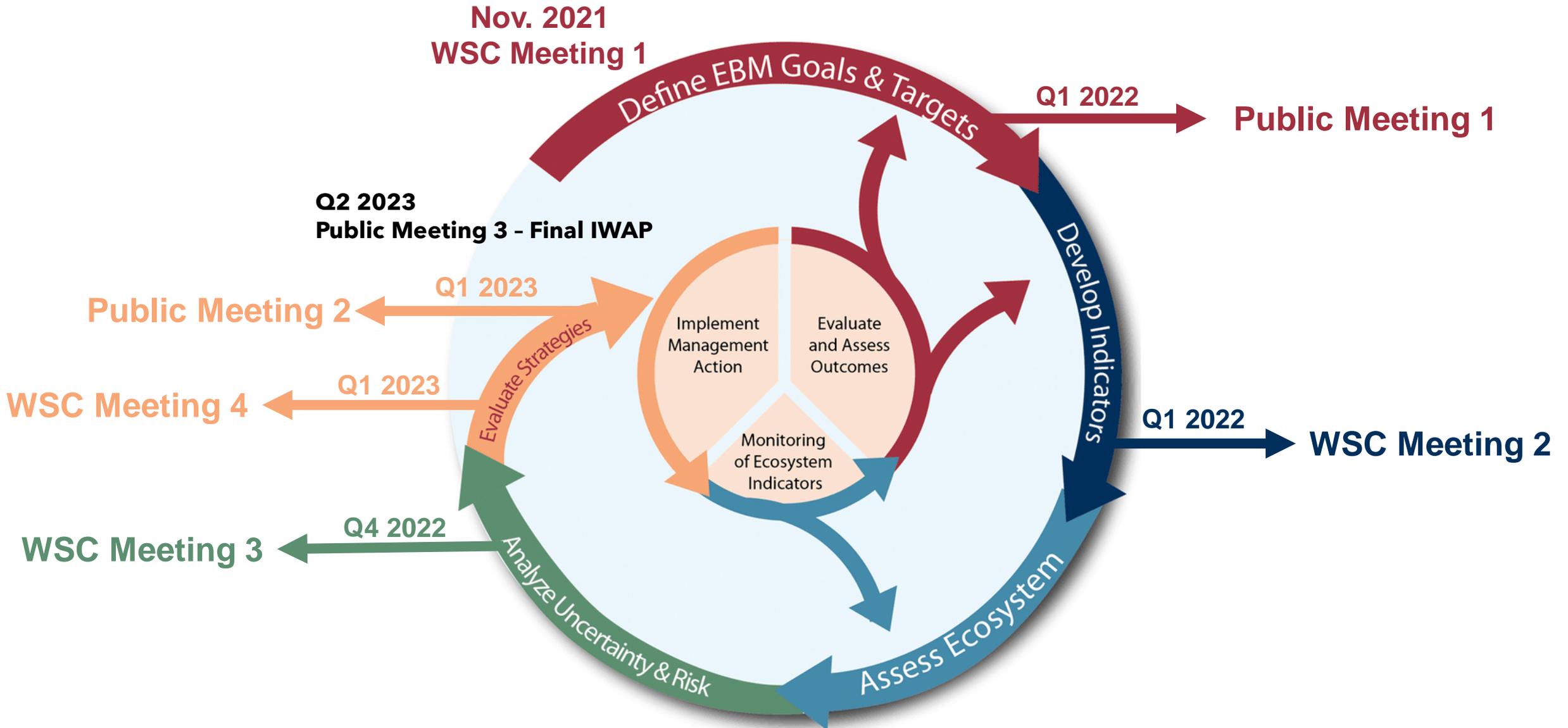


# Watershed Stakeholder Committee

- Consists of local **experts** (personal experiences, knowledge of area)
  - Need information about specific areas
- Members from various backgrounds with different specialties



# Expectations and Overall Schedule



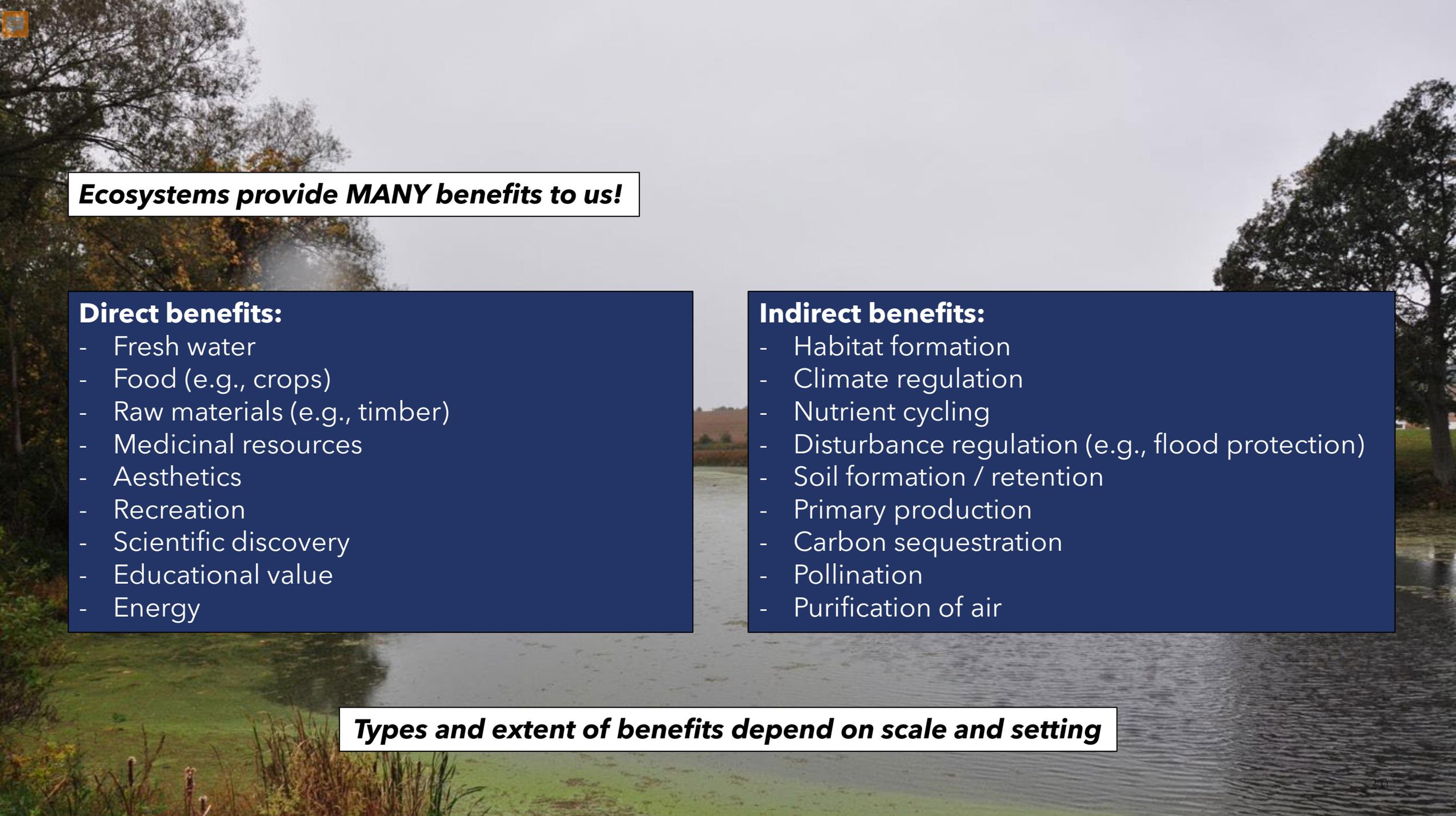


# Ecosystem Values and Benefits

*Andrew Brainard and Tony Eallonardo (Ramboll)*

- How ecosystems support ecological, social, and economic well-being
- Value of watersheds





***Ecosystems provide MANY benefits to us!***

**Direct benefits:**

- Fresh water
- Food (e.g., crops)
- Raw materials (e.g., timber)
- Medicinal resources
- Aesthetics
- Recreation
- Scientific discovery
- Educational value
- Energy

**Indirect benefits:**

- Habitat formation
- Climate regulation
- Nutrient cycling
- Disturbance regulation (e.g., flood protection)
- Soil formation / retention
- Primary production
- Carbon sequestration
- Pollination
- Purification of air

***Types and extent of benefits depend on scale and setting***



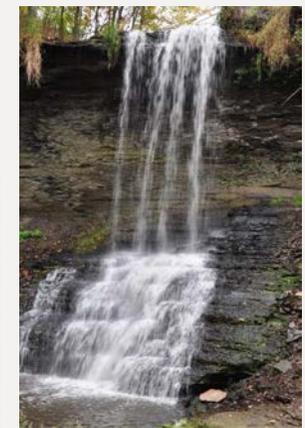
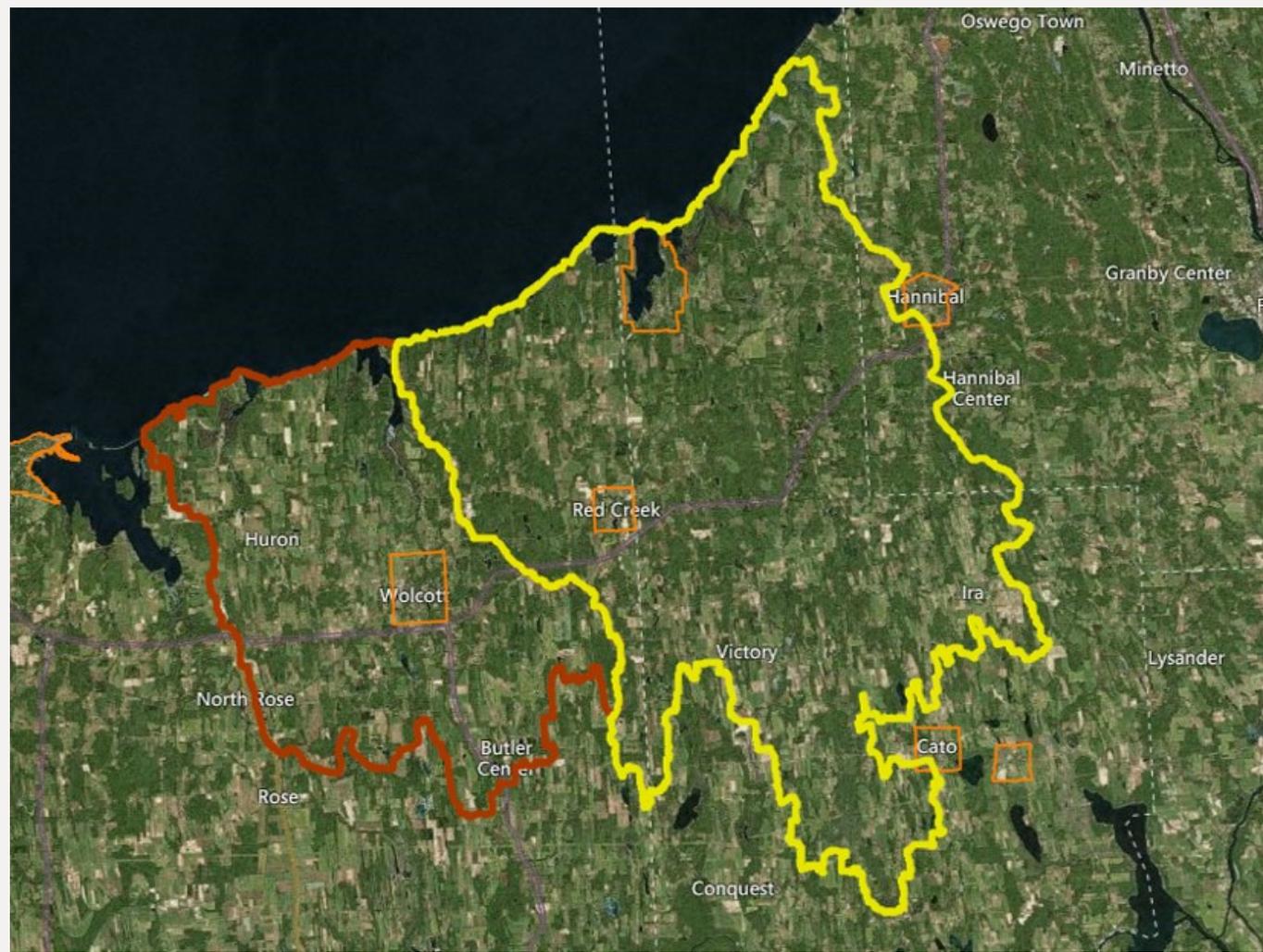
MICHU-10-728

**Watersheds** *an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas*



# Watershed Look and Listen (L&L) Tour

Opportunity to inform us about your values and concerns!





# Discussion and Interactive Feedback

*Liz Moran (EcoLogic LLC)*

- Google JamBoard





# Google JamBoard

**Interactive Feedback:**

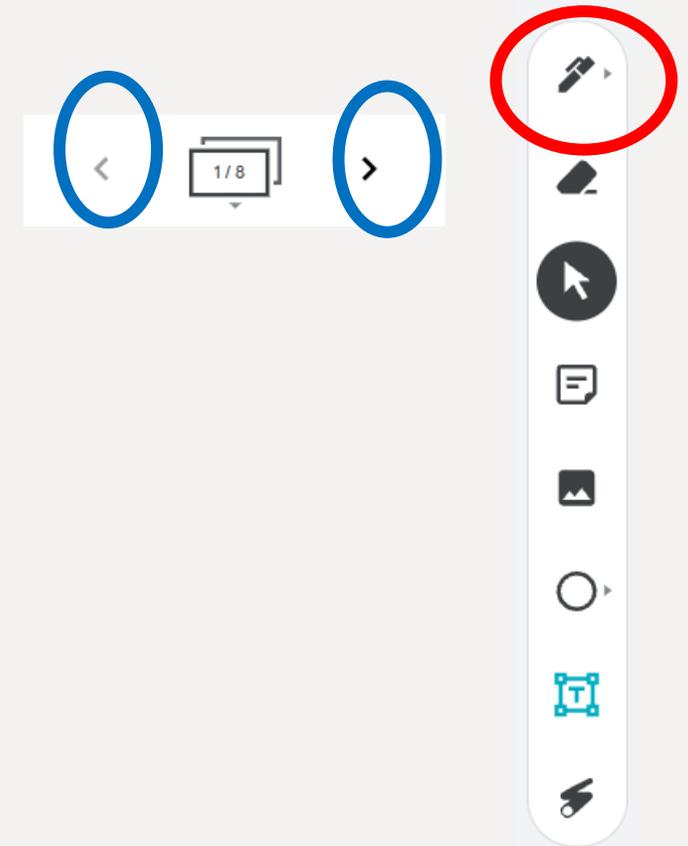
*What priorities and goals would you like us to focus on in developing the IWAP for the Sterling & Wolcott Creek Watersheds?*



# Using Google JamBoard

## How to use JamBoard:

- Click on the link provided in the Zoom chat:  
<https://jamboard.google.com/d/1kXRBRkA4B1qC0tY0NL6NGIHARfKriO7yzohnOps8a8c/edit?usp=sharing>
  - To navigate through the frames, click on the **arrows** located on the top of your screen
  - To comment, click on **sticky note icon** on the left side of your screen
    - Type your comment, then press save to post your comment on the slide
- JamBoard will remain open for approximately a week after this meeting to allow time for comments and feedback





# Next Steps...

## Google JamBoard

- Link will be sent in an email following the meeting
- Comments will be taken until November 26<sup>th</sup>

**Any additional comments or questions past November 26<sup>th</sup> can be sent to [SterlingWolcott@ramboll.com](mailto:SterlingWolcott@ramboll.com)**



Thank you!

Final questions or comments?

[SterlingWolcott@ramboll.com](mailto:SterlingWolcott@ramboll.com)

Emily Fell, NYSDEC  
[Emily.Fell@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Emily.Fell@dec.ny.gov)

Tony Eallonardo, Ramboll  
[Tony.Eallonardo@ramboll.com](mailto:Tony.Eallonardo@ramboll.com)

