

# Upper Susquehanna Water Trails Stakeholders Meeting

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Wednesday, April 26, 2017  
2:00 – 3:30 pm

**Binghamton County Office Building  
Conference Room  
60 Hawley Street  
Binghamton NY 13902**

**Call-in option: 607-778-2244**

- **Invitees:**

- Beth Lucas, Broome County Planning Department
- Annette Schultz, Endless Mountains Heritage Region
- David Buck, Endless Mountains Heritage Region
- Carly Dean, Chesapeake Conservancy
- Mike Lovegreen, Upper Susquehanna paddler
- Jim Pfiffer, Friends of the Chemung River Watershed
- Rick Shumaker, Upper Susquehanna paddler
- Dale Fox, FoxWorx Paddles
- Ellen Pope, Otsego2000
- Jonathan Press, Otsego Land Trust
- Jackie Kramer, National Park Service

- **Purpose:**

Develop a strategy to improve trail connectivity by developing uniform water and land trail maps and signage, as well as virtual access to trip planning information that spans the NY-PA border.

- **Agenda Items:**

- What are the most important mapping, signage, and access needs?  
These may include:
  1. Identify the coverage of existing/planned water trail maps; fill in any gaps
  2. Develop a method to integrate water trail resources online
  3. Create consistent wayfinding signage (blue highway signs—mileage from Cooperstown/mileage to Chesapeake Bay)
  4. Map camping locations for thru-paddlers
- What specific steps need to be taken to address those needs?
- What are the top three priorities for 2017?
- What are the joint fundraising opportunities?

- **Background:**  
The *Envision the Susquehanna* team recently completed a 3-year community engagement campaign, followed by the release of a *Vision for the Susquehanna River Watershed* document, that outlines broad river-related goals. Below are the recreation priorities identified for the Upper Watershed. You can access the full document here: [http://envisionthesusquehanna.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ETS-Vision\\_3.22.17\\_small.pdf](http://envisionthesusquehanna.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ETS-Vision_3.22.17_small.pdf)

**Upper Watershed Recreation and Public Access Priority: Continuity in water trails, maps, and signage.** *The Upper Susquehanna is a largely untapped resource for recreation and tourism, particularly in New York where trail maps are outdated and signage visible from the river is lacking. Furthermore, large distances between public river access sites, overnight camping sites, and the presence of unmarked, derelict dams present a barrier for thru-paddling this section of the river.*

- Identify and prioritize gaps in public river access and overnight camping.
- Improve trail connectivity by developing uniform water and land trail maps and signage, as well as virtual access to trip planning information that spans the NY–PA border.
- Establish and communicate the connection of the Susquehanna to the Chesapeake Bay by removing or portaging physical barriers, celebrating thru-paddlers in the “444-Club,” and developing Bay-related messaging on signage and at river-related events.