



Friday
April 24, 2015

[HOME](#)

Copyright © 2014 Mid-Hudson News Network, a division of Statewide News Network, Inc.
This story may not be reproduced in any form, by any media, without express written consent.
 This includes rewriting, broadcasting and/or printing of material from MidHudsonNews.com,
 by radio and television stations, newspapers or other media.

[Weather Forecast](#)



Future of the Walkkill River discussed at college conference

NEW PALTZ – SUNY New Paltz hosted the first ever “Future of the Walkkill River” event Thursday night.

The conference brought environmental advocates from a number of counties, as well as local elected officials, together to talk about the state of the river and to brainstorm ideas for its future.

Main topics of focus were drinking water, land use, recreation, farming, fish, wildlife and habitat. About halfway through the event, groups broke into breakout sessions to discuss each of the focus topics.



High Falls on the Walkkill River

One of the unified concerns of the different breakout sessions was the need for more data, updated data models and communication between organizations and their local governments.



Shapley: "... a new citizen watershed group ..."

Orange County Planning Commissioner David Church; Ulster County Planning Director Dennis Doyle; Amanda LaValle, Ulster County environment director; and Laura Heady of the Hudson River Estuary Program, all agreed more could be done to connect activists and their local governments, as well as to update data and educate residents.

“There’s a lot of talk about some means of having better communication between different constituents and interests so they can know what’s going on: events, data, information, projects”, said David Church.

Dan Shapley, of Riverkeeper and one of the event’s organizers, said the main goal was to bring interested parties together to form a new organization; one that is dedicated to the future of a healthy Walkkill River.

“The real focus of tonight was to try to really get a lot of people, find new people, who are really informed and interested and concerned about the Walkkill, bring them together so that we can build a new citizen watershed group that can carry efforts into the long term,” Shapley said.

That new group, which has yet to be named, will have its first meeting June 4th at SUNY New Paltz.

HEAR today’s news on MidHudsonRadio.com, the Hudson Valley’s *only* Internet radio news report.

[HOME](#)