

2.8 Stakeholders

Many individuals, governmental bodies, agencies and community organizations have an interest in keeping the West Kill healthy and functional:

- Hundreds of landowners who live along the stream and its tributaries
- Community organizations, especially sport fishing clubs
- Town of Lexington officials and highway department staff
- Greene County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Greene County Highway Department
- NYC Department of Environmental Protection
- NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Region 4 staff
- NYS Department of Transportation, including Region 1 staff and county-level maintenance staff
- NY State Emergency Management Office
- Federal Emergency Management Agency
- Army Corps of Engineers
- EPA
- Private utility companies

Each of these stakeholders has an interest in maintaining the West Kill as a well-functioning natural resource, and many of them have direct management influence over it. The West Kill project team has reached out to all of these stakeholders for input, through a variety of methods. At the outset of the effort to develop this plan, the project team conducted a survey of streamside landowners regarding stream management issues. The results of that survey can be viewed at: <http://www.gcswcd.com/stream/westkill>

Several meetings of the community at large and the Project Advisory Committee have been held to announce the development of the management plan, to apprise the community of the assessments undertaken to inform the plan, and to share the findings of these assessments. Additional conferences with specific stakeholders, such as Greene County Highway Department and NYS DOT representatives have brought their interests and activities into the management plan.

With the completion of the plan, the next phase will include review of the plan's recommendations by the community and the Project Advisory Committee. The plan will then be revised to ensure that it adequately reflect stakeholders' concerns. The plan will then be presented to the Town of Lexington and the various agencies for formal adoption and implementation.