

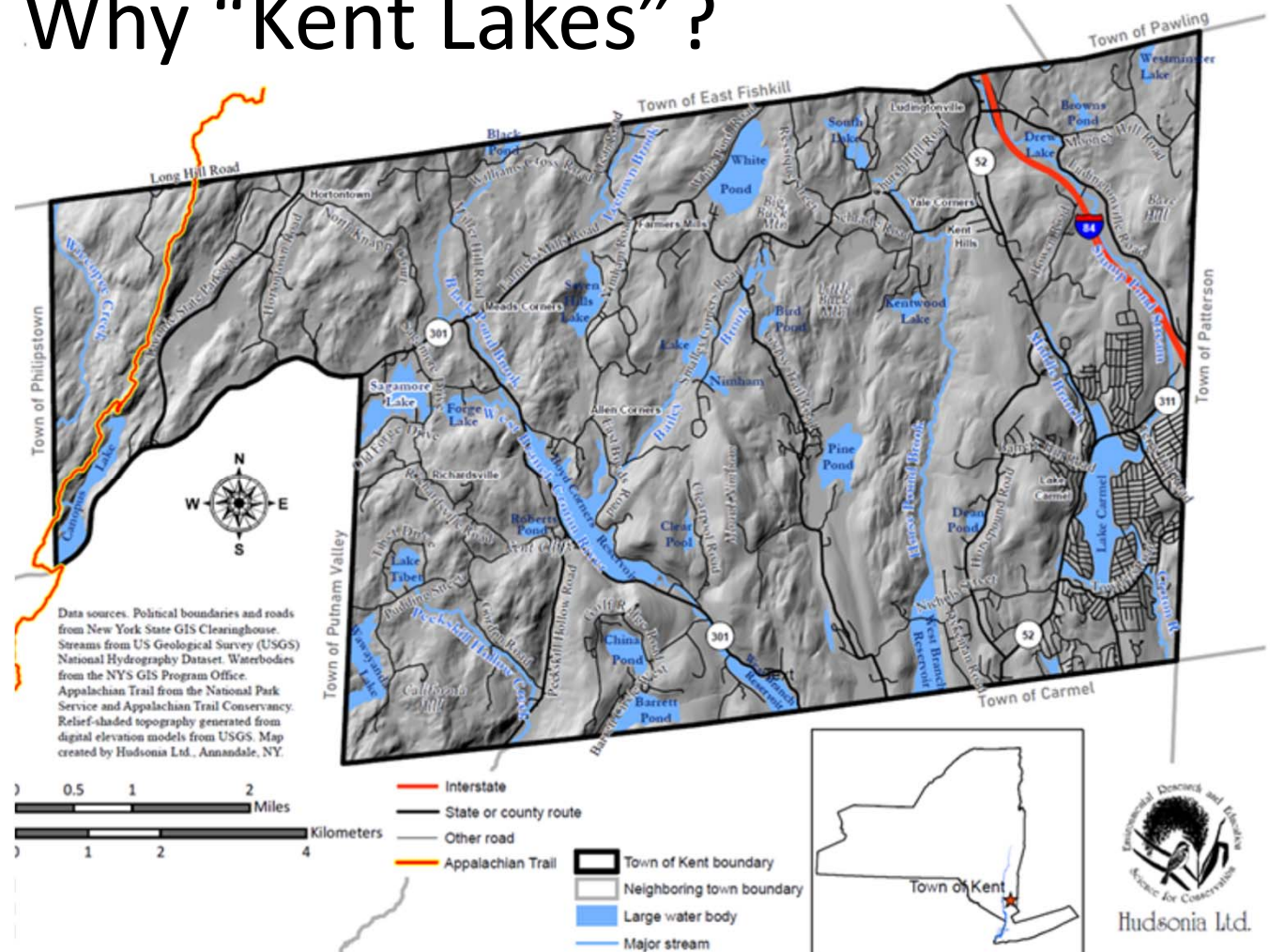
The background features a large, abstract graphic composed of several overlapping, wavy, concentric shapes. The colors transition from a deep blue on the left to a vibrant green on the right, with various shades of teal and light green in between. The overall effect is a sense of movement and depth.

Lake Grants 101

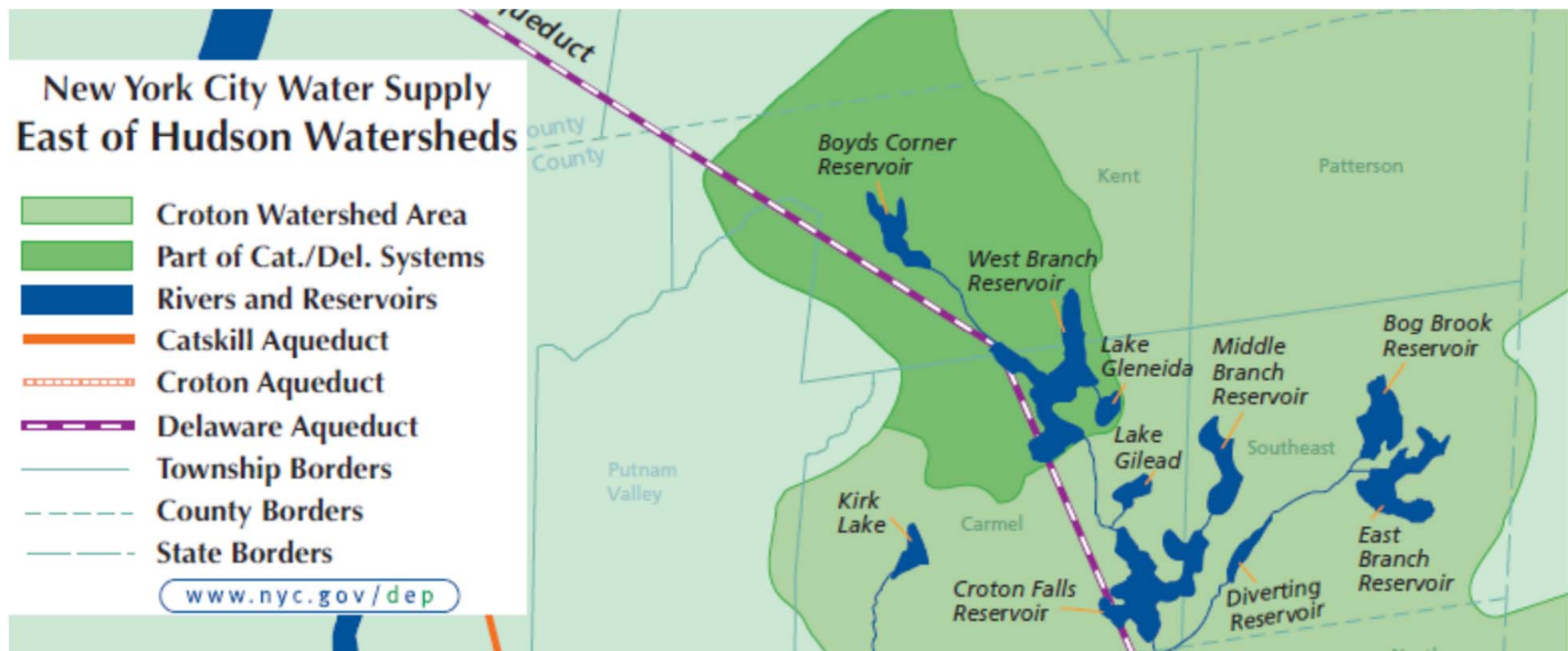
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Why “Kent Lakes”?

- Half of Kent is city or state owned or under easement with DEC or DEP.
- 13 Lakes.
- Total area of Kent: 43.33 sq mi (112.21 km²).
- Water: 2.82 sq mi (7.31 km²) = 6.5%.



Most of Kent is Watershed



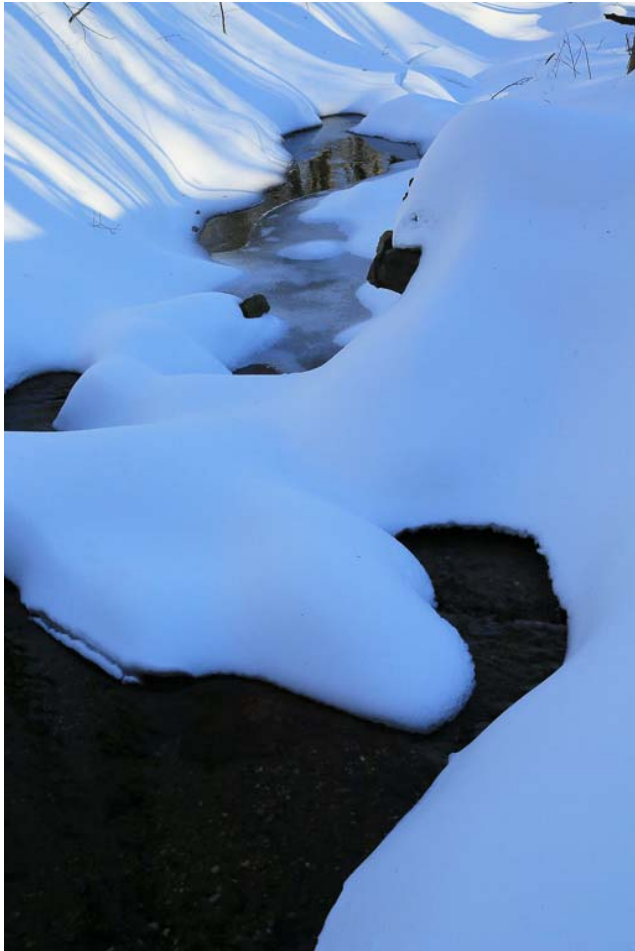
Where is This Talk Headed?

- History of the lake projects in Kent and the Kent Lakes Committee
- Sources of funding
- Grant application and management, with or without a grant-writing firm
- Ways to take action



Lake Projects in Kent

- Kent Lakes Committee formed 2017. Dedicated, knowledgeable volunteers with support from Town's Environmental Consultant, Bruce Barber.
- <https://www.townofkentny.gov/kent-lakes-association>
- Adopt a Pipe, CSLAP, Trees for Tribs, Buffer in a Bag.
- Harmful algal bloom program - Lake Carmel and Palmer Lake, funded by NYS (2019).
- NEWIPCC wastewater treatment engineering grant for Palmer Lake (2021).
- PRISM grant for removal of Water Chestnuts at County Park in Kent (2019-ongoing).
- PRISM grant for Aquatic Invasives (2021).
- East of Hudson stormwater projects (16 projects, various dates).
- NYS DEC High hazard dam engineering grant (2021).
- NYS DEC Streambank stabilization engineering grants (2021).



Funding Streams

- State Assembly and Congressional Appropriations.
- NEIWPC New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission <https://neiwpc.org/>.
- DEC grant programs <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/grants.html> e.g., Hudson River Estuary, Water Quality Improvement, Non-agricultural Non-point-source Pollution, Climate Smart.
- East of Hudson Watershed Corporation <https://eohwc.org/>.
- Putnam County Soil and Water Conservation District funds via local Town Board.
- PRISM Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47433.html> <https://www.lhprism.org/>.
- Trees for Tribes <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/77710.html>.
- Watershed Agricultural Council <https://www.nycwatershed.org/>.
- Buffer in a Bag <https://www.dec.ny.gov/press/124734.html>.

Who Can Receive Grants?

- Municipalities (town, city, county, etc.)
- Non-profit entities: foundations, educational institutions, etc.
- *Private associations and even homeowners can apply for PRISM, Trees for Tribes, Buffer a Bag.*
- Examples:
 - Kent Conservation Foundation formed by the Kent Conservation Advisory Committee.
 - Fishkill Creek Watershed Alliance in partnership with Pace University Law Center.
 - Lake Associations in partnership with the Town of Kent (Lake Associations must contribute the match).

Challenge: Time, resources, and expertise to develop and submit successful applications.



Role of Grant Writing Firm

- Meet with client (Town) to discuss potential projects and priorities.
- Research grant opportunities and summarize suggestions.
- Ensure good fit between project and sponsor, assess likelihood of success.
- Collect information needed for application from client.
- Develop application (narrative, answers to questions, preliminary budget, justifications).
- Provide template for letters of support.
- Upload the full submission and letters of support to online portal.
- *Can address multiple priorities such a fire, police, parks and historic preservation, planning, water quality, environment, etc.*
- *Outstanding return on investment.*

Town Process

- Discuss opportunities: benefits, logistics, and fiscal implications
- Town must agree to cover the match (typically 10-50%)
 - In-kind labor
 - Volunteer labor
 - Expenditure – planned for current year or budgeted for the following year.
- *Define and communicate roles and responsibilities of town employees, consultants, and subcontractors.*
- *Town Board vote to approve submission of application.*
- Supply information, obtain letters of support
- If awarded: vote on Resolution of Acceptance, manage the grant.

Grants Management

- Grant recipient is the “Contractor.”
- Review award letter (Celebrate!)
- Submit required documents to sponsor (proof of insurance, non-discrimination policy, MWBE, surveys, detailed workplan, detailed budget) as applicable.
- Sign contract
- Submit quarterly progress reports:
 - Work accomplished
 - Volunteer/in kind labor hours
 - Expenditures – contractual, salaries, equipment, etc.
- Guide project/ oversee work of subcontractors.

Grant budgets may include “overhead” for grants management.



Obtaining funding is just “the tip of the iceberg”!

Example: Natural Resources Inventory Grant

- Subcontract with Hudsonia.
- Match: Volunteer biologists performing biodiversity inventory.
- Steering committee: Two biologists/naturalists, KCAC Chair, two Town Board members, Environmental Consultant, Planning Board member, Planning Board alternate member, Town Historian, Kent Historical Society member, two Hudsonia staff members, one DEC staff member.
- Monthly meetings to guide the project, ensure the report will be maximally useful for planning, promote “buy-in.”



“Bootstrapping”



- Solving large problems requires large grants!
- First step often is an engineering study funded via a smaller grant.
- *Water quality data are essential for documenting problems/establishing baseline.*
- Examples:
 - Lake Carmel Dam engineering study.
 - NEWIPCC study of Palmer Lake.
 - Streambank stabilization engineering studies: Lake Carmel and Seven Hills Lake.

Choosing Projects



- Aquatic invasives
- Shoreline invasives
- Harmful algae blooms
- Point source and non-point source pollution
- Stormwater management

Decisions driven by lake conditions/data. Dialogue among lake association members, other associations, lake managers, environmental consultants, environmental organizations, municipalities, grant firm (if available), and sponsors is key.

What Can Lake Associations Do?

- Collaborate with other regional lake associations to share information and resources.
- Form partnerships with agencies that can receive grants.
- Become informed about funding opportunities and cycles (e.g., DEC seminars re grant opportunities).
- Obtain PRISM grants.
- Participate in Trees for Tribs and Buffer in a Bag
- *Engage in citizen science: CSLAP (Citizen Science lake Assessment Program), Adopt a Pipe, WAVE (Water Assessments by Volunteer Evaluators), etc. Documenting problems is a powerful means of justifying funding!*



Questions?

Thank you for listening!



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