

## Stakeholder Meeting #1: Summary of Opportunities and Constraints, by Category

<b>Opportunities</b>
<b>Habitat Restoration/ Protection/ Enhancement</b>
Riparian forest and riparian herbaceous buffers along entire corridor
Softening of hard armoring in the lower river
Protection may be more important than restoration (so there's actually something possible to protect, restore or enhance) – Protect 1st
Traditional species in the corridor (e.g., American basswood)
West Seneca – lots of opportunities for protection (see suggested revision to mission statement)
Preservation opportunities abound along Cayuga, Buffalo, and Cazenovia Creeks. Much non-active farmland (hydric soils) remains, mostly under private ownership
Need to identify “Critical Environmental Areas” (CEA) in the Town of West Seneca
Great deal of “available” land
Reduction in heavy industry adjacent to the River
ID high priority segments in ERMP and not get scared away from private ownership (potential funding for federal and land owner cost share)
Tools → zoning and conservation overlays (stream buffers)
Combine green development with habitat
Occurrence of agricultural parcels along stream banks is limited if not gone
Be specific about species of fish and wildlife (e.g., waterfowl, migratory songbirds, native benthic invertebrates). Once you define species, it will be easier to identify what habitat to restore and how to manage it.
<b>Education/ Awareness</b>
Need some sort of “school” for learning how to protect and restore - to minimize future maintenance needs
Potential for increased awareness → elections
The opportunity exists to conduct tree and bird inventories in the Town of West Seneca
The opportunity exists to conduct environmental education programs for adults and children
Increased community interest to use Buffalo River as an ecological asset and destination
Articulate economic advantages and benefits to habitat restoration
Getting habitat integrated into economic red. i.e. BOAs
Community Perspective – “...if we can't get to it to use it or appreciate it, why should we support it...?” (Opportunity and a Constraint)
<b>Human Use/ Future Enjoyment</b>
Think about future generations
Improved boating program(s) “on the water” – especially if tied to history of watershed and cultural uses
Reuse of historic grain elevators
<b>Stakeholder Collaboration</b>
Environmentally responsible redevelopment
Need for balanced (re)development

Look at the various land use plans to confirm that those plans are environmentally sensitive, culturally and historically informed
Recognize the connection of native people's historical connection of the land – and there's some sadness associated with that permanent loss; there's a need to acknowledge
Recreate a Seneca cultural presence - Council House restoration
Incorporate cultural values
Political will exists
The opportunity exists to updated and amend the Comprehensive Plan to include more information on environmental features in West Seneca
Zoning should be updated with an emphasis on the protection of CEA's and other environmental features (West Seneca)
Town of West Seneca has a strong Environmental Commission advisory board. The EC volunteers are active in creek corridor preservation and restoration initiatives in the Town of West Seneca
Expanded focus areas will require a high level of input and support from municipality officials to be effective and successful (both an opportunity and potential constraint)
Good opportunity to get funding for projects outside the "AOC Spotlight" ECSWCD has many ingress/egress easements for In-stream work within Cazenovia Creek and Buffalo Creek for flood control structure maintenance and possible stream bank improvements; however, they still work well with landowners and strive to get their approval
Good synergy through number of stakeholders working together (angling community, city groups, govt. agencies)
<b>Pollution Control</b>
Those fish might have to feed us one day
Reduction in heavy industry adjacent to the River
<b>Establish Precedent for Other AOC's</b>
The biggest opportunity for significant improvements is within the Buffalo River AOC
Do a really good job of identifying what's really out there already
All agreed it was great to see focus expanded beyond the AOC
Need to consider a Watershed Perspective, not just an AOC perspective (i.e., bacteria from CSOs and other sources is an upstream issue, not just an AOC issue)
<b>Funding</b>
Grants for redevelopment combined with "green goals"
The diversity of conditions lends to a good diversity of project types (more \$)
"Right size" gives flexibility
Funding IS available!
To align specific projects with funding sources and provide preliminary design
ID high priority segments in ERMP and not get scared away from private ownership (potential funding for federal and land owner cost share); private owners should not be left out of the process
Geographic diversity for short list of high priority fundable projects
Good opportunity to get funding for projects outside the "AOC Spotlight" ECSWCD has many ingress/egress easements for In-stream work within Cazenovia Creek and Buffalo Creek for flood control structure maintenance and possible stream bank improvements; however, they still work well with landowners and strive to get their approval

<b>Constraints</b>
<b>Outside Influences/ Future Threats</b>
Ownership and future maintenance/monitoring
Home Rule
Physical way for people to access or connect with resource
<b>Education/ Awareness</b>
Benign neglect doesn't necessarily achieve restoration objectives
Sustainability of restoration and enhancement efforts if source problems are not truly addressed
The final plan should have a cohesive ecological vision – individual projects should both be seen in conjunction with one another, not just in isolation
<b>Project Support/ Landowner Consent</b>
Need fund for land acquisition and willing and informed stewards
Home Rule
Property ownership and fragmentation
Remaining creek corridors (undeveloped land) are under severe development pressures aided by our (Town of West Seneca's) weak zoning laws.
Ownership of creek segments and getting support from others
Reduction in heavy industry adjacent to the river
Ownership of desirable habitat areas
Reach out to individual landowners
Land owner engagement and approval
Need to get local officials and planners on-board
<b>Stakeholder Collaboration</b>
Need to know more about how to manage riparian areas successfully (with many different interests)
Poor and uncoordinated land use vision and regulation
Zoning- current codes and practices (and the political and social environment that controls them)
The Town of West Seneca's Zoning code was adopted in March 1963 and has not been substantially updated since. Also, the zoning code does not conform to the [Town's] Comprehensive Plan
Municipal residents and government engagement (Carrots to pull in other municipalities to conceptualize benefits)
Engaging municipal support for approval of projects
Planning coordination
<b>Habitat/ Restoration/ Protection</b>
No guidelines for habitat development
Invasive species
Unresolved storm sewer and contaminated sediment
CSO's and SSO's (West Seneca consent decrease)
More constraints in the River as opposed to upstream
Remediation that needs to occur prior to habitat projects

Much, but not all, of the creek corridors in the Town of West Seneca have been developed, resulting in impaired water quality in the West Seneca Creek system
Aging infrastructure – overburdened sewer system; results in CSO’s and SSO’s. West Seneca Sewer District #13 is currently under a “Consent Order” for the NYS DEC
CSO/Septic bacteria → low DO; additively create impaired water quality and aquatic system
Defined goals are too limiting and need to extend beyond habitat and water quality BUIs to include improvements in public access to waterways
CSOs will continue to affect water quality until an effective Buffalo Sewer Authority – Long Term Control Plan is in actively in place
<b>Funding</b>
Need fund for land acquisition and willing and informed steward
Not habitat friendly land use and funding opportunities
Diminished Tax Base – the Town of West Seneca does not have the resources to deal with these problems
Time
Funding for implementation
Securing \$ - GLRI has funding but current state budget crisis may affect local and state funding