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DEC outlines “Mohawk River Basin Program” at conference at Union

SCHENECTADY, N.Y. – The Mohawk Watershed Group at Union College will host the first conference on the physical aspects of the Mohawk River Watershed on Friday, March 27, in the College’s Olin Center.

Representatives from the DEC will outline the current status of the **Mohawk River Basin Program**, and effort to bring various stakeholders together to focus on watershed management.

The presentation is entitled: “The NYSDEC Mohawk River Basin Program: an ecosystem based approach to managing the resources of the Mohawk River and its watershed,” which will be presented by Anne Reynolds, with co-authors Paul Bray, and Alexander Smith, of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

The Mohawk River has long been a driving force in shaping the natural environment and the life of communities throughout the Mohawk River Valley. The Mohawk River Basin Program is part of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation’s initiative on developing Ecosystem Based Management units throughout NY.

The mission of basin program is to act as coordinator of basin-wide activities related to conserving, preserving, and restoring the environmental quality of the Mohawk River and its watershed, while helping to manage the resource for a sustainable future. Vital to the success of the program are the involvement of stakeholders and the creation of partnerships with established programs and organizations throughout the basin.

During this period of fiscal restraint and tightened budgets the NYSDEC sees an opportunity for preparedness. Although the program is currently without funding staff are working to produce an action agenda for the basin. This document will serve the purpose of highlighting management targets basin-wide to which future funds should be allocated as they become available.

In addition, management practices in the Mohawk River Valley need to be designed to be adaptive and responsive to change, promote coordination and cooperation among sectors; balance competing uses; and inspire compromise. We hope that all parties interested in the Mohawk River Valley will come together to assist the department in obtaining these goals.

For information about the DEC program, contact: A.J. Smith at 518-285-5627 or ajsmith@gw.dec.state.ny.us.

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