

2.11 Stakeholders

When discussions first began about the development of the Manor Kill Management Plan, local stakeholders were quick to show their interest in the proposal. On May 22, 2007 an informal meeting was scheduled by GCSWCD and SCSWCD to inspect a stream side property in the hamlet of Manor Kill. Over 20 local residents came out to learn more about the Stream Management Plan process and express their support for the project.



In late summer of 2007, it was agreed that DEP and GCSWCD, with cooperation from the SCPD and SCSWCD would complete the Manor Kill Management Plan. Shortly thereafter, the Town of Conesville was awarded funding from the Catskill Watershed Corporation's Schoharie Watershed Impact Statement Program. The grant project proposed to develop a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) to assess the impact of future development on water quality in the Manor Kill Watershed. The two projects were designed to compliment each other and provide Conesville with a comprehensive assessment of both the stream corridor and the entire Manor Kill Watershed.

With the stream management plan development process well-established from previous projects, and the concerns of regional stakeholders already recorded, efforts were made to ensure that local stakeholders had ample opportunity to learn about the project and get involved. Input from local residents, elected officials and community organizations were solicited to ensure that the final products would be well-supported. Direct outreach was provided at monthly Town Board and Planning Board meetings. Additionally, three subsequent public meetings held in October 2007, February 14 and April 2008 were held to solicit local input for the SMP and the GEIS.

A selection of the comments received at meetings are highlighted below:

- fond memories of the stream when it was in better condition

- opportunity for outdoor recreation
- erosion of streamside properties
- costs of repairing flood-damaged infrastructure
- loss of farmland due to moving stream bed

In general, stakeholders agreed that the Manor Kill was an important feature of the Town, despite its associated problems. There was an expressed desire to see the stream return to a healthy state for the benefit of streamside landowners, outdoor enthusiasts and wildlife. All of the stakeholders listed in Table 2.11.1 have an interest in maintaining the Manor Kill as a well-functioning natural resource, and many of them have direct management influence over it. With the completion of the plan, the next phase will include review of the plan’s recommendations by the community, stakeholders and the Watershed Committee. The plan will then be revised to ensure that it adequately reflect stakeholders’ concerns, and then presented to the various municipalities and agencies for formal adoption and implementation.

Landowners	Federal Emergency Management Agency
Town of Conesville	NYC Department of Environmental Protection
Town of Conesville and Schoharie County Highway Departments	NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District	US Environmental Protection Agency
Greene County Soil & Water Conservation District	NYS Department of Transportation
Schoharie County Planning Department	Army Corps of Engineers
Local businesses,	Private Utility Companies
Community Organizations (Trout Unlimited, Rod-And-Gun Club, Schoharie River Center)	NY State Emergency Management Office

Occurring simultaneously with the initiation of the Manor Kill project were the activities Schoharie Turbidity Task Force. This project was designed to develop a turbidity reduction strategy for the Schoharie basin. The project included the surveying of stakeholder interests to better understand the challenges that turbidity poses to various interest groups (i.e. local residents, fishermen, water supply, local officials, highway crews, etc.). In addition, the group recommended the hosting of a “turbidity summit” to present turbidity concerns within the

Schoharie basin, recommend possible best management practices to reduce turbidity and to gather input from ~ 100 attendees. Final turbidity reduction recommendations were completed in early 2008 and are available at www.catskillstreams.org/majorstreams_sc.html.

The Turbidity Task Force continues to provide bi-annual educational programs—the watershed summit and the watershed tour—for local stakeholders. These outreach programs are aimed at local decision-makers in particular, to identify and enable the implementation of better stream management practices.



Schoharie Turbidity summit break-out session (1 of 3), January 27, 2007.