

## **ii Forward and Acknowledgements**

We are pleased to release the draft West Kill Stream Management Plan. Sections 1, 2 and 3 provides West Kill background information, watershed resources and institutional information. Sections 4, 5, and 6 provide individual Management Unit Descriptions and General Recommendations, specifically tailored to the ongoing stewardship of West Kill sub-basin, as well as a description of the demonstration restoration project at Shoemaker Road. This plan is not complete; to stay alive it needs to grow and change through the comments, input, concerns, suggestions and needs of the watershed community. Section 7, Plan Implementation, provides suggestions on how to ensure the Plan continues to evolve.

First and foremost, the West Kill Project team acknowledges the patience of the many streamside landowners who permitted the project's field assessment teams access to the stream in their backyards. We developed many new friends along the way, and we hope our intrusion on their privacy is justified in the end, through a better understanding of stream conditions and trends, a clearer vision of the particular stewardship needs along the stream corridor and, finally, a healthier West Kill.

This plan represents the efforts of many people, some working as part of their day-to-day jobs, some as volunteers, over the past three years. We especially appreciate the efforts of Joel Dubois and Abbe Martin, both with Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District, who have overseen the field effort and the project coordination, and drafted many sections of this management plan. Special thanks go to Amy DeGaetano, Matt Maraglio, Brandy White, Sara Powell, and Rich Andreassen at GCSWCD, and to Beth Reichheld, Sarah Miller, Amanda LaValle, Phil Eskeli, Jenn Grieser, David Burns and Francis Huber at the NYCDEP. The historical information given in the Management Unit Descriptions in Section 4 owes much to the generosity of the West Kill valley residents. We wish to thank the West Kill Project Advisory Committee, including the officials from the Town of Lexington, to whom the baton now passes for directing the future of this plan. We particularly thank the unwavering support of Jerry Fraine, of NYSDEC Region 4. Jerry provided gracious access to their stream disturbance permit records and information on fishing access sites, and helped prepare sections of the plan.

We recognize the entire staffs of the Greene County SWCD and the DEP Stream Management Program, who were called on to support their colleagues in so many ways. This project was made possible through funding from the NYC DEP Stream Management Program, the US Army Corps of Engineers under the Watershed Environmental Assistance Program, and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Rene' VanSchaack  
Executive Director  
Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Cairo, New York

Mark A. Vian  
West Kill Project Manager  
Stream Management Program, NYCDEP  
Kingston, New York