



ANNUAL WATERSHED CONFERENCE

COLLABORATING ACROSS BOUNDARIES IN-PERSON SESSION

Tuesday, October 28, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Museum in Hyde Park, NY

[Register here](#)

The in-person session will focus on best practices, case studies, and breakout room trainings to improve our watershed-scale collaborations and partnerships.

9:00-9:35 AM - Welcome

Emily Vail, Executive Director, Hudson River Watershed Alliance
Emily Svenson, Board President, Hudson River Watershed Alliance
Representative, Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum

9:35-10:00 AM - Introduction: Capacity-Building, Resilience, and Collaboration in Watershed Work

Emily Vail, Executive Director, Hudson River Watershed Alliance

10:00-10:50 AM - From Facts to Impact: Reimagining Science Communication for Societal Change

Anne Toomey, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Pace University

Why doesn't even the strongest scientific evidence always lead to changes in policy or practice? This talk will explore how environmental researchers and practitioners can move beyond sharing facts to foster trust, engage diverse communities, and influence decision-making. Drawing on insights from behavioral science and real-world case studies, it will highlight practical strategies for translating environmental knowledge into meaningful action for people and the planet.

10:50-11:10 AM - Break

11:10 AM - 12:00 PM - From Source to Solution: Teaming up for Better Water Quality in the Lower Esopus Creek

Candice Constantine, PhD, PE, Senior Project Manager, Tighe & Bond
Stuart Leigh, Lower Esopus Creek Advisory Council, Liaison for the Town of Marbletown

This presentation will tell the story of how a diverse group of partners came together to implement the first project from the recently completed Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan. The project team includes the Town of Marbletown, Riverkeeper, Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Tighe & Bond. Presenters will discuss how the partnership was formed and how it is functioning in practice and will share a few lessons learned along the way.

12:00-12:30 PM - Lunch

12:30-1:25 PM - Case Studies of Intermunicipal Coordination

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition

Allison Gaddy, AICP, Principal Planner, Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board

The Upper Hudson River Watershed stretches across 7.5 million acres, seven counties, 97 municipalities, and thousands of miles of rivers and lakes. The diversity of land use, population densities, and water quality priorities across this vast watershed has made pursuing coordinated water quality protection and improvement efforts difficult. Enter the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition, a partnership of seven county Soil and Water Conservation Districts and two regional planning councils to formalize collaboration across the watershed and identify shared water quality goals. In 2020, the Coalition completed the Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan, funded by the New York State Department of State. This plan identifies six priority water quality issues for the watershed and provides a unifying framework for municipalities and organizations across the watershed to move forward together.

Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council (Hudson 7)

Gary Bassett, Mayor, Village of Rhinebeck, and Chair, Hudson River Drinking Water Intermunicipal Council

The Hudson 7 is an intermunicipal council representing the seven municipalities that draw drinking water from the Hudson River. Together, these drinking water systems serve over 100,000 people in Ulster and Dutchess counties. The water that supplies our drinking water originates from a broad area of the Hudson Valley. The Hudson 7 came together to join forces to protect our collective water supply through planning, advocacy and action. The council was officially formed in 2018, when all seven municipalities gathered to sign an Intermunicipal Agreement. Five years later, a Memorandum of Agreement included membership of both Ulster and Dutchess counties, bringing the council to nine voting members.

1:25-1:40 PM - Break

1:40-2:55 PM - Breakout Rooms/Concurrent Sessions

Sharing Power in Your Collaborations

Hélène Lesterlin, Worker Trustee, Good Work Institute

In this interactive session facilitated by Worker Trustees from the Good Work Institute, we'll define human social power, suggest factors that contribute to power flowing in healthy ways, expand our thinking about what generates abundance, and connect with one another to uncover actionable insights. We will also explore Resource Mapping, a practice that acknowledges the way resources flow within and between collaborators in different ways and find clarity on how to more equitably balance those resources.

Scenario Planning

Larissa Read, Founder, Common Ground Consulting, LLC

Scenario planning is a scalable and engaging tool for organizations to prepare for a variety of futures. Attendees will learn the basics of a scenario planning tool, work through a relevant exercise to explore possible futures, and determine resilient actions for their organization or community.

3rd Breakout Room Session To Be Announced!

2:55-3:00 PM - Closing

Emily Vail, Executive Director, Hudson River Watershed Alliance