

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting - January 23, 2025

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
Ashley Leemans, District Technician

Call to order at 10:20 a.m. by Director Dickinson.

Organizational Business:

Motion by Slater/Fedler to keep election of officers as is: **Unanimously carried.**

- John Dickinson, Chairman
- Jay Skellie, Vice Chairman
- Catherine (Kate) Ziehm, Treasurer

Motion by Slater/Skellie 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): Ashley Leemans / 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; Ashley Leemans – 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, program supplies (tree & fish programs), utility bills, employee travel, credit card, 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/Slater to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**

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

Agency & Staff Reports:

Farm Service Agency: No Report

District Manager: Verbal report by Aldrich

District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Kalbfliesh

District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke

District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Leemans

NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham

Motion by Skellie/Fedler to dispose of certain 2017 financial records according to Records Retention and Disposal Schedule LGS-1. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Fedler/Slater to approve opening a Certificate of Deposit for \$200,000. **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 Part C funds for expenses for public meetings. **Unanimously carried.**

- \$250 to West Fort Ann Fire Department for use of facility
- \$200 to Gather for use of facility

Motion by Slater/Skellie to approve purchase of Technician Laptop with Part C Funds (est. \$4,000). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Slater/Skellie to approve Washington County Highway Association Dues (Part C Funds - \$100). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Slater/Fedler to approve Kalbfliesh & Luke to attend CaroVail Annual Winter Meeting (Part C Funds - \$25/pp). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Slater/Fedler to approve purchasing two GIS licenses for technicians (Part C Funds – est. \$700 per account per year). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Skellie/Slater to approve NYS Urban Forestry Council Membership (\$100 – Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Skellie/Fedler to set the Equipment Reserve Fund Amount to \$25,600. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Slater/Fedler to approve accepting donations from newsletter sponsors for our February & August newsletters. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Skellie/Fedler to approve closing out CAFO Round 1 Contract #C011866 – Deep Roots Holsteins grant. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Skellie/Slater to approve using General Operating funds (\$3,976.75) and Part C Funds (\$20,000 previously allocated for 2024 project not completed) for CWICNY Lake Champlain Basin Cover Crop Payments (total amount of payments = \$54,276.75 minus \$30,300 grant funds reimbursed to the district = balance of \$23,976.75). **Unanimously carried.**

Payments made to the following: Albert Marns (\$4,550), Wayne Foote (\$4,550), Foothill Farm (\$4,550), Yorkmont Farm (\$4,550), Toolite Farm (\$4,075), Twin Brooks Farm (\$4,550), Jennifer Alexander (\$151.75), Fred Burch (\$4,550), Rollin Hills (\$4,550), Manor View Farm (\$4,550), Walker Farms (\$4,550), Heritage Hill Farm (\$4,550), Jeffrey Bush (\$4,550)

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 Use Vehicle Policy, Electronic Payments Policy & Procedures – Grant Contracts, Public Employer Health Emergency Plan, Agricultural Assessment Policy, Drone Service Agreement & Policy, Assignment of Payment Policy, Workplace Violence, Code of Ethics, Information Security Incident – Breach Notification Policy & List. **Unanimously carried.**

The next Board meeting will be held on February 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Motion by Slater/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:47 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

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

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – 01/23/2025

AEM

- Completed AEM time sheets for the year.

Ag Assessments

- I continue to work on ag assessments. The number of requests has made it a busy year.

CAFO Round 1 – Deep Roots

- I attended the NRCS final site inspection. The engineer was satisfied with the project.

CWICNY Cover Crop Program

- I have completed the final reports for 2024 program and sent them to Peter Hager, Clinton County for processing.

Meetings

- I gave a presentation at our farmer's meeting at the Greenwich Elk's Lodge on the no-till drill and ag assessments.

Meetings Planned

- CaroVail Winter Meeting – Greenwich Elks – 2/7/25

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- January 23, 2025

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- This project is moving along nicely. They have recently poured both the floor of the planned reception pit (converted push off), the pump is in place and last week they poured the wall around the pump. The engineer was onsite on Friday 1/17/25 when they poured the walls around the pump. Next, they will be working on the building that goes over the pump. The cold weather has slightly delayed construction as they need to wait until certain temperatures to pour otherwise the concrete will need to be heated.
- Round 30-
 - Released December 5, 2024. Applications are due by February 24, 2024! One application in the works.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- No new updates. They have selected an engineer for their project and are working on getting bids for the construction. I am working on drawing up some of the conservation BMP's that I am comfortable with to give the farm something to go follow when installing these BMP's.
 - Ghost Light Farm- No new updates. The Erosion control system will be installed in the 2025 construction season.
- Round 7-
 - Contracts were received. Hunter Southerland is working on getting the finalized engineering designs and then they will move towards the bid process. Planning for construction in 2025.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction is in full swing. 2/3 of the concrete slab floor, 2 pump ramps, and the access ramp have been poured. All these items needed to be heated and blanketed for at least 3 days after the pour. The cold weather has led to this project taking longer than anticipated. The contractor is working on prepping the push off ramp for concrete next, then they will finish the floor and finish with the curb around the floor. But this entails thawing out the ground underneath the ramp area and making sure there is no frost under it prior to pouring. I have been continuing to do SWPPP inspections weekly.

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-
 - Reminded Jeff about Hick's when he was onsite at another project quickly. It is on his agenda to get done and he knows we need it as soon as possible.
- I have had one new Tier 1 request (du Trieux Farm). This was a result of our public farm meeting that we hosted at the Elk's on 1/14/25.
- REPORTING: Waiting for AEM time logs to be filled out so that I can know what has been done in order to submit an interim report.
- 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 February 13, 2025, at Warren County SWCD office.
- I was elected as the new President at the January 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.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Helped Korey get up and running on the Square site, showed him how to add items and how to edit current stock, etc.

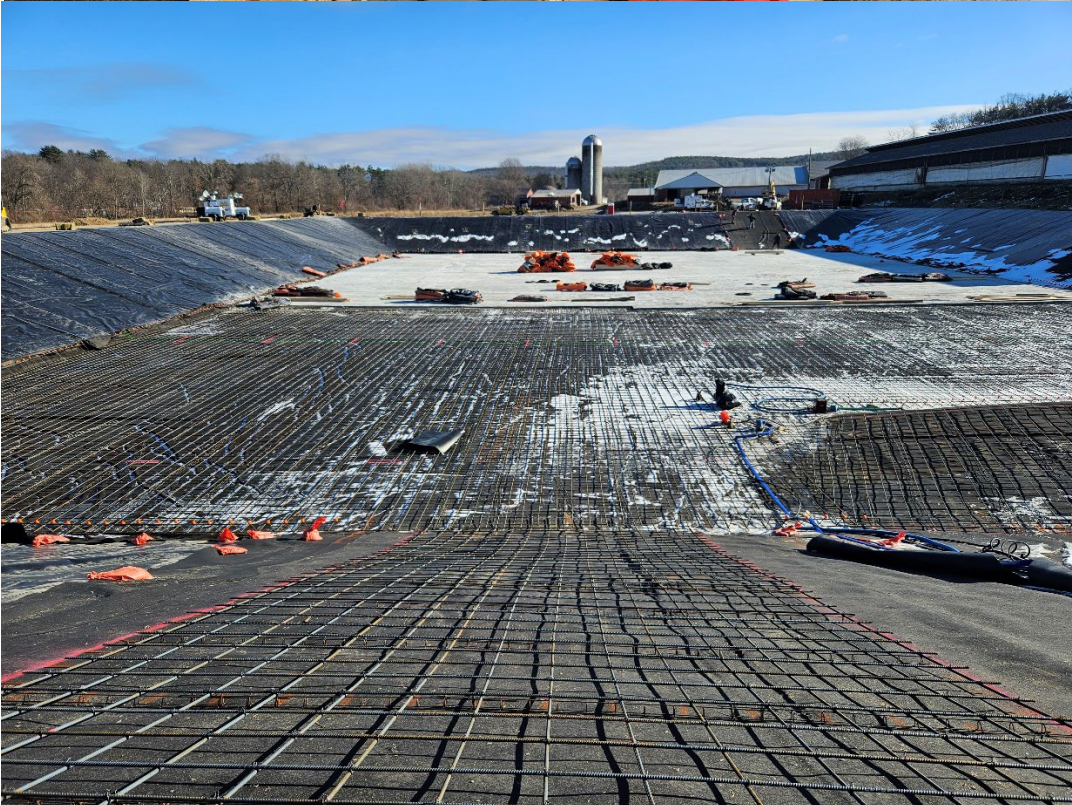
Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- ESRI DEMO at the county building on 1/7/25
- State Programs Advisory Committee meeting on 1/8/25
- AEM Strategic Planning meeting attended 1/15/25
- Ag Learn Training completed on 1/16/25
- Submitted my renewal for the NYS E&SCCP. It was received on 12/17/24
- Public Farmer's Meeting- 1/14/25

Miscellaneous:

- Bank reconciliations completed
- Performance measure time log, grant timesheets and AEM time log all are up to date.
- Newsletter article

Woody Hill-



Kenyon Hill-



Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – January 23rd, 2025

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- On 1/7 I attended an ESRI mobile app demonstration hosted by Wash. Co. Dept. of Real Property and taught by ESRI representatives.
- 1/9 attended virtual 5th Annual Harmful Algal Bloom Symposium. This was an all-day symposium on research and case studies of harmful algal blooms throughout the country.
- Took VT DEC Shoreline Erosion Control Certification Course 1/10. This was an 8-hour virtual training course for mitigating lake shore erosion through green infrastructure.
- Attended CWICNY meeting on 1/17.
- 1/22 I will be attending the ReLeaf workshop on preparing for urban planting. The workshop will cover choosing the right tree for your location, finding funding for plantings, and engaging the community in planting programs.
- On 1/27 I will be attending the Lake George Watershed HWA Meetings as they ramp up again.
- Next week (1/27) I will be starting a Professional Rain Gardener Certification course, for which I must complete a rain garden to get certification.
- In Feb. I will be starting a Pollinator Certification Steward through the Pollinator Partnership. A pollinator project must also be completed for this program.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- The Square website has been updated but has not yet been opened for orders. This will be done after the Feb. newsletters are sent out.
 - I figured out how to put a pop-up on the homepage of our website.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- A WQCC kick-off meeting went well. We had 9 participants, not counting district staff. There were a lot of good suggestions for steering the direction of the committee.
- Our next meeting will be Feb. 12th at 9AM at the Fairgrounds. Hannah Diebboll from DEC Region 5 will be presenting on her work with Round Goby.

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.
 - This meeting went very well. We had a lot of good questions from farmers who attended. We had 9 attendees. District staff gave presentations on our programs and grants, with an emphasis on AEM. We seem to have some new farmers interested. The attendees were a mix of new faces and farmers we have worked with before.
 - 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 am currently working on a mitigation plan for Forest Roads for Camp Chingachgook.

CAFO

- Attended the engineer site visit for Deep Roots.

AEM

- Working on Tier 3 for Scotch Hill Farm
- Working on a Tier 2 for Greg LaPan as a result of his forest road assessment. His project would better fit into AEM.

Part B

- We will have a permit to plant a tree at the South Lake State Boat Launch in Whitehall for Arbor Day.
- We will be planting a tree at The Georgi and having an Arbor Day Celebration. We will be attending their Feb. meeting, identifying the site and picking a species.

People's Garden

- I am working on a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Federation to expand the Salem People's Garden to build a new People's Garden (Location TBD).

Misc.

- I am working on article on AIS for CWICNY annual report.
- I am assisting the Environmental Education Foundation of Soil and Water in New York (EEF) with applying for funding for the 2025 State Envirothon.
- I have been trying to encourage teachers to sign up for the Saratoga Regional Envirothon.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – January 2025
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

2024 State Aid to Districts – DUE 2/15: All 2024 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, 2025. Please contact ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA with any questions. If you have questions on the Treasurer's Report, it is suggested to contact OSC representative directly. This link (<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/contact.htm>) will provide regional contact information.

SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee (SPAC) Meeting: The next SWCC SPAC meeting will take place Wednesday, **January 8th, 2025, from 9:30AM to 12:00PM**. Virtual and in-person (NYS Fairgrounds and SWCC Albany Office) attendance options are available. Agenda topics include NYS Soil Health Benchmarks; AEM 19 Program Development and; CRF Round 9 Updates. To join via Webex, please visit: <https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m21d74ba61af885baca8819112ea2dbe0>

AEM Strategy 2026-2030 Regional Meetings: REMINDER to register for your chosen meeting location by January 7th, 2025!

Please sign-up utilizing this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTQ1uihwQPwhMNIxnWmpDZ0PWarpZel8oQme_tDdig54yg/viewform?usp=s_haring.

- **Region 1 - Jan 13th:** WNY, Genesee County Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 2 - Jan 14th:** Central NY, Cortland SWCD Office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 3 - Jan 15th:** Eastern NY, Montgomery County Emergency Services 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 4 - Jan 16th:** Northern NY, Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 5 - Jan 17th:** Southeast NY, Dutchess SWCD Office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY – 10AM-2PM

Claim for Payment Black Out Period Approaching: We are approaching the “Blackout Period” for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The “Blackout Period” is the time of year (starting April 1st, 2025, lasting until June/July 2025) when payments for programs supported by the Environmental Protection Fund (AGNPS, CRF, EBM, AEM) cannot be processed due to end of the year reporting/accounting. We encourage Districts to consider what projects may be implemented in 2025 and what projects are eligible for advances or reimbursements. If you will need to request a 25% Advance, 65% BMP Implementation Payment, Subsequent/Interim Payment, or Final Payment prior to the start of the black out period, please email the CFP packet to the appropriate State Committee program manager, regional coordinator and Maureen Irish by **Friday, February 21st, 2025. Please remember to only submit claims for payment for contracts that have been fully executed.** Questions can be directed to your Regional Coordinator or appropriate Program Manager.

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>. An **AgNPS R30** RFP webinar for Districts has been scheduled for December 19th, 1:00 – 2:30PM. 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**.

January SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting will take place Tuesday, January 21st, at 10AM. Further details and an agenda for the January meeting will be sent out shortly. 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.**

CRF Round 8 Plans of Work: Please submit plans of work for projects awarded through Round 8 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.

Other Events

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/>

2025 Water Quality Symposium: The New York State Conservation District Employees' Association and Soil and Water Conservation Committee are thrilled to announce the 2025 Water Quality Symposium in Rochester, NY. **March 11th – 14th, 2025**. Please save the dates. Registration information will be available from CDEA shortly.

Other Funding

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>.

DEC Announces \$15 Million in New Grant Funding for Community Reforestation: NYS DEC has made \$15 million available through the new Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant Program to expand, restore, and create urban forested natural areas. Eligible CoRe projects include planting trees, preparing sites, and removing competing or invasive vegetation interfering with tree seedling growth, and/or protecting new plantings from deer browse. Grant applications will be accepted until **2 p.m. on March 12, 2025**. Applications must be submitted through the SFS Grants Management System (SFS). DEC will host a webinar on **Thursday, January 9th, 2025, from 10AM to 12PM**. Link to register for the webinar can be found here: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – March 27, 2025

Attending:

Board Members

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

Others:

Scott Fickbohm, NYS-SWCC
Vic DiGiacomo, NYS-SWCC

Staff Members

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

-
1. Call to order at 10:25 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 January & February 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, submitted by Cunningham
 5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve opening interest-bearing checking account for CRF Round 7 Contract #C012550 Luncrest Alternative Manure Management. **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve opening interest-bearing checking account for CRF Round 7 Contract #C012555 Black Creek Stream Corridor Management. **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve the following Part C expenditures. **Unanimously carried.**
 - NY Association of Conservation Districts Assessment (\$1,500); Kingsbury Printing SWCD Newsletter (\$941.37); NY Farm Bureau Membership (\$110); ASA Business Supporter (\$500); Soil & Water Conservation Society Membership (\$230)
 - D. **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve Part C funds for additional expense for office furniture purchased from Charlie's Office Furniture Invoice #33277 (\$13,716.40 - \$7,500 prior approval amount = \$6,216.40). **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve opening account with Adirondack Environmental Services with District credit card on file for water testing services to a maximum amount of \$2,500. **Unanimously carried.**

- F. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve donating leftover tree stock from tree program to conservation projects and refund customers as necessary. **Unanimously carried.**
 - G. **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve QuickBooks Annual Subscription (\$1,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - H. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve WQCC funds to purchase pond treatment products (\$690.58). **Unanimously carried.**
 - I. **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve WQCC funds to purchase Zoom Pro Plan Account (\$160 per year). **Unanimously carried.**
 - J. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve District participation in Granville's FFA Ag Fair April 4th & 5th. **Unanimously carried.**
 - K. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve Opening Certificate of Deposits with Part C Funds (\$200,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - L. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve hiring a temporary part-time employee (\$20 per hour). **Unanimously carried.**
 - M. **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve submitting Aldo Leopold Award application for Tiashoke Farm. **Unanimously carried.**
 - N. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve Aldrich and Leemans attend the NYS-FOLA Conference (\$300). **Unanimously carried.**
 - O. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve Leemans attend Canal Street Marketplace (Fort Edward) half-season as District Outreach Event. **Unanimously carried.**
- 6. Scott Fickbohm and Vic DiGiacomo from NYS-SWCC gave a presentation on employee recruitment and retention.
 - 7. The next Board meeting will be held on April 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
 - 8. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 12:15 p.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

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

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – March 2025

AEM

- Ian Kaminski: I have a field visit scheduled for March 25th. Ian is looking for seeding recommendations and to lease the no-till drill.
- Alicia McLaughlin: I have started the process to get her beef operation Grown & Certified.

Ag Assessments

- I have completed 160 soil group worksheets and soil maps for ag assessments this year – a very busy year.

CWICNY Cover Crop Program

- I have talked to several farmers about participating in this year's cover crop program.

Meetings

- CaroVail Winter Meeting – Greenwich Elks, 2/7

NRCS Cooperation

- I have taken Phalen on several farm visits to help her familiarize herself with dairy farming and our county.

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- March 27, 2025

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Talked with Mike Nolan on 3/18/25. He says there has been no progress on the project since the last pour. He says it will probably be another month or so until the project resumes. (Mid-April)
- Round 30-
 - Kings grant application for Round 30 was submitted on time.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- No new updates.
 - Ghost Light Farm- No new updates. The Erosion control system will be installed in the 2025 construction season.
 - Wrote a letter of support for the farm. They received the NYS Environmental Stewardship Award from the National Cattlemen's Foundation and were looking for support as they were being forwarded on for the National Award.
- Round 7-
 - Contracts were received. No new updates.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction has resumed. Contractors are working on finishing up concrete work. Curbs on the main ramp were poured on 3/13 and the remaining portion of the floor and push off ramp was poured on 3/22/25. The liner company was out on 3/19/25 to fix the holes that were put in the line due to the heifers getting out and getting in the storage over the winter. They walked the whole thing and made sure it free of any holes. SWPPP inspections continue.

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-Contracts end 12/31/25
 - Nate Mattison has been working on his forest stand improvement. I will be making a site visit to get out there this Spring.
 - No new updates on Hick's design.
- I have had a couple of AEM interest requests. I have sent out Tier 1's to those people.
- 2- Tier 2 site visits, one for a chicken farmer looking to get NYS Grown and Certified and very interested in AEM. The summary for this farm has been delivered. One to a sheep farm that is also very interested in the AEM program. I am still working on the Tier 2 summary for the second farm.
- Farmers for Soil Health (FSH)- National Cover Crop program update. The program is on hold as the federal government has frozen funding for the grant held by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This includes pausing on all program activity and payments until further notice. Washington County did have two farms sign up for the program.
- AEM 5 Year Strategic plan-we are all working on updating the strategic plan.
- Working on pulling information for the AEM Leopold Award nomination for Washington County.
- 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)-

- Received a couple of LAP calls regarding soils inquiries and pond questions.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- The next scheduled meeting temporarily scheduled April 7, 2025 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 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.
- Discussion for a potential fall legislative tour are in the works.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Taking Tree and Shrub Sale orders and fielding phone calls for tree and shrub sale.
- I have been creating Facebook posts spotlighting the benefits of some of the less popular species we have.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- CaroVail winter meeting attended- 2/7/25
- ASA Sponsor Gathering attended- 2/27/25
- Legislative Days Attended-3/4/25. We met with 7 different Assembly members and senators from across the state. Educating them on the good work that SWCD's do.
- Ag Learn Training completed on 1/26/25
- Water Quality Symposium was attended 3/11/25-3/14/25. The AEM and general outreach classes that I attended were great.
- Forest Ed. Migrating to ArcGIS PRO- This is an ongoing self-paced training paid for by NYS CDEA.
- Granville FFA Ag Day. April 4th & 5th. We were invited to participate, and we will be setting up a table with an EnviroScape (loaned by Albany County SWCD) and soil samples for kids to feel different particle sizes (sand, silt & clay). 4/4/25 we will talk with students k-12 and 4/5/25 is open to the public.

Miscellaneous:

- Bank reconciliations completed
- Office construction is nearly complete. Moved my desk and all my stuff to my new resting place.

Woody Hill-



Repairs completed in the Liner.



Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – March 27, 2025

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- Completed class portion of rain garden training course and now just need to build a rain garden for certification.
- Have been attending weekly trainings for Pollinator Steward Certification through the Pollinator Partnership. Will need to complete a habitat project for certification.
- Attended first Water Quality Symposium March 10-14.
- Attended a Greenwich DWSP2 meeting with stakeholders and consultants. Have read and commented on the draft plan so far.
- Attended Feb and March CWICNY meetings.
- I have joined the Stormwater Tradeshow Committee for CWICNY and attended two most recent meetings.
 - I will be sending out save the dates and procuring a speaker.
- I have been continuing to attend Unifying Stormwater meetings with the LCBP and other organizations. They hope to have funding application ready for 2026 for the Champlain Watershed.
- March 26th attended the LG Watershed HWA Initiative meeting. We are reprioritizing goals for 2025 and reassessing the high priority hemlock areas in the LG watershed.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Tree and shrub orders are coming in.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

- Feb 12th meeting went well. Region 5 DEC came and talked about their work with the round goby in the canal system. Next meeting will be May 14th.

Landowner Assistance

- January Public meetings went well. We made a few new connections.
- The Greenwich Garden Club has expressed interest in working with the District and Corrina and I met with Ejay Murphy.
- I held my HABs presentation for Mud U. We had two participants.
- Site visits for residential stormwater evaluations have already been scheduled for May.

AEM

- Working on Tier 3 for Scotch Hill Farm.
- Working on a Tier 2 for Greg LaPan.
- Attended a Tier 2 with Amber at Hepatica Farms.

Part B

- Have received temporary permit to plant a tree at the South Lake State Boat Launch in Whitehall for Arbor Day. We will be planting a pin oak.
- The tree planting location at The Georgi has been selected.
- Pollinator Pledge has been advertised on Facebook, at public meetings, and I have sent emails to BOS. Municipalities can take part, so supervisors please forward to any departments that may be interested.
- I have also hung flyers with QR codes to sign up.

People's Garden

- I have applied to the Charles R. Wood Foundation for a small grant to buy supplies for the garden.

- I have also contacted Amy Maxwell at Salem HS to get involved with the Salem Service Days again.

Misc.

- I am working on article on AIS for CWICNY annual report.
- Pamela Landi at the County planning Department has asked us to put on a training for Planning Board members on green stormwater infrastructure. This will be in September.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – March 2025
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2025: 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. A Formal announcement and application materials were emailed to Districts the first week of February 2025. The deadline for applications is **May 15th, 2025**.

March SWCC Meeting: There is no SWCC meeting scheduled for March 2025. Further details and an agenda for the **April 2025** meeting will be sent out shortly. **Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

NYS SWCC State Program Advisory Committee Meeting: The next SPAC meeting will be held on **April 10th, 2025**. Further details and an agenda will be sent out in advance of the meeting. To have topics discussed on this or any upcoming SPAC meeting, please reach out to Greg Albrecht (greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov).

2025 NYS Envirothon - Volunteers Needed: The New York State Envirothon Committee is pleased to announce that we will host the 2025 New York State Envirothon at SUNY Cortland, on **May 28th and 29th, 2025**. Volunteers are the heart of this event, and it doesn't happen without assistance from SWCD Directors and staff. Please consider Volunteering! A description of the volunteer positions available as well as an online registration link are available here on the NYS Envirothon website, <https://nysenvirothon.org/contact>. Any questions can be directed to nysenvirothon@gmail.com.

Informal NYS SWCC Program Reviews: NYS SWCC staff are available, upon request, to review your District's processes/procedures for grant administration. This is an excellent opportunity to take stock of your current grant administration processes, identify high risk areas and discuss possible internal controls to manage the risks. These reviews are meant to be informal and educational. If you are interested in scheduling a review, please reach out to me anytime.

Other Events

Upcoming Manure Roadshow: Ontario County SWCD, Yates County SWCD, and Cornell PRO-DAIRY are hosting a Soil Health & Nutrient Management Workshop on **March 28th, 2025**, at the Ontario Produce Auction in Stanley, NY, featuring the Manure Roadshow. It will be packed with information on the value of manure, tile drainage, manure safety, and much more. Attached is the flyer with the full schedule, speaker info, and registration information. The workshop will also include the Manure Applicator Training (NYS DEC approved) and certificates will be provided. Please call **(315) 536-5188** with questions.

2025 CNMP Training: The AEM Partners are pleased to announce that the CNMP Training, a prerequisite class for AEM Planner Certification and NRCS Level II CNMP Planner Certification, is scheduled for **April 1-4, 2025**, on the Cornell Campus in Ithaca, NY. The announcement and registration form has been emailed to Districts and partners, but for more information and a copy of the registration form, please reach out to Ron Bush (ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov). The registration deadline is March 14th.

Upcoming NAACC Training, Save the Date: The NAACC NY workgroup will be holding a virtual training for the Culvert Condition Assessment on **Thursday April 3rd, from 12:30-3:00pm**. This is a rebroadcast of a previous training given last fall. There will be live Q&A and discussion after the training and all attendees will receive certification for the NAACC Condition Assessment Module (a training requirement for Lead Observers). More information will be emailed soon – for any questions please reach out to Ryan Cunningham (ryan.cunningham@agriculture.ny.gov).

2025 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: Save the Date. The New York State Wetlands Forum 2025 Annual Conference and Business Meeting will take place on **April 22nd and 23rd, in Rochester, NY**. To register, please visit: <https://www.wetlandsforum.org/index.html>

Cover Crop and Soil Health Field Day: April 24th, Tompkins County:
https://www.covercropbreeding.com/files/ugd/1bd2ad_364fc61dfec44ece894f3c4e09620b8f.pdf

NACD Northeast & NYACD Annual Event and Training Session: Save the date! **September 21st - 24th, 2025**, DoubleTree Hilton, East Syracuse, NY. Details and information to follow soon.

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, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. EST.** <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2025>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – April 21, 2025

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
Ashley Leemans, District Technician

Others:

Tina Williams, Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Phelan Stover, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

1. Call to order at 10:32 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 January & February 2025 and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: Verbal Report by Williams
 - B. NRCS: Verbal Report by Stover
 - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Kalbfliesh
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Luke
 - F. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Leemans
 - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve NYS Fair Booth Assessment (Part C Funds \$100). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve purchasing Professional Logo Shirts for Staff (Part C Funds \$500). **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on May 19, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Skellie/Slater 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 – April 2025

AEM

- Ian Kaminski: I have given Ian seeding and fertilizer recommendations for no-till seedings this spring.
- Alicia McLaughlin, Kilcoyne Farm: Completed a Tier I. I have a farm visit scheduled for April 18th. I am also working with her to get her farm Grown & Certified.
- Matt Marchaland, Marchaland Farms: I am working with Matt to complete Tier I and Tier II.

Ag Assessments

- I have completed 170 soil group worksheets and soil maps this year. All assessor deadlines have passed, and I have only one that did not pick-up up their worksheet.

No-till Drill

- The drill will be coming out of storage this week and we already have two requests to lease it.

Tree & Shrub Sale

- I will be helping pack trees this week.

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- April 21, 2025

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Had a meeting with the farm to go over the budget for the grant. We went over invoices and items paid to date. The farm would like to include waste transfer. The planned new barn which is set to begin construction May 1st. I checked in with Ryan on whether this would be ok, and he said yes if it is supporting the original planned system and is not a new system. Mike said he would let me know when construction resumes on the waste transfer.
- Round 30-
 - Kings grant application for Round 30 was submitted on time.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- Talked with the engineer on 4/2/25. He had a couple of questions of year of storm requirements for the pond and road. The engineer told me he is about 75% of the way done with the design and that he would get it to us as soon as possible.
 - Ghost Light Farm- Meeting with the farm 4/25/25 to check and see how the water system is working and to go over the closeout paperwork needed. The erosion control system will be installed in the 2025 construction season.
- Round 7-
 - Contracts were received. No new updates.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Nearing the end of construction. They poured the curb around the floor on 4/8/25. The manure storage itself has been completed, and the engineer has given the farm the ok to begin using the storage. A couple of things still need to be finished including aprons for pumping ramps, push off bollards, safety signs and mulching and seeding. The contractor and farm are fully aware and know that this needs to be done. SWPPP inspections will continue until disturbed areas are seeded and mulched.

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-Contracts end 12/31/25
 - Nate Mattison has been working on his forest stand improvement. I will be making a site visit to get out there this Spring.
 - No new updates on Hick's design. Reached out to Jeff via email. Have not heard back.

- AEM site visits
 - Greg Lapan- Maple syrup operation. We walked the current access road (erosion), took photos and discussed the timeline of AEM funding.
 - Olivia Fuller- Grazing Plan. She is currently working with NRCS to apply for a grazing plan through EQIP. Toni invited me out on a site visit to help explain our AEM funding and timeline.
- AEM Tier 3 Planning:
 - Hepatica Farm- Chicken Grazing operation. Tier 2 resource concerns identified include access road erosion, stream crossing erosion, water system in grazing system.
 - Du Trieux Farm- Sheep operation. Tier 2 resource concerns identified include, over grazing, water system, stream access, stream bank erosion. These will all be addressed in the grazing plan.
- AEM Round 19 application for Tier 4 funding is being reviewed and updated where necessary. We have had a handful of farmers show interest in this funding and would like to keep it as fair as possible across the board as funding increases.
- AEM 5 Year Strategic plan-we are all working on updating the strategic plan.
- Quarterly reminders have been sent out to make sure staff remember keep their time logs up to date. As we cannot get paid for the time spent reporting after the end of the contract.
- Working on pulling information for the AEM Leopold Award nomination for Washington County.

Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)-

- Richard Beck- Site visit to look at a wetland and discuss placement of a pond and drainage. We also talked about restrictions in and around wetlands and good riparian species that were present.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- Working on coordinating the next scheduled meeting. Date and location are to be determined but will be held in May in Saratoga County.
- Current grant- Website funding through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust.
- Discussion regarding applying for funding for a Nine element plan for the UHRWC. This would help greatly with identifying water quality resource concerns to help justify applying in areas that do not usually get funded. This would be something we could use as supporting documentation for all grants.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Tree and Shrub sale prep. Ashley and I went and picked up the Berries on 4/14/25 and we got all the trees over to the fairgrounds on 4/15/25.
- Square site and card reader have been prepped so that we can accept day of sales via, cash, check or credit card.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- State Programs Advisory Committee (SPAC) meeting attended virtually on 4/10/25
- North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaboration Training was attended virtually on 4/3/25. This training was required for all NAACC Certified staff as a new Culvert Condition Assessment tool has been launched.
- Forest Ed. Migrating to ArcGIS PRO- This is an ongoing self-paced training was completed.
- OUTREACH- Granville FFA Ag Day was a great success. We spoke with over 700 students of all ages. We discussed a little bit about what we do with students and teachers as well as helping to educate on the importance of clean water. The kids loved the EnviroScape model, and it was a simple hands-on tool that really got kids involved.
- Wrote a CDEA newsletter article on the Granville FFA Ag Day Event.

Miscellaneous:

- Bank reconciliations completed

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – April 21, 2025

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- Attended ReLeaf tree planting workshop on April 11th. This was an all-day workshop about best practices for tree planting and using trees as stormwater infrastructure in urban settings.
- Attended the Greenwich Garden Club's volunteer meeting on April 10th to introduce myself to the volunteers and make them aware of the district as a resource.
- Attended Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) meeting on April 1st. Not much movement on procuring funding.
- Attended virtual NAACC culvert condition assessment training on April 3rd.

Tree and Shrub Sale

- Tree and shrub sale complete.
- Handed out tree tracker tags as a part of the 25 million trees initiative.

Landowner Assistance

- I am planning a water chestnut pull at the South Bay State Boat Launch in partnership with the Lake Champlain Committee.
 - Tom Bromley of BOCES has agreed to bring up one of his classes to assist in the pull. The kids will receive background information on water chestnut, a lesson on how to harvest with AIS rakes, and will pull water chestnut from the shoreline.
 - I have applied for a TRP from DEC to do the work.
- Amber and I attended Granville FFA Career Day on April 4th. We used the Enviroscope watershed model and Amber dressed as Ronny Raindrop. Both were a big hit with the kids, and we plan to attend again next year.
- I assisted Amy McKenzie from ReLeaf at the Skidmore Sustainability Fair and talked to people about district work in green infrastructure and stormwater management.
 - I was able to speak with a few people about coming to the tree and shrub sale to purchase leftover stock.

AEM

- Went back to Greg LaPan's with Amber and Phelan for them to see the road and get started on next steps with planning for AEM Round 19.
 - We sent Greg the NY Forester list and the NY Engineers list. He will also be working on getting a forest plan completed by January.

Part B

- We have the "all clear" from UDigNY to plant the tree at the South Bay State Boat Launch on April 25th.
- I have still been promoting the Pollinator Pledge. I will hand out QR codes to sign up at the tree sale.

CWICNY

- I have been attending meetings as per usual.
- I am working on sending out save the dates for the Stormwater Tradeshow.
- I have been speaking with my grad school professor about being a speaker at the Tradeshow.

LG Watershed HWA Coalition

- I have been keeping up with meetings with the HWA Coalition.
 - I have joined a sub-committee to create an easy and accessible campaign for the public to easily identify and report HWA. (Think like “Burn it where you buy it” and “See it. Stomp it.”)

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – April 2025
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2025: 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. A Formal announcement and application materials were emailed to Districts the first week of February 2025. The deadline for applications is **May 15th, 2025**.

NYS SWCC State Program Advisory Committee Meeting: The next SPAC meeting will be held on **April 10th, 2025**. In person and virtual attendance options exist. Agenda topics include: AGNPS Round 30, State Aid to Districts Annual Report, SWCC Soil Health Policy Update and, SWCC Riparian Forest Buffer Post-Implementation Establishment Policy Update.

In-Person Options

- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Albany – AGM Second Floor, Orchard Room (Visitors must check in at Security Desk) 10B Airline Drive, Albany 12235
- NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets State Fairgrounds – Agriculture Office, 581 State Fair Blvd, Syracuse

Virtual Option (meeting will be recorded)

- To join by phone: +1-929-251-9612, Meeting number (access code): 2822 744 6049
- To join by computer, <https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=mac662a38b9c5750ae0490599b76c6f08>

April SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **April 15th** starting at **11:00 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. To ensure we have an accurate count of attendees, please respond to (Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov) no later than **April 7th, 2025**. **Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

2025 NYS Envirothon - Volunteers Needed: The New York State Envirothon Committee is pleased to announce that we will host the 2025 New York State Envirothon at SUNY Cortland, on **May 28th and 29th, 2025**. Volunteers are the heart of this event, and it doesn't happen without assistance from SWCD Directors and staff. Please consider Volunteering! A description of the volunteer positions available as well as an online registration link are available here on the NYS Envirothon website, <https://nysenvirothon.org/contact>. Any questions can be directed to nysenvirothon@gmail.com.

Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) One-Time Fleet Reporting Requirement: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation will be reaching out to SWCDs regarding the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) One-Time Fleet Reporting Requirement. The ACT regulation is a one-time reporting requirement for all public entities and large private entities that operate or dispatch on-road vehicles with a manufacturer's gross vehicle weight rating (GVWR) greater than 8,500 pounds in New York State. More information on

the Advanced Clean Trucks (ACT) One-Time Fleet Reporting Requirements can be found on DEC's website at <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/air-quality/controlling-motor-vehicle-pollution/heavy-duty-vehicles#fleet>. Please reach out to your Regional AEA for additional information provided previously via email. If you are concerned about complying with this reporting requirement, please reach out to your county attorney for more assistance.

NYS DEC Tree Tracker Information: In response to Governor Hochul's 25 million Trees by 2033 initiative, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has developed an online Tree Tracker to encourage all New Yorkers to record trees they planted from January 1, 2024, onward. With SWCD Annual Tree and Shrub sales coming up, now is the perfect time to encourage anyone who purchased trees to report that they were planted. If you are interested in distributing "Tree Tracker Tags" to your customers along with their orders, please fill out an online request form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=6rhs9AB5EE2M64Dowcge52IW3L5JJUhFpO-zFcJoUIdUOEpST0hVVVRUQ1UyTzZZSkhMQ0MwREhPMi4u> or reach out to Annabel Gregg (Annabel.gregg@dec.ny.gov).

Informal NYS SWCC Program Reviews: NYS SWCC staff are available, upon request, to review your District's processes/procedures for grant administration. This is an excellent opportunity to work one on one with your Regional AEA to take stock of your current grant administration processes, identify high risk areas and discuss possible internal controls to manage the risks. These reviews are meant to be informal and educational. If you are interested in scheduling a review, please reach out to your Regional AEA.

Other Events

NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions Annual Meeting: The NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions is hosting an it's annual meeting at SUNY ESF in Syracuse May 20-22. This meeting will bring researchers, partners and stakeholders together for in-depth discussions and networking as we look to find cooperative ways to address current and emerging water issues in New York. The event is free to attend. Please follow this link for more information and to register for the event: <https://healthywaters.org/annual-meeting/>. *This event qualifies for Performance Measure 1g – Participation at a State, Regional, and National meeting or function.*

2025 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: Save the Date. The New York State Wetlands Forum 2025 Annual Conference and Business Meeting will take place on **April 22nd and 23rd, in Rochester, NY.** To register, please visit: <https://www.wetlandsforum.org/index.html>

Cover Crop and Soil Health Field Day: April 24th, Tompkins County:
https://www.covercropbreeding.com/files/ugd/1bd2ad_364fc61dfec44ece894f3c4e09620b8f.pdf

NACD Northeast & NYACD Annual Event and Training Session: Save the date! **September 21st - 24th, 2025**, DoubleTree Hilton, East Syracuse, NY. Details and information to follow soon.

Other Funding

NYSP2I 2025-2026 Community Grants Program: The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) is accepting applications for the 2025-2026 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 may receive up to \$20,000 to support their project. Applications are due **April 18th, 2025.**

https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i/community-outreach?mc_cid=b0b20eba3c&mc_eid=3c766b5276#community-grants

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, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. EST.**

<https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2025>

New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program 2025 RFP: The 2025 application period for the Program is now open! New York Sea Grant is accepting proposals for projects that advance the Great Lakes Action Agenda and align with a locally supported community plan to address environmental challenges in New York's Great Lakes basin. More information and the RFP can be found at, <https://small-grants-program-ccegeomaps.hub.arcgis.com/pages/apply-for-funding>. The proposal submission deadline is **May 2nd, 2025 at 4:30 PM.**

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 19, 2025

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)

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

Phelan Stover, NRCS

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager

Ashley Leemans, District Technician

Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician

Amber Luke, District Technician

-
1. Call to order at 10:07 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/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for April and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
 4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: Verbal Report by Williams
 - B. NRCS: Verbal Report by Stover
 - C. District Manager: Verbal Report 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 Fedler/Ziehm to approve Part C Funds for Aldrich and Leemans to attend the Adirondack Lakes Alliance Symposium (est. \$140/per person). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve WQCC Funds for professionally printed brochures and rack cards (est. \$800). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve cost of QuickBooks laser checks (est. \$1,200). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve Assignment of Payment between Albert Marns and Patrick J. Galusha Construction, LLC for the CAFO Round 1 – Deep Roots Holsteins grant. **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve CAFO Round 3 Woody Hill Farm – Keys Farm BMP Payment (\$300,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve closeout of CAFO Round 3 Grant - Woody Hill Farm Contract No. C012096. **Unanimously carried.**

G. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve closeout of CRF Round 5 Grant – Interseeder Green Cover Project Contract No. C012311. **Unanimously carried.**

6. The next Board meeting will be held on June 16, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

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

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – May 2025

AEM

- Ian Kaminski: I helped Ian, and his Dad calibrate the drill. They also needed instruction on how to operate the no-till drill.
- Mike Herrington: Completed a Tier I with Mike. I took a soil sample of a field to be seeded, gave him seeding and fertilizer recommendations.

Ag Assessments

- I have taken several phone calls about ag assessments, mostly people who missed the deadline. I will start working on these again in the fall.

No-till Drill

- The drill went out to Kaminski's and has been there since due to all the rain. There are 4 more people waiting to use the drill.

Envirothon

- I helped collect score sheets for the Saratoga Regional Envirothon.

CAFO Round 1

- Deep Roots: I completed a farm visit with Albert. Provided final measurements and pictures for the closeout.

Meetings/Events

- 5/22: Division 5 & 6 Meeting/Training, Lake Luzerne

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- May 19, 2025

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Discussed the new additional Waste Transfer System with the engineer. Received the design addendum that includes the additional reception pit and waste transfer line. I conducted a site visit and sent photos to the engineer of the progress on the pump house construction.
- Round 30-
 - Waiting on award announcements.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- Emailed John Beavers to remind him of his need for new insurance. I spoke with him regarding bids and engineering a bit. He confirmed that the engineering is nearly complete for the Access Road and Pond. He will be coming in the last week in May to touch base with us on the project.
 - Ghost Light Farm-I had a site visit with the farm on 5/5/25 to go over checks and see how the water system is working, and to go over the closeout paperwork needed and progress on the grant. The water system for the rotational grazing is working great during the hottest drought times one section of the water system does slow down but I told them to just use that knowledge and adjust their rotation accordingly. The Erosion control system will be installed in the 2025 construction season. I reminded them of the need to have the contractor's insurance for the Assignment of Payment.
- Round 7-
 - Southerland- I reached out via email to get a status update on the bids and engineering. Waiting to hear back.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction is completed. I have been in contact with the engineer to send photos and get some final things finished. The farm has provided us with invoices and cancelled checks. Closeout work has begun. (Completed Photos attached).

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-Contracts end 12/31/25
 - Nate Mattison has been working on his forest stand improvement. I will be making a site visit to get out there this Spring.
 - Reached out to the engineer on Hick's Process Wash Water project. No new updates. We will have to start thinking about turning money back if this project does not get started soon. We can have the farm reapply for Round 19 funds if they would like to.
- AEM site visits:
 - Hepatica Farm-Tier 3A site visit to walk pastures and learn more about how the farm operates. The farm has around 2,000 chickens between layers and broilers. The farm is very interested in working through the AEM process to work on a grazing plan.

- Olivia Fuller- Grazing Plan. Waiting to see how the NRCS plan comes about. They got pre-approved for NRCS funding through EQIP and are looking to match with AEM funds.
- AEM Tier 2's-Working on Tier 2 updates for ASA PDR applications for Fred Burch and Borden's (Batty's).
- AEM Round 19 application for Tier 4 funding is being reviewed and updated where necessary. We have had a handful of farmers show interest in this funding and would like to keep it as fair as possible across the board as funding increases.
- AEM Round 19- Action Plan due July 1, 2025. I am working on getting updated staff hours spent working on AEM to help plan our hours for Round 19.
- AEM Round 19 Webinar attended 5/13/25. 3-year contracts, \$300,000 in T4 cost share for locally prioritized projects.
- AEM 5-Year Strategic plan-we are all working on updating the strategic plan.
- AEM Leopold Conservation Award nomination was completed and submitted to the state for Tiashoke Farms.

Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)-

- Richard Beck- Working on coming up with a draft plan map for the pond/wetland area. We will be going back to his place at the end of the month to delineate the wetland.
- Attended to a couple of technical assistance mapping calls and people coming in wanting soil testing information.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition (UHRWC):

- The meeting was held at Saratoga SWCD on May 16, 2025.
- Current grant- Website funding through the Alfred Z. Solomon Trust.
- On going discussion regarding applying for funding for a Nine Element Plan for the UHRWC. This would help greatly with identifying water quality resource concerns to help justify applying in areas that do not usually get funded. This would be something we could use as supporting documentation for all grants.
- UHRWC is also looking at the counties paying annual dues to the coalition in order to offset the cost of annual fees to maintain the website, have a business email address, insurance fees, etc.

Part B Project-

- Helped Ashely plant a Pin Oak tree at the South Bay Boat Launch on Arbor Day.
- I have been posting on the Facebook page about the pollinator pledge sign up.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- CDEA Division 6 meeting is going to be held in conjunction with Division 5 on May 22, 2025. I will be attending.
- Cambridge Central School FFA Ag Day. We will be attending on May 21, 2025.
- The WQCC Meeting was held on 5/14/25. I presented a brief presentation on Nutrient Management.

Miscellaneous:

- Bank reconciliations completed

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – May 19, 2025

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- Attended the NYSFOLA conference on May 2-3.

Landowner Assistance

- I have completed 6 site visits with landowners on Cossayuna Lake. I have sent out reports and will be scheduling plantings.

AEM

- On May 20th, Amber and I will be going to Scotch Hill Farm to survey the stream for a stream crossing.

Part B

- We are looking at the week of June 16-20 for planting the Georgi Tree.
- Planted the South Bay pin oak on April 25.
- Created and purchased educational signs for both trees. Examples attached.

WQCC

- The last meeting was on May 14 at the Greenwich Library.
- Amber did a presentation on nutrient management and how it impacts water quality.
- This was our first meeting with a Zoom option!
- We discussed starting an education and outreach subcommittee.
- I have my water sampling plan complete and will be sampling streams in May, July, and September and lakes in June and September.

Education and Outreach

- Envirothon was on May 7th. We had a total of 6 teams.
- I was able to speak with a couple of teachers from Schuylerville School about teacher engagement in Envirothon. They suggested holding a workshop in the fall for teachers in Fulton, Saratoga and Washington Counties to learn how to form and advise a team and they were more than happy to help. I am waiting to hear back from them soon.
- I have spoken with Lynn Wilbur about the possibility of doing a garden tour at her home on Cossayuna Lake for the CLIA members to see examples of lake-friendly landscaping.
- Corrina and I attended the Lake George Association's Lake Protector's Summit as a partner and partook in the afternoon Happy Hour to talk to landowners on the lake in Washington County.
- We would like to get a few brochures and rack cards professionally printed from Kingsbury Printing using WQCC account money. Examples attached.

CWICNY

- Moving forward on Stormwater Tradeshow planning.
- Attended meeting on May 15.

LG Watershed HWA Coalition

- We had a Communications Committee meeting during which we discussed trying to find common verbiage and materials for sharing information about HWA.
- We are still discussing what the best action item would be.
- We have a main coalition meeting on May 21.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – May 2025
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

SFY 2025-2026 Environmental Protection Fund: The Enacted SFY 2025-2026 Budget is now available at www.budget.ny.gov. This year, the overall EPF was increased from \$400 million to **\$425 million**. Within the EPF Enacted Budget, all the funding lines that support State Committee programs have received increases in appropriation. This is a testament to the work of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and demonstrates the state's continued support for natural resource conservation.

- \$19.5 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including \$500,000 for the Cornell Soil Health program and \$500,000 to maintain forests and woodlands located on agricultural land for the purpose of carbon sequestration – **this represents a \$4.25 million increase**
- \$18.5 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including \$250,000 for Cornell Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP) – **this represents a \$1 million increase**
- \$25 million for Farmland Protection, including up to \$150,000 for the Cornell Land Classification and Master List of Soils – **this represents a \$4 million increase**
- \$1.85 million for Biodiversity Stewardship, including \$500,000 for pollinator protection, \$200,000 for the Cary Institute, \$200,000 for Paul Smiths College for the Watershed Institute, and \$200,000 for UAlbany Atmospheric Sciences Research
- \$3.5 million for Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance
- \$250,000 for Lake Erie Watershed Protection
- \$25.3 million for the Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP), w/ \$1.2 million for the Eastern Finger Coalition
- \$24.6 million for the Oceans and Great Lakes Program – (Supports Ecosystem Based Management Program)
- \$18.55 million for Invasive Species
- \$18 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts – **this represents a \$750,000 increase. With this increase to State Aid, Districts that receive full Part A reimbursement, Part B funding, and meet all performance measures could receive approximately \$306,000.00!**

May SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **May 20th** 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.**

Spring Managers Meetings – Save the Date: The following dates have been set for regional manager's meetings this June! Meetings will be from 10am-2:30pm. Please participate in whichever date and location is most convenient but please RSVP to the AEA for that meeting. As always Directors are invited to attend as this meeting can count towards Performance Measures.

- Region 1 - WNY: **June 3rd**, Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street, Batavia, NY – Victor DiGiacomo
- Region 2 - Central NY: **June 11th**, Cortland SWCD Office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY – PJ Emerick
- Region 3 - Eastern NY: **June 2nd**, Montgomery County Emergency Services 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY – Scott Fickbohm
- Region 4 - Northern NY: **June 6th**, Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY – Ryan Cunningham
- Region 5 - Southeast NY: **June 12th**, Dutchess SWCD office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY – Ben Luskin

AEM Round 19 of the noncompetitive Base Program is open! This is a three-year program offering funding for technical assistance and cost-share projects based on the local AEM Strategy. The AEM Base Round 19 Program and Contract Policies and the AEM19 Action Plan Excel workbook for Options A, B, and C have been uploaded to the SWCC's SharePoint site ([Soil and Water Conservation Committee - Home](#)): see "Resources for Districts > Agricultural Environmental Management > AEM Base Program Materials > AEM Base Round 19 Materials" Additional AEM19 documents used for activities once AEM19 begins will be uploaded this summer. **Action Plans are due July 1, 2025.**

Please join us for a **Webinar from 10AM to 12 PM on Tuesday, May 13th**, where we'll tour through AEM19's upgrades and workings and field questions. Please use the following WebEx info to join (will also be recorded and posted to SharePoint). <https://meetny.gov.webex.com/meetny.gov/j.php?MTID=m7729d8431d0238e6e0948d7cb920eae0> Questions? Please feel free to Chas Miller (chastity.miller@agriculture.ny.gov) or 518-573-7021) or your Regional Coordinator.

2025 NYS Envirothon - Volunteers Needed: The New York State Envirothon Committee is pleased to announce that we will host the 2025 New York State Envirothon at SUNY Cortland, on **May 28th and 29th, 2025**. Volunteers are the heart of this event, and it doesn't happen without assistance from SWCD Directors and staff. Please consider Volunteering! A description of the volunteer positions available as well as an online registration link are available here on the NYS Envirothon website, <https://nysenvirothon.org/contact>. Any questions can be directed to nysenvirothon@gmail.com.

Informal NYS SWCC Program Reviews: NYS SWCC staff are available, upon request, to review your District's processes/procedures for grant administration. This is an excellent opportunity to work one on one with your Regional AEA to take stock of your current grant administration processes, identify high risk areas and discuss possible internal controls to manage the risks. These reviews are meant to be informal and educational. If you are interested in scheduling a review, please reach out to your Regional AEA.

Help Document NY's Changing Water Levels and Weather Impacts: The **MyCoast New York** portal is used to collect and analyze photos of changing water levels, shorelines, and hazardous weather impacts across New York's varied coasts and water bodies. Photos are linked to real-time environmental conditions to create reports that help stakeholders like government agencies, business owners, and residents understand our changing environment and make informed decisions. Learn more and download the app, here: <https://mycoast.org/ny>

Other Events

Greene County SWCD's Watershed Wednesdays Webinar Series: The series has returned for 2025! All are welcome to join.

- **May 7:** An Interactive Chat About Drought in New York State with Sylvia Reeves, National Integrated Drought Information System https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CGeRqwbxRcmGcKpDafUjXA#/registration
- **May 14:** How Biodiversity Protects Us from Infectious Diseases with Dr. Felicia Keesing, Bard College https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_qW_HLH_YTW6b3q1HFyZT_g#/registration
- **May 21:** Sustaining a Brook Trout Stronghold: Initiatives in the Upper Schoharie with Steven Swenson, NYSDEC https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8coLhbd4R2qIUD2GagQxSA#/registration
- **May 28:** The "Deep Time" History of the Schoharie Watershed with Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, New York State Museum https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_s-uiRslERKK7s0wc7m3bvg#/registration

NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions Annual Meeting: The NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions is hosting its annual meeting at SUNY ESF in **Syracuse May 20-22**. This meeting will bring researchers, partners and stakeholders together for in-depth discussions and networking as we look to find cooperative ways to address current and emerging water issues in New York. The event is free to attend. Please follow this link for more information and to register for the event: <https://healthywaters.org/annual-meeting/>. **This event qualifies for Performance Measure 1g – Participation at a State, Regional, and National meeting or function.**

NACD Northeast & NYACD Annual Event and Training Session: Save the date! **September 21st - 24th, 2025**, DoubleTree Hilton, East Syracuse, NY. Details and information to follow soon.

Other Funding

Resilient Watersheds Grant (RWG) Program Application Period is Now Open: At least \$45 million of Environmental Bond Act funding is available for implementation of flood mitigation projects across New York State. Minimum grant amount: \$150,000; maximum grant amount: \$10,000,000. **Applications are due Friday June 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM.** <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/resilient-ny>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – June 16, 2025

Attending:

Board Members

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

Staff Members

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

Others:

Tina Williams, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

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 May and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: Verbal Report by Williams
 - B. NRCS: No Report by Stover
 - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Luke
 - F. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Leemans
 - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve staff reimbursement for hours earned under Part C Funding (\$45,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve full page advertisement in Washington County Highway Officials annual guide (Part C Funds \$75). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve cost for outreach booth for Thistle Day in Argyle (Part C Funds \$30). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve staff to attend Crops & Field Day in Vermont (Part C Funds \$25/pp). **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve CAFO Round 1 Deep Roots Holsteins payment \$25,901.69 (Assignment of Payment between Albert Marns and Patrick J. Galusha Construction). **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve placing pre-orders with deposit for tree seedlings for 2026 Tree Program. **Unanimously carried.**

- G. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve AEM Round 19 Action Plan – Option B and Tier 4 Request for Applications/Project Application form. **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 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 action plans for funding under Round 19 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, 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 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 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 19 of the AEM Base Program;
- 4) That this resolution take effect immediately.

- H. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve selling hip waders & boots. **Unanimously carried.**

- I. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve providing technical services to Warren County for a AEM Round 19 project contingent upon a Memorandum of Understanding is executed to outline intention of agreement, roles and responsibilities, time frame and compensation for such technical services.

- J. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve Leemans attend PFAS Transport, Fate and Remediation Training (Part C Funds \$400). **Unanimously carried.**

- K. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to enter into Executive Session at 11:23 a.m. to discuss performance evaluations. **Unanimously carried.**

- L. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to leave Executive Session at 12:12 p.m. and return to regular meeting. **Unanimously carried.**

6. The next Board meeting will be held on July 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 12:14 p.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

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

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – June 2025

AEM

- Marchaland Farms – I have completed Tier I and Tier II with Matt Marchaland.
- Scott Kaminski – I continue to give Scott technical and planning assistance for his seedings this spring.

Ag Assessments

- I completed an out-of-season ag assessment request for Tiashoke Farms.

No-till Drill

- The following farms have been able to lease the drill over the last few weeks:
 - Lindsay Farm – Jim Lindsay
 - Mack Brook Farm – Kevin Jablonski
 - Dennis Kelly

GIS

- I completed topo maps of the Whitehall School District for Corrina.

Division Meeting

- I gave a presentation on the no-till drill along with John Vanderwerken of Montgomery County SWCD. A good conversation amongst participants followed.

Meetings/Events

- June 3-6 & 9: Vacation
- July 24: Annual Crops & Soils Field Day, Borderview Research Farm, Alburgh, VT

Technician's Report-Amber Luke- June 16, 2025

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Work is continuing but slow as they are still trying to sort out bids for the new waste transfer part of the grant. Work on the pump house continues as we wait for the bids.
- Round 30-
 - Waiting on award announcements.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- Met with the farm on 5/29/25. The farm sent me the design for the access road and pond so we could go over things in person. The farm is now working with Bread Tree Farm as their planting management seems to line up more with the goals of the farm. The farm is hoping to start with construction of the pond and Diversions this fall and the Access Road in the Spring of 2026 with plantings occurring in Spring of 2027. This project will need an extension as it expires in April 2026.
 - Ghost Light Farm-No new updates since site visit. I am sure the rain is putting a damper on things. I told them to be sure to let me know when they start back up with construction. They were working on trying to get the contractor back out.
- Round 7-
 - Southerland- No new updates.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction is completed. Working on closeout as quickly as time permits. Site visit with Ryan went well.

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-Contracts end 12/31/25
 - Nate Mattison has been working on his forest stand improvement. I set up a site visit to go out and check on progress.
 - No new updates on Hick's Process Wash Water project.
- AEM 3A Planning:
 - Hepatica Farm-Tier 3A planning. Discussed practices I was originally thinking would be good for the farm. He agrees that all practices would be good to apply for. I have started working on mapping and planning. Once I get the mapping done, I will go over it with the farm. The farm is planning on applying for AEM Tier 4 funding for Round 19.,
 - Olivia Fuller- Grazing Plan. Waiting for the NRCS conservation plan to be complete to do our 3A. They got pre-approved for NRCS funding through EQIP and are looking to match with AEM Round 19 Tier 4 funds.
 - Ashley and I surveyed the stream crossing at Scoth Hill Farm. The culverts were blocked, and the stream was therefore flowing into the adjacent field. I will teach Ashley how to reduce the survey notes and draw up the profile of the stream.
 - Du Trieux Farm-Working on preliminary planning. I have a site visit scheduled for 6/23/25 to walk pasture and look at stream.

- AEM Tier 2's-Completed Tier 2 site visits and updates for ASA PDR applications for Fred Burch and Borden's (Batty's).
- AEM Round 19 application for Tier 4 funding is completed. We have had a handful of farmers show interest in this funding and would like to stick with this process as funding increases. \$300,000 in state cost share for us to rank within the county. I will be doing newsletter article to promote this funding.
- AEM Round 19- Action Plan is completed. It is due July 1, 2025. Changes to priority areas were made based on what Tier 4 Projects we think we will have in Round 19. We also added an additional 1,500 hours for the additional third year. We now have to budget hours per staff member as there are now different rates for different certifications. These changes accounted for \$151, 100 increase in budgeted money.
- AEM 5-Year Strategic plan-we are all working on updating the strategic plan.

Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)-

- Richard Beck- Working on coming up with a draft plan map for the pond/wetland area. Corrina and I went out on 6/5/25 to deli flag out the wetland and we told him when he starts work to call us so we can talk with his contractor.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition- (President)

- Meeting was held on June 12, 2025, at Warren County SWCD.
- We are going to attempt to apply for a WQIP grant targeted towards Aquatic Organism Passage and one for a Nine Element plan.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended the CDEA Division 6 meeting on 5/22/25.
- Attended the Cambridge Central School FFA Ag Day on 5/21/25. We reached about 700 students. See photos attached.
- Ashley and I spoke about soil health and water quality to 5th grade students at Cambridge CSD 6/9/25. We did two activities including the Rainfall simulator and the EnviroScape model with students. Was really well received by students and the teacher!
- Regional Managers meeting attended on 6/6/25.

Miscellaneous:

- Webinar- Pastured Poultry- 5/30/25

Cambridge FFA Ag Day:
May 21, 2025



Cambridge CSD:
Soil Health and Water Quality Talk & Activity
5th Grade Science classes



Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – June 16, 2025

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended

- I have received both of my certificates for the Professional Rain Gardener Certification (Chagrin Watershed Partners) and Pollinator Steward Certification (Pollinator Partnership).
- Completed Lake Champlain Committees invasive species monitoring training. I will conduct three surveys at the South Bay Boat Launch this summer.

Landowner Assistance

- I have begun scheduling plantings on Cossayuna Lake. We had compost delivered and the plants have been heeled in to keep them alive for the time-being.
- I went with Corrina to meet with Dionondehowa Preserve on the afternoon of May 23rd. We saw one of the pond projects they worked on with the Nature Conservancy and took a walk to their stream crossing.
- Corrina and I visited a field in Whitehall that is within the flood plain. The gentleman who called was looking at possibly buying the farm and wanted information on flood resilience.

AEM

- Completed survey at Scotch Hill Farm with Amber. Continuing to work on the Tier 3 narrative.

Part B

- The Georgi tree planting is planned for June 16th.
- Pollinator Pledge seeds have been picked up. All 50 lbs. of seed have been spoken for.

WQCC

- Next meeting is August 14th. I am hoping to hold the meeting at the Pember Library and working on a topic/presenter.
- I have completed my first round of stream and lake sampling. Streams will be sampled again in July and September and lakes will be sampled once more in September.
- Cyanobacteria visual sampling at South Bay Boat Launch for the Lake Champlain Committee begins this week.

Education and Outreach

- On May 23rd, 15 students from the Salem High School came to the Salem People's Garden to assist with re-mulching the walkways and planting 100 flowers and about 125 shrubs.
- Brochures and rack cards have been picked up.
- I have started attending the Canal Street Market in Fort Edward two Thursdays a month through September.
 - I did have one person bring to my attention the Clean Earth burning PFAS in Fort Edward situation. Something to keep on the radar.
 - June 12th, I brought invasive species samples for Invasive Species Awareness Week.
- LCC came to South Bay to hold CHAMP training. I will be participating in CHAMP invasive species monitoring at the South Bay Boat Launch again this summer.
- Amber and I gave a presentation on soil health and water quality at the Cambridge School for the 5th grade. We brought the rain simulator and the Enviroscape for hands-on activities. It went great!
- I am working with Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association to plan a garden tour for lake-friendly living.
- I have gotten the ball rolling for putting together a teacher's workshop for building Envirothon teams in the fall.

CWICNY

- CWICNic is June 18th. We booked the Cummings Park Pavillion in Putnam for the event.

Upper Hudson

- Attended the Meeting on June 12th with Corrina and Amber.
- I will be attending the Adirondack Lakes Alliance Conference on June 27th and tabling for Upper Hudson.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – June 2025
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

June SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **June 17th** 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.**

AEM Round 19 of the noncompetitive Base Program is open! This is a three-year program offering funding for technical assistance and cost-share projects based on the local AEM Strategy. The AEM Base Round 19 Program and Contract Policies and the AEM19 Action Plan Excel workbook for Options A, B, and C have been uploaded to the SWCC's SharePoint site ([Soil and Water Conservation Committee - Home](#)): see "Resources for Districts > Agricultural Environmental Management > AEM Base Program Materials > AEM Base Round 19 Materials" Additional AEM19 documents used for activities once AEM19 begins will be uploaded this summer. **Action Plans are due July 1, 2025.** Questions? Please feel free to Chas Miller (chastity.miller@agriculture.ny.gov or 518-573-7021) or your Regional Coordinator.

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>

Help Document NY's Changing Water Levels and Weather Impacts: The **MyCoast New York** portal is used to collect and analyze photos of changing water levels, shorelines, and hazardous weather impacts across New York's varied coasts and water bodies. Photos are linked to real-time environmental conditions to create reports that help stakeholders like government agencies, business owners, and residents understand our changing environment and make informed decisions. Learn more and download the app, here: <https://mycoast.org/ny>

Other Events

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 18th 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM.** Register here <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3258406453810693467>

2025 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 24th event at Grindstone Farm, located in Oswego County** and the **July 11th event at the Hudson Valley Farm Hub in Ulster County.** Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

2025 Annual CDEA Golf Tourney: The 24th Annual NYS CDEA Golf Tournament is being held on **August 7th, 2025.** Save the Date! More information to follow.

Inaugural CDEA Skeet and Trap Tournament: The first CDEA Skeet and Trap Tournament will be held on **September 12th, 2025.** Save the Date! More information to follow.

NACD Northeast & NYACD Annual Event and Training Session: Save the date! **September 21st - 24th, 2025,** DoubleTree Hilton, East Syracuse, NY. Details and information to follow soon.

Other Funding

Consolidated Funding Application is Open: The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) includes programs such as the Water Quality Improvement Projects and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). More information regarding each program can be found by clicking on the link provided. The deadline to apply is **July 31, 2025.** <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – July 21, 2025

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
Amber Luke, District Technician

1. Call to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairman Dickinson.
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 Ziehm/Skellie 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. NRCS: No Report
 - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
 - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
 - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
 - F. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Leemans
 - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Slater/Skellie to approve Part C funds reimbursement to the District for 2025 staff hours earned (\$35,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Director Slater & Aldrich attend the NACD & NYACD Annual Conference (Part C Funds, est. \$1,500). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve district staff attend Conservation Skills Workshop (Part C Funds, est. \$600-\$700 per person). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve CAFO Round 1 Deep Roots Holsteins Contract Amendment Budget Change to move \$6,194 BMP funds to Personal Services. **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve the following for CAFO Round 1 Contract #C011866 – Deep Roots Holsteins. **Unanimously carried.**
 - Partial BMP Payment (\$114,000) – Albert or Donna Marns
 - Final BMP Payment (\$28,404.31) – Albert or Donna Marns
 - Personnel Service Fee Earned (\$16,694) Washington County SWCD
 - Close dedicated grant checking account

- F. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to accept a donation of \$20 from Kathleen & Stephen Gaughran for a shoreline buffer installed, Cossayuna. **Unanimously carried.**
- G. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve \$200 donation to Pember Library for use of their facility for WQCC meeting August 13, 2025. **Unanimously carried.**
- H. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve recycling old laptops/computers through Express Computer Restore a NYS Electronic Waste Collection Site, once the data on the hard drives have been wiped cleaned. **Unanimously carried.**
- 2011 Samsung Laptop, 2012 SONY Vaio Laptop, 2016 Dell Precision T1700 Desktop Tower, 2017 Dell Precision T3620 Desktop Tower
- I. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve reimbursement to Town of Putnam (\$10,000 CWICNY Grant Pass-thru funds) for RRAMP Round 3 Project on Black Point Road.
- J. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve setting the 2026 County Appropriation Request Amount to \$231,100. **Unanimously carried.**
- K. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to move into Executive Session at 11:02 a.m. to discuss employee compensation of particular person or persons. **Unanimously carried.**
- L. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to leave Executive Session at 11:52 a.m. and return to regular meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on September 15, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 11:53 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

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

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – July 2025

AEM

- Jumpin' Juniper Fields – I completed a Tier II farm visit and Grown & Certified Verification for Christy William's sheep operation.
- 5b's completed:
 - Tiashoke Farm
 - Chambers Valley Farm
 - Woody Hill Farm

AEM Tier 4 Implementation

- I talked to Dan Wilson about Hick's Orchard project for apple wastewater if Jeff Wilson had a final design yet. Dan says he is still interested in doing the project. The project must be completed this year.

CWICNY Cover Crop

- I have talked to several farmers for this year's sign-ups.

No-till Drill

- The following farms leased the drill:
 - Jon Wilbur
 - Nate Mattison

The new acreage meter seems to be off on the acreage. Capital Tractor has said they will come over and re-check the calibration. Engaging both drive wheels in the meantime to get both meters to record acreage.

Newsletter

- Submitting an article for the August Newsletter.

Landowner Assistance

- I helped several people at the counter with soil sample information and soil kits to send in.
- South Dominion – borrowed soil auger to take a few soil samples.

Meetings/Events

- July 24: Annual Crops & Soils Field Day, Borderview Research Farm, Alburgh, VT

Technician's Report-Amber Luke - July 21, 2025

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Reception pit for the second part of the waste transfer system is complete. It was poured as it needed to be completed due to the barn sharing a wall with the reception pit. It was poured on 6/24/25 and 6/27/25. I updated the engineer as he could not be on site during either pour. The pump house is pretty much complete, minus some small details, but reception pit number one needs to be finished.
- Round 30-
 - Kings was not awarded. Ranked decent but the funding available did not go far this round.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- No new updates. The farm is hoping to start with construction of the pond and Diversions this fall and the Access Road in the Spring of 2026 with plantings occurring in Spring of 2027. This project will need an extension as it expires in April 2026.
 - Ghost Light Farm-No new updates since site visit. They were working on trying to get the contractor back out. I will be checking in with them.
- Round 7-
 - Southerland- Planned call with the farm for 7/21/25 to get a status update.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction is completed. Working on closeout as quickly as time permits.

AEM-

- Tier 4 Cost Share-Contracts end 12/31/25
 - Nate Mattison has been working on his forest stand improvement. I had a site visit on 7/9/25 to check on his progress. He has been working on forest stand improvement and brush management according to his forest management plan. The one stand he is working on looks great so far.
 - No new updates on Hick's Process Wash Water project.
- AEM 3A Planning:
 - Hepatica Farm-Tier 3A planning. Working on narrative and putting together the grazing plan. I have some mapping to finish up. When I get the mapping done, I will go over it with the farm. The farm has filled out an application for Round 19 Tier 4 Cost Share money.
 - Olivia Fuller- Grazing Plan. They canceled their application for NRCS funding due to concerns about some of the nuisances with the NRCS grazing standard. Unfortunately, we must follow NRCS standards so we will not be able to assist them with funding at this time.
 - Du Trieux Farm-Working on preliminary planning. I conducted a site visit on 6/23/25. We walked pastures and discussed what resource concerns they had. The stream crossing was a priority for the farm along with a livestock watering system as they currently do not have water in the pasture without the stream. I sent them the application for AEM Tier 4 Cost share and asked them to fill it out.
- AEM 5-Year Strategic plan-we are all working on updating the strategic plan. We had a strategic planning staff meeting on July 7, 2025.

Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)-

- Richard Beck- no new updates.
- Jack Cody- Called regarding concerns about his sweet corn dying. He suspects he was a victim of pesticide/ herbicide drift. I conducted a site visit on 7/8/25 to observe his sweet corn and there were few signs of pesticide drift, so I took two soil samples to rule out nutrient deficiencies. I also made it very clear that we were a non-regulatory agency.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition- (President)

- The meeting was held on July 10, 2025, in Fulton County.
- The Aquatic Passage Culvert grant we are applying for does not allow administration to be a part of the grant. So, we will be looking to have each SWCD district involved in the grant application to contribute a set amount of money to help cover administration fees for LCLGRPB administration of the grant. Fulton county has volunteered to be the applicant for this grant.
- Nine element plan is put on hold for now. We are planning on connecting with someone from DEC who has volunteered their time to talk with us about ways to better our chances of getting funded.
- We are working on planning a Lunch and Learn for legislators on October 2, 2025.
- I met with Dan Shapely from the RiverKeeper to discuss their monitoring in the Upper Hudson watershed.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended the CDEA Division 6 meeting on 5/22/25.
- Attended the SWCC meeting via Webex on 6/17/25.

Miscellaneous:

- Farmers for Soil Health- Assisted Larry Bailey with entering fields into the Farmers for Soil Health database.
- Newsletter articles were submitted to Lori for the August newsletter.
- Bank Reconciliations

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – July 21, 2025

Meetings Attended

- June 25th – Hudson River CAG
- June 26th – Lake George Watershed HWA Coalition
- July 9th – Warren County SWCD Water Quality Strategy Committee Meeting in Lake Luzerne
- July 14th – Unifying Stormwater – LCBP and Lake Champlain Sea Grant
- July 15th – Hudson River CAG & DOH Conversation on Fish Advisories

Landowner Assistance

- I have completed 7 residential stormwater assessments on Cossayuna Lake and have an 8th scheduled for August.
- I have completed 2 plantings on Cossayuna Lake properties.
- I visited Joann Scoville to talk about installing a rain garden and will be assisting her with design and plant suggestions.
- Attended a site visit to Fairies Brook in Hulett's Landing with Corrina. The landowner is contemplating removing some sediment from the stream.
- I have been speaking with the Copeland Pond Association about assisting them with some sampling. We will be scheduling that soon.

Municipal Assistance

- I will be assisting the Salem Highway Department in designing a rain garden adjacent to their parking area and a swale on the land where their new salt storage will be built on (across the street from the highway garage).

Part B

- The Georgi tree was successfully planted and the sign installed.
- The sign has been installed on the pin oak planted at the South Bay Boat Launch.
- I will be ordering 10 more pounds of pollinator seed to spread at Salem Highway Dept, Fort Ann garage, and Hebron garage.

WQCC

- Next meeting is August 14th. I have booked the Pember Museum and Library in Granville.
- SLR International will be giving a presentation on the Mettawee and Indian Rivers Flood Study they are conducting.
- The first round of lake sampling has been completed, as well as the second round of stream sampling.
- Cyanobacteria visual sampling at South Bay Boat Launch for the Lake Champlain Committee is going well.
- I will be taking part in a video about the Lake Champlain Committee's CHAMP invasive species monitoring program – discussing what I do when I monitor.

Education and Outreach

- I have been attending the Canal Street Market in Fort Edward – going well.
- Corrina and I will be meeting with Cossayuna Lake Association on the lake-friendly landscaping tour to identify property owners to reach out to. The event is planned to take place in the fall.
- I will be giving a presentation on harmful algal bloom identification and reporting at the Greenwich Library on August 20th.

Ag Non-Point (Round 25)

- Took drone photos of the progress up at Luncrest Farm.

Ag Non-Point (Round 28)

- Construction oversite for Kenyon Hill – concrete pour for the floor of the manure pit and pumphouse.

CWICNY

- Attended the CWICNY meeting on July 17th.
- I am waiting for an invoice from the Putnam Highway Department for reimbursement on the installation of dry wells on Black Point Road. Reimbursement through the RRAMP program Round 3.
- I am waiting on an invoice from Camp Chingackgook for Forest Roads funding to fix a camp road with runoff issues.
- North Country Stormwater Tradeshow planning is going well. We have almost all of the vendor spots filled and will be utilizing Constant Contact for registration this year. The event will be on October 21st.
- We have our Legislative Tour on September 18th.

Upper Hudson

- Attended the Meeting on June 10th with Amber.
- Upper Hudson will be applying for an AOP grant, for which we have a culvert we could use the funding for in Salem.
- The ALA symposium went well. We were able to talk to a lot of new people and lake associations.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – July 2025
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

July SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will convene **July 15th and 16th**, in Ithaca, NY. The 1st day will consist of the general business meeting and Cornell tour. The 2nd day will consist of a morning conservation tour from 8:00AM-12:30PM in Thompsons County. 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.**

Four Finalists Selected for the 2025 New York AEM-Leopold Conservation Award: Commissioner Ball recently announced that four farm families have been selected as finalists for New York's Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)-Leopold Conservation Award: **Ben Wever Farm (Essex County); Chaseholm Farm (Columbia County); Fessenden Dairy (Cayuga County); and Oechsner Farm (Tompkins County).** The award honors farmers and forestland owners, along with their nominating Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) who go above and beyond in their management of soil health, water quality and wildlife habitat on working land. The award recipient, who receives \$10,000, will be revealed later this summer.

SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee – Recording: A recording of the June 9th, 2025, SPAC meeting has been uploaded to Sharepoint. The next SPCC meeting will convene **August 14th, 2025, from 9:30 AM - Noon.** Details to follow. <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/NYS%20SWCC%20State%20Programs%20Advisory%20Committee/2025%20SPAC%20Meeting%20Materials/June%209,%202025?csf=1&web=1&e=x02gWx>

SWCD Operations Sub-Committee – Recording: A recording of the May 15th, 2025, SWCD Operations Sub-Committee meeting has been uploaded to Sharepoint. The next sub-committee meeting will convene **August 6th, 2025** via Webex. Details to follow. [https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/Mangers%20Meetings/SWCD%20Operation%20Sub-Committee%20\(2025\)/May%2015,%202025%20Meeting?csf=1&web=1](https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/Mangers%20Meetings/SWCD%20Operation%20Sub-Committee%20(2025)/May%2015,%202025%20Meeting?csf=1&web=1)

Other Events

2025 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 11th event at the Hudson Valley Farm Hub in Ulster County, the July 16th event at Zeff Farms in Orleans County, and the July 17th event at Simmons Vineyard in Yates County.** Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register for each event.

2025 Annual CDEA Golf Tourney: The 24th Annual NYS CDEA Golf Tournament is being held on **August 7th, 2025**, at the Casolwood Golf Course, Canastota, NY. **Team registration is now open!** Questions can be directed to Doug Kierst @ (315) 252-4171, Extension 4. Deadline to register is **August 4th, 2025.**

Inaugural CDEA Skeet and Trap Tournament: The first CDEA Skeet and Trap Tournament will be held on **September 12th, 2025.** Save the Date! More information to follow.

NACD Northeast & NYACD Annual Event and Training Session: Save the date! **September 21st - 24th, 2025**, DoubleTree Hilton, East Syracuse, NY. Details and information to follow soon.

Healing Our Waters Coalition 2025 Great Lakes Conference: Save the date - **September 25th – 26th, 2025**, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Rochester, NY. <https://web.event.com/event/adc2fab0-c0f9-4015-a0a5-9a00561cbb17/summary>

Other Funding

Consolidated Funding Application is Open: The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) includes programs such as the Water Quality Improvement Projects and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). More information regarding each program can be found by clicking on the link provided. The deadline to apply is **July 31, 2025.** <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 15, 2025

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

Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician

Amber Luke, District Technician

Ashley Leemans, District Technician

-
1. Call to order at 10:07 a.m. by Chairman Dickinson.
 2. Minutes: Motion by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the minutes of the July and August 2025 meetings. **Unanimously carried.**
 3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for July and August 2025 and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
 4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: Verbal Report by Williams
 - B. NRCS: No Report
 - C. District Manager: Verbal Report 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, submitted by Cunningham
 5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve Aldrich & Slater to attend NYACD Conference Erie Canal Tour (\$120 per person – Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to approve Aldrich and Sheehan to attend the Administrative Conference (\$150 per person – Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve \$500 donation to Cambridge FFA team to attend the National Junior Horticultural Conference (Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Slater/Fedler to approve purchase of stream supplies/equipment for "Day in the Life of Hudson River" event with Cambridge School Students (estimate \$500 – Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve staff to attend the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow (\$145 per person – Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. **Motion** by Slater/Ziehm to approve CRF Round 6 Assignment of Payment to Ghost Light Farm or Grandview Fence & Farms for BMP Payment (\$32,000). **Unanimously carried.**

- G. **Motion** by Skellie/Slater to approve forwarding the Parental Leave Policy (draft) to the County Attorney for review. **Unanimously carried.**
 - H. **Motion** by Ziehm/Slater to “Support” Chenango County SWCD Resolution No. 5-25, 08/21/25 for the New York Association of Conservation Districts. **Unanimously carried.**
 - I. After further discussion regarding Chenango County SWCD Resolution No. 5-25, **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to rescind prior “Motion to Support Resolution” (Item H. above). **Unanimously carried.**
 - J. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve \$5,000 (Part C Funds) as a line item in the 2026 budget for support of School Assistance Programs. **Unanimously carried.**
- 6. The next Board meeting will be held on October 20, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.
 - 7. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

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

District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – September 2025

AEM

- I have been working with farms that are Grown & Certified that need re-verification to maintain their certification with the program. Farms I have re-verified:
 - Bailey Family Christmas Trees
 - Bri-Mar Hops – no longer in business
 - Dry Brook Sugar House
 - Grottoli's Maple
 - Maple Acres
 - Mapleland Farms, LLC
 - River Run Maple, LLC
 - Schneible Maple
 - Underwood Shushan Valley Hydro Farm / Underwood's Highhouse
- I have been working on signing up farms for this year's CWICNY – Lake Champlain Basin Cover Crop program. Farms that have signed up are:
 - Deep Roots
 - Foot Hill
 - Yorkmont
 - Toolite
 - Twin Brooks
 - Burchland
 - Mannerview
 - Walkers
 - Heritage Hill
 - Jeff Bush
 - Wayne Foote
- I met with Chris Doyle and went over some changes and updates for the Fair's Nutrient Management Plan (NMP). I prepared and sent him the letter that the Fair submits to the Department of Health every year, showing that the Fair maintains the NMP Plan.
- Tier 5b – I completed BMP inspections on these farms:
 - Walkers Kingsbury Facility
 - Deep Roots

AEM Tier 4 Implementation – Jeff Wilson is finalizing the design of the apple wastewater system; he has shared draft drawings and had conversations with Dan Wilson about the design. Dan still wants to complete the project this fall.

No-till Drill – There are no rental requests for the drill at this time.

Fair – I helped staff the fair booth one shift with Amber; it went well.

Landowner Assistance – I helped several people at the counter with soil sampling information and ag assessment information.

Technician's Report - Amber Luke - September 15, 2025

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
 - Kenyon Hill- Work has stalled on waste transfer. As the farm was working on finishing construction of the new barn. The farm was working on getting Kent Foster back on site to finish up digging the transfer line last we talked. I will be checking in with them to get an update on the project.
- Round 30-
 - I had a call with Ag and Markets to go over our application for Kings that was not funded on 7/25/25.
 - This was an especially competitive year. In the EPF line of funding there were 107 applications received and only 26 were funded.
 - 62 million in funding requested with only 13 million available.
 - We missed being funded by 5 points and we lost the most points in the identified need category (satellite storage), but we were above average in scope of work and cost-effective categories.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
 - Maple Grove Farm- No new updates.
 - Ghost Light Farm-The farm has completed the small access road in phase 1 of the grazing system project. This road will help them better access the farthest back pasture on the one side of the farm and will allow for better feed management along with better grazing rotations. We have received the as-builts for this portion of the project and are waiting for invoices from the farm. The farm is still planning on installing the main access road this fall provided weather cooperates.
- Round 7-
 - Southerland- The farm has decided to go with the original location for the stream crossing and has found a contractor to do the work, but they need some new engineering due to the change in location. They still want to do the project and are working on getting the last bit of engineering done.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program-

- Round 3
 - Woody Hill Farm- Construction is completed. Working on the closeout as quickly as possible. We have submitted some paperwork to Ryan for review.

AEM-

- Tier 1-
 - I sent information regarding AEM to Black Yard Farm in Argyle. They were interested in getting some assistance with soil testing, but I have not heard back from them.

- Tier 4 Cost Share-Contracts end 12/31/25
 - Nate Mattison has been working on his forest stand improvement project. We are waiting for time sheets that correspond to the work that has been done. His forester will have to sign off on the BMPs before payment. He will not have time to finish all that he wants to do and would like to reapply for AEM Round 19 funds in order to finish the project.
 - Hick's- We have received designs from Jeff Wilson. No work has been done construction wise.
- AEM 3A Planning:
 - Hepatica Farm-Tier 3A planning. Completed the Grazing plan for the farm. They have submitted a Tier 4 Cost Share application for Tier 4 funds. I will set up a time to go out to the farm to go over the plan and budget this fall.
 - Du Trieux Farm-Working on preliminary planning narrative and mapping. I am about half done with the grazing plan and hope to finish it by the end of the month. I am working with the farm to fill out an application for Tier 4 cost share funds.
- Partnership-
 - Met with Warren County SWCD to look at multiple projects in Fort Ann that have been completed. We also went to Olivia Fuller and walked her pasture to discuss why and how planning doesn't always lead to implementation and why it is important to go over every scenario with farms.
 - We had a good meeting with ASA on 8/12/25 to go over our programs with new staff members and learn more about their programs. We hope to have better communication with farmers and staff so we can be consistent in informing the public.
- AEM 5 Year Strategic plan-we are all working on updating the strategic plan. We received a few survey forms for feedback from the Washington County Fair.

Landowner Assistance Program (LAP)-

- Richard Beck- no new updates.
- Jack Cody- Soil test results showed very high levels of phosphorus and calcium, which I suspect is tying up nitrogen in his soil affecting crop yields more than I suspect the impact of drift. I had a site visit with Corrina on 9/9/25.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition- (President)

- The meeting was held on September 11, 2025, at Warren County SWCD.
- We had Karyn Hanson from DEC come and talk about what goes into a nine-element plan and avenues for funding and what might be holding us back.
- UHRWC Lunch and Learn will be held on October 2, 2025, at Mountain Hut, 105 Co. Rd 112, Gloversville, NY 12078. Targeted at legislators but SWCD boards and/or local officials are welcome to attend.

Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Attended the CDEA Managers meeting on 8/13/25 in Ballston Spa.
- Attended the State Programs Advisory Committee meeting via Webex on 6/14/25.
- Attended the NRCS Local Working Group Meeting on 6/14/25 in Ballston Spa.
- Attended a woods walk with Corrina on 8/15/25.
- Attended the Cover Crop field day in Alburgh, VT on 8/24/25.
- Listened to a couple of webinars for CCA credits on 8/26/25.

Miscellaneous:

- Fair Booth- Focusing on Nutrient Management. I had a lot of great discussions with small farmers we have not worked with as well as rural landowners. Participating in the scavenger hunt put on by the Upper Hudson Maple Producers was a hit again this year and brought a lot of people into our booth on Thursday of the fair.
- Ashley and I met with a Greenwich CSD student to help give advice and brainstorm contacts for his current school project. We also mentioned the Envirothon workshop to his science teacher.
- I am working with Ashley to put together a Day in the Life field trip with Cambridge Central School. Hopefully it goes well, and we can make this an annual event.
- Bank Reconciliations

Technician's Report – Ashley Leemans – September 15th, 2025

Meetings and Trainings Attended

- Aug 1 – Day in the Life of the Upper Hudson River Training, in Newcomb.
- Aug 19 – First half of the CDEA meeting.
- Sept. 8 – Lake George Watershed HWA Coalition Meeting. We are getting ready to launch a public awareness campaign.

Landowner Assistance

- I have completed 5 plantings for my Residential Stormwater Program on Cossayuna Lake. I have completed a total of 9 stormwater evaluations on properties and have handed out 5 signs to those who have received plantings or have an outstanding shoreline buffer present on their property.
- I attended a pond site visit in Greenwich with Corrina.
- I had a site visit with a couple of homeowners on Pratt's Point on Cossayuna Lake. They are concerned about the shoreline getting closer to the road. I sent them some plant suggestions to armor the shore, as well as information on coir logs, and DEC wetland permitting information for installing the coir log.
- Sept. 24 – I will be assisting the Copleland Pond Association with sampling total P, dissolved oxygen, and pH.

Municipal Assistance

- I completed a rain garden design for the Salem Highway Dept.
- September 4 – Corrina and I led a training on green stormwater infrastructure for Washington County Planning Board members thanks to Pamela Landi at the Washington County Planning Department. We had 8 participants.
- We have loaned out the hydroseeder to the Salem Highway Dept.

AEM

- We have been working on our 2026-2030 Strategic Plan update. I have created an excel sheet for the results of a questionnaire we have been dispersing to community members.

Part B

- I ordered 15 extra pounds of pollinator seed to disperse to the municipal highway departments.
- Seeds were dispersed to Salem Highway, Hebron Highway, and the new Washington County Highway facility in Fort Ann.

WQCC

- The last meeting was on August 13th at the Pember Museum and Library.
- SLR International gave a presentation on the Mettawee and Indian Rivers Flood Study they are conducting.
- Next meeting will be November 12th.
- Water sampling will be completed by the end of September.
- I am moving my contact list over to MailChimp (free account) for more emailing capabilities.

Education and Outreach

- Aug 20 – I held a harmful algal bloom identification and reporting presentation at the Greenwich Library. I had 9 participants.
- Aug 22-23 – I worked two shifts at the Washington County Fair.
- A student from Greenwich School came to talk to Amber and I about a phytoremediation project he is doing for one of his classes. We were able to give him some good contacts for assistance with

research and connected him with the Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association to conduct field studies.

- I have been working with Amber, Saratoga SWCD, and Schuylerville school teachers to put on an Envirothon workshop for teachers in Washington, Fulton, and Saratoga Counties. I have just recently roped Sherri into coming and speaking at it. October 18th in Ballston Spa.
- Amber and I are planning to have Cambridge middle school science class come out to the White Creek for the DITL event on October 15th.
- My last two FE Markets are 9/11 and 9/25.
- I plan to table at Thistle Day in Argyle on September 27th.

Ag Non-Point (Round 25)

- Took another round of drone photos of the progress up at Luncrest Farm.

CWICNY

- I attended the Zoom meeting on August 21st.
- We have been able to use RRAMP funding to reimburse Putnam Highway Department with the installation of drywells and catch basins on Black Point Road.
- I am working with Camp Chingackgook to get them RRAMP reimbursement funding for regrading and ditching of a camp road with stormwater issues.
- I have been consistently attending Stormwater Tradeshow Committee Meetings. I have been able to get the Tradeshow advertised on Cornell CAAHP and NEIWPCC Streamlined Newsletter.
- The Legislative Tour is on Sept. 18th. I will be giving a demonstration on how I sample cyanobacteria and invasive species at the South Bay Boat State Launch.

Upper Hudson

- Attended the meeting on Sept. 11th.
- I have been assisting Amber with the Legislative Lunch and Learn on October 2nd.
 - I created a flyer advertising the event.
 - I have created a Google Form for RSVPs.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – September 2025
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

New SWCC Staff: Please join us in welcoming Gideon Frisbee to the SWCC team. Gideon joins our team as an Associate Environmental Analyst in the program area with Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, Chastity Miller, and Greg Albrecht supporting technical assistance, training, and certification throughout the AEM framework to SWCD staff, AEM Certified Planners, and other Ag conservation partners. Based on Gideon's many years of experience he will also provide valuable insight and assistance to the entire Committee, Division, and Soil and Water Conservation team. Gideon will be based out of Delhi, New York, and work statewide. He can be reached at: gideon.frisbee@agriculture.ny.gov and (518) 646-1133.

NEW Stream Corridor Management Program: A new Request for Proposals (RFP) for Ecosystem Based Management has been released in the State Financial System (SFS). This opportunity, entitled, **Stream Corridor Management Program** (RFP0365), can be found in SFS Grants under the **Event ID# AGM-SCMP25**. The goal of this program is to improve water quality, reduce erosion and sedimentation, improve wildlife habitat, and support the long-term health of our natural riparian ecosystems. Funding from this program will support activities that improve or protect stream corridors, including stream stabilization, establishment of riparian buffers, and the reduction of roadside erosion and sedimentation due to runoff and failing culverts systems. The Stream Corridor Management Program is part of New York's Ocean and Great Lakes Initiative. The Ocean and Great Lakes Initiative works to make connections between ocean and Great Lakes ecosystem health, economic vitality and community well-being.

The RFP and associated documents are now available through SFS. The RFP is posted at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>, as well as the SWCC SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/Ecosystem%20Based%20Management/RFP0365%20Stream%20Corridor%20Management%20Program?csf=1&web=1&e=3Ekhwmm>. **Please be sure to read all documents carefully.** For many, this will be a first time using SFS Grants. Assistance can be found at <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/>, in the form of videos, instructional documents and live training events. If you are unable to access SFS, please contact the SFS Help Desk at (518) 457-7717 or (855) 233-8363 (toll free). Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Lauren Prezorski (Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov) by **November 21, 2025**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the SFS website by **4:00 PM December 8, 2025**. Stay tuned for further information regarding a Request for Proposals Webinar.

SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will convene on **September 16th**, via Webex. Further details and an agenda will be available as in the week prior to the meeting. **Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

State Aid to Districts Forum: The SWCC will be hosting a State Aid to Districts Forum on **September 25th, 2025, 10am-Noon**, to discuss the State Aid to Districts Program for 2026. We will provide an update on the status of the Annual Report form and anticipated updates, review changes/updates to Part C performance measures, and have an open discussion regarding other elements of the program.

- **Join meeting by clicking link below**
<https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=mefb405fab2332da36b8c24b211ef6c61>
- **Or join by phone** +1-415-527-5035 United States Toll - Meeting number (access code): 2831 786 6720

2026 Annual Plan of Work (APOW): It's time to start updating your APOW for 2026. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is **November 1, 2025**. 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.

State Aid to Districts:

- **2026 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance** – Part B proposals are due, **November 1, 2025**. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2026. Part B requests should be submitted via email to Bethany Bzduch,

bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov.

• **2025 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.

SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee – Recording: A recording of the August 14th, 2025, SPAC meeting has been uploaded to SharePoint. The next SPCC meeting will convene **October 16th, 2025, from 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM** Details to follow. <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/NYS%20SWCC%20State%20Programs%20Advisory%20Committee/2025%20SPAC%20Meeting%20Materials/August%202025?csf=1&web=1&e=wDJmcq>

NYS SWCC Procurement Policy – Best Practices: The purpose of the SWCC procurement policy is to ensure fair and open competition and to ensure public funds are being spent responsibly. The Policy provides guidance to Districts and details the information which is required to be documented to ensure funds are being spent in a responsible way.

- SWCDs must ensure that participating landowners are aware of the procurement requirements prior to the project implementation. Early communication with the landowners is key to procurement success.
- Projects and/or project components that exceed the \$20k cost threshold must be competitively quoted.
- Competitive quotes should be reviewed by the farm operator and District and the Price Solicitation section of the form should be signed prior to construction. SWCDs must retain copies of all quotes/bids.
- SWCDs must retain copies of all quotes/bids, record them in the Price Solicitation Record and include them in the project closeout packet submitted to SWCC.
- SWCDs must retain copies of all invoices and proofs of payment for eligible expenses and record them in the Project Expenditure Summary.

Other Events

2025 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 2025. Registration is now live for the **September 9th** event in Union Springs, the **September 11th** event in Fillmore, the **September 16th** event in Rochester, and the **September 23rd** event in Corning/Bath. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information.

Healing Our Waters Coalition 2025 Great Lakes Conference: Save the date - **September 25th – 26th, 2025**, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Rochester, NY. <https://web.cvent.com/event/adc2fab0-c0f9-4015-a0a5-9a00561cbb17/summary>

iMapInvasives Training Workshop: Attend to learn how you can become involved with reporting invasive species in your community. Training to convene on **September 29th, 2025, 1PM – 3PM**, located at the Albany SWCD office, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY. To register for this event, please contact susan.lewis@ny.nacdnet.net. **Registration deadline is 9/22.25**

2025 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum: There is still time to register for the Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum to be held at Binghamton University on **October 2, 2025**. Early registration deadline is 9/10, with a cost of \$20. If you register after 9/10, cost increases to \$25. So please take a minute to register now!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccZGgHAQfJbIIW8TQAxa0zPn0q2nt-2hOdm0v9bCq2U9hb6g/viewform>

Biochar Field Day at White Feather Farm: Join American Farmland Trust (AFT) at White Feather Farm in Saugerties, NY on **Thursday, October 23, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** for a hands-on event that will spotlight biochar and climate-resilient farming practices. Registration is free and lunch will be provided. To learn more and to register, visit <https://farmland.salsalabs.org/whitefeatherfarmfieldday/index.html>