

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting - January 9, 2024

Attending:

John Dickinson, Director
Sherri Slater, Director
Jay Skellie, Director
Cassie Fedler, Director

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Amber Luke, District Technician
Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician
Korey Evarts, District Intern

Others:

Tina Williams, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Call to order at 10:00 a.m. by Director Dickinson.

Welcome to new board member Sherri Slater (Member-At-Large)

At 10:05 a.m. Director Dickinson turned the meeting over to Aldrich to call for election of the Chairman of the Board.

Organizational Business:

Aldrich called for nominations from the Board for Chairman.

Motion by Skellie/Fedler to elect John Dickinson Chairman of the SWCD Board of Directors.
Unanimously carried.

At 10:07 a.m. after election of Board Chairman, Aldrich turned the meeting over to Chairman Dickinson to chair the remainder of the meeting and election of officers.

Motion by Fedler/Slater to elect Jay Skellie as Vice-Chairman of the SWCD Board of Directors.
Unanimously carried.

Motion by Skellie/Fedler to elect Catherine Ziehm as Treasurer of the SWCD Board of Directors.
Unanimously carried.

Motion by Slater/Fedler to appoint Lori Sheehan as Secretary/Assistant Treasurer of the SWCD Board of Directors. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Skellie/Fedler to appoint the following representatives:

- Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC): Jacob Fetterman / Sherri Slater (alternate)
- Farmland Protection Board: Corrina Aldrich / Sherri Slater (alternate)
- Upper Hudson River Coalition: Amber Luke / Corrina Aldrich (alternate)
- Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York: Corrina Aldrich – SWCD; Jacob Fetterman – WQCC; Amber Luke – SWCD alternate; Sherri Slater – WQCC alternate.

Unanimously carried.

Motion by Skellie/Slater authorizing payment of certain bills prior to Board approval, including payroll & payroll liabilities, health/dental insurance, office/field supplies, employee travel, County pool car (fuel), and reimbursement of petty cash. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Slater/Skellie to appoint bank signatories: Catherine Ziehm (Treasurer), Lori Sheehan (Assistant Treasurer), and Catherine Fedler (Director). **Unanimously carried.**

Minutes: **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**

Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Report for December and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)

Agency & Staff Reports:

Farm Service Agency: Verbal report by Williams

Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report

District Manager: Verbal report by Aldrich

District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh

District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke

NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham

Motion by Skellie/Fedler to dispose of certain 2016 financial records according to Records Retention and Disposal Schedule LGS-1. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Slater/Skellie to approve participation in the Regional Envirothon (including cost of event expenses, est. \$1,000 Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Slater/Fedler to approve Aldrich to participate in CDEA business/activities as Division VI representative and to use district credit card as necessary. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Fedler/Slater to approve disbursing Part C Funds for: Renewal of Storage Container 12-month lease rental (\$70 per month), Drone Pilot Test Fee for Evarts (\$175), Washington County Highway Association Dues (\$100). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Slater/Fedler to approve time extension request Amendment for CAFO Round 3 Contract #C012096 – Woody Hill Farm. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Skellie/Fedler to set the Equipment Reserve Fund Amount to \$23,000. **Unanimously carried.**

Upon review of District Policies, **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve the following policies with no changes: Personnel Policy, Credit Card Policy, Director Attendance & Replacement Policy, Dispute Resolution, Drainage Assistance, Freedom of Information Law, Information Technology Resources, Internal Controls, Investment, No-Till Seeder Rental, Pond Site Evaluation, Procurement Policy, Discrimination & Harassment Policy, Personal Vehicle Use Policy, Electronic Payments & Procedures – Grant Contracts, Public Employer Health Emergency Plan, Agricultural Assessment Policy, Drone Service Policy. **Unanimously carried.**

The next Board meeting will be held on February 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by Slater/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – January 2024

AEM

- AEM Tier IV Implementation – Cover Crops Burchdale and Rollin Hills farms have been paid.
- Rollin Hills Farm – I will be meeting with Darren Tyler to assist him in resolving the manure spill complaint he received.

Cover Crops

CWICNY: All participating farms have been paid.

Ag Assessments

Ag assessments have been very busy; I have completed 44 soil group worksheets.

Meetings Attended & Planned

King's AgriSeed Winter Meeting, 2/1 – Auburn
Whitman's Winter Meeting, 2/14 – Greenwich
NY Farm Show, 2/22 – 24, Syracuse

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- January 9, 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Keeping in touch with the farm. I will be checking in on how the bid process is coming after the first of the year. The farm plans on starting construction in the spring.
- Round 25-
 - Lundy's- No new updates. Just waiting for the farm to begin the bid process and construction.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Met with Morrow's in the office (1/3/2024) to go over certain details of the grant process. The landowner had some questions regarding engineering that we went over. I discussed the importance of having finalized designs for the bid process to make sure consistency in the bids. Landowner said they had final designs, so I asked for a copy to have on record. The farm signed their landowner/soil and water contract with us and are working on getting their insurance.
 - Met with John Beavers via zoom call on Friday (1/5/2024). We went over the landowner/SWCD contract and insurance requirements. I told him I would scan the documents to him for review. John Beavers was worried about this original quote for engineering as the dollar figure was rather high, so I told him I would send him a list of engineers we have worked with in the past. We went over the plan of construction and the plan for this year is to get the roadway completed and the phase 1 one of the swales/diversions/terraces.
- Round 7-
 - Working on getting started on the Plan of Work documents for our 2 funded grants as time permits. Plan of work is due February 1st 2024.

AEM-

- REPORTING: Sent out an email requesting all time sheets to be completed by the end of the month so that I can work on the final spread sheet for AEM YR 17 closeout.
- Mapleland had efficiently completed their fuel storage project. We have been in discussion with the engineer and our Regional AEA (Ryan Cunningham) to go over what is needed for closeout. We are waiting for as-builts, but we do have a stamped letter saying that a site visit was done and approved by the engineer prior to the end of 2023.
- I am working on pulling up information on completed tier work over the past 2 years to start working on the AEM YR 17 closeout. Due February 29, 2024.
- Had a meeting with Fred Burch to go over changes in his future goals and potential funding opportunities and timelines.
- Conducted a site visit to Paul and Sandy Arnold's to learn more about how a soil steamer works and the pros and cons that come with using a soil steamer. I talked with them about working through the AEM process and updating their old Tier 1. So, I will be reaching out again to complete a Tier 2.
- Ongoing: Chipping away at a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- Next meeting is scheduled to be a potluck on January 11, 2024, at 10 am at Warren County SWCD. This meeting was originally scheduled for December but had to be rescheduled.
- We will be discussing the creation of a website for the UHRWC, fundraising opportunities along with grant opportunities for 2024 and beyond.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee State Program Advisory Committee meeting on December 15, 2023. Where we discussed the details surrounding how the Round 8 CRF grant program is going to work with federal funding being added. The NEW Round 4 CAFO funding was briefly discussed as well. There is still 21 million available, but they are unsure of how the program will run and what requirements it will have.
- CWICNY meeting attended on December 21, 2023.
- NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting attended on December 19, 2023.

Miscellaneous:

- My class submission to Mud U in Cambridge was accepted. I will be working on putting together a presentation to present a class focused on being an "Introduction of Conservation Planning on Small Farms." This will take place on February 27 @ 5:00 PM. My plan is for it to be a discussion with farmers on what tools and resources SWCD can provide, how to identify resource concerns and how to go about planning solutions and implementation.
- Bank Reconciliations

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – January 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

2023 State Aid to Districts – DUE 2/15/24: All 2023 annual reporting documents (State Aid, Treasurers Report, Annual Report, etc.) are now available on the SWCC SharePoint <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>, under Resources for Districts – State Aid to Districts. All reports are due to the State Committee by **February 15, 2024**. Please contact ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA with any questions.

AEM Base Program: Round 17 of the AEM Base Program ended on December 31, 2023, and the Final Report/Close Out package is due the State Committee by **February 29, 2024** (please upload files to your District's AEM17 folder on SharePoint and email your Regional AEA and Greg Albrecht once uploaded). Round 18 of AEM Base is now underway, starting on January 1, 2023, and running through December 31, 2025. See the AEM Base Program Materials folder on the SWCC SharePoint site (<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/AEM.aspx>) for program/contract policy instructions and materials to close out AEM17 and operate AEM18. Please contact greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA with any questions.

Round 29 AGNPS and Round 7 CRF Plans of Work: Please submit plans of work for projects awarded through Round 29 AGNPS and Round 7 CRF to your Regional AEA for review and approval when they are ready. Submitting this information as soon as possible can help to expedite the contracting process.

January SWCC Meeting: The January SWCC meeting will be postponed. The next SWCC meeting will take place in February. Further details and an agenda for the February meeting will be sent out at least two weeks prior to the meeting date. Each meeting agenda provides an opportunity for Conservation Districts to provide reports, updates, or feedback to the SWCC.

Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

New State Programs Advisory Committee: A folder has been created on SharePoint for the NYS SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee. The folder is located within the Resources for Districts page, under the Programs category, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>. Information from the December 2023 meeting has been uploaded to this folder. Please reach out to the SWCC staff if you have additional thoughts or ideas for future meeting topics.

Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act Update: Since the Bond Act was passed in November 2022, State agencies have been actively working to develop a data tracking/reporting protocol, eligibility criteria, define eligible projects and identify existing programs that could benefit from Bond Act funding. NYS SWCC staff will be sure to provide more updates as new information becomes available.

Other Events

2024 Water Quality Symposium: The New York State Conservation District Employees' Association and Soil and Water Conservation Committee are thrilled to announce the 2024 Water Quality Symposium in Syracuse, NY. **March 12th – 15th, 2024**. Registration is due no later than **January 26th, 2024**. Please note that this year, **each County Soil and Water District will receive 2 free admission coupons for staff to attend the full week**. Registration packet available here:

<https://www.nyscdea.com/training-sessions/> Online registration form here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvGzoAQQ9jkNC-LS091twNOeyjRx5yYlzc32sNifmvHcPWw/viewform>

NACD 2024 Annual Meeting: Registration for The National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 78th Annual Meeting is now open! Hosted in partnership with the California Association of Conservation Districts, the 2024 Annual Meeting will take place in San Diego, California, from **February 10th – 14th, 2024**. To learn more and to register, please visit: <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 13, 2024

Attending:

Board Members

John Dickinson, Chairman

Jay Skellie, Director

Sherri Slater, Director

Kate Ziehm, Director

Cassie Fedler, Director

Others:

Tina Williams, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager

Lori Sheehan, Office Manager

Amber Luke, District Technician

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1. Call to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Dickinson.
 2. Minutes: **Motion** by Fedler seconded by Skellie to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
 3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Slater seconded by Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for January and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
 4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: Verbal report by Williams
 - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
 - C. District Manager: Attachment, reviewed by Aldrich
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Kalbfliesh
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
 - F. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
 5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve Round 24 Kingsbury CAFO Improvement grant payments to Albert Marns (\$40,000), Walker Farms (\$34,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve disbursing Part C funds for: NY Association of Conservation Districts Assessment (\$1,500), WQS Silent Auction Donation (\$20), Kingsbury Printing – SWCD Newsletter (\$929.45). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve Part B funds of \$1,096.50 to the Town of Salem for the Rexleigh Bridge Public Fishing Access Improvement Project. **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve AEM Round 17 tier-4 project payment to Mapleland Farms (\$10,000) and closeout 2-year contract #C012399. **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Time Extension Amendment Request for AgNPS Round 26 Contract #C701443 Foote NMP. **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve Time Extension Amendment Request for CRF Round 5 Contract #C012311 Interseeder Green Cover. **Unanimously carried.**

- G. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve County Resolution No. 14 (01/19/2024), which states: *Resolved, that pursuant to New York State law, the per diem rate for members of the governing body of the Soil and Water Conservation District for performing services as directors of the District be set at a per diem rate of \$50.00.* **Unanimously carried.**
- H. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve mileage reimbursement to a director who submits a request for mileage reimbursement and be reimbursed at the county mileage rate at the time of request. **Unanimously carried.**
- I. **Motion** by Skellie/Slater to approve purchase of a Square Reader for credit card purchases (\$105). **Unanimously carried.**
- J. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve obtaining quotes for a payroll service. **Unanimously carried.**

RESOLUTION

Motion by Ziehm, Seconded by Fedler to Approve

Authorizing participation by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District in the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program created pursuant to section 11-b of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law.

WHEREAS, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued a Request for Proposals inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit proposals for funding under Round 30 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for projects that consist of activities that will reduce, abate, control, or prevent nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural sources; and

WHEREAS, the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District has determined that certain work, as described in its application and attachments, (the “Project”) is in the public interest and consists of activities that will reduce and/or prevent nonpoint source pollution from agricultural sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

- 1) That **Corrina Aldrich**, District Manager, or such person’s successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District’s governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under Round 30 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program. The representative is authorized to make application, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Project;
- 2) That the District agrees to fund its portion of the cost of the Project as provided in the application;
- 3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 30 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program;
- 4) That this resolution take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION

Motion by Fedler, Seconded by Ziehm to Approve

Authorizing participation by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District in the Climate Resilient Farming Program created pursuant to section 11-b of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law.

WHEREAS, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued a Request for Proposals inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit proposals for funding under Round 8 of the Climate Resilient Farming Program; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for projects that consist of activities that will reduce, abate, control, or prevent nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural sources; and

WHEREAS, the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District has determined that certain work, as described in its application and attachments, (the “Project”) is in the public interest and consists of activities that will reduce and/or prevent nonpoint source pollution from agricultural sources;

NOW, THERFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

- 1) That **Corrina Aldrich**, District Manager, or such person's successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District's governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under Round 8 of the Climate Resilient Farming Program. The representative is authorized to make application, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Project;
- 2) That the District agrees to fund its portion of the cost of the Project as provided in the application;
- 3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 8 Climate Resilient Farming Program;
- 4) That this resolution take effect immediately.

6. The next Board meeting will be held on March 21, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:34 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Mangers Report 2-12-2024

State Reports and work on Creating an Annual Report

AEM-dialogue with Hunter Sutherland on his Bridge project and permit-timesheets for Round 17 funding handed into Amber.

LAP-Landowner Assistance Program-several site visits with Korey, forestry, ponds, and stream questions - have one scheduled for next week in Lake George for a bridge/culvert problem on a private road that serves 25 residents for Camp Andrew's Way on Lake George-I have called Lake George Park Conservancy and Lake George Association to help combine expertise on problem solving with this. It will require a Park Commission Permit as well as DEC and ARMY Corps. Told them an engineer would need to be involved as well.

MAP Municipal Assistance Program-site visits to Putnam Recreational Park one with Korey and then again with Army Corp Biologist, Town DPW Supervisor and engineer to discuss bank sloughing issue, it has dropped away at least 2 feet. Bank is on the shore of Lake Champlain and basically failing at the bottom very similar to Mattison Road and Farley Roads in Town of Hartford. Vergennes clay soils that are not faring well with the amount of rain we have received this summer. The Pavilion that was built on site is very close to the top of the failing bank (within 15') and they are looking into possibility of tearing down and reconstruction farther away from the edge of the bank to save it. Looking for remediation suggestions and what would be needed for permits.

Part B Rexleigh project was completed, and report submitted to the State along with the Water Quality Monitoring project, invoice for materials submitted by the Town for reimbursement for a portion of the funds.

Grants

AGNPS Round 24 Walkers and Marns-closeout in progress-preliminary payments made.

AGNPS Round 25 Ideal Dairy-closeout in progress.

Round 26-Footes are ready to move ahead, we need updated engineering details from Aaron Weiss to be able to bid project out.

CAFO Round 1 Marns - they have received 2 bids and one refusal and have been working with their lending institution to acquire financing to get started with his project, unfortunately their loan officer died unexpectedly, and they have new loan officer that now needs to understand the project and finances.

CAFO Round 3 Woody Hill-have hired a contractor for excavation (Fane), they now need to find a concrete contractor to work with, suggested they ask Fanes who they liked to work with and also that they had worked with Lancaster Poured Walls on the Chambers project. Time extension request submitted to Rayn and Bethany.

CRF Round 8- planning and discussion stages with farms that have potential for applying.

Miscellaneous-

Newsletter articles

Linc-pass update, Korey has his and will be able to jump right in when he returns.

Fielded calls about Ag assessments and tree sale ordering.

Updating Watershed and Wetlands PowerPoint to be applicable to the Cambridge area for MUD U presentation on Sunday evening Feb 18, 2024

Job Announcement sent out to various venues and got signed into Handshake an online job platform utilized by many colleges and universities, including Paul Smiths and SUNY ESF

SWCC led Ag Assessment Zoom meeting.

Upper Hudson Zoom meeting.

CDEA special Zoom meeting.

CDEA planning for symposium and fertilizer tablets.

DEC zooms regarding public comments on stream permits and proposed updates to wetland classification.

NYS Forest Owners Meeting.

Drought Survey with Lake Champlain Sea Grant.

Upcoming

HOOWRA-annual meeting via zoom.

CWICNY Zoom meeting.

Mud U Watersheds presentation.

State Committee State Program Committee Zoom.

Water Quality Symposium 3-12 to 3-15.

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – February 2024

AEM

- Rollin Hills Farm – I assisted Darren Tyler with some NRCS wetland determination questions he had.

Landowner Assistance: Helped at the counter with soil sampling questions.

Ag Assessments

Ag assessments have been very busy.

I have notified all the town assessors that NRCS will be changing from our current GIS program to a cloud-based Arc-GIS – Pro Program. There will be a learning curve. This will happen March 1st. I cannot guarantee after March 1st that any soil group worksheets will be completed for this year's assessment.

Meetings Attended & Planned

Whitman's Winter Meeting, 2/14 – Greenwich

NY Farm Show, 2/22 – 24, Syracuse

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- February 13, 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- The farm requested a site visit to go over grant logistics and details (1/12/24). Korey and I went out to the farm and went over money, contract dates, and timeline of funding with the farm. We discussed getting finalized engineering designs and bids in the near future. The farm would like to start construction this summer, but they are waiting on a large family decision of building another barn as this may change some of the transfer lines and where they go. In the meantime, they are figuring out logistics of getting their storage pumped out as it is getting full.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Conducted a site visit to show Korey the site and go over the plan with him. We walked the site and checked on the tree plantings that were done in Spring of 2023. There is still some substantial erosion on site and a lot of water being channelized down the current access road. The farm would like to start construction of the grassed waterways in May. We discussed engineering requirements for BMP's as they are still working on securing an engineer for portions of the project.
 - I did get an email from Schoharie County regarding CrannMor the company that John Beavers was consulting with regarding a strange bid packet she received from CrannMor and I told her we had not received anything like that to date.
- Round 7-
 - Met with Hunter Southerland on 2/1/2024 to discuss logistics of the grant with him and answer questions that he had. The plan of work was submitted to Ryan on time. He is reviewing them now. Logistics of the grant were discussed including state cost share, bids, engineering, and time keeping. The farm is excited to get going with the grant as soon as we get a finalized contract in place.
 - Plan of Work for Luncrest's (Alternative Manure Management) project was submitted before the February 1st deadline. Ryan is reviewing.
- Round 8-
 - Met with Jan King to go over which different funding options. Jan and Mike Contessa agree that going after CRF Funds in March and really driving home the alternative manure management of the satellite storage allowing them to better manage the manure with conservation and GHG in mind. Mike Contessa is going to work on pulling some numbers together for me in the meantime.

AEM-

- REPORTING: Closeout is being worked on. I will be submitting an interim report year 1 of the 2-year period so that we can make sure we get half of our money before the state blackout period.
- Tier 4 Closeout- We received the invoices from Mapleland and the as-builts from the engineer. The project came in a little above what we had budgeted but we did have some money left over from the farms that implemented Tier 4 cover crop projects. I asked Ryan if this would be ok to move to Mapleland regardless of BMP's installed and he said yes that would be ok. The only requirement is that the farms had to be already enrolled in the AEM tier 4 cost share program.
- Conducted a site visit with Faith Parker and Sarah Parker. They are interested in learning more about ways that they can get the most out of their land while protecting their natural resources. I have set up a tier 2 visit with them for March 22nd as they are most readily available on Fridays.
- Ongoing: Working on a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- Meeting attended via zoom on February 8, 2023
- This was a short meeting just to touch base on grants, potential legislative tour, and website projects.
- Completed the minutes from the January meeting as a part of my secretary duties.

2024 Tree Sale:

- We are waiting to activate the online site until after we send out the order forms in our newsletter. We are working to get the Newsletter out ASAP. Last year we had a lot of loyal customers not able to order due to the online site getting activated early!
- We were getting a lot of phone calls due to the Tree site saying that it was starting February 1st. I have since gone in and changed the site to say that it is coming soon. I also went into the site and changed the pickup site on the order page (used to say 2530 route 40) to the correct location.
- The card reader that Lyndsy bought was for an apple phone. Unfortunately, none of the current staff has an apple phone. I believe this external card reader will work with the iPad that we bought for the Drone but I think last year we had issues connecting to the internet at the fairgrounds.
 - We can purchase an Android card reader for \$10.00 but the android one uses a headset jack and on the newer phones they may not have a headset jack)
 - OR we can purchase a Square Reader that works with chip cards and tap (contactless) forms of payment for \$59.00. This would be able to connect to any device via Bluetooth and using any phone internet data or Wi-Fi to process payments. You can get a docking station for an extra \$39.00. This just keeps it in place and makes it a larger stand-alone item that holds the card reader.
 - Or there are square terminals that can be purchased for \$300.00 with a hub (extra \$49.00) to access the internet.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended a SWCD Agriculture Assessment Review webinar on 2/6/23.
- The next SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to be held on 2/20/2023.

Miscellaneous:

- State Aid Reporting - Annual Report Review and Part B Report Review and edits
- Two newsletter articles were submitted to Lori for the Newsletter, (AEM Tier 4 Cost Share & Envirothon)
- Envirothon Outreach – Sent basic emails letting schools know the date for the 2024 regional Envirothon Event. (Greenwich, Cambridge, Whitehall, Hudson Falls and Granville).
- Working on my Mud U presentation. I shared the event on out Facebook and I sent an email to Kate about the event to post to Ag Clips.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – February 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

2023 State Aid to Districts – DUE 2/15: All 2023 annual reporting documents (State Aid, Treasurers Report, Annual Report, etc.) are now available on the SWCC SharePoint <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>, under Resources for Districts – State Aid to Districts. All reports are due to the State Committee by **February 15, 2024**. Please contact ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA with any questions.

Payments and Blackout Period: We are approaching the Blackout Period for Fiscal Year 2023-2024. To have payments processed in a timely manner this winter/early spring, please email Claims for Payment (CFPs), the State Committee Coversheet, and any other required program reports by **Friday, February 23rd, 2024**, to the appropriate State Committee program manager and Maureen Irish (Maureen.irish@agriculture.ny.gov). Once the claim is approved by the program manager, they'll send an email with instructions for submittal to the Business Service Center. Please remember to only submit claims for payment for contracts that have been fully executed. Additionally, please note that this does not apply to State Aid to Districts/Performance Measure payments as those are processed separately. If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Irish or your Regional AEA.

AEM Base Program - Options for AEM Base Round 17 Payments: A reminder that the Final Report/Close Out package for Round 17 of the AEM Base Program is due to the State Committee by **February 29th, 2024**, (please upload files to your District's AEM17 folder on SharePoint and email your Regional AEA and Greg Albrecht once uploaded). AEM17 close out packages and their CFPs won't likely be paid until after the Blackout Period if sent after February 23rd (depending on the number of Districts submitting and needs for report updates). While it varies, that could mean delays in payments until July 2024.

Any District that would prefer a portion of their reimbursements made this winter/early spring could submit an AEM17 interim report and CFP to reimburse for technical assistance hours and testing services and/or a CFP for a 90% project payment (unless they've already been sent to us for all Tier 4 projects) for work performed during the AEM17 contract period (January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023). Both are simpler reporting efforts/packages than the entire close out and can be reviewed, updated if needed, and approved for payment if sent by February 23rd.

Districts choosing this approach would then submit their AEM17 final report / close out package by February 29th with a final CFP that reflects all the prior amounts requested (including any interim report or project payment CFPs described, above). Please contact greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA with any questions.

State Programs Advisory Committee Meeting: Please save the morning of **February 20th, 2024**, for the next meeting of the State Programs Advisory Committee (SPAC). This meeting will take place via Webex from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. Questions can be directed to Bethany Bzduch (Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov) or your Regional AEA.

February SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on February 27th**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. **Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

District Operations Sub-Committee: The SWCC will be re-establishing the District Operations Sub-Committee to engage with SWCD partners on all matters relating to District Operations. We are tentatively planning to hold a meeting in April 2024 to start working on updating the District Operations Manual. As we prepare for an April meeting, we first need to develop a list of SWCD representatives. Ideally, we are hoping to find at least two SWCD representatives per CDEA Division that are willing to participate on this committee, so all regions of the State can be represented. Any interested candidate can reach out to Victor DiGiacomo (victor.digiacomio@agriculture.ny.gov) and Ben Luskin (ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov) by **March 1, 2024**.

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2024: NYSAGM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York's award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Formal announcements and application materials will be emailed to Districts the first week of February 2024. The deadline for applications is **May 15th, 2024**.

Tools and References Wiki Update: The Tools and References Wiki has just been updated for 2024. This is a useful resource for new employees to learn about resources used in New York State conservation planning and design and related fields. Check it out! <https://www.nyscdea.com/useful-resources/>

Statewide E-mail Distribution: The SWCC maintains separate e-mail distribution lists that are used to distribute information and notices to SWCCs, NYS SWCC Voting and Advisory Members, and other SWCC partners. If you would like an e-mail to be distributed, please send your request to Melissa Gordon (melissa.gordon@agriculture.ny.gov). In your request, please be sure to specify who the intended audience should be, and we will get it sent out to the correct distribution list.

New York State Grants Management Transition: New York State (NYS) has transitioned grants management activities that were previously performed in the Grants Gateway to the Statewide Financial System (SFS). SFS is NYS government's accounting and financial management system used to manage contracts and payments. Beginning January 2024, Grants Gateway will cease operations and entities with grant agreements must use the SFS Vendor Portal to perform business functions for grant programs. Grantees doing business with NYS will access SFS through the SFS Vendor Portal, <https://www.sfs.ny.gov/>. Training materials, including videos and step-by-step instructions for various topics on grants management-related tasks in SFS, are available within the SFS Vendor Portal. For questions or assistance using SFS, contact the SFS Help Desk at helpdesk@sfs.ny.gov.

2024 NCDEA Don Aron Scholarship Announcement: If you're thinking about expanding your knowledge and professional growth with college/university classes, here's a great opportunity for you. The NCDEA Don Aron Scholarship Award application is open to any conservation district employee or their immediate family member, along with a few other eligibility requirements. Applicants may request up to \$1,000 in assistance. Applications must submit all required documents to be eligible for review along with active/accessible contact information. Deadline to apply is **March 15th, 2024**. <https://www.ncdea.us/dascholarship>

Other Events

Webinar: Effectiveness of Nutrient Management for Reducing Nutrient Losses from Agricultural Fields: The US EPA Water Research Webinar Series will host a webinar to discuss two investigations focused on nitrogen (N) and phosphorus (P) and emphasizes the need for government agencies to work together to address potential economic losses due to implementation of lower fertilizer rates for water quality improvement. **February 28th, 2024 02:00 PM**
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_u_pA8zrgTPihqh7T-FWWpw#/registration

Other Funding

SOGL 2024 Funding Opportunity: The Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) program is soliciting proposals to benefit fish, wildlife, habitat, and water quality in the Great Lakes basin. The program will award up to \$10.6 million in grants in 2024 to improve and enhance: 1) stream, riparian and coastal habitats to benefit species; 2) water quality in the Great Lakes and its tributaries. Details about this funding opportunity are provided in the Request for Proposals. The submission deadline for **pre-proposals** is **February 14th, 2024**. <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/sustain-our-great-lakes-program/sustain-our-great-lakes-request-proposals-2024>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting -April 30, 2024

Attending:

Board Members

John Dickinson, Chairman
Kate Ziehm, Director
Sherri Slater, Director
Jay Skellie, Director

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician
Amber Luke, District Technician
Ashley Leemans, District Technician

Others:

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

1. Call to order at 10:03 a.m. by Chairman Dickinson.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for March and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
 - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
 - C. District Manager: Attachment, reviewed by Aldrich
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
 - F. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Leemans
 - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, reviewed by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve donating leftover hydroseeder seed/mulch stock to Trout Unlimited and approve the purchase of new supply of seed/mulch. **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve the following for AEM Round 17:
 - Tier 4 final project payment to Mapleland Farms (\$1,076.40)
 - Reimburse Washington County SWCD for Technical Assistance & Testing Services per final closeout documents (\$124,588)
 - Close dedicated checking account. **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve fish customer refunds and pay Mid-Atlantic Stocking invoice. **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve disbursing Part C Funds for conservation materials for the People's Garden in Salem. **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve purchasing cover crop seed mix for CRF Round 5 Interseeder Green Cover Grant. **Unanimously carried.**

- F. After board discussion about the small landowner/farmer securing funds for their grant portion of landowner match, a **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie for the staff to create an Assignment of Payment Policy & Form to be approved by the Washington County Attorney. **Unanimously carried.**
- G. Director Sherri Slater received District Law training after the meeting by Ryan Cunningham.

RESOLUTION
of the
Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
Motion by Slater Seconded by Ziehm. Unanimously carried.

Authorizing participation by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District in the AEM Base Program.

WHEREAS, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued an application inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit Tier 4 Cost Share Projects for funding under Round 18 of the AEM Base Program; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for projects that consist of activities that will reduce, abate, control, or prevent nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural sources; and

WHEREAS, the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District has determined that certain work, is in the public interest and consists of activities that will reduce and/or prevent nonpoint source pollution from agricultural sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

1) That **Corrina Aldrich, District Manager**, or such person's successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District's governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under the AEM Base Program. The representative is authorized to make application, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Project;

2) That the District agrees to support the following farm(s) participating in the AEM Tier 4 Cost Share Track:

- Grazin Acres Farm / Nathan Mattison
 - BMP – Forestry/Agroforestry System

3) That this resolution take effect immediately.

6. The next Board meeting will be held on May 23, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Manger's Report 4-30-2024

State Budget has passed-with a \$1.25 million increase to direct District funding which means total potential reimbursement to Districts meeting all the performance measure requirements could total \$290,000

AEM-

Nate Mattison has a completed forest management plan and Amber and I met with him and the forester to talk through what we could do through AEM implementation dollars-will let Amber talk through those details

Tier 1 with Luke Olsen from a LAP site visit for water management has a few beef and horses

Site visit scheduled with Josh Rogers who has bought the former Thompson Christmas Tree Farm in Salem, wants to be involved with AEM and seek the New York Grown and Certified designation.

Darren Tyler NOV with DEC-reviewed Bob's Emergency Action Plan for the farm and wanted the Board to weigh in before submitting to DEC. Concerned with DEC messaging to the farm and their inclusion of the District as the agency tasked with creating the mitigation plan for site remediation.

LAP-Landowner Assistance Program-more site visits scheduled for ponds and water management, have been taking Ashley out to some with me. Site visits for areas that may need permits scheduled with DEC on May 8th.

MAP Municipal Assistance Program-request for hydroseeding from Mark St. Jacques with Town of Argyle, Hydroseeding request from Town of Salem as well

Part B- will be meeting with John Braico and Carl Schwartz in the near future to discuss survey needs and remediation ideas for the site-will also be discussing at Salem Town Board Meeting on May 15th

Part C – need to order hydroseeding seed mix-would like to donate remaining 5 bags leftover from 2021 order to Trout Unlimited-Total cost for ½ ton in bags from Lawes Ag will be \$2600 delivered

Grants

AGNPS Round 24 Walkers and Marns-closeout in progress-preliminary payments made will be doing another review with Ryan Cunningham on some of the details

AGNPS Round 25 Ideal Dairy-closeout in progress

Round 26-Footes are ready to move ahead, we need updated engineering details from Aaron Weiss to be able to bid project out-Aaron met with them when he was here for Marn's Pre-Construction meeting-need to file for a time extension.

CAFO RND 1 Marns notified that the contractor has moved on site as of April 29th.

CAFO Rnd 3 Woody Hill-Waiting to hear when they will be moving ahead with construction-keeping in touch with Mark.

CRF Rnd 5 -Time Extension for soil health practices will need to be submitted, talking with Janet Britt from ASA to partner on the educational outreach component.

CRF Rnd 6-John Beavers was in to update paperwork and sign contract, working on permit with DEC and Army Corp for Hunter Southerland Bridge project-confirmation of Ag exempt practice.

CRF Rnd 8- RFP is out and we have plans to submit at least one application-for Kings Ransom farm Alternative Manure management at their property on Bald Mountain.

Miscellaneous-Met with Amy Maxwell from Salem High School to discuss the Wildlife Habitat/Peoples Garden and working in partnership to keep it viable and continue moving ahead with it-putting Ashley in charge of ordering more plants and some infrastructure improvements-Community workday is scheduled with High School Students for May 22nd we can have 15 students to work on a few different items. Will be attending Salem Town Board Meeting on May 15th to talk about ideas and thoughts for continuing improvement and outreach and education ideas for the site.

HWA partnership zoom meeting held on 4-22-24, next in person meeting scheduled for May 13th at the LGA

Have forwarded some requests for summer internship opportunities to other neighboring districts

Ag assessment and no-till drill questions. All equipment removed from the fairgrounds

Talked through some WQCC and continuing with Water Quality testing from former Part B project with Ashley and directed her to look at AEM strategic plan to look at how we can start being more proactive at tying things together-**A reminder we will need to update our AEM 5-year strategic plan next year**

SWCC has released their updated Strategic Plan.

Upcoming

Regional Envirothon at Spa State Park-May 1st volunteers needed-Directors

Fish Sale – May 2nd

Community workday Salem May 22nd

New York State Envirothon will be held May 22nd and 23rd at SUNY Cortland, Cortland NY

North American Manure Expo is July 17-18th in Auburn NY this is a National Event-I can probably get it approved as a performance measure item-needs to be approved ahead of time-please let me know.

National Envirothon Competition is in Geneva NY July 28th to Aug 3rd plenty of Volunteers will be needed-this would also qualify for performance measures.

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – April 2024

AEM

- I have completed the Emergency Action Plan for Rollin Hills Farm (Darren Tyler). It will now be submitted to NYS-DEC.

Grown & Certified:

- I have completed AEM Tier I & II farm visits with Tim Post (vineyard), Mike Naccaratos (Christmas trees), and Mike Grottoli (maple).
- I have a farm visit scheduled with Olivia Fuller (beef).
- Scheduling visits with Ben Giese (beef) and Dave Campbell (maple).

Tier IV Implementation:

- Continuing to work with Dan Wilson of Hicks Orchard on the planning and implementation of his apple waste system. I have been in touch with Dan and his engineer Jeff Wilson. Jeff is planning a visit either 5/2 or 5/3 to update information before continuing with a design.

No-till Drill

- The drill is out of storage and ready for the fields. Scheduled farms to use drill are Jim Linday and Ben Giese.

Tree & Shrub

- I helped pack trees and packaged fertilizer tablets 4/17 & 4/18.

Ag Assessments

- I am still getting some phone calls about eligibility and various questions. Requests are going in the ag assessment notebook for November 2024.

Interseeder

- CaroVail is working on a seed quote for the interseedings planned.

Meetings Attended & Planned

- Envirothon, Saratoga – 5/1

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- April 30, 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Sent out an email checking in to see when the farm plans on starting construction.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 1
 - Deep Roots- Stopped in with Corrina on 4/11/24. Some equipment has been moved in, but they have not started construction yet. Albert said he would let us know when the contractor starts.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- Kevin Maher from CrannMor Advisors stopped by the office on 4/24/24 to talk to me regarding engineering. This was initiated because CrannMor is working on a similar project in Schoharie County. He let me know he was having issues getting that project up and going due to the engineering requirements and asked me for clarification on the engineering practices.
 - Corrina and I met with Ken Martin (engineer) to go over what we needed for the design for this project (Access Road & pond)
 - Ghost Light Farm- I had multiple discussions with the farm regarding the ability to cash flow their grant. The farm has reached out to Farm Credit and the Farm Service Agency regarding getting a loan to help them cash flow the grant. The farm notified me that there were issues getting enough collateral to justify their loan, so I reached out to the local FSA office and got some more information. FSA said that they were already highly leveraged, having made a loan to them in the past and that is why it most likely was not going to get funded. The farm asked if there would be a possibility for us to do assignments of payment for this grant.
 - I also conducted a site visit with Ashley to the farm on 4/24/24. Present at this meeting was the contractor they chose based on the bids they received, a representative from the engineering firm, the farm and SWCD. We went over the final stamped design page by page and I discussed the design with the contractor. Approximate start date of May 28th depending on the cash flow issue.
 - We have received Workman's Comp insurance exemption, and I reminded them about the proof of liability insurance.
- Round 7-
 - No new updates on finalized contracts. Been in contact with Hunter Southerland on permitting for his water management project.
 - No new updates on finalized contract for Luncrest (Alternative Manure Management) project.
- Round 8-
 - Round 8 was announced on April 24th. This includes \$28.75 million is available through Round 8. CRF funds will be broken out in the following tracks due to the inclusion of Federal funds.
 - Track 1A: Livestock Management: Alternative Waste Management & Precision Feed --Management (NYS funds)
 - Track 1B: Manure Storage Cover and Methane Capture Projects (federal funds)
 - Track 2: Adaptation & Resiliency (NYS funds)
 - Track 3A: Healthy Soils NY (Systems and Best Management Practices that support soil health and agroforestry (NYS funds)
 - Track 3B: Soil Health Systems (federal funds)
 - Track 4: Agricultural Forestry Management (for carbon sequestration) (NYS funds)

AEM-

- **REPORTING:** It is a new AEM Year! I have pre-saved time logs for each staff member in the AEM folder and will be sending out quarterly reminders to make sure we keep our hours relatively up to date so we can make sure we are hitting our goals.
- **Tier 4 Cost Share Implementation Projects-** we have 2 projects lined up. I have been working on getting all the necessary paperwork submitted by the May 1st deadline.
- Working on doing some AEM outreach to people who have shown potential interest in the program.
- Site visit with Nate Mattison and the Forester that wrote his forest plan to go over the plan and discuss options for future improvements (4/23/24).
- Tier 2 visit to Faith Parkers got cancelled and we are working on rescheduling that.
- Ongoing: working on a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- Next meeting June 13, 2024, at the Warren County SWCD office
- Working on completing the minutes from the April meeting.

2024 Tree Sale:

- Tree Sale went great. We had around 6 people who forget to pick up their trees on the day of the sale, but all have been picked up since. I did try to promote the species of trees that were not selling so good on Facebook weekly, and I do think that helped with some of the species.
- We had majority of our orders came from the online site. The online site generated a total of \$6,704.75 with \$217.53 of that going to credit card fees.
- We did take 8-day of sale using the new card reader totaling \$281.00 and that worked great! We had no issues. This does not include check and cash sales!

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended the Ag Stewardship Association Sponsorship gathering with Corrina on 4/4/24. I also took Kate Girard over to ASA (4/17/24) to help facilitate introductions between NRCS and ASA seeing how their contact was Scott.
- NYS SWCC State Program Advisory Committee Meeting is on Monday April 29, 2024 at 10 am. There is a virtual option.
- Envirothon is Wednesday May 1, 2024

Miscellaneous:

- Went over the grant process and tools that we use when writing grants with Ashley.
- Posted the Fish Sale to the Facebook page. Will make another post reminding people to pick up the fish.

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – April 30, 2024

AEM

- Received an introduction to the AEM database.
- Read through older AEM Round manuals.
- I will be assisting with entries into the database and attending site visits.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC)

- Attended the UHRWC meeting on April 11, 2024.

2024 Tree and Shrub Sale

- Assisted with sorting and packing tree orders.
- Attended and assisted in both days of the tree and shrub sale.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- On my second day, I attended the Watershed Forestry Partnership Meeting in Burlington, VT, with Corrina. There was a big emphasis on riparian buffer planting techniques/success/innovations and the market for small nurseries.
- I took the North Atlantic Aquatic Crossing Collaborative (NAACC) online training and attended the two-day in-person training on April 22 and 23, 2024 (put on by DEC).
- I am currently studying to get a drone pilot license. I will be scheduling my test before the end of May.
- I took mandatory USDA online cyber security trainings and AgLearn trainings, went to Colchester VT to get my fingerprints done for my LincPass, and filled out my background check. I am waiting for the final approval and notice to pick up my LincPass.
- I will be attending the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) Annual Conference on May 3 and 4, 2024.
- In July, I will be attending a week-long wetland identification and delineation course through the University at Albany.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- I have read through the 2021 Strategic Plan Draft and old meeting notes to piece together where the committee last left off. I will be revitalizing the WQCC.
- I have created a master list of contacts for the WQCC of people and organizations who may have interest in participating.
- I have drafted a letter to send to all contacts who have either already been involved with WQCC or who I believe would have an interest.
- I am currently working on an action plan to get the ball rolling on restarting the WQCC and to increase activity.
- I am currently waiting for my official email to begin communications.
- I will be getting involved in the DEC program Water Assessment by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE) as a component of the WQCC to address impaired streams.
- I will be attending trainings for Stream Wise, as we hope to implement the program next year, which can tie back into the WQCC goals.

Salem People's Garden

- I went with Corrina to meet with Amy Maxwell, the Ag Program teacher at Salem School. We met with her at the Salem People's Garden to discuss getting students involved in some volunteer work in the garden. On May 22, 2024, Salem high school students will come help with planting, set up fencing, and remove invasive species as a part of their community service day.
- I have ordered 150 plants and a couple 1 oz bags of seed for planting and materials for a split rail fence.

Miscellaneous

- I have been looking into the possibility of starting a listserv for the District and other possible website hosts.
- Amber gave me an overview of how the grant process works, showed me current grants she is working on, and resources she uses to complete grants.
- I went with Bob to visit a couple farms to get paperwork signed and saw some of the previously implemented projects.
- I have been looking for more outreach opportunities for the District to take part in.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – April 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

New Water Quality Programs Manager: We are pleased to announce that Jason Kokkinos will serve as our new Associate Environmental Analyst (AEA) for SWCC Water Quality Programs (AgNPS/CAFO/SWBP)! Many of you remember Jason as our Division's Program Analyst, where he assisted in the administration of the AgNPS, AEM and other programs. Since leaving the Department in 2022, Jason has been serving as an Environmental Analyst for the Lake George Park Commission. We are super excited to have Jason back on our team! Jason can be reached at (518) 457-7374 and at: Jason.Kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov

April SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on **Tuesday, April 16th starting at 10:30 AM**. This meeting will be held in person at the State Office Building in Utica, NY; lunch will be provided. Unfortunately, due to limited capacity, we are unable to offer a virtual call-in/teleconference option. The meeting agenda, DRAFT March meeting minutes, and DRAFT NYS SWCC Strategic Plan are available on the Department's website: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/about-soil-water-conservation-committee> To ensure we have an accurate count of attendees, please respond to (Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov) no later than **April 8th, 2024**.

AEM18 Tier 4 Cost-Share (CS) Track Project Packages are due May 1st: Please upload your Tier 4 CS Track Project packages to your AEM18 SharePoint folder and email you Regional Coordinator and Greg Albrecht (greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov) to let us know they're complete and ready for our review. Forms, including Tier 4 project related ones, have been updated for AEM18, so please use those posted to the [AEM R18 Management and Close Out Materials](#) folder within the AEM18 folder on SharePoint. The instructions (checklist) for putting together AEM18 Tier 4 project packages based on your AEM Tier 3 plans (or equivalent from other programs or regulations) are found in Section IV of the AEM18 Program and Contract Policy on pages 8 and 9. Contact your Regional Coordinator or Greg Albrecht if you have any questions along the way.

NYS SWCC On-Demand Conservation Approval Authority: Several training videos are available for District Technicians looking to learn new skills or take a refresher course. Some of these videos lead to a Conservation Approval Authority Certificate and some are background/prerequisite material. These videos are currently housed on Youtube and Udemy. We are actively working to transition all videos to the Youtube platform. The following courses are available on Youtube ([Soil and Water Conservation Committee Training - YouTube](#)): Basic Hydrology (ArcMap & QGIS editions), Culverts in HY8, Fence Design, Spreadsheet Stream Hydraulics, Conservation Tools and References Wiki (Short). The following courses are available on Udemy ([Tim Clark | Conservation Planning, Design & Implementation across NY! | Udemy](#)): Stream Crossing Design and Roof Runoff Structure Design. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tim Clark, tim.clark@agriculture.ny.gov.

Interim Reporting: Interim reports for AGNPS Contracts (Round 21-Round 23), CAFO WSTSP (Round 1 and Round 2), CRF (Round 1 – Round 4) **MUST** be submitted by **May 1st**. Please submit these reports to the appropriate Program Manager and cc your AEA and Maureen Irish (Maureen.Irish@agriculture.ny.gov).

New NYS Grants Management System: As a reminder, on January 16, New York State transitioned grants management activities from the Grants Gateway to SFS. SFS is New York State (NYS) government's accounting and financial management system used to manage contracts and payments. SWCD roles established in the Grants Gateway have transferred to SFS with varying success. Districts are encouraged to check out the SFS Vendor Portal to be sure that access is available. If it is not, there are a variety of ways you can obtain SFS support, including virtual support calls, on-demand training materials, and the SFS Help Desk. Links to the SFS Vendor Portal and training material can be accessed through the Grants Management website <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/>

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2024: NYSAGM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York's award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The application can be found at, <https://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/our-work/leopold-conservation-award/application-info>. The deadline for applications is **May 15th, 2024**.

2024 NYS Envirothon Call for Volunteers: The NYS Envirothon Committee is pleased to host the 2024 NYS Envirothon at State University of New York in Cortland, NY, on May 22nd and 23rd and is putting out a call for all volunteers. Please let the Committee know if you are willing to volunteer by completing the online volunteer registration at, <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMFLrYPXZkYXm7qMQABYrUCCb7jYjR5nzi7Mx9Mu-6MKSzqg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

Other Events

2024 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: The New York State Wetlands Forum 2024 Annual Conference and Business Meeting will take place on **April 16th and 17th, in Saratoga Springs, NY.** To register, please visit: <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/registration.html>

CREP In-Field Eligibility Training: Meet up with USDA and local partners on the ground to determine site eligibility for Riparian Forest Buffers. Trainings will be held in Otsego County on **May 2nd**, Tioga County on **May 9th & 20th**, Jefferson County on **May 29th**, and Monroe County on **May 30th**. Check out the google form link for more information, and please fill out the form by **April 22nd**. Here is the google form to sign up: <https://forms.gle/7k5xcgTCedQncA849>

Silvopasture Field Course: Essex County SWCD is hosting a Silvopasture Field Day on **May 4th**, from **8:30 AM to 3PM**. Subject experts will walk through the principles of site selection and planning before heading into the field where participants will meet with local farmers and foresters implementing silvopasture practices. Limited space – advanced registration required. To register, please contact Renee Clark at the Essex SWCD (518) 962-8225 or rclark@essexcountyswcd.org. Cost is \$20/person (lunch and refreshments provided).

GLAA Sub-Basin Work Group Spring Meetings: Meetings will be held throughout the basin this spring as follows. To request more information, or to request to be added to a regional sub basin work group, please email greatlakes@dec.ny.gov

- [*Southeast \(SE\) Lake Ontario*](#): **4/23, 1-4PM** at the Cayuga County SWCD, Office, 7413 County House Road Auburn, NY
- [*Northeast Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River*](#): **4/24, 1-4PM** at the Gouverneur Community Center, 4673 NY-58, Gouverneur, NY 13642
- [*Southwest \(SW\) Lake Ontario*](#): **5/8, 1-4PM** Room 213 in the Chili Community Center, 3237 Chili Avenue, Rochester, NY 14624
- [*Lake Erie*](#): **5/9, 9AM – 12PM** in Room 108, Appletree Business Park, 2875 Union Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

Other Funding

Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program: The Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) Request for Proposals was recently announced, for projects that reduce nutrients and sediments entering the Great Lakes. This year's program will focus on helping nonfederal units of government, tribes, or incorporated nonprofit organizations reduce phosphorus contributions to waters within the Great Lakes basin. Applicants are invited to submit proposals for sediment and nutrient reduction activities associated with one of two project types: 1) agricultural non-point; and 2) shoreline or streambanks. The due date for applications is **April 29th, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. EST.** <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2024>

NYSP2I 2024 - 2025 Community Grants Program: The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) is accepting applications for the 2024 - 2025 cycle of the Community Grants Program. This program seeks projects that raise awareness and understanding of pollution prevention, and that lead to implementation of best practices at the local level. Eligible applicants are able to receive up to \$20,000 to support their project. Applications are due **May 3rd, 2024 by 5:00PM.** https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i/community-outreach?mc_cid=b0b20eba3c&mc_eid=3c766b5276#community-grants

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – June 18, 2024

Attending:

Board Members

John Dickinson, Chairman
Jay Skellie, Director
Sherri Slater, Director
Kate Ziehm, Director

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician
Amber Luke, District Technician
Ashley Leemans, District Technician
Korey Evarts, District Intern

Others:

Tina Williams, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

-
1. Call to order at 10.06 a.m. by Chairman Dickinson.
 2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/Slater to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
 3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Skellie/Slater to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for April & May 2024 and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
 4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: Verbal Report by Williams; busy with crop reporting
 - B. District Manager: Attachment, reviewed by Aldrich
 - C. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Leemans
 - F. District Intern: Attachment, reviewed by Evarts
 - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
 5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve the following for CRF Round 5 Interseeder Green Cover grant:
 - Execute tractor rental agreement (\$6,000) & insurance requirements with Capital Tractor to lease a tractor for use with the interseeder.
 - CaroVail invoice (\$5,211.60) for cover crop seed mix. **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziem to approve appointment of Ashley Leemans as representative of the Water Quality Coordinating Committee (Sherri Slater as alternate). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve on-line Dairy One account for processing of soil samples. **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve placing pre-orders (with deposit) for tree seedlings for the 2025 tree program. **Unanimously carried.**

- E. **Motion** by Skellie/Slater to approve the following for Round 24 Contract C701391 Kingsbury CAFO Improvement Grant: **Unanimously carried.**
- Return Funds to NYS Ag & Markets (\$11,256.28)
 - Albert or Donna Marns final BMP Payment (\$8,455)
 - Walker Farms final BMP Payment (\$5,955)
 - Walker Farms final Engineering Payment (\$2,950)
 - Washington Co. SWCD Administration Fee Earned (\$29,625)
 - Close dedicated grant checking account
- F. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve the Assignment of Payment Policy & Form as reviewed by County Attorney, Daniel Martindale. **Unanimously carried.**
- G. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve the use of the Assignment of Payment option for the state cost share portion of BMP systems implemented for Bill Morrow's, CRF Round 6 grant Contract #C012431. **Unanimously carried.**
- H. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve CWICNY Memorandum of Agreement. **Unanimously carried.**
- I. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve the following Part C fund expenses: **Unanimously carried.**
- Hydroseeder seed/mulch (\$2,350)
 - Drone pilot test – Leemans (\$175)
 - People's Garden – Salem (\$277.38)
 - Reimburse District (\$15,000) for staff hours earned
- J. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve payment of Credit Card Invoices prior to Board approval. **Unanimously carried.**
- K. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve purchasing with Part C funds (\$5,810) the 20 ft. storage container we have on-site from A-Verdi, LLC. **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on July 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Manger's Report – Corrina Aldrich 6-18-2024

AEM- Couple of Tier 2 site visits working on the reports to send to farms-one grown and certified form

Darren Tyler NOV with DEC-Bob sent report into DEC waiting to hear back

LAP-Landowner Assistance Program-more site visits scheduled for ponds and water management have been taking Ashley out to some with me. Site visits for areas that may need permits scheduled with DEC on May 8th. Met with DEC folks and went to review 3 sites-2 would likely require individual permits and DEC will work directly with the landowners. The third will probably be APA jurisdiction. Also met with Army Corp for a couple of site visits in Cambridge and Easton for concerns with remediation work on the Little White Creek in Ash Grove and on the Hudson in Easton. Requests for land use-information for grievance process-plant identification -DEC household hazardous waste collection questions

MAP Municipal Assistance Program- reviewed sites to hydroseed with Travis Keyes, Ashley and Korey. Hydro seed came in-Will check in on Argyle hydroseeding after other priority work gets taken care of. Worked on the Wildlife Habitat in Salem with Ashley and Salem Students-had a great day and got a lot done-more from Ashley on this-site visit with Capital Region PRISM at the Georgi-working with Greg Brown for culvert funds -culvert failure on Hastings Road

Part B- site survey done by John Braico and T/U volunteers and report submitted need to catch up with John and Carl Schwartz to review on site and to get a tally on volunteer hours as well.

Part C –

Grants

AGNPS Round 24 Walkers and Marns- paperwork submitted and approved by Jason K-final payment vouchers

Luncrest-Round 25, follow up conversation needed since completion of new barn

AGNPS Round 25 Ideal Dairy-closeout in progress

Round 26-Footes are ready to move ahead we need updated engineering details from Aaron Weiss to be able to bid project out-Aaron met with them when he was here for Marns Pre-Construction meeting-need to file for a time extension

CAFO RND 1 Marns walls poured for pump house-more excavation equipment being moved in

CAFO Rnd 3 Woody Hill-plans to move forward Fane's bid has been accepted-timing of construction is being discussed with liner company

CRF Rnd 5 Time Extension for soil health practices is being submitted talking with Janet Britt from ASA to partner on the educational outreach component-extend to Oct 2026 to fit in 2 field seasons of seeding and a final field day in Sept of 2026

CRF Rnd 6-Amber will update

CRF Rnd 8- RFP is out and Amber will update on why application is not being submitted.

Miscellaneous-

Managers Meeting

Need new WQCC rep for CWICNY-Ashley

Soil Health/Soil Biology field day at Otter Creek Farm

Agroforestry workshop in Danby Vt

-A reminder we will need to update our AEM 5-year strategic plan next year and it will be due Nov 1st

Upcoming:

North American Manure Expo is July 17-18th in Auburn NY this is a National Event-I can probably get it approved as a performance measure item-needs to be approved ahead of time-please let me know.

National Envirothon Competition is in Geneva NY July 28th to Aug 3rd plenty of Volunteers will be needed-this would also qualify for performance measures.

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – June 18, 2024

AEM

- Rollin Hills – I have submitted the letter to NYS-DEC with the recommendation to remediate the residual manure from the spill that occurred in August 2023. That email was sent on 05/30/2024. I recently spoke with Darren Tyler, and he has not had a response from NYS-DEC yet.
- I have completed Tiers I and II and Grown & Certified Verification for Olivia Fuller, Fort Ann (beef) and Ben & Melissa Giese, Greenwich (beef).
- Tier IV Implementation – I helped Jeff Wilson survey the Hick's Orchard project site in early May. Waiting on a design from him.

No-till Drill

- The drill is active. Recent rentals were Hugh Fedler, Mack Brook Farm (Kevin Jablonski), Mad Mat Farm (Rich Gould) and is scheduled for Goose Island Farm (Chris McKernon).

Ag Assessments

- I have received a few calls and questions about the program.

Interseeder

- I placed an order for the cover crop seeding for the interseeder. CaroVail has delivered the seed.
- I have spoken with George Houser about hosting a meeting to discuss the interseeder.

Meetings Planned

- Annual Crops & Soils Field Day, Alburgh, VT – 7/25

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- May & June 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Contacted the farm to get a timeline. The farm met with the engineer on 5/10/24. The plan is to still start construction later this summer. I reminded the farm that they will need to work on getting bids in for the project.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 1
 - Deep Roots- Site visit with Bob on 5/6/24. Construction is actively ongoing.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- No new updates. I have spoken with Ryan Cunningham regarding who can sign off on BMP's and which practices require an engineer and which don't just to make sure that we are all on the same page when it comes time to close out the grant. I will be reaching out the farm to get an update.
 - Ghost Light Farm- I have been in contact with the farm. Since the last meeting the farm's engineer passed away suddenly. I explained this to Ryan Cunningham, and we went over all the options for the farm. They have recently contacted me and told me that they were able to find an engineer that was willing to work with the previous engineering design and do as-builts. This engineer was recommended by an engineer on the state engineering list that was provided to the farm. I told them I would have more information regarding the Assignment of Payment (AOP) Policy as soon as we figure out the details. Created an AOP policy with consultation with other districts.
- Round 7-
 - No new updates on finalized contracts. Been in contact with Hunter Southerland on permitting for his water management project.
 - No new updates on finalized contract for Luncrest (Alternative Manure Management) project.
- Round 8-
 - Round 8 RFP has changed quite a bit from previous rounds to reflect more of NYS Climate Goals. I submitted a formal question during the Q&A period to gain further clarification on how an uncovered manure storage would rank in Track 1A: Livestock Management-Alternative Waste Management & Precision Feed Management. The answer to the question while not being a flat out no, did lend some insight into the application not ranking very high. So, with this information and talking with the CAFO planner we have decided to not apply for CRF funds for this particular application. We will apply under round 30 of AgNPS due to be released in the fall.

AEM-

- **REPORTING:** We are nearing the end of the 2nd quarter. I will be sending out emails to remind staff to update their time logs. This is important information when we are putting out budget together.
- I have pulled the AEM 5-year Strategic Plan and started to review it making notes here and there. Our Strategic Plan is up for renewal due at the end of this year covering the next 5 years (2026-2030). Any input from the board is greatly appreciated.
- I have been busy updating the Access Database with Tier 1's. We have gotten 9 new tier 1's so far and our goal set forth in our action plan was to get 20 tier 1's (2024-2025). We are right on track with those.
- Tier 2 visit with Faith Parker on 5/23/24. Tier 2 Summary was completed and provided to the farm via email on 6/3. Not sure that there is too much we will be able to help them with, but I did give them the information on DEC's Trees for Tribes program and talked to them about creating some pollinator habitat. They are interested in bringing more Ag back to the farm via nut trees.
- Tier 2 Visit to Onward Orchards (bought trees from tree sale). Tier 2 Summary was completed and provided to the farm on 6/4. They are just starting out in developing their orchard and business. They bought the property about 4 years ago and have been working on developing an orchard. We discussed soil testing, plans for processing and sales.
- Ongoing: Working on a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- Next meeting August 8, 2024 @ Fulton County SWCD @ 11:00. This will be a working picnic luncheon.
- April minutes were completed and submitted as a part of my secretary duties.
- We are sending out a Request for Quotes to create our website. Funding for this was secured through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust on behalf of the UHRWC.
- We are also looking to potentially reorganizing our voting members and officers due to some administrative issues that have recently come up with Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended the Managers meeting with Corrina and Lori on 6/6/24.
- Attended the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition meeting on 6/11/24.
- Listened in on the CRF Round 8 webinars (5/7/24, 5/8/24, 5/14/24)
- Listened in to the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Meeting on 5/23/24.

Miscellaneous:

- I have been trying to help Korey and Ashley get the new version of GIS on their computer to work. This has proven to be difficult. ArcGIS Pro vs ArcMap. We now need to create an online free ESRI account to use it.
- A LAP call regarding wildlife and plantings.
- Received my new computer and set that up on 6/14/24

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – June 18th, 2024

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- I took my drone pilot test on June 7th and did not pass. I will be retaking the test in August.
- I attended the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) Annual Conference on May 3 and 4, 2024.
- I attended online Stream Wise trainings to become familiar with the program to be able to apply for a grant to do the program next year.
- I have completed WAVE online training and have submitted sites to assess this summer. WAVE sampling begins in July.
- I completed training for the Lake Champlain Committee cyanobacteria monitoring and will be monitoring once a week in South Bay this summer starting next week.
- I attended my first Partners Meeting for the Capital Region PRISM on May 2nd.
- I attended the CWICNY meeting on May 16th in Westport, NY and will be attending the next meeting on June 20th.
- I attended my first meeting for the Lake George Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Initiative on May 13th and will continue to attend meetings and plan to assist with field activities when needed.
- On June 10th, Korey and I attended a training for RRAMP and Forest Road Erosion Mapping in Franklin County by the Franklin County SWCD.
- In July, I will be attending a week-long wetland identification and delineation course through the University at Albany.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- I had a meeting with a few of the WQCC members who worked on the Strategic Plan in 2021 to get some more information on where the WQCC left off in May, 2021.
- My goal is to get the draft 2021 Strategic Plan updated and approved as the first accomplishment.
- I have chosen some rivers and streams to test for phosphorous this summer to begin building a data inventory. Testing will be done once in June and once in September.
- I will be continuing the lake and pond testing Lyndsy started last year, testing once in June and once in September.

Salem People's Garden

- On May 22nd, Corrina and I had the Salem High School plant flowers, remove invasive species, and build a split rail fence at the Salem People's Garden for Salem Service Day. We had about 15 students in attendance from 9AM-12PM.
- With the recent revitalization, I am planning to hold a pollinator talk this summer in the People's Garden, open to the public. The goal is to promote planting pollinator habitat and bring attention to the People's Garden itself.
- I have been visiting the garden to weed and check on the plants we planted.

Municipal Assistance

- On June 3rd, Corrina, Korey, and I met with Kris Williams from Capital Region PRISM at the Georgi to discuss the best strategy for invasive species removal. I have also scheduled a meeting with the Georgi Committee to discuss goals for the property and an invasive species management plan.
- On June 11th, Korey and I hydroseeded on a few roads for Town of Salem.
- On June 14th, Corrina, Korey, and I surveyed the culvert on Hastings Road in Hartford for RRAMP and NAACC.
- I met with Ron Renoni from the Grassland Bird Trust to talk about a purple loosestrife project. The District will assist with collecting and rearing loosestrife beetles for biological control of purple loosestrife.

Landowner Assistance

- I created and sent out a survey to local lake associations to gauge interest in a homeowner assistance program for lakeshore property owners.
- I will be going to Lake Cossayuna's Member meeting in July to present on BMPs for lakeshore living and the program I am planning for next year.

AEM

- On June 6th I attended a concrete pour at Deep Roots Farm for a small manure storage.

Miscellaneous

- I was able to get an email subscription list posted on the District Website.
- For NY Invasive Species Awareness Week (June 3rd-June 9th) we removed and replaced the burning bush and garlic mustard from the garden by the front doors of the building.

Technician's Report- Korey Evarts- June 18, 2024

Cover Crops-

- Bob walked me through the renting process of the no-till drill.
- I have been shadowing Bob with AEM Teir 3 for CWICNY Cover Crop Program.
- Working on getting a tractor through Capital for the inter-seeder.
- Meeting with Brian Ziehm to learn more about the inter-seeder.
- Scouted Woody Hill's field with the drone to check corn stages throughout the field and get an idea of the layout of the field.

Hydroseeding-

- Ashley, Corrina, and I met with Travis Keys from Salem to look at hydroseeding sites on Chambers Rd, McKeighan Ln, Braymer Ln.
- On 6/11 Ashley and I hydroseeded Chambers Rd, Braymer Ln, and McKeighan Ln.
- Did some maintenance on the hydro seeder.

Invasive Species Week-

- Helped Ashley remove the two burning bushes in front of the building and bought/planted more plants.
- Went with Corrina and Ashley to the Georgi and met with Kris from PRISM about creating a plan to remove the invasives from the property.
- Planning meeting with folks from the Georgi to discuss the next steps.

Marns' Project-

- On 6/6 concrete was poured for the pump house.
 - Bob was on vacation, so I was asked to supervise the pour. Ashley had a free afternoon, so she came along to check it out.
 - I also flew the drone and took aerial photos of the site.

Meetings-

- Met with the HWA Coalition on Zoom
- Corrina and I attended the Forest Farm meeting in Danby VT. Talked about site selection and site prep for ginseng, goldenseal, bloodroot, etc. plots.
- Planning on attending the CWICNY meeting in a few days.

NAAC-

- Corrina, Ashley, and I did a NAAC assessment on the culvert that washed out on Hasting Rd in Hartford. Now they can go and continue the project.

RAMP RND 3-

- Surveying some ditch lines with Survey 123 to build a GIS map of where ledge rock is present and possibly disrupting water flow.
- Corrina, Ashley, and I did a RRAMP assessment on the culvert that washed out on Hasting Rd in Hartford. Now they can go and continue the project.

Trainings-

- I did get my drone license before I went back to school.
- Completed numerous AgLearn Trainings before I went back so I was caught up.
- Ashley and I went to Saranac Lake for forest roads and RAMP training.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – June 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

(CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program: \$14 million has been made available for on-farm projects through Round 1 of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP), which will help farmers protect water quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The RFP and associated documents are now available on Sharepoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>.

All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Jason Kokkinos

Jason.Kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov by **September 5th, 2024**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **5PM, October 28th, 2024**.

An informational webinar will be held on June 25th from 1:00pm-2:30pm.

Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 8: \$28.75 million is available to support projects. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **5PM, June 24, 2024**.

June SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on **Tuesday, June 18th starting at 10:00 AM**. Attendance options include Webex and in-person locations in Syracuse and Albany. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

2024 NCF Envirothon Call for Volunteers: The NYS Envirothon Committee is pleased to host the 2024 NCF Envirothon. The 2024 annual competition will be held from **July 28 – August 3, 2024**, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, and is putting out a call for all volunteers. Please let the Committee know if you are willing to volunteer by completing the online volunteer registration at, https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKIG9Hyzz_wlubbc3MzPI0n-gFWG6jvMsa6H2tHjXu0MHVw/viewform

Director Training: A reminder that your Regional AEA is available to present training modules to your Board of Directors. Most notably the District Law training module which is training required every 3 years under the Performance Measure 1. Please reach out to your Regional AEA if you have any training needs. Additionally, the District Law training module is available to complete virtually via VIMEO: <https://vimeo.com/446525792>

Other Events

2024 NY Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Field Days: The NY Soil Health Alliance Group will convene a series of Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Day's throughout the State during 2024. Registration is now live for the **June 25th event at Hearty Roots Farm, located in the Hudson Valley** and the **July 25th event at the Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls**. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

Training Opportunity - Seeking Competition in Procurement: The Office of the State Comptroller's Legal Division will discuss legal requirements for competitive bidding, including statutory amendments to the General Municipal Law § 103 and various exceptions to the bidding requirements. **June 26th, 2024 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**. Register here, <https://www.osc.ny.gov/local-government/academy/seeking-competition-procurement-1>

2024 Annual CDEA Golf Tourney: The 23rd Annual NYS CDEA Golf Tournament is being held on **August 1st, 2024 @ Casolwood Golf Club**. Anyone that is interested in playing needs to submit their registration info by **JULY 22nd, 2024**.

2024 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date: This year the conference will be held in Boston, MA at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel on **August 10-14, 2024**. Further details will be available shortly.

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – July 25, 2024

Attending:

Board Members

Cassie Fedler, Director
Jay Skellie, Director
Sherri Slater, Director
Kate Ziehm, Director

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician
Korey Evarts, District Intern

1. Call to order at 10:14 a.m. by Director Ziehm.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for June and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
 - B. District Manager: Attachment, reviewed by Aldrich
 - C. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Luke
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Leemans
 - F. District Intern: Attachment, reviewed by Evarts
 - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve amending the no-till seeder lease agreement to include a \$200.00 seed compartment cleanout fee. **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve Evarts to attend the Ag BMP Workshop in Geneva (August). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve Leemans taking the Drone Pilot Test (\$175 Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Fedler/Slater to approve Luke attending the NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Training Course & Exam (\$500 Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve staff members to attend the Conservation Skills Workshop in Auburn (September / training cost Part C funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve purchasing a copier from Ricoh, USA through NYS OGS Umbrella Contract (\$3,400). **Unanimously carried.**
 - G. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve purchasing a laptop for Aldrich through the USDA BPA Contract (est. \$3,065 Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**

- H. **Motion** by Fedler/Slater to approve Fair Booth & Workshop(s) expense for \$600 to purchase SWCD logo pens for distribution at events. **Unanimously carried.**
- I. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve purchase of new office furniture (cubicles, chairs, etc. for office re-model (est. \$5,000 to \$7,500). **Unanimously carried.**
- J. **Motion** by Fedler/Slater to approve the following policies. **Unanimously carried.**
- Workplace Violence
 - Code of Ethics
 - Information Security Incident – Breach Notification Policy

Director Ziehm left the meeting at 11 am; Director Skellie chaired the remainder of the meeting.

- K. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve transferring \$1,500 from Part C account to WQCC account. **Unanimously carried.**
- L. **Motion** by Fedler/Slater to approve investing \$200,000 in Certificate of Deposit at Trustco Bank. **Unanimously carried.**
- M. **Motion** by Fedler/Slater to approve 2025 County Appropriation Request for \$224,400. **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on September 17, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Fedler/Slater to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Manger's Report – Corrina Aldrich - 7-25-2024

AEM- held 2 strategic planning meetings with staff; will have a draft document created for review by the Board at the January 2025 Board meeting

Darren Tyler NOV with DEC-worked with Bob to update seeding recommendations for more Riparian Herbaceous buffer type planting for the site per DEC request

Part C

LAP-Landowner Assistance Program-site visits scheduled for forestry request through the MFO and with someone interested in creating a Native plant nursery, also site visit with Bob Bombard of Warren County SWCD to check in with pond progress at the Hudson Falls Fish and Game club; will be taking Korey out to these.

MAP Municipal Assistance Program-site visit at the Georgi with Ashley and Georgi Committee members to discuss what their short- and long-term visions are for the property, and how the District can assist with site improvements that fit with our mission and goals; working with Greg Brown for culvert funds -culvert failure on Hastings Road new culvert is all assembled waiting for crane and opportune timing/site conditions to install.

Water Quality Committee-review strategic plan for Ashley; meeting with Georgi Committee to talk about invasives and future project planning at the Museum property.

Email from Boralex regarding tile drainage on certain properties in the Town of Fort Edward that they are looking at for projects sites

Email from Chris Krahling at ASA regarding conserved properties within this proposed project to be used for “mitigation” purposes by Boralex and if managing grasslands for bird habitat was a restrictive practice to successful agriculture in that location-

Part B- site survey done by John Braico and T/U volunteers and report submitted. Need to catch up with John and Carl Schwartz to review on site and to get a tally on volunteer hours as well. More survey work required after review with Carl Schwartz.

Grants

AGNPS Round 24 closed out

Luncrest-Round 25 follow up conversation needed since completion of new barn; will be talking with FSA regarding Farm Storage Facility loan to start on the Feed Storage Facility and silage leachate system, VTA this fall.

AGNPS Round 25 Ideal Dairy-closeout completed

Round 26-Footes still in decision making process on moving ahead; extension approved cost a big factor

AGNPS Rnd 28-Amber

CAFO RND 1 Marns Excavation and drainage going in; Bob and Korey have been monitoring-base layer for access road in- slowly progressing

CAFO Rnd 3 Woody Hill-plans to move forward; Fane's bid has been accepted-timing of construction is being discussed with liner company **nothing new**

CRF Rnd 5 Time Extension for soil health practices was approved- Korey will fill in details on this year's seeding- talking with Janet Britt from ASA to partner on the educational outreach component-thinking about doing a morning breakfast meeting (8-10 am) popup event at George Housers Field off Wright Road the first full week in August so folks can see what it looks like during the growing season and then go back after corn cutting. Grant extended to 9-30-2026 to fit in 2 field seasons of seeding and a final field day in Sept of 2026

CRF Rnd 6-Amber will update

CRF Rnd 7- Still waiting on contracts-site visit with Amber at McEachrons on July 18th contractor list sent to Hunter Southerland to generate interest in the project-timeline looks to be completed - engineering plans by Mid November-bid process-proposed construction next summer.

CRF Rnd 8- RFP closed-107 applications submitted for the \$29 million available-total request was for \$48 million-breakdown of applicants =50% of projects new and beginning farmers- 122 farms doing over 100,000 acres of cover crops award announcements will come out during Climate week Sept 22 to Sept 29th
Last year's figures for Round 7=83 applications for \$15.9 million available and \$22 million requested

CAFO ENMP RFP out-we do not have any projects that seem to fit the parameters well-greenhouse gas reductions are again a high priority for this funding so covered storages are most likely to rank the highest

AGNPS Rnd 30 RFP due out at the end of the year-we will be submitting at least one proposal for a satellite manure storage facility and hope to do one for cover cropping for the southern end of the county to increase use of the interseeder and no till drill.

Miscellaneous-

Tree sale-went over tree species list with Korey and Ashley and some of the details of how it generally works-Korey will be doing the ordering and depending on timing with fairgrounds likely date will be April 18th and 19th 2025 we might plan to do an actual tree planting event to Celebrate Arbor Day (April 25th)-looking for interested parties/municipal areas Christmas tree at Georgi???

Upcoming:

North American Manure Expo is July 17-18th in Auburn NY this is a National Event approved as a performance measure item- Thanks for going John

Adirondack Lakes Alliance Symposium Aug 9th??

Expansion project at Service Center proposed to start Aug 12th-new desks and possibly chairs for staff

Washington County Fair-booth will be in the ag center again and will feature the AEM program

New York State Fair CDEA Booth

Next state comm meeting Sept 17th

HWA Workshop at Camp Chingachook-Sept 21st

Stormwater Tradeshow Oct 15th at the Queensbury Hotel-Sherri attending

NYACD annual meeting Penn Yann-Oct 21 and 22

Part B Project Proposal-Annual Plan of Work- due Nov 1st to State Committee Ashley has some ideas for Part B

Admin Conference in Saratoga Nov 18th and 19th

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – July 25, 2024

AEM

- Rollin Hills – Darren Tyler received a letter from Danielle Baldwin of DEC responding to the remediation plan I submitted on Darren's behalf. She asked us to change the seed recommendation from a conservation mix to a riparian buffer mix. She was also requesting a schedule for implementation. We researched riparian buffer mixes and chose two different mixes that were suitable to the site. We requested DEC's approval of the mixes and are waiting to hear back from them.
- Standard Farm – Completed a Tier I with George Standard.
- South Dominion Vineyard & Giese Beef Farm – I submitted soil samples on behalf of these two farms as part of completing AEM Tiers I and II.
- Tier IV Implementation – I continue to work with Dan Wilson, Hicks Orchard on the apple waste system, with a recent farm visit. The engineer, Jeff Wilson is still working on the design.

No-till Drill

- I have several requests for the drill in this unusual downtime period for seeding.

Ag Assessments

- I have received a few calls and questions about the program.

Interseeder

- I helped Korey with calibrating the interseeder and seeding the Woody Hill field.

Washington County Fair

- I have been working with Chris Doyle on updating the nutrient management plan for the fair.

CAFO Round 1

- Deep Roots – Construction of the manure storage continues. The perimeter drain has been installed.

Meetings Planned

- Washington County Fair – 8/19 – 8/25

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- July 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Emailed the farm to remind them that they needed to get insurance certificates to us, and they will need to get 3 bids to us if they still plan on starting construction before this construction season ends. I have not heard back.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 5-
 - Interceder- I helped Korey calibrate the interceder and work out some kinks that we ran into. He did a great job at sticking with it and working with what he had.
- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- Was emailed by the farm regarding the second engineering quote. Landowner was concerned with the engineering being very expensive. Ken Martin did the latest quote, and it came in around \$30,000 for the Access Road and proposed pond. I emailed the landowner back and I said that given the nature of the road being steeper grades it will need extra reinforcement to meet the NRCS standard and that we do our best to project costs out 2 or 3 years, but it is like hitting a moving target sometimes. I have not heard back.
 - Ghost Light Farm- Assignment of Payment paperwork has been completed and returned to us and liability insurance has been received. The farm is supposed to be sending the worker's comp and liability insurance for the contractor in the next coming days. They are planning on starting construction on the rotational grazing system (water system) this week (7/22-7/26). I told the farm to make sure they take lots of photos and forward them to me, and that I will be out to check on things first thing when I get back on 7/29/24.
- Round 7-
 - Met with Hunter Southerland on 7/18/2024. We met with the engineer at the farm to go over timeline of the project and what would be needed in the final designs. Corrina went over permitting requirements with the engineer. Seeing how we do not have a contract we told the landowner to put out feelers for bids now. The engineer is planning to have final designs to us by November 15, 2024, and by then we should have a finalized contract so the project can be fully put out to bid. With plans on starting construction next year.
 - No new updates on finalized contract for Luncrest (Alternative Manure Management) project.
- Round 8-
 - Round 8 We did not apply for, but I wanted to give some numbers for what was applied for that were presented at the state committee meeting (7/16/24)
 - Track 1A (alternative manure management)- 4.5 million available-16.5 million requested-19 applications (10 cover and flares)
 - Track 1B-7 million available- 10.2 million requested- 3 applications (5 cover and flares)
 - Track 2 (adaptation and resiliency)- 5 million available-3 million requested-24 applications
 - Track 3A (soil health)-4.5 million available-11.4 million requested-41 applications
 - Track 3B- 7 million available-6.9 million requested-14 applications
 - Track 4 (Agroforestry)- 1 million available-\$474,308 requested- 5 applications.

AEM-

- REPORTING: Waiting on time logs to be updated. Planning on submitting an interim report at the end of the year with a claim for payment covering what has been earned in 2024.

- I have pulled the AEM 5-year Strategic Plan and started to review it making notes here and there. Our Strategic Plan is up for renewal due at the end of this year covering the next 5 years (2026-2030). Any input from the board is greatly appreciated. All staff have met to review the current AEM strategic plan and brainstorm about what should be edited.
- Working on the Fair Booth display which will be targeted towards AEM outreach and the new Tier 4 implementation track. We are partnering with the Upper Hudson Maple Producers to participate in their scavenger hunt with our recently completed AEM project with Mapleland Farms.
- Ongoing: Working on a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- Next meeting August 8, 2024 @ Fulton County SWCD @ 11:00. This will be a working picnic luncheon.
- April minutes were completed and submitted as a part of my secretary duties.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended the NYS Programs Advisory Committee Meeting on 6/27/24 via zoom
- Attending the Sustainably Agronomy Conference every Wednesday in July via webinar for CCA credits.
- NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting attended 7/16/24
- Listened in to the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Meeting on 5/23/24.

Miscellaneous:

- Newsletter article completed
- Bank reconciliations completed
- Working on updating time sheets for Performance measures

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – July 25th, 2024

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- I attended the CWICNY meeting on June 20th in Ticonderoga, NY.
- On July 13th, I spoke at the Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association Members Meeting about a lakeshore technical assistance program I am planning for next year. Many people seemed very interested, and attitudes were overall positive.
- On July 18th I attended the Lake George HWA Mapping Training at the Lake George Park Commission. Now I will be able to assist in field surveys for hemlock woolly adelgid in the Lake George Watershed.
- From July 29th to August 2nd, I will be attending a Wetland Identification and Delineation course at SUNY at UAlbany.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- I have been editing the 2021 Strategic Plan, now called the 2024 Strategic Plan moving forward.
- The plan has been sent to all other District staff for edits.
- I have sampled 3 streams and the Feeder Canal for WAVE.
- I tested 10 lakes and ponds for a multitude of parameters.
- I tested 8 rivers and streams for Phosphorus and received results back from Pace Laboratories.
- I will be testing all the same streams and lakes in September and all samples will be tested at an ELAP certified lab, Pace Laboratories.
- I have been conducting Lake Champlain Cyanobacteria monitoring sampling once a week since June 19th at the South Bay State Boat Launch in Whitehall.

Salem People's Garden

- I have planned to have a Pollinator Talk at the Salem People's Garden on August 15th and have begun advertising. Participants can register through our website. Amber posted the poster on Facebook and Kate put it up on Morning Ag Clips – Thank you!

Municipal Assistance

- On June 26th, Corrina and I met with the Georgi Committee to discuss their future goals for invasive species management. We are looking forward to working with them in the near future to develop an invasive species management plan.

Landowner Assistance

- On July 5th, Corrina, Korey, and I conducted a site visit at Scotch Hill Farm where they were experiencing erosion issues. I was able to provide them with a list of planting suggestions for their riparian zone and a list of nearby native plant nurseries.

AEM

- As a whole office effort, we have been revising the AEM 5-year strategic plan.
- Scotch Hill Farm is interested in beginning a stream crossing project with the District for farm field entrance.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Korey and I are working on ordering plants for the 2025 Tree and Shrub Sale.

Technician's Report- Korey Evarts- July 25, 2024

AEM-

- Read over the 5-year plan with everyone and helped make some edits.
- Made some pie charts to add into the plan to show diversity.
- Made new maps with the 2024 AEM Participants to show the locations throughout the county.

Black Creek Stream Corridor Project:

- On 7-18 Corrina, Amber, Ashley and I met with the landowner and engineer to discuss the plan.
- I flew the drone to get aerial images of the project site.

CRF RND 5-

- On 6-20 Bob and I calibrated the inter seeder and messed around with it and figured some things out.
- 6-21, Woody Hill's field was ready to inter-seed. Had some hiccups but made it through.
- I had some questions, so I contacted Pete Hagar from Clinton County and visited him on 6-26 with his inter seeder. I also spoke with Brian Ziehm to answer more questions. Both helped a lot.
- I re-calibrated the drill then inter seeded a field at Doc Rymph's to test the calibration and different settings on the inter seeder.
- Some of the seed tubes broke so I fixed/replaced them.
- On 7-2 I inter-seeded Houser's field. Went much better.
- 7-5 I cleaned out the inter-seeder and tractor and returned the tractor back to Capital.
- About once a week I have been checking on the growth of the cover crop and recovery of the corn.



Figure 1: Woody Hill Field after 2 weeks

Landowner's Assistance-

- On 7-5 I went to a landowner with Corrina and Ashley to discuss stream erosion on their property which is affecting some ponds as well.
- Flew the drone at Hudson Falls Fish and Game Club to get an aerial view of the algae growth in the pond.
- Will be meeting with a forest owner who has questions about his forest and wants to know more on how to manage it.

Marns' Project-

- Made some visits with Bob to check progress.
- I have been flying the drone quite a bit to take progress pictures.
- 7-19 they finished the drainage line and doing compaction tests.

No-Till Drill-

- Helping Bob pick up/ drop off drill
- Working with Bob to fix the calibration handle.

Tree and Shrub-

- Finalized next year's order and submitted the order.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – July 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

(CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program: \$14 million has been made available for on-farm projects through Round 1 of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP), which will help farmers protect water quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The RFP and associated documents are now available on Sharepoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Jason Kokkinos Jason.Kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov by **September 5th, 2024**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **5PM, October 28th, 2024**.

SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee – Recording: A recording of the June 27th, 2024, SPAC meeting has been uploaded to Sharepoint. The next SPCC meeting will convene August 29th, 2024. Details to follow soon. <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/NYS%20SWCC%20State%20Programs%20Advisory%20Committee/June%2027,%202024?csf=1&web=1&e=qGdyqH>

June SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on **Tuesday, July 16th** starting at **10:00 AM**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

2024 NCF Envirothon Call for Volunteers: The NYS Envirothon Committee is pleased to host the 2024 NCF Envirothon. The 2024 annual competition will be held from **July 28 – August 3, 2024**, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, and is putting out a call for all volunteers. Please let the Committee know if you are willing to volunteer by completing the online volunteer registration at, https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKIG9Hyzz_wlubbc3MzPI0n-gFWG6jvMsa6H2tHjXu0MHVw/viewform

Other Events

Watershed Forestry Webinar Series: Phytoremediation for Healthy Watersheds, **July 11th, from 12–1 PM**. This July event will cover phytoremediation—the use of trees to clean contaminated soils and waters of pollutants. Register here, <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/41f30bb8-92fd-4904-9381-f3f201ceedcb@ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697>

2024 NY Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Field Days: The NY Soil Health Alliance Group will convene a series of Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Day's throughout the State during 2024. Registration is now live for the **July 16th event at Moody Farms in Poestenkill, and the July 25th event at the Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls**. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

2024 Annual CDEA Golf Tourney: The 23rd Annual NYS CDEA Golf Tournament is being held on **August 1st, 2024 @ Casolwood Golf Club**. Anyone that is interested in playing needs to submit their registration info by **July 22nd, 2024**.

2024 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date: This year the conference will be held in Boston, MA at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel on **August 10-14, 2024**. Further details will be available shortly.

Funding Opportunities

New Grant for Restoring Wetland and Stream Habitats: WQIP is offering a new grant for restoring and enhancing wetlands and stream corridors as habitat for fish and wildlife. The maximum grant award is \$1 million. The application deadline for WQIP Habitat Restoration and Enhancement is **July 31st, at 4PM**. <https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/cfa>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 17, 2024

Attending:

Board Members

Jay Skellie, Director
Cassie Fedler, Director
Sherri Slater, Director
Kate Ziehm, Director

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician

1. Call to order at 10:25 a.m. by Vice Chairman Skellie.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for July & August 2024 and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report by Williams
 - B. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
 - C. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Luke
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Leemans
 - F. District Intern: No Report by Evarts
 - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Fedler/Slater to approve the following for Round 25 Ideal Silage Leachate System Grant: **Unanimously carried.**
 - Final engineering payment to Ideal Dairy - \$2,500
 - Final BMP payment to Ideal Dairy - \$20,180
 - Washington County SWCD Personal Service Fee Earned - \$4,497
 - Close dedicated grant checking account
 - B. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve Trout Unlimited invoice for \$6,000 for the 2024 Part B Project – Georgi Museum Battenkill Habitat Survey & Design Project. **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve staff members and director Slater to attend the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow & Conference (\$135/pp – Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve Aldrich and director Slater to attend the NYACD Annual Meeting & Training (\$1,033 – Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve district reimbursement for staff hours earned under Part C Funding (\$50,000). **Unanimously carried.**

- F. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve interseeder repairs up to the value of the proposed quote from Salem Farm Supply (\$7,237 Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - G. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve the 2025 Budget and 3% salary increase for staff effective January 1, 2025. **Unanimously carried.**
 - H. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve purchase of seed mix from Ernst Seed with Part C Funds for conservation projects (est. \$1,600). **Unanimously carried.**
- 6. The next Board meeting will be held on October 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Director training is scheduled at the conclusion of the meeting.
 - 7. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – September 17, 2024

AEM

- Rollin Hills (Darren Tyler) – DEC approved the riparian buffer seed mixes along with a timeline to seed the area by October 1, 2024. Darren is prepping the site, and the district is going to hydro-seed it.
- I completed a Tier I and II farm visit with Goose Island (Chris McKernon).
- 5b's completed for George Houser, Tiashoke Farm and Wolff Farm. Korey and Ashley did a great job writing up the summaries.

CWICNY Lake Champlain Cover Crop Program

- I have been busy signing up farms to participate. Farmers new to the program include Jeff Bush, Heritage Hill and Manor View Farms.

No-till Drill

- The drill is busy. Recent rentals include Jon Wilbur, Kernel Acres and Kevin Jablonski.

Ag Assessments

- Ag assessment requests and questions are picking up.

Washington County Fair

- I worked one shift in the booth with Amber.

CAFO Round 1

- Deep Roots – The contractor has the manure pit excavated, and concrete ramps and walls have started to be poured.

Meetings Planned

- Board Meeting 09/17

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- September 17, 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- I reached out to the farm to discuss their timeline for implementing the grant. The farm still has hopes of starting this year. I reminded them that they will still need to solicit 3 bids for the project, and we must go with the lowest bid. I also asked them if they had heard from the engineer regarding a finalized design. The farm said they would call Jeff Wilson. I also emailed Jeff asking for any updates, but he has not responded.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- No new updates. Been in contact with the farm via email. The farm still has not chosen an engineer, but I did give them another engineer contact information (with permission). The farm had some questions about the bid process that I tried my best to clear up.
 - Ghost Light Farm- Construction has been in full swing. The water system for the Prescribed Rotational Grazing System has been fully installed. I met with the engineer and the contractor on site on 9/4/24. We discussed everything that was installed to this point, and we discussed the Erosion Control System that is to be completed next just to make sure we were all on the same page. The engineer is working on completing As-Builts for the water system. Once those are received, we will send him the BMP certification form and work up a payment according to the Assignment of Payment agreement.
- Round 7-
 - No new updates. I did ask Ryan about Round 7 contracts when I picked up the fair display from him in August. He mentioned that they should be out soon. I am hoping we get contracts any day now.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction began on 8/5/24. The engineer nor the farm notified us and therefore we were unable to have a pre-construction meeting. The contractor has been making good headway on the excavation. The base of the pit is at grade, and they are working on the final grading of the side slopes. They are going to work on getting all the surface water diversions in place. The contractor has called the liner company because they found a lot of stones in the parent material on site, and he wants to confirm with the liner company that the stones will not cause an issue for the liner. I talked with Mark Cary on site with the contractor on 9/12/24 and we discussed the project and timeline. I reached out to the farm on 9/11/24 to get the required insurance documents, which I received on 9/12/24 from the farm.

AEM-

- **REPORTING:** Still waiting on time logs to be updated so that I can see our progress towards meeting our goals. Planning on submitting an interim report at the end of the year with a claim for payment covering what has been earned in 2024.
- Soil testing was completed for Onward Orchard. This will be paid for using AEM soil testing money. They are a small Orchard in the Town of Easton that is just getting started. I took Korey and Ashley with me to this site visit.

- Working on making a list of Tier 1's and 2's that have been completed recently to gauge interest in continuing with the AEM program.
- Updating the Access Database as needed.
- Ongoing: working on a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)-

- Provided technical assistance to a landowner regarding Aquifer information for their property.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- The Upper Hudson Meeting was held on 9/10/24 via zoom. Our next scheduled meeting temporarily scheduled for November 7th at Warren County SWCD office.
- We received a grant through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust to create a website for the Upper Hudson; the coalition has decided to go with Modern Arc to create the website. Annual maintenance and hosting fees will be after the grant and original creation would be approximately \$88.00 per year per SWCD in the coalition. This was passed at the September meeting.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Sexual Harassment Training completed 8/9/24
- Attended the Local Work Group Meeting in Ballston Spa on 8/28/24. Dianna Stanton (District Conservationist, Troy) ran the meeting as the acting DC, for our area. There was a lot of discussion on staffing issues within NRCS. But we did discuss priority areas within our NRCS area which includes Washington, Warren, Hamilton, Fulton, Montgomery and Saratoga Counties. We discussed the issues with identifying priority issues region wide when the resource concerns are so diverse region wide.
- Listened in on the State Program Advisory Committee Meeting on 8/29/24.
- Attended the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Course and took the test for the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program (NYSESCCP) on 8/14/24-8/16/24. ***I passed the test and am now a NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate holder.*** For this I will now need to earn 12 Professional Development Hour (PDH) credits every year. This certification allows me to be a "Qualified Inspector" for stormwater practices according to the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) Permit. This also allows me to plan stormwater practices on sites.
- I am attending Conservation Skills Workshop on 9/25/24 & 9/26/24. I am taking the Afforestation Class and the Manure Storage Cover and Flare class.
- I plan on attending the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow on October 15, 2024, for PDH credits towards maintaining my NYSESCCP certification.

Miscellaneous:

- Staffed Fair Booth
- Bank reconciliations completed

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – September 17th, 2024

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- July 29th to August 2nd, completed a Wetland Identification and Delineation course at SUNY at UAlbany.
- Took and passed my drone pilot license test on August 30th.
- Attended HWA Coalition meeting on August 21st.
- Doug McCluskey from EJP came out to look at some of the locations for hydroseeding and gave suggestions on materials to use going forward.
- Attended the NRCS public working group meeting on August 28th.
- Attended a small stream and wetland workshop through the Hudson River Estuary Program.
- I will be attending Conservation Skills from September 23rd-26th.
- The Lake Champlain Committee contacted me about holding an invasive species monitor training at the South Bay Boat Launch in Whitehall on September 20th, which I will be attending and partaking in the monitoring program.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- I have been editing the 2021 Strategic Plan, now called the 2024 Strategic Plan moving forward.
- I sampled 10 lakes and ponds for total phosphorous and nitrates and submitted them for testing at Pace Laboratories (ELAP Certified).
- I sampled 8 rivers and streams for total phosphorus and submitted them for testing at Pace Laboratories (ELAP Certified).
- I have been conducting Lake Champlain Cyanobacteria monitoring sampling once a week since June 19th at the South Bay State Boat Launch in Whitehall.
- Have been working on a budget for a shoreline assessment program I hope to run next year on Cossayuna Lake. I plan to submit an application for grant funding to the Glens Falls Foundation by September 20th.

Municipal Assistance

- Korey and I hydroseeded Coach Road and Randall's Road in Argyle.
- I have been working on an invasive species management plan for the Georgi and created noxious plant signs for display at the park.
- Conducted another RRAMP and NAACC assessment on a culvert in Hartford on Wright Road.
- Completed a NAACC assessment on a culvert in Greenwich at the Town Recreational Park which routinely has stormwater issues.

Fair

- I worked two shifts at the Washington County Fair, one on 8/20 and another on 8/24. I was able to speak to some farmers and community members about our AEM program.

AEM

- Corrina and I updated the Teir 1 and Teir 2 evaluations of Scotch Hill Farm and I have completed the Teir 2 report. Next steps are to work on the Teir 3 and project planning for a ford.
- Went with Amber and Korey to take soil samples at Onward Orchard.

CAFO

- I have conducted a couple different drone flyovers at Deep Roots to document the construction progress.
- I have gone to Woody Hill with Corrina and Amber a couple of times for construction oversight.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Trees and blueberries have been ordered and seeds will be ordered in January.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – September 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News:

NYS SWCC Seeking Candidates for the At Large Urban, Suburban, Rural non-farm interest Voting Member Position: The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, made up of five voting members and nine advisory members, works to advance comprehensive natural resources management in partnership with and through the support of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Soil and Water Conservation Committee, established within the Department of Agriculture and Markets, creates policy, fosters partnerships, and supports diverse Conservation District programming that help landowners and communities within the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors to address environmental challenges and protect New York's natural resources. The NYS SWCC is seeking interested candidates to serve as the at large representative for urban, suburban, rural non-farm landowner interests. This is an excellent opportunity to support the work of Soil and Water Conservation Districts on a statewide level. If you are interested in learning more about the NYS SWCC and voting member responsibilities please contact Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director: Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov by **September 30, 2024**.

(CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program: \$14 million has been made available for on-farm projects through Round 1 of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP). The RFP and associated documents are now available on Sharepoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **5PM, October 28th, 2024**.

2025 Annual Plan of Work (APOW): It's time to start updating your APOW for 2025. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is **November 1, 2024**. This will allow time to review, provide feedback, and recommend to the SWCC for approval by the end of the calendar year. Please don't hesitate to discuss with your Regional AEA if there are any questions or concerns.

Upcoming NYS SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **September 17th, at 10:00 AM**. This will be a hybrid meeting with an in-person meeting locations in Albany and in Syracuse, as well as a virtual option. Meeting Link: <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m08fa4a0a6e4e8400c3322a72088101b4>. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

2025 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance: Part B proposals are Due **November 1, 2024**. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2025. Part B requests and claim for payments should be submitted via email to ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov.

2024 Part C Performance Measures - As for Performance Measures, the end of the year is rapidly approaching and SWCDs should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling their obligations for meetings, training, training plans, etc., to be able to earn all the funds that will be available. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions that you may have.

2025 Part C Performance Measures – There will be no Performance Measures changes for 2025. SWCC will analyze the District's performance on the 2024 reports and consider changes for 2026 after holding a meeting for District input.

Other Events

2024 Great Lakes Coastal Symposium: The Great Lakes Coastal Symposium, hosted by the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly, will take place **October 7-9, 2024**, at the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Rochester, NY. This year's theme is Great Lakes, Greater Resilience: Conserving Coasts and Sustaining Communities. For more information, <https://web.event.com/event/b74152e4-4f1e-4ae7-a9a8-e2a74d050a6b/regProcessStep1:ee81b298-249e-4af8-b213-cb3c40e33435>

2024 SWCD Administrative Forum: The Administrative Conference Committee is diligently working on a great line-up of classes for the 2024 event in Saratoga Springs, NY. Please save the dates of **November 18th – 19th, 2024**. More details to follow.

Funding Opportunities

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - Forest Restoration & Weed Management: The U.S. Forest Service is anticipating \$5.2 million in new funds to be available for reforestation, ecosystem restoration and forest health improvement and an additional \$1 million to support Weed Management. This funding will be competitively awarded based on applications received by the

deadline **September 18, 2024**. All applications must be prepared and submitted through www.Grants.gov. **For Forest Restoration**, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898819>. **For Weed Management**, <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898821>

NOAA Funding Available for Great Lakes Habitat Restoration: NOAA announced the availability of up to \$12 million in GLRI funds to support work restoring habitat for Great Lakes native fisheries. NOAA is seeking proposals for projects that restore Great Lakes habitats and lead to significant and sustainable benefits for Great Lakes native fish species. Applications will be accepted and considered on an annual basis. To be considered for funding in the 2025 federal fiscal year, applications are due by **October 28, 2024**. For more information, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/noaa-great-lakes-fish-habitat-restoration-partnership-grants>.

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – October 16, 2024

Attending:

Board Members

Kate Ziehm, Director
Jay Skellie, Director
Cassie Fedler, Director

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician
Amber Luke, District Technician
Ashley Leemans, District Technician

Others:

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

1. Call to order at 10:08 a.m. by Vice Chairman Skellie.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for September and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report.
 - B. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
 - C. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Leemans
 - F. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, reviewed by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve Cooperator Agreement for Frank Gabianelli, Argyle. **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve Aldrich sending letter of support for Lake Champlain – Champlain Aquatic Invasive Monitoring Program (CHAMP). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve 2025 Part B Projects: Arbor Day Tree Plantings (\$1,500) and Pollinator Pledge Program (\$4,500). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve the District's 2025 Annual Plan of Work. **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve CRF Round 6 BMP Payment #1 Prescribed Rotational Grazing System for \$42,000 per Assignment of Payment: Ghost Light Farm or Grandview Fence & Farms, LLC. **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Part C funds for employee training & travel: **Unanimously carried.**
 - Administrative Conference, Saratoga: \$100/pp
 - CCA Conference, Syracuse: Estimate \$600/pp

- G. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve Part C funds for 4-hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training (\$1,500). **Unanimously carried.**
- H. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve QuickBooks Yearly Payroll Subscription (Estimate \$1,000). **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on November 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:43 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – October 16, 2024

AEM

- Rollin Hills, Darren Tyler – Ashley and I seeded by hand the riparian areas that NYS-DEC requested to be mitigated. Darren had prepared the site by brush hogging and disking it. I sent Danielle Baldwin of NYS-DEC an email confirming that the site was seeded before October 1st.
- Planning Tier I & II's with Edgar Aldons and Jeff & Josh Bush as part of the eligibility requirement for the CWICNY Cover Crop Program.
- I will conduct more 5b's when I'm out checking cover crop fields this fall.

No-till Drill

- Recent rentals include Peter Deming and Kevn Jablonski.

Ag Assessments

- I have had a number of ag assessment requests already.

CAFO Round 1

- Deep Roots – The concrete contractor has made considerable progress. They pour a section every day and expect to be done before Thanksgiving.

Meetings Planned

- CCA Training, Syracuse – 11/9-20

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- October 16, 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- I had a discussion with Jeff Wilson at Conservation Skills Workshop (9/26/24). Jeff told me that a couple of things have changed in talking with the farm. These changes include size of the piston pump and the size of the reception pit. Jeff has a draft plan view done but needs to finish up the details. I reminded the farm for the need for 3 bids.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 5-
 - Interseeder- Checked on cover crops that were interseeded this summer with Ashley. Looks like it is starting to green up, but the rye is coming up sparse, but it has been dry.
- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- Received an email confirming the farm received my email from September 5, 2024. No new updates.
 - Ghost Light Farm- Water system is complete and operational. The Engineer has provided stamped As-Built's and BMP certification form. The Erosion Control System is the next phase of construction. Main things included in this phase are Access Road. First payment to the contract via the assignment of payment is set for approval by the board at the October meeting.
- Round 7-
 - No new updates. Still waiting on contract. I did ask State Committee about Round 7 contracts when I was at Conservation Skills Workshop in September. It was mentioned that they hired another contract manager so they are hoping contracts should start going out faster.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction is in full swing. Excavation and prep for the liner are nearing completion. Contractor was working on digging the liner trench and putting the layer of clay and sand in the bottom to prep for liner installation. Talked with the contractor on 10/9/24 and he said it will take until mid-week to end of next week to get things wrapped up before the liner company will be able to come in. I have been completing SWPPP forms once a week as they are exempt from the need for twice a week inspection (Ag under 5 Ac) but still do need a SWPPP plan in place (greater than 1 Ac).

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-
 - Hick's Orchard- Talked with Jeff Wilson at Conservation Skills and reminded him of our 2-year timeline for the AEM projects. He understood and said that he will get us the design in the next few months.
- REPORTING: We are in the last quarter of the year. Sent out a 3rd reminder email to keep time logs updated. Planning on submitting an interim report at the end of the year with a claim for payment covering what has been earned in 2024.
- Reviewed a Tier 2 with Ashley for Scotch Hill Farm.
- Updating the Access Database as needed as new tier 1's get completed.
- Ongoing: Working on a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- The next scheduled meeting temporarily scheduled for November 7th at Warren County SWCD office.

- Current grant- Website funding through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust. We received a grant through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust to create a website for the Upper Hudson; the coalition has decided to go with Modern Arc to create the website. Annual maintenance and hosting fees after the grant and original creation would be approximately \$88.00 per year per SWCD in the coalition. This was passed at the September meeting.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Farmers For Soil Health-National Cover Crop Program- Attended the Zoom call on 9/19/24. Created a fact sheet with all the information I gathered from the webinar.
- Attended the Conservation Skills Workshop (9/25/24-9/26/24). I took the Afforestation class and the Cover and Flare class. The Cover and Flare class was informative and helped to answer a lot of logistical questions as well as see multiple Cover and Flare systems in different stages of construction.
- Ag Learn Trainings completed. Workplace Violence and Unconscious Bias trainings were completed on 10/8/24.
- I am attending the Washington County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting with Corrina on 10/16/24.
- I am attending the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow on October 15, 2024, for PDH credits towards maintaining my NYSESCCP certification.
- I am attending the 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment control class at the Fairgrounds as a refresher. In case I am needed to teach the class which I can now do with my NYS E&SCCP certification.

Miscellaneous:

- Have taken some requests for Ag Assessments
- Bank reconciliations completed

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – October 16th, 2024

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- Attended September CWICNY meeting.
- Participated in Lake Champlain Committee CHAMP training at the South Bay Boat Launch in Whitehall on September 20th, which I will be attending and partaking in the monitoring program.
- Attended Forest health and HWA workshop
- Attended Conservation Skills in Auburn, NY, September 23rd-26th. I took Basic Soils and Stream Smart.
- Met with Amy Mackenzie from ReLeaf NY and will be attending ReLeaf meetings moving forward.
- Attended and Assisted with CWICNY Stormwater Tradeshow on Oct. 15th.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- Completed the 2024 Strategic Plan.
- Completed a surface water quality report for the samples taken this summer and fall.
- Submitted application for the Shoreline Evaluation Program. I have been in correspondence with the Glens Falls Foundation. They have not yet let me know if they will award me the grant.
- Conducted an AIS rake survey at the South Bay Boat Launch for the Lake Champlain Committee. One more survey will be completed before the end of October.

Landowner Assistance

- Spread riparian conservation seed at Hudson Falls Fish and Game Club following construction around their pond.
- Visited landowner in Easton with Corrina regarding a blocked culvert on a private road.

Municipal Assistance

- Attended a site visit with Corrina regarding a project for Cambridge F.D. to install a dry hydrant behind the Town D.P.W.

Part B

- Finished a Part B proposal for Board Approval.
- Attended a survey with Trout Unlimited at The Georgi on Oct. 10th.

AEM

- I have conducted multiple drone flyovers to get pictures and videos of the cover crops on multiple fields.
- Spread riparian conservation seed at Darrin Tyler's farm for runoff mitigation.
- Working on Tier 2 and Tier 3 for Scotch Hill Farm.

CAFO

- Woody Hill drone flyover on construction progress on manure storage.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – October 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

CRF Round 8 Awards: Congratulations to those Districts who will be receiving funds to help farms via the Climate Resilient Farming Program! Over \$33 million will be divided between a total of 70 projects, with implementation planned on 184 farms across New York State. Projects are supported through \$16.14 million in State funding, plus an additional \$17 million in federal funds. Information about Plan of Work development will be available soon. More info about the Round 8 awards here: https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2024/09/projectdescriptions_round8_climateresilientfarming.pdf

(CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program: \$14 million has been made available for on-farm projects through Round 1 of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP). The RFP and associated documents are now available on Sharepoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **5PM, October 28th, 2024**.

October SWCC Meeting: There will be no SWCC meeting during the month of October. The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **November 12th starting at 10:00 AM**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out in advance of the meeting. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

State Aid to Districts:

- **2025 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance** – Part B proposals are due, November 1, 2024. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2025. Part B requests should be submitted via email to ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov.
- **2024 Part C Performance Measures** - As for Performance Measures, the end of the year is rapidly approaching and SWCDs should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling their obligations for meetings, training, training plans, etc., to be able to earn all the funds that will be available. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions that you may have.
- **2025 Part C Performance Measures** – There will be no Performance Measures changes for 2025. SWCC will analyze the District's performance on the 2024 reports and consider changes for 2026 after holding a meeting for District input.

Other Events

Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub-Basin Work Group Meetings - Save the Dates: DEC Great Lakes program staff are excited to announce the next round of Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) Sub-Basin Work Group meetings will be held this fall to provide opportunities to learn updates from NYSDEC Great Lakes Program and partners.

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/lakes-rivers/great-lakes/action-agenda>

- Lake Erie: Wednesday, **November 6th, 1 – 4 PM**
- Southwest (SW) Lake Ontario: Friday, **November 8th, 1 – 4 PM**
- Southeast (SE) Lake Ontario: Thursday, **November 14th, 2024; 1 - 4:00 PM**
- Northeast Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River (LOSLR): **Friday, November 15th, 1 – 4 PM**

2024 SWCD Administrative Forum: The 2024 Administrative Conference Committee will convene in Saratoga Springs, NY on **November 18th – 19th, 2024**. Please complete the google form to register <https://forms.gle/z58YckQbgHUvngg39>. Deadline for signups is **October 17th**.

2024 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference: Including the Basic Training track for those preparing to take the CCA exams as well as the Advanced Training track for current CCAs. An in-person track will commence at the Doubletree Hotel, East Syracuse, NY on **November 19th-20th, 2024**, followed by a virtual track will commence on **December 10th-11th, 2024**, when additional programming will be offered. More information and a registration link can be found here, <https://www.nysaba.com/about-3>

NACD 2025 Annual Meeting: Registration for The National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 79th Annual Meeting is now open! The 2025 Annual Meeting will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, from **February 8th – 12th, 2025**. To learn more and to register, please visit: <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>

Other Funding

NOAA Funding Available for Great Lakes Habitat Restoration: NOAA announced the availability of up to \$12 million in GLRI funds to support work restoring habitat for Great Lakes native fisheries. NOAA is seeking proposals for projects that restore Great Lakes habitats and lead to significant and sustainable benefits for Great Lakes native fish species. Applications will be accepted and considered on an annual basis. To be considered for funding in the 2025 federal fiscal year, applications are due by **October 28, 2024**. For more information, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/noaa-great-lakes-fish-habitatrestoration-partnership-grants>.

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – November 14, 2024

Attending:

Board Members

John Dickinson, Chairman
Jay Skellie, Director
Sherri Slater, Director
Kate Ziehm, Director
Cassie Fedler, Director

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician

1. Call to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chairman Dickinson.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/Slater to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for October and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
 - B. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
 - C. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Luke
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Leemans
 - F. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve 10/31/2024 Board Resolution to request time extension for CAFO Round 1 Contract #C011866 – Deep Roots Holsteins grant. **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve Director Slater's appointment as Division VI representative to NYACD. **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve cancelling Cooperator Agreement for John Sheaff, Cambridge. **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve reimbursement to District for 2024 staff hours earned under Part C Funding (\$20,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve 2025 renewals (Part C Funds): Certified Crop Adviser (Kalbfliesh & Luke \$120/pp); NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certification (Luke \$100). **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve 2025 membership dues (Part C Funds): NACD (\$101); NYS Floodplain & Stormwater Managers. **Unanimously carried.**
 - G. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve 2025 outreach event expenses (Part C Funds) for public meetings (est. \$300-\$400 per event for refreshments & space rental/donation). **Unanimously carried.**

- H. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve 8 hours Administrative Leave to staff on November 27, 2024 due to USDA Service Center office closure for gas emissions due to spray foam insulation being applied. **Unanimously carried.**
- I. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve selling the district's power washer to Bob Kalbfliesh for \$50.00. **Unanimously carried.**
- J. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve donating dry hydrant parts to Salem Fire Department. **Unanimously carried.**

6. The next Board meeting will be held on December 19, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 10:49 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

At the conclusion of the meeting the following occurred:

- Director Training was completed – Ag & Markets *“Lessons Learned from Office of the State Comptroller Audit of Otsego County SWCD”*
- Directors Fedler and Skellie completed an internal audit of the 2023 financial records. The records were found to be correct and in balance.

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – 11/14/2024

AEM

- Scheduled Tier II visits with Edgar Aldous and Jeff Bush.
- AEM 5A: Updated Greg Lapan's Tier II and completed the renewal for his Grown & Certified Certification.

No-till Drill

- I inspected the drill, replaced the batteries in the acreage meter, and took it to the fairgrounds for winter storage.

Hydro Seeder

- I helped Ashley take the hydro seeder to the fairgrounds for winter storage.

Ag Assessments

- The ARC GIS version I have been using for ag assessments is finally going away according to NRCS. Olga has been teaching me ARC-PRO, the new version of GIS. I have been able to complete 9 ag assessments to date.

CAFO Round 1

- Deep Roots – The concrete is done. The farm is working on fencing and mulching around the storage. Albert is waiting for a part to be made by Houle on the manure transfer pump. The question of asking for an extension for the project has come up. After discussions within the office, Albert, the contractor, and Ryan Cunningham, it was decided to wait until December 10th to see if an extension is needed. CAFO funding round projects can be extended by the state committee staff and according to Ryan can be done quickly. This project has an end date of December 17th.

CWICNY Cover Crop Program

- Working on site visits and field checks.

Meetings Attended / Planned

- Completed Ag Learn Required Training sessions
- CCA Training, Syracuse – 11/9-20

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- November 14, 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Mike Nolan stopped in to report Cover Crops. Mike mentioned that they were interested in starting construction. I reminded him we needed proof of the 3 bids and a pre-construction meeting prior to him starting construction. I then reached out to Jeff Wilson and let him know about our conversation to keep him in the loop. I also reached out to Donna regarding the insurance requirements.
- Round 30-
 - Should be released sometime in November.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- No new updates.
 - Ghost Light Farm- First payment was made under the assignment of payment agreement. I sent the farm an email reminding them that they need to get us time logs and proof of payment for engineering and anything that they have paid to the contractor. No word on when the Erosion control system will be installed but the original plan was for that to happen in the 2025 construction season.
- Round 7-
 - No new updates. Still waiting on contracts. I did ask Ben about contract timelines, and he said they are getting out one to two contracts a week, but it is frustrating for state committee as well.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction is in full swing. Excavation is done and the liner company is on site this week working on installing the liner. I have been in contact with Aaron via email letting him know where the project is at. He plans on having someone out this week to check on the liner. Grading and drainage around the storage is currently being installed. Everything looks good. I am planning on having Ashley take some drone photos/videos of the liner installation.

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-
 - I will be checking in with Tier 4 projects here in a couple of weeks to see the status of their projects. (Hick's Orchard & Nate Mattison)
- REPORTING: I will be submitting an interim report at the end of the year to get paid for Technical Assistance staff time earned through year 1 of the 2-year program.
- Scheduled a site visit with Erin Perkins to assess their stream and see if we could come up with any solutions but the site visit was rescheduled.
- Tier 2 verification form was complete for Mac Brook Farm
- Ongoing: working on a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- The next scheduled meeting temporarily scheduled for January 9, 2025, at Warren County SWCD office. This will be our organizational meeting.
- Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County, will be stepping down as President.
- We are looking to schedule a legislative tour/showcase in the Spring. We are hoping to launch our new website at this project showcase.
- Current grant- Website funding through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust. We received a grant through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust to create a website for the Upper Hudson. The website is nearly complete. We are working on gathering photos and materials to place on the website. It will house our meeting minutes, agendas, watershed plan, and projects.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Farmers For Soil Health-National Cover Crop Program- I reached out and got a Technical Assistance account created. I was able to login successfully and as of right now it looks like only 1 person in Washington County has created an account and logged their fields to get reimbursed for cover crop implemented.
- Ag Learn Trainings completed. Section 508: What it is and why it is important. 11/8/24
- I am attending the CCA conference next week. 11/19/24 & 11/20/24.
- Listened to the recording of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting that was on 11/12/24.
- Attended the 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training on 10/29/24 at the Fairgrounds. Around 20 people attended from Washington County DPW.

Miscellaneous:

- Bank reconciliations completed

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – November 14th, 2024

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- Attended Capital Region PRISM Fall Partner's Meeting on November 7th.
- CWICNY meeting is on November 21st.
- Will be attending the CCA Training in Syracuse from November 19th-20th.
- Sat in on SWCC and CDEA Zoom meetings November 12th-13th.
- I will begin attending Hudson River CAG December 5th.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- A WQCC kick-off meeting is scheduled for December 18th, at the Fairgrounds. I have sent out invitations to several organizations and individuals to attend and posted an announcement on our website.
- Was denied funding from the Glens Falls Foundation for shoreline buffer planting program. Currently considering next steps and other avenues.
- Conducted a second AIS rake survey at the South Bay Boat Launch during which I found a golden clam (formerly Asian clam), an invasive species on their watch list which was not yet confirmed in the lake. NYS DEC and Lake Champlain Basin Program were able to confirm the presence, and a press release was published.

Landowner Assistance

- Currently planning 3 public meetings to talk to landowners about the District's services and programs.
 - One meeting will be specifically geared towards farmers. I am currently looking for a venue and catering. Aiming to hold the meeting on January 14th. I have reached out to the Greenwich Elk's Lodge for a location.
 - The other 2 meetings will be more focused on non-ag landowners. Meetings will be held on January 23rd at the West Fort Ann Volunteer Fire Department and January 28th at Gather in Greenwich.
- Conducted NAACC assessments on culverts on Deerfield Road in Easton.
- Went with Corrina to a meeting with TNC and Lake George Land Conservancy on Warrick Road in Whitehall about culvert replacement. Currently looking for possible pots of funding and first steps.
- Assessed Greg Lapan's access road to his sugarbush for CWICNY Forest Roads.
- Working on scheduling a site visit with Camp Chingachgook for Forest Roads assessments.

CAFO

- Accompanied Amber to Woody Hill for manure storage liner installation visit.

Part B

- Met with Carl Schwartz at the Georgi to go over river restoration plans with TU.

Misc.

- I have been slowly working on the district website. I have re-designed the homepage and the AEM program page.
- I have been working with ESRI and Washington County Real Property to learn about ArcGIS accounts. We have a brief training on mobile applications for District staff planned for January 7th. Gerry Aiken from ESRI will be conducting the training.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – November 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

November SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **November 12th starting at 10:00 AM**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out in advance of the meeting. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

2024 Part C Performance Measures: The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and you should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling its Performance Measure goals. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions.

Reminder of Open Funding Opportunities: A reminder that these funding programs are accepting rolling applications.

- **Source Water Buffer Program:** Funding is available to support the purchase of development rights on agricultural land to support the protection of active public drinking water sources. More information can be found here, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/rfa-0181-source-water-buffer-program>
- **County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants:** Counties are eligible for grants up to \$50,000 for developing a county agriculture and farmland protection plan. Any county that has established an agricultural and farmland protection board and has not had an agricultural and farmland protection plan approved in the last 10 years is eligible for funding. For more information and to assess your Counties eligibility, please visit: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0262-county-agriculture-and-farmland-protection-planning-grants>

Other Events

Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub-Basin Work Group Meetings: DEC Great Lakes program staff are excited to announce the next round of Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) Sub-Basin Work Group meetings will be held this fall to provide opportunities to learn updates from NYSDEC Great Lakes Program and partners.

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/waterbodies/lakes-rivers/great-lakes/action-agenda>

- Lake Erie: **Wednesday, November 6th, 1 – 4 PM**
- Southwest (SW) Lake Ontario: **Friday, November 8th, 1 – 4 PM**
- Southeast (SE) Lake Ontario: **Thursday, November 14th, 2024; 1 - 4:00 PM**
- Northeast Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River (LOSLR): **Friday, November 15th, 1 – 4 PM**

2024 Annual Meeting of the Soil and Water Conservation Society – Empire Chapter will be held remotely on **Nov. 7th from 9:00am to 12:15 PM** (business meeting at 8am). “Learn the Science Behind What We Do” when implementing cover crops, riparian forest buffers and tackling HAB’s in the Finger Lakes. Speakers include representatives from the Stroud Water Research Center, Cornell CAL’s and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. CCA CEU’s are offered. The event is free and remote. Register here: <https://bit.ly/EmpireSWCS2024> Meeting here: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86104155526> Contact Scott Fickbohm with any questions scott.fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov

2024 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference: Including the Basic Training track for those preparing to take the CCA exams as well as the Advanced Training track for current CCAs. An in-person track will commence at the Doubletree Hotel, East Syracuse, NY on **November 19th-20th, 2024**, followed by a virtual track will commence on **December 10th-11th, 2024**, when additional programming will be offered. More information and a registration link can be found here, <https://www.nysaba.com/about-3>

NACD 2025 Annual Meeting: Registration for The National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 79th Annual Meeting is now open! The 2025 Annual Meeting will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, from **February 8th – 12th, 2025**. To learn more and to register, please visit: <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>

CREP Annual Progress Report: It’s that time of year again when New York State reports to USDA on outreach, success stories, challenges and provides suggestions related to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Please send anything you would like to share or any questions to Scott.Fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov by **12/16/24**.

Other Funding

Establishing Large Forests (ELF) Grant Program: DEC announced that \$4.5 Million is available for private landowners to establish new forests. ELF expands on New York State’s popular Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grant Program and is designed to support the creation of new forests crucial for mitigating climate change, providing wildlife habitat, protecting air and water quality, and supplying timber, an important renewable resource. Applications will be accepted until **3 p.m. on**

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025. Applications must be submitted through the SFS Grants Management System (SFS). Those wishing to apply need to establish an account in SFS. Once registered, search SFS for “Establishing Large Forests” or “ELF.”

<https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2024/10/dec-announces-45-million-in-new-grant-funding-to-establish-large-forests>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – December 19, 2024

Attending:

Board Members

John Dickinson, Chairman

Jay Skellie, Director

Sherri Slater, Director

Cassie Fedler, Director

Kate Ziehm, Director

Others:

Kate Girard, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Collin, Mulcahy, NRCS

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager

Lori Sheehan, Office Manager

Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician

Amber Luke, District Technician

Korey Evarts, District Intern

-
1. Call to order at 10:10 a.m. by Chairman Dickinson.
 2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
 3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for November and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
 4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
 - B. District Manager: Attachment, reviewed by Aldrich
 - C. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Leemans
 - F. District Intern: No Report
 - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
 5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Slater to approve Salem Farm Supply invoice for Interseeder Repairs (Part C Funds - \$4,415.33). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve Aldrich & Evarts to attend 2025 Ag Society Annual Forum in January (Syracuse – Part C Funds)
 - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve staff attendance at 2025 Water Quality Symposium training in March (Rochester - Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve BMP grant payment to Albert or Donna Marns (\$200,000) for Round 1 CAFO Waste Storage & Transfer System. **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve submitting a second time extension amendment request to SWCC for Round 25 Contract #C012195 Luncrest Nutrient Management Grant. **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve submitting a AgNPS Round 30 application for Kings Ransom, LLC (Germain location). **Unanimously carried.**

- G. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to use General Operating funds (\$30,300) to reimburse landowners who participated in the CWICNY Lake Champlain Basin Cover Crop grant through Ag & Markets. These funds will be reimbursed by the grant administrator, Clinton County SWCD. **Unanimously carried.**



RESOLUTION

of the

**Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District
Motion By Slater Seconded By Fedler. Unanimously carried.**

Authorizing participation by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District in the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program created pursuant to section 11-b of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law.

WHEREAS, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued a Request for Proposals inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit proposals for funding under Round 30 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for projects that consist of activities that will reduce, abate, control, or prevent nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural sources; and

WHEREAS, the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District has determined that certain work, as described in its application and attachments, (the “Project”) is in the public interest and consists of activities that will reduce and/or prevent nonpoint source pollution from agricultural sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

1) That **Corrina Aldrich**, District Manager, or such person’s successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District’s governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under Round 30 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program. The representative is authorized to make application, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Project;

2) That the District agrees to fund its portion of the cost of the Project as provided in the application;

3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 30 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program;

4) That this resolution take effect immediately.



6. The next Board meeting will be held on January 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:24 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *Treasurer Report, District Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – 12/19/2024

AEM

- Completed site visits for Tier II with Edgar Aldous and Jeff Bush.

Ag Assessments

- After learning the new version of GIS, I have completed around 30 ag assessments.

CAFO Round 1

- Deep Roots – The farm has been busy finishing the building over the hopper/pump house. They have also been in touch with Aaron Weiss (engineer) to complete the as-builts, knowing that December 17th is the deadline.

CWICNY Cover Crop Program

- I have completed site visits for all the farms in the program.

Meetings Attended / Planned

- Completed Ag Learn Section 508 Training
- CCA Virtual training – 12/10 & 12/11

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- December 19, 2024

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- The farm started construction on their project on 11/25/24. We have received all necessary paperwork for them to begin construction. The Company fusing the transfer pipe was on site on 12/9/24. Transfer lines from the manure storage to the barn are in place with all valves necessary. Work continues modifying the push off into a reception pit. I have been in communication with Jeff Wilson (engineer), and I am sending photos daily so he can stay up to date on what is going on.
- Round 30-
 - Released December 5, 2024. Applications are due by February 24, 2024! We have a webinar to go over the RFP on 12/19/24.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- They have selected an engineer for their project and are working on getting bids for the construction.
 - Ghost Light Farm- First payment was made under the assignment of payment agreement. I sent the farm an email reminding them that they need to get us time logs and proof of payment for engineering and anything that they have paid to the contractor. No word on when the erosion control system will be installed but the original plan was for that to happen in the 2025 construction season.
- Round 7-
 - Contracts were received.
 - I let Hunter Southerland know that we received his contract and he is going to work with his engineer to get a final design and then work on getting bids this winter. Plans on construction occurring in the 2025 construction season.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction is in full swing. Concrete crew is on site this week working on laying rebar in the floor. With plans to pour concrete as soon as the weather permits. I have been continuing to do SWPPP inspections weekly. I talked with the farm and reminded them that as they pump water out of the manure storage to be aware of the minor erosion that it may be causing. They placed some fabric underneath the hose to help dissipate some of the energy from the water. The contractor has been great at keeping me updated as things progress.

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-
 - Working on setting up site visits with Tier 4 projects here in a couple of weeks to see the status of their projects. (Hick's Orchard & Nate Mattison). This has been put on hold until after we get moved around the office.
- REPORTING: Working on getting completed time logs from everyone. I will be submitting an interim report at the end of the year to get paid for Technical Assistance staff time earned through year 1 of the 2-year program.

- Ongoing: Working on a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- The next scheduled meeting temporarily scheduled for January 9, 2025, at Warren County SWCD office. This will be our organizational meeting. We will be looking to re-organize our officers at this meeting.
- Current grant- Website funding through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust. We received a grant through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust to create a website for the Upper Hudson. The website is nearly complete. We are working on gathering photos and materials to place on the website. It will house our meeting minutes, agendas, watershed plan, and projects.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended the Agricultural Stewardship Association Soil Health Workshop for Veggie growers on 12/5/24.
- I attended the CCA conference 11/19/24 & 11/20/24. Virtual Days 12/10/24 & 12/11/24.
- Submitted my renewal for the NYS E&SCCP. It was received on 12/17/24

Miscellaneous:

- Bank reconciliations completed
- Working on packing up and moving my work area to accommodate construction and keep things moving.

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – December 19th, 2024

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- Attending CWICNY's "CWICMAS" on 12/19.
- Attended the CCA Training in Syracuse from November 19th-20th and the virtual trainings on Dec 10th and 11th.
- Attended the Highway Supervisors Association December meeting and gave a brief update on opportunities for partnering with SWCD.
- First Hudson River CAG meeting on December 5th.
- Also attended the APIPP Partner's Meeting virtually on December 5th.
- First EEF meeting on December 10th.
- First Unifying Stormwater meeting on December 11th in partnership with Lake Champlain Basin Program and Stream Wise.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Seed packets have been purchased and delivered.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- A WQCC kick-off meeting is scheduled for December 18th, at the Fairgrounds. I have sent out invitations to several organizations and individuals to attend and posted an announcement on our website.
- Reapplied for funding from the Glens Falls Foundation for shoreline buffer planting program, now re-structured as a residential stormwater technical assistance program.

Landowner Assistance

- Public Meeting locations and dates have been set:
 - Tues., Jan. 14th, 11AM – 2PM at the Elk's Lodge in Greenwich – Tailored to farmers.
 - Thurs., Jan. 23rd, 6:30PM – 8:00PM at the West Fort Ann Fire Department – Non-ag focused.
 - Tues., Jan. 28th, 6:30PM – 8:00PM at Gather in Greenwich – Non-ag focused.
 - I created a flyer for farmers which Bob is dispersing with Ag Assessments and ASA has agreed to disperse as well.
 - I created a post card for the non-ag meetings which have been sent to all newsletter recipients and extras are going to local businesses to disperse as appropriate.
 - All meetings are advertised on our website and on our FaceBook Page.
- Assessed Forest Roads for Camp Chingachgook.
- Purchased poisonous plant signs for The Georgi to warn patrons of poison ivy and poison parsnip as a part of their invasive species management plan.

Municipal Assistance

- Met with Gary Treadway (Putnam Highway Supervisor) and Lake George Park Commission on Black Point Road in Putnam to discuss how we could assist with stormwater control. I am currently looking into if and how we can apply RRAMP funding.
- Conducted a few RRAMP assessments in Putnam while I was in the area.

CAFO

- Accompanied Amber to Woody Hill for manure storage liner installation visits and took drone photos and videos.
- Took final drone photos of Deep Roots manure storage.
- Went with Amber to take “before” photos at Kenyon Hill.

People’s Garden

- I have been looking into a new grant opportunity that has come up for People’s Gardens and looking into establishing a new garden in Putnam.

Misc.

- Wrote a short article on the Deep Roots manure transfer and storage system for the Legislative Booklet.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – December 2024
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas! The holiday season is here again, a time for remembering our family and friends. Wishing you and all those close to you, a joyous holiday season and a new year of happiness!

Round 30 Agricultural Non-Point Source Program: The SWCC has made a total of \$25 million available for Round 30 competitive projects through the State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. \$14 million will be sourced from the Environmental Protection Fund and \$11 million will be sourced from the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. The RFP and associated documents are now available on the SWCC SharePoint and are available on the Department of Ag and Markets website, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfp-0323-agricultural-nonpoint-source-pollution-abatement-and-control-program>. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to jason.kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov by **January 10th, 2024**. Applications must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM February 24, 2025**.

December SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **December 17th starting at 10:00 AM**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out in advance of the meeting. All Districts are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting. Each meeting agenda provides an opportunity for Conservation Districts to provide reports, updates, or feedback to the SWCC. **Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

State Aid to Districts and Annual Reports: Many of this year's reports will be in a new format due to the discontinuance of the previously used program. However, the content of the forms will generally be the same. The annual report and performance measures report will be Google Docs; this will require each District to have a Google account. You should be able to use your regular district email and not have to create a Gmail account. If you have issues creating an account, contact Tyler Knapp Tyler.Knapp@agriculture.ny.gov or Chastity Miller Chastity.Miller@agriculture.ny.gov. Currently the hourly rates report, and the Treasurer's Report are available on SharePoint. The remaining reports will be released throughout the month of December and posted. All reports must be submitted by **February 15, 2025**.

2024 Part C Performance Measures: The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and you should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling its Performance Measure goals. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions. Any performance measures special requests need to be received and approved by **December 31st, 2024**.

2024 Part B Projects: Any revised requests need to be submitted and approved by **December 31st, 2024**.

NYS Grown & Certified: A few New York State Grown & Certified opportunities have been posted recently, and some producers have been inquiring! The most up to date information and funding opportunities can be found here, <https://certified.ny.gov/>. Every three years, participating producers or a majority of producers are required to participate/renew in the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program update, with the completion of a Tier 2 or higher. An alternative option is to have an active CAFO permit. On our SWCC Sharepoint site, under "Resources for Districts" and "NYS Grown and Certified," you will find many forms relevant to Grown & Certified, along with information that should help with most questions received from farmers. If you need help accessing or gaining access to Sharepoint, please contact Tim Clark (tim.clark@agriculture.ny.gov). This is a great opportunity to introduce new producers into AEM or reconnect with some familiar faces as they seek recertification. Questions about NYS Grown and Certified can be directed to NYSGrownandCertified@agriculture.ny.gov, as well as Chasity Miller, or your regional AEA.

CREP Annual Progress Report: It's that time of year again when New York State reports to USDA on outreach, success stories, challenges and provides suggestions related to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Please send anything you would like to share or any questions to Scott.Fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov by **12/16/24**.

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Other Funding

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Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program 2025 Request for Proposals: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and partners are requesting proposals for the 2025. This program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources by providing financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support. Full proposals are **due by January 22nd, 2025**. To learn more about the grant program and the application guidelines, please go here, <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters>.

\$7 Million to Support Environmental Education Centers and Disadvantaged Communities: NYSDEC has made \$7 million in competitive grant funding available for community-based, not-for-profit, and tribal organizations to support the construction, or renovation of existing facilities, to create community environmental education centers, which will offer classes and programs on environmental awareness. The centers must be located within or serve a disadvantaged community or an environmental justice community. Funding is provided from the State's EPF and is available to support capital costs of new construction or renovation proposals. Grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$3 million will be awarded. The deadline for all applications is **3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025**. The request for applications (RFA) is only available online through The Statewide Financial System of New York (www.sfs.ny.gov)