Sterling & Wolcott Creeks
Integrated Watershed Action Plan

Watershed Stakeholder Committee
Meeting #1

November 18, 2021
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.
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
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

- Water Quality (Agricultural, Waste Water, Sewage Water) 42%
- Sustainable Land Use 3%
- Resilience 8%
- Renewable Energy 3%
- Public Engagement 9%
- Invasive Species 9%
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat 8%
- EBM 1%
- Climate Change Impacts 6%
- Capacity 6%
- Access 5%
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!*
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)

Inform and Integrate

Sterling and Wolcott Creek Integrated Watershed Action Plans

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

- **WSC Meeting 1** (Q1 2022)
- **WSC Meeting 2** (Q1 2022)
- **Public Meeting 1** (Nov. 2021)
- **Public Meeting 2** (Q1 2023)
- **Public Meeting 3** (Q2 2023)
- **WSC Meeting 3** (Q4 2022)
- **WSC Meeting 4** (Q1 2023)

**define EBM goals & targets**:
- **Q1 2022**
- **Q2 2023**

**Implement Management Action**: Q1 2023

**Evaluate and Assess Outcomes**: Q1 2022

**Evaluate Strategies**: Q1 2023

**Monitor of Ecosystem Indicators**: Q4 2022

**Assess Ecosystem**: Q1 2023

**Develop Indicators**: Q1 2022

**Analyze Uncertainty & Risk**: Q1 2023
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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Direct benefits:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Fresh water</td>
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<td>- Food (e.g., crops)</td>
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<td>- Raw materials (e.g., timber)</td>
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<td>- Medicinal resources</td>
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<td>- Aesthetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Recreation</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Scientific discovery</td>
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<td>- Educational value</td>
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<td>- Energy</td>
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<table>
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<th>Indirect benefits:</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Habitat formation</td>
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<td>- Climate regulation</td>
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<td>- Nutrient cycling</td>
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<td>- Disturbance regulation (e.g., flood protection)</td>
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<td>- Soil formation / retention</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Primary production</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Carbon sequestration</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Pollination</td>
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<td>- Purification of air</td>
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Types and extent of benefits depend on scale and setting
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](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 26th

Any additional comments or questions past November 26th can be sent to SterlingWolcott@ramboll.com
Thank you!

Final questions or comments?

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