

Appendix E: Worksheets to Identify Watershed Characterization/Planning Next Steps

On March 24, 2026, the Hudson River Watershed Alliance held an interactive half-day Watershed Characterization & Planning Workshop at The Heartwood at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie. The workshop focused on advancing locally-led watershed characterization, planning, and implementation across the Hudson River watershed.

As part of the workshop, in-person participants took part in a facilitated interactive working session led by Karen Strong of Strong Outcomes, LLC. During this session, participants applied workshop concepts to their own contexts using self-assessment worksheets designed to identify appropriate next steps in watershed characterization or planning. A PDF copy of the [Interactive Working Session to Identify Next Steps](#) presentation slides and [additional workshop materials](#) are available on the Hudson River Watershed Alliance website.

The worksheets are designed to support reflection, assessment, and action planning for people interested in watershed characterization and planning, **no matter where they are in the process, and whether or not they are working with a local watershed group**. Each worksheet is designed as a self-assessment, with space for reflection on what the responses mean for an individual's next steps. There are no right or wrong answers; the intent is to support honest reflection and informed decision-making.

Which Worksheet Should I Use?

The three worksheets address different planning contexts and roles. Worksheet 1 focuses on individual self-assessment to help people clarify how they might support or engage in watershed characterization or planning, and may be a good fit for regional partners. Worksheets 2 and 3 are designed to support group-based reflection and discussion tied to a specific watershed effort. While these worksheets were designed to support watershed characterization and planning, they may also be valuable for identifying next steps in other types of conservation planning processes.

[Worksheet 1](#): Supporting Watershed Characterization or Planning

This worksheet will help individuals or organizations who are interested in supporting a locally-led watershed characterization or plan to **identify the different types of contributions they can make**. Worksheet 1 is intended for anyone who is not currently working with a specific locally-led watershed group, including staff from state or county agencies, regional nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, or interested community members.

[Worksheet 2](#): Preparing to Begin a Watershed Characterization or Plan

This worksheet helps individuals and groups preparing to pursue a watershed characterization or plan think through their approach and choose a focus and process that best meets their needs. Worksheet 2 is intended to be used by locally-led watershed groups and their partners **before project work begins for a specific watershed**.

[Worksheet 3](#): Reflecting on a Project in Process and Preparing to Implement

This worksheet is designed to help people or groups that are working on, or have completed, watershed characterizations or plans to reflect on the planning process and identify key actions to strengthen outcomes and advance their work. Worksheet 3 is intended to be used by locally-led watershed groups and their partners **once a specific watershed’s characterization or plan is underway or complete.**

These worksheets were inspired by materials prepared by River Network and Strategic By Nature to support stream management plans in Colorado, and adapted for use in the Hudson Valley by Karen Strong, Principal, Strong Outcomes, LLC. Original materials include:

- [Self-Assessment: Identifying the Strengths and Limits of Your Plan / Process](#): developed by Stacy Beaugh, Strategic By Nature, Inc., and modeled after the “[Watershed Planning Wheel](#)” and other planning resources. This self-assessment was created as part of the 2025 workshop on [Taking Plans to Projects: How to Create a Plan that Actually Gets Used](#), hosted by River Network's Watershed Planning Peer Learning Network.
- [Pre-Planning Questions for Stream Management Plans](#): developed by River Network to help people think through why you are undertaking a planning process, who should be at the table, and what information you should know before you begin.
- Additional resources are available through the [Stream Management Plan Resource Library](#), hosted by River Network and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. While these materials are focused on stream management planning, the same process guidance is relevant for watershed management plans.

Additional materials from the March 24, 2026 Watershed Characterization and Planning Workshop, including presentation recordings, PDF copies of slides, and related resources, are available on the [Hudson River Watershed Alliance’s website](#). A complete playlist of workshop presentations is also available on the [Alliance’s YouTube channel](#).