

# 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

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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.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*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.

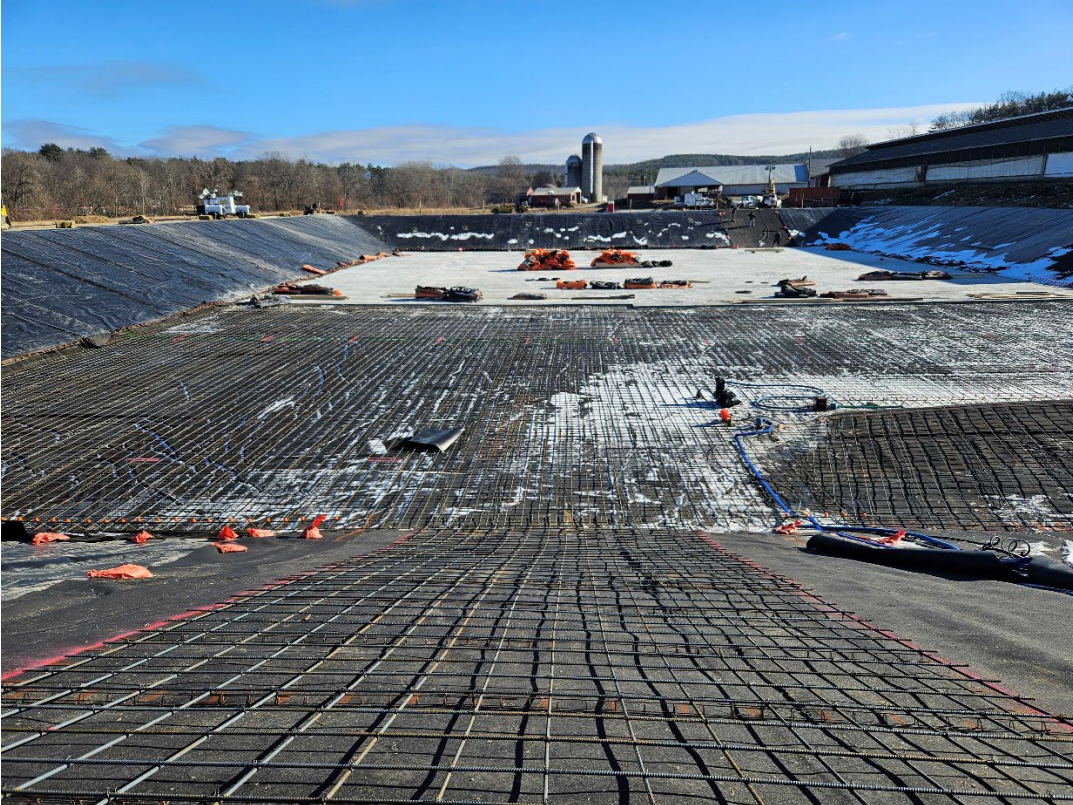
### **Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-**

- 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. 12<sup>th</sup> 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. 14<sup>th</sup>, 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. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30PM – 8:00PM at the West Fort Ann Fire Department – Non-ag focused.
  - Tues., Jan. 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025!**

Please sign-up utilizing this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTQ1uihwQPwhMNIxnWmpDZ0PWArbrpZel8oQme\\_tDdig54yg/viewform?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTQ1uihwQPwhMNIxnWmpDZ0PWArbrpZel8oQme_tDdig54yg/viewform?usp=sharing).

- **Region 1 - Jan 13<sup>th</sup>:** WNY, Genesee County Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 2 - Jan 14<sup>th</sup>:** Central NY, Cortland SWCD Office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 3 - Jan 15<sup>th</sup>:** Eastern NY, Montgomery County Emergency Services 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 4 - Jan 16<sup>th</sup>:** Northern NY, Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 5 - Jan 17<sup>th</sup>:** 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 2:30PM. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to [jason.kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:jason.kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov) by **January 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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) 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is now open! The 2025 Annual Meeting will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, from **February 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 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 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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

### Staff Members

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

### Others:

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

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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 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. **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.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*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 25<sup>th</sup>. 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 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>. 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto:ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov)). The registration deadline is March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Upcoming NAACC Training, Save the Date:** The NAACC NY workgroup will be holding a virtual training for the Culvert Condition Assessment on **Thursday April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Rochester, NY**. To register, please visit: <https://www.wetlandsforum.org/index.html>

**Cover Crop and Soil Health Field Day: April 24<sup>th</sup>, Tompkins County:**  
[https://www.covercropbreeding.com/files/ugd/1bd2ad\\_364fc61dfec44ece894f3c4e09620b8f.pdf](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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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)

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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.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 11<sup>th</sup>. 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 10<sup>th</sup> to introduce myself to the volunteers and make them aware of the district as a resource.
- Attended Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Not much movement on procuring funding.
- Attended virtual NAACC culvert condition assessment training on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup>. 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 25<sup>th</sup>.
- 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 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto:Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov)) no later than **April 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Rochester, NY.** To register, please visit: <https://www.wetlandsforum.org/index.html>

**Cover Crop and Soil Health Field Day: April 24<sup>th</sup>,** Tompkins County:  
[https://www.covercropbreeding.com/files/ugd/1bd2ad\\_364fc61dfec44ece894f3c4e09620b8f.pdf](https://www.covercropbreeding.com/files/ugd/1bd2ad_364fc61dfec44ece894f3c4e09620b8f.pdf)

**NACD Northeast & NYACD Annual Event and Training Session:** Save the date! **September 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**

[https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nysp2i/community-outreach?mc\\_cid=b0b20eba3c&mc\\_eid=3c766b5276#community-grants](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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager

Ashley Leemans, District Technician

Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician

Amber Luke, District Technician

### Others:

Tina Williams, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

Phelan Stover, NRCS

- 
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.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*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 20<sup>th</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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](http://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 20<sup>th</sup>** 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 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street, Batavia, NY – Victor DiGiacomo
- Region 2 - Central NY: **June 11<sup>th</sup>**, Cortland SWCD Office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY – PJ Emerick
- Region 3 - Eastern NY: **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Montgomery County Emergency Services 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY – Scott Fickbohm
- Region 4 - Northern NY: **June 6<sup>th</sup>**, Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY – Ryan Cunningham
- Region 5 - Southeast NY: **June 12<sup>th</sup>**, 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 13<sup>th</sup>**, 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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](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](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](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)

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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.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*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 5<sup>th</sup> 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  
5<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 16<sup>th</sup>.
- Pollinator Pledge seeds have been picked up. All 50 lbs. of seed have been spoken for.

### WQCC

- Next meeting is August 14<sup>th</sup>. 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>. We booked the Cummings Park Pavillion in Putnam for the event.

## **Upper Hudson**

- Attended the Meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup> with Corrina and Amber.
- I will be attending the Adirondack Lakes Alliance Conference on June 27<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>** 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](mailto: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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> event at Grindstone Farm, located in Oswego County** and the **July 11<sup>th</sup> 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 24<sup>th</sup> Annual NYS CDEA Golf Tournament is being held on **August 7<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025.** Save the Date! More information to follow.

**NACD Northeast & NYACD Annual Event and Training Session:** Save the date! **September 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>, 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/>