

THE I-4 PROGRAM

Building Watershed Community Partnerships, Capacity & Ownership

2019 UPPER SUSQUEHANNA WATERSHED FORUM

Mike Lovegreen – Upper Susquehanna Coalition Stream Team Leader



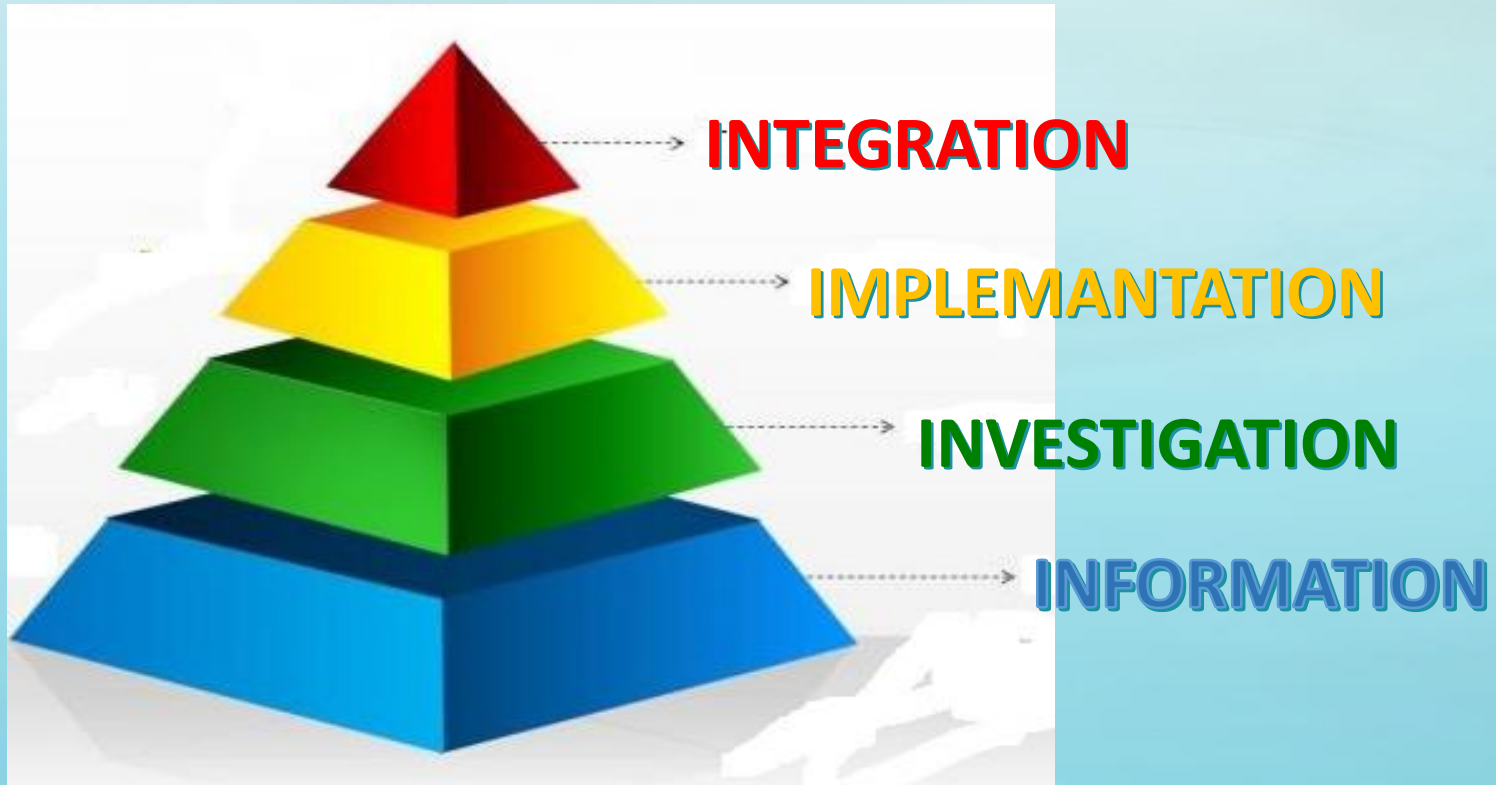
SOME CRITICAL GUIDING PRINCIPLES TO WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

1. Watershed Communities are True Managers of Watershed
 - Watershed Universe Includes Municipalities, Landowners, Businesses, Farmers, Agencies, Sportsmen, User Groups, Schools, Churches, etc., etc., etc.
2. Watershed Community Understanding of Watershed Principles and Functions are far more critical than Laws and Regulations
 - People will make good decisions with good information and understanding but will resist regulations based on sound management practices if they do not understand them

NFWF Funded I-4 PROJECT

Supported by Local SWCDs

2017 - 2019

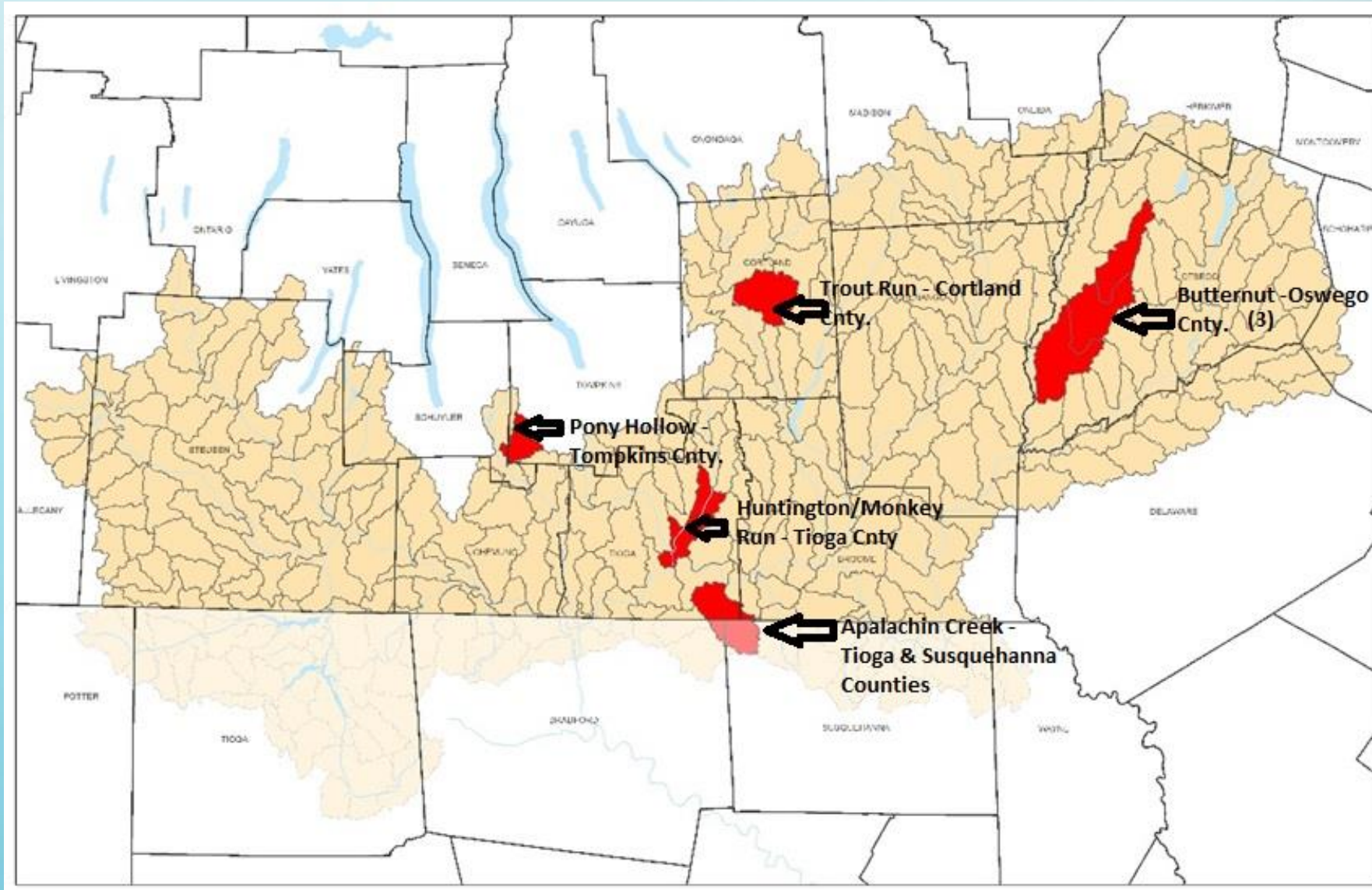


Identify Watersheds

Identify all priority flood impacted watersheds in the participating NY & PA counties based on historic, current and projected needs

- Soil & Water Conservation District/Conservation District nominated and supported
- Small, manageable size – 12 to 16 digit HUC code
- Predominately non-urban watersheds
- *Watershed municipalities' buy-in and support (assured by SWCD/CD)*
- *Documentable support from volunteer groups, watershed associations, colleges, etc.*
- Watersheds that may have any special designations or related studies
- Watersheds with identified resource needs (i.e. flooding, erosion, habitat improvement)
- Potential for in-kind match (funding, volunteer labor, etc.)

WATERSHEDS - SELECTED



WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS

- APALACHIN
 - Town of Owego
 - Binghamton University
- BUTTERNUT – 3 Reaches
 - Town of Pittsfield
 - Town of Lisbon
 - Town of Morris
 - Town of Butternut
 - Village of Gilbertsville
 - Butternut Valley Alliance
 - Otsego Land Trust
 - Otsego County Conservation Assoc.
 - SUNY Oneonta
 - SUNY ESF
 - The Wetland Trust
 - Lycoming College
- HUNTINGTON CREEK
 - Town of Owego
 - Village of Owego
 - Owego School District
- PONY HOLLOW CREEK
 - Town of Newfield
 - Community Science Institute
- TROUT BROOK
 - Cortland County Highway Department
 - Town of Cortlandville
 - Village of McGraw
 - Town of Solon
 - Town of Freetown
 - SUNY Cortland
 - McGraw Schools
 - OCM Boces New Visions Program

A TEMPLATE FOR INVOLVEMENT

- Public Meetings to kick off public involvement
 - Introduce Communities to watershed efforts
 - Solicit, identify and begin addressing concerns and needs – *real and perceived*
- Develop Watershed Background Reports/Studies
 - Involve Community and reveal and tell the Story of the Watershed's History
 - Identify historic needs
 - Avoid duplicate efforts
- Train Volunteers to identify and conduct physical inventory of stream corridor (channel, banks, floodplain, riparian area, upland impacts)
- Conduct Stream Corridor and Watershed Inventory
- Public Meetings to apprise Community of findings and solicit priorities
- Begin development of costs and benefits for potential priority projects
- Identify and begin addressing community educational needs

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- 4,150 Stream Corridor Sites Assessed
- 609 Stream Crossings Assessed utilizing NAAC protocol
- 37 Associated Watershed/Stream Studies completed
- 66 Individuals receiving technical training
- 333 Individuals receiving educational programs/training
- \$246,000+ leveraged funding for identified projects
- 6.5 acres of buffers installed

ASSOCIATED SPIN-OFF INITIATIVES UTILIZING I-4 TEMPLATE

- 6 additional Watershed Studies utilizing NY Rising funding
- Holden Brook Partnership with Mansfield University, Tioga (PA) Conservation District and Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District

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