Report of 4th Annual Genesee River BasinSummit

Genesee RiverWatch hosted its 4th Annual Genesee River Basin Summit on Thursday, June 15, 2017 at the Rochester Institute of Technology. There were 90 people in attendance, representing a wide variety of interests plus 9 exhibitors.

The purpose of this Summit was to bring together those interested in improving the recreational appeal of the Genesee River Basin. That included direct users, such as boaters, fishermen, hikers, bikers, and birders. It was also attracted those interested in improving the economic and social appeal of our river assets, such as business owners, government officials, farmers, elected representatives, economic development professionals, engineers, educators, media, and conservation groups.

Expert speakers provided a comprehensive review of the Genesee Basin's existing river access and recreational opportunities. Economic development and government officials described the importance of these resources to economic opportunities and quality of life along the entire river from Pennsylvania to the Rochester Harbor. Attendees heard examples of work being done on other rivers and plans in the works along the Genesee. Finally, in keeping with past Summits, participants were asked to contribute their opinions and suggestions for future work.

Dorraine Kirkmire speaking on the City of Rochester's Local
Waterfront Revitalization Program

Future Activities and Priorities

The last session was dedicated to identifying future activities or initiatives to improve river access and recreation opportunities in the Basin. Below are the opportunities raised by the attendees during the discussion portion of this session.

- Centralize mapping of access and recreational opportunities in an update-able form
- Provide affordable boat rentals and fishing opportunities for those who don't own their own equipment
- Provide boater training (Coast Guard)

August 23, 2017

- Provide maps with information (paper or app form) about access, tourism opportunities, access to drinking water and restrooms, historical information, fishing, cell coverage, camping and businesses (ads)
- Provide more disabled person access opportunities Encourage
- more diversity among those who access the river Provide free
- trials for canoeing, kayaking, biking and fishing

- In planning, consider the "three species of tourists" *(recreational, experiential and experimental)*
- Provide more access to outfitters
- Add the Genesee River Basin to the I LOVE NY campaign materials
- Consider power boat access too
- Consider "fire ball runs" *(Teams participate in a scavenger hunt/trivia/geo-cache event along the river using various modes of transportation)*
- Run a state-wide ad to promote the recreational opportunities of the Genesee River Basin.

Next Steps

Genesee RiverWatch will hold a stakeholder session later in 2017 to further refine a path forward. In the meantime Genesee RiverWatch will:

1. Work with Genesee River Wilds to pursue a centralized recreation access mapping process that includes tourism activities and facilities along with boating, hiking, biking and fishing access information. The Genesee River Wilds organization is already pursuing the creation of a map for Allegany County. Genesee RiverWatch will coordinate this activity downstream of Letchworth State Park to the Port of Rochester.

2. Continue to pursue the river access opportunities in the City of Rochester reviewed by Charlie Valeska at the Summit.

Summit Presentations can be viewed here

Ben Gajewski speaking on Allegany County and
Genesee River Wilds work to create access points along
the Upper Genesee

August 23, 2017

Thank You to our 2017 Supporters!

Main Stem Supporters ($1000 or more level)

City of Rochester, NY
Lovely A. Warren, Mayor

Stantec

RG&E

William Hallahan, Ph.D
Professor of Biology
Nazareth College

Georgiana Prince

Letchworth ($500 level)

R·I·T Golisano Institute for Sustainability

ST. JOHN FISHER COLLEGE

Brad VanAuken

Tributary ($250 level)

uk
underberg & kessler LLP

Canandaigua National Bank & Trust

EASTMAN BUSINESS PARK

The Genesee RiverWatch Mission:
To champion solutions that improve the water quality of the Genesee and initiatives that connect people to the River.

August 23, 2017