

Upper Susquehanna Water Trails Stakeholders Meeting

Tuesday, June 27, 2017
9 am – 1 pm

Followed by a canoe/kayak outing
on the Susquehanna

Broome County Public Library
185 Court St, Binghamton, NY 13901

Meeting summary: As a follow-up to the April 26, 2017 meeting, we will discuss a scope of work for the next 2+ years and hone in on some specific next steps and funding options for developing online trip planning resources.

Background: Upper Susquehanna water trails stakeholders convened in Binghamton, NY on April 26, 2017 to outline a strategy to improve trail continuity for paddlers. Attendees agreed that in order to encourage people to use the water trails safely, trip planning materials and wayfinding signs need to be robust (with information on dams, portages, access sites and amenities) and ubiquitous (easy to find during trip planning, and visible along the water trail). Neither the Susquehanna nor the paddlers on the river are bounded by political boundaries; therefore, efforts to support the paddling experience need to have continuity across jurisdictions.

Agenda:

- 9:00 [Welcome and introductions](#) | Carly Dean, Chesapeake Conservancy
- 9:10 [Setting the stage: Paddling the 444: Reflections on a thru-paddle from May-June 2017](#) | Dana Rockwell
- 9:30 [Examples we can learn from: \[Go All Out Broome!\]\(#\)](#) | *The new Broome County interactive online guide for all things outdoors* | Beth Lucas, Broome County Planning Office
- 9:45 [Paddle the Potomac](#) | *The first in a series of online water trail resources for the Chesapeake's Great Rivers* | Mike Land, National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Office
- 10:00 [Common agenda: Envision the Susquehanna: Upper Susquehanna Recreation and Public Access](#) | *Scoping out priorities and next steps* | Annette Schultz, Endless Mountains Heritage Region
 - Coordinating outreach, inventorying resources, refining the scope, water quality concerns, next steps
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| 11:00 10-minute break |
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- 11:10 [Outlining the goals of the web resource](#), partners and skillsets needed, activities | Annette Schultz, Endless Mountains Heritage Region; Mike Land, National Park Service, Chesapeake Bay Office

12:00 Lunch served (Picked up by Carly from Lost Dog Café)
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12:15 [Round-robin: Your top-3 FYIs - Related programming and funding opportunities](#) | Carly Dean, Chesapeake Conservancy

12:50 [Let's get out there!](#) Instructions for where to go for canoe outing | Rick Shoemaker, Headwaters River Trail Partnership

Canoe outing to celebrate upper Susquehanna water trails!

- 2-hour paddle: [Chenango Bridge to the Confluence with the Susquehanna](#).
- Directions: address in your GPS can be: 120 Chenango Bridge Rd, Binghamton, NY 13901—20 minutes from the library. Public parking on the right side of Chenango Bridge Rd, after the gymnastics building and before the bridge.
- Canoes, paddles and PFDs (life jackets) will be provided—but please feel free to bring your own!
- Additional invitees include local and county governments and officials. If you have reached out to additional folks to join us for the canoe outing, please let me know

Our guide: Steve Busch from Binghamton, New York. Steve has been involved in paddling since the 1970's— and was first certified as an ACA instructor in 1987. He was influenced early on in his paddling career by legendary paddler, Tom Foster. Steve's favorite river run is New York's Fish Creek, which has over 10 miles of class III play. Steve is a retired Physical Education teacher and aquatics director, and with the help of ACA, grew his school's paddling program to include kayaking rolling, canoe instruction, and introductory whitewater trips to nearby rivers. Steve still teaches kayaking, canoeing, and SUP as an adjunct professor at Binghamton University and ZOAR Outdoor Programs.