

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 16, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Dickinson, Vice Chairman  
Kate Ziehm, Treasurer  
Jay Skellie, Director  
Cassie Fedler, Director

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager  
Lyndsy Hilder, District Technician

### Others

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

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1. Call to order at 10:04 a.m. by Vice Chairman Dickinson.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for February and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment 1)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
  - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
  - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
  - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
  - D. District Technician: Attachment 2, submitted by Kalbfliesh
  - E. District Technician: Attachment 3, submitted by Luke
  - F. District Technician: Attachment 4, reviewed by Hilder
  - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment 5, reviewed by Cunningham
5. New Business:
  - A. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve closeout of Round 1 CAFO Waste Storage & Transfer System Contract #C011865 - Fullerton Dairy Farm. **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve Round 24 Farmstead Improvement HTW BMP Payment to Hicks Orchard (\$10,000). **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve 2022 Part C reimbursement to the Town of Hartford for Brine Storage Tank (\$2,422.26). **Unanimously carried.**
  - D. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve purchase of rain jackets/reflective clothing for staff. **Unanimously carried.**
  - E. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve Soil & Water Conservation Society Membership Dues (\$230). **Unanimously carried.**
  - F. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the following:
    - Drone Deploy Mapping Software – Ag Lite Version (with review of software usage on quarterly basis)
    - Wireless Internet for Office – Spectrum Business 600 Mbps Internet Ultra Package**Unanimously carried.**

- G. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve sending out Invitation to Bid Package for the Interseeder – Round 5 CRF Grant. **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board Meeting will be held on April 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the USDA Service Center in Greenwich.
7. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

Reports Attached: February 2022 Treasurer Report, District Technicians Reports, NYS-SWCC Report

## **Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 03/16/2022**

**AEM:** Completed final report for AEM Round 16: 2019 - 2021

**Grants:**

- Round 24 Marns – Deep Roots: No Activity

**Ag Assessments:** Soil group worksheets were very busy past the March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. Many requests coming from White Creek due to the re-evaluation.

Heather from Real Property has told me that the County GIS Website has been fixed of its glitches and some up-grades added. The new website would be available to everyone this week 3/14 – 3/18.

**Meetings Planned:** WQS Virtual – 03/14 – 03/18 & 03/23 – 03/25

## Technician's Report - Amber Luke - March 16, 2022

### Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 24-
  - Wolff's- Working on final paperwork to get Round 24 closed out. Talked with Jay Wolff on 2/9/22 and discussed where we are at in the process.
- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Still waiting for finalized Designs from the engineer for Waste Transfer Application.

### Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
  - I have been working a lot on mapping, narratives, running the COMET-Planner and finding supporting information for these grants. I have pretty much completed writing a grant application for one CRF grant and working on a second. We have been able to find a lot of good supporting information to help bolster our applications justification for climate resiliency.
  - We are applying for Water Management on Grazing Lands, Permaculture and Soil Health and Sugarbush Access Roads.
  - Also, we were looking at doing Cover Crops in the Upper Hudson Watershed. Which I think at this point will have to be on the agenda for the next round of CRF.

### CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- Some work has been done on placing rebar on the nice days. I have been out on site and taking photos for the engineer. I have not heard too much back from the engineer on the photos I have sent him. The contractor had another job stop so he is looking to really ramp up progress on our project. Wants to get the wall formed up so he can finish placing rebar. I talked with the engineer on 3/14/22 I will be sending a lot of photos over the next few weeks as the engineer can't get out on site for a couple of weeks. I am hopeful that this project will be finished early summer.
- Round 3-
  - Chambers- Lyndsy and I took out the farms second check for BMPs. Closeout Paperwork has been submitted to Ryan for review.

### AEM-

- I had a call from a produce in the county interested in our programs. Moxie Ridge Farm in Argyle called on an unrelated note and then asked about our programs that we offered. I sent them a landowner assistance request and a Tier 1 and asked if they could at least fill out the landowner assistance request form and we would work to set up a time to come out and do a site visit. I have not heard anything back.
- AEM Tier 4 cost share projects we will be doing for year 17 are cover crops on the farms that participated in the no till corn planter program this past year. All 3 are on board to implement cover crops.

### **Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP'S) - (AEM Planning)**

- Kathy Clark- Just finishing up some final details and then working on putting the whole plan together. I have approximately 250 pages organized into a PDF. And approximately 50 to 75 more pages to go. Then it can be submitted to SharePoint for review.
- Fred Burch- Soil tests results have been received. Now I must work on getting them all entered in Cropware and RUSLE for analysis. I will work on getting a manure sample and get that sent out to Dairy one prior to Spring so that this can be wrapped up.

### **Trainings/Meetings Attended-**

- Upper Hudson meeting was canceled on March 10, 2022; Next meeting is April 8, 2022
- CRF round 6 and Ag NPS round 28 webinar was attended on 2/17/22

### **Miscellaneous**

- Bank Reconciliations
- CDEA- Water Quality Symposium is being held this week and next week. (March 14-25) It is being held over 2 weeks to try to allow for less classes each day.

## Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder - March 16, 2022

- **Grants and Projects:**
  - **Part B Projects:**
    - Farmer Safety Courses: This training is officially being held at Capital Tractor Inc. on May 11, 2022, from 10 until Noon. Jim Carrabba will go over the basics of tractor, PTO and equipment safety but demonstrate a mock PTO entanglement and explain what can lead to entanglement and what to do after such event has happened. We will be using the Part B funding to provide lunch for those who attend the training.
    - Salem Art Works Certified Wildlife Habitat: I have ordered the signs and the plants that will be used in the Certified Wildlife Habitat. The plants should be arriving between late May and early June which will be the best time to complete the project as there will still be enough water to keep the plants saturated and have a better chance of survival.
  - **AEM:**
    - **Tier 2:**
      - Ghost Light Farm: Completed the tier 2 summary report for Ghost Light Farm and went on another visit to the farm to do a complete walk through and observe natural resource concerns that they have.
  - **CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer:**
    - **Round 1**
      - Kenyon Hill: We have gone on a couple of site visits as there has been some work done installing more rebar. As the snow melts and the weather warms up, we will be doing more site visits as there should be more work being done in preparation for the final wall to be poured this spring and the creation of the ramp into the pit.
  - **Landowner Assistance:**
    - Corrina and I went on a site visit on February 24, 2022, to visit a property that had a contaminated well to see how the water runoff had transported manure that had been spread before there was a snow thaw. We were able to look at some pictures and talk with the homeowners and the health department on what will be done next.
    - Went on a site visit with Corrina and Amber on February 28, 2022 to visit a property where the landowner is in the beginning stages of creating a self-sustaining permaculture farm. The landowner has been in contact with another local farmer who has done terrace farming as well as contour planting who is going to help him get in touch with Mark Shepard. Mark Shepard is a permaculture designer who has developed and patented equipment and processes for the cultivation, harvesting, and processing of forest derived agriculture products for human foods and bio fuels production. He is the spark behind this project as the landowner wishes to plant hazelnuts, chestnuts, apples and pears to create a self-sufficient orchard that will protect the environment through water and soil improvement of the area as well as the reduction of carbon emissions.
    - I took the drone out to Granville on March 2, 2022 to take some pictures of a wetland that had been created by NRCS. I had gone out for Scott so he could see

what stage the vegetation is currently at and see how the stream that had been moved in the process of creation has moved or reacted over time.

- Accompanied Corrina on a site visit on March 4, 2022 to a farm that was worried about some erosion that was occurring in a stream corridor. We went on another site visit with the landowner and used the drone to take pictures of the areas of concern and walk the stream to the roads to observe the culverts as well.

- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**

- Debunking Myths: Why and How to Protect your UAN Investment: Zoom webinar- attended March 24,2022
- Precision Agriculture and Soil Health: Zoom Webinar- attended March 1,2022
- Managing Field N and GHG: Zoom Webinar- attended March 8,2022
- Water Words That Work-Part 1: Zoom Webinar- attended March 8,2022
- VAWQP Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and Conservation: Zoom Webinar- attended March 9,2022
- Water Words That Work-Part 2: Zoom Webinar- attended March 10,2022
- Selling Conservation: Water Quality Symposium Class- attended March 14,2022
- Construct Your Soil Health Knowledge: Water Quality Symposium Class- attended March 15, 2022

## Things for Board Approval for the Office

- **Drone Mapping Software**

- WebODM Lightning

- Pay as you go:

- Pay per map
- Up to 1,000 images/map
- Max 30 concurrent tasks
- Ground Control Points
- API Access
- 1cm/px resolution

- Pro: Paid yearly=\$29/month, billed monthly=\$35/month

- Unlimited maps
- Up to 1,500 images/map
- Max 2 concurrent tasks
- Ground Control Points
- API Access
- 1cm/px resolution

- Business: Paid yearly=\$99/month, billed monthly=\$110/month

- Unlimited maps
- Up to 3,000 images/map
- Max 3 concurrent tasks
- Ground Control Points
- API Access
- 1cm/px resolution

- No commitment, cancel plans any time

- Can view results through orthophoto, cloud point, and a textured 3D model, can upload maps to QGIS

- It is just a site that stitches pictures taken with another app into a usable map

- Drone Deploy

- Lite: Billed annually=\$99/month, Billed monthly=\$149/month

- 1 admin user
- 1,000 image upload per map
- Email support
- Mobile flight app: fly and capture photos or maps through the iOS or Android app
- Live map: a map in real-time on your iOS device in RGB only
- Annotations and measurements (2D map only): take a variety of measurements including a volume, slope, distance, area and elevation
- Elevation: view elevation maps and visualize elevation differences (Digital Surface Model only)
- Share and export maps: send map links to external stakeholders or export data (JPG, GeoTiff, and OBJ export only)

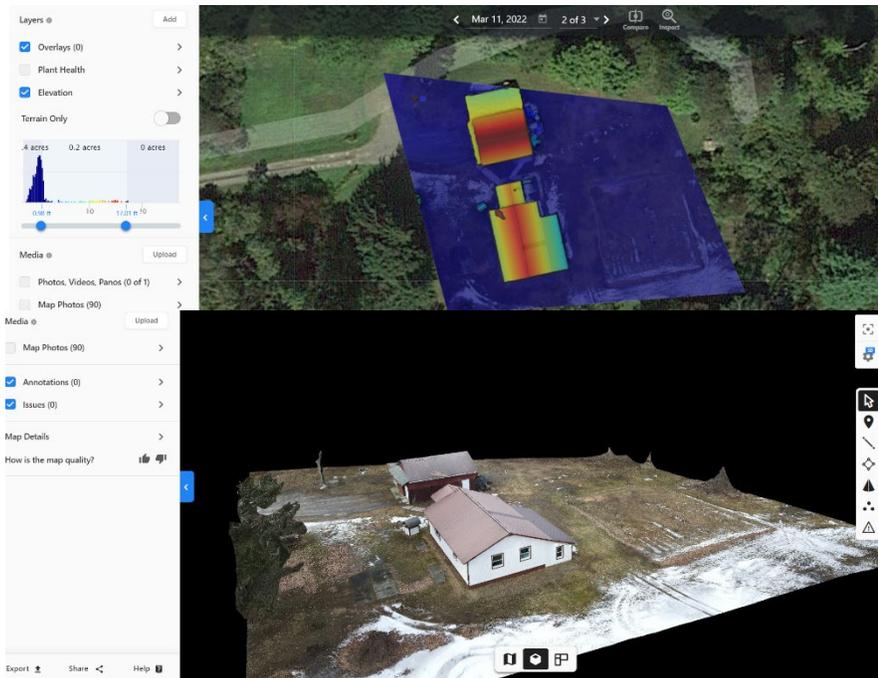
- Individual: Billed annually= \$299/month, billed monthly= \$449/month

- Advanced flight and analytics
- All Lite features plus
  - 1 admin user access
  - 3K image upload per map
  - Email and chat support
- Upload and view panoramas and videos
- Live map: create a map in real-time on your iOS device in RGB and Plant Health
- Ground Control Points: a processing method with known ground coordinates (\$49/map)

- Plant Health: measure crop health indexes to identify plant stress and viability
- Stockpile Analytics and Reports: Automated report showing total amount and value of stockpiles materials
- Inspection workflow (2D/3D only): evaluate your site, tag issues, add a summary, and collaborate with relevant team members
- Overlays: overlay a 2D layer on top of your map (PDF, SVG, PNG, design surface, shapefile, web tile layer)
- Inspection Report: Automatically track and share issues
- Side-by-side comparison: compare project maps side-by-side to evaluate change over time
- Share and export maps: send map links to external shareholders or export data (+ LAS, XYZ, SHP, DXF)
- Ag Lite: Billed Annually= \$100/month, billed monthly=\$149/month
  - Same as Lite plus:
    - Stand counts and assessments: conduct automated stand counts and gap analysis for corn and soy offline at the field's edge. Identify areas of good, moderate and poor emergence, with results automatically compiled in an easy-to-share report
    - Share and export maps: export your data to any farm software. Available export file types (JPG, GeoTiff, OBJ, and Shapefile)
- I have researched Drone Deploy and have observed a wide variety of ways it has been used and looked at the reviews, and it seems like the best option. Not only is it an application that can put the pictures together to create maps, but also aids the operator while taking the pictures so that you do not waste time in the field and have more time creating the map. The Lite or Ag Lite seem to be the best options as they have the basic needs in creating maps and allow for measurements, elevations and the ability to export your map. The Ag Lite could be a better option as it not only includes the ability for us to use drone photos to assess stand counts and gap analysis of corn and soy, but also allows for us to export maps as shapefiles which can then be used on GIS maps. This allows for a broader use of the maps and could further help with us understanding sites through 2D and 3D maps without spending too much on a monthly subscription of drone mapping software. It is also one of the few options for mapping software that does work with the DJI Mavic Air 2 drone like we have. Due to it being newer drone type, software companies are still trying to expand to the newer drones.
  - I had a 14-day free trial of Drone Deploy and I was able to map my house, I have attached pictures below of the normal 2D map, elevation filter, and a 3D map of my house. There are some parts of the map that aren't smooth which are due to the fact that it was difficult to take certain pictures with the drone due to trees in the area, but the majority of the map is clear and was put together very nicely by the software.



**2D map**



**Elevation Filter over 2D map**

- **Wireless Internet for the 3D map**

**Office**

- Spectrum Business: Spectrum is currently being used in some of the other businesses in the building we are in, but I am unsure if being in a federal office will interfere with putting in the Spectrum Wi-Fi. This is the best option as it is Wi-Fi geared towards businesses as it has 3 download speeds available that are based on how many employees you have.
  - 200 Mbps Internet= \$69.99 /month for 12 months
    - This can be used with web browsing, checking emails, and point-of-sale systems
    - Fewer than 5 employees
  - 600 Mbps Internet Ultra= Currently on sale for \$49.99/month for 12 months, usually \$94.99 per month
    - Running ecommerce and cloud-based applications
    - Fewer than 20 employees
  - 1 Gbps Internet= \$149.99/month for 12 months
    - Web hosting data, backups and large file transfers
    - 20+ employees
- I believe that the best option will be the 1 Gbps internet as we have a lot of large file transfers that will be done and we are still doing a lot of zoom meetings. This will also be used by me with the iPad and laptops to use the drone mapping software to create maps from the pictures taken with the drone and will be very helpful in allowing more communication for the district as well as allowing access to the internet for interns when they are doing research during the summer and for me to answer emails and be able to conduct research and my work without having to use my phone for cellular service.

- **Service for the iPad for Drone Work**

<b>Tablet Cellular</b>	<b>Verizon</b>	<b>AT&amp;T</b>
<b>Basic Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-First line is \$75 per month with paper-free billing and AutoPay or \$80 without which includes:</li> <li>*Unlimited 5G Nationwide/4G LTE data</li> <li>*Unlimited mobile hotspot</li> <li>*720p HD-quality streaming on capable devices</li> <li>-Unlimited Plus data for Tablet alone is \$85 per month with paper-free billing and AutoPay, \$90 without</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-AT&amp;T Data Connect 40GB: \$75/month</li> <li>*40GB of high-speed data</li> <li>*5G access</li> <li>*Unlimited national AT&amp;T Wi-Fi Hotspot</li> <li>*Overage rate of \$10 per 2GB</li> <li>-AT&amp;T Data Connect 25 GB: \$50/month</li> <li>*Same as 40GB plan but with 25 GB available</li> </ul>
<b>Business Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Business unlimited plan=\$30 per line per month</li> <li>*Unlimited 4G LTE data with network management</li> <li>*5G nationwide included</li> <li>*Mobile hotspot unavailable</li> <li>*Video streaming at 480p</li> <li>-Business Unlimited Pro Tablet=\$40 per line per month</li> <li>* Unlimited 4G LTE with network management after 35 GB/line/month</li> <li>*Video streaming at 1080p</li> </ul>	
<b>Coverage Options</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Total Equipment Coverage: \$7/month</li> <li>*Next day replacement for lost, stolen or damaged devices</li> <li>*Unlimited cracked screen repairs for \$29 each time</li> <li>*Battery replacement at Verizon-authorized repair facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Mobile insurance: \$8.99/month</li> <li>*Insurance on 1 device with \$48 screen repair</li> <li>-Protect advance for 1: \$15/month</li> <li>*U.S. based expert support</li> <li>*Same-day replacement and setup</li> <li>*\$29 screen repair deductible</li> <li>*Unlimited battery replacement</li> <li>*Unlimited photo and video storage</li> </ul>

Verizon seems to be the best as it offers unlimited plans and has business offerings that have better offers. There is an issue with Verizon service in the office compared to AT&T which is available in the office. But, in order to use the iPad for flying the drone, I need to have access to Wi-Fi or have service on the iPad. AT&T does not provide unlimited service opportunities for tablets or business options which means that if we use the iPad for the drone and it ends up requiring more than 25 or 40 GB per month, we would have to pay more per GB we go over, having an unlimited plan will take the stress away and allow for the iPad to be used in the field for more than just drone work as it has a large screen that can be helpful in explaining and showing things to others while in the field.

### **General Updates**

**Suspension of In-Person Meeting Requirement:** Under Executive Order 202.1, a temporary change was made to Open Meetings Law (OML) authorizing remote meetings public bodies across NYS. This change will remain active for the duration of the State Emergency. Executive Order 11.3 extended the state of emergency until March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022. If not extended, the changes to OML will cease and public bodies will need to meet all OML requirements. If you have any questions, please let me know or visit the NYS COOG website for more information. <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/open-meetings-law>

### **NYS SWCC News**

**AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2022:** NYSDAM 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 a \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The deadline for applications is **May 1st, 2022**. More information can be found at [www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA](http://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA) and application materials for the 2022 award are on the SWCC SharePoint site: <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/AEM.aspx>

**Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 6:** \$8 million is available to support projects. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com> Project proposals are due at **4:30 p.m. on March 28, 2022**.

**Agricultural Non-Point Source Program Round 28:** \$13 million is available to support projects. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com> All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Bethany Bzduch [bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov) by **Monday, April 4, 2022**. Project proposals are due at **4:30 p.m. on May 2, 2022**.

**SWCC Meeting:** The next State Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup>** at 10am. This meeting will convene via Webex video conferencing. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly.

### **Other Events**

**Freedom of Information Law Virtual Training:** The NYS Committee on Open Government will be presenting a virtual FOIL training program on Thursday, **March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** The program will consist of a one-hour overview of the statute, followed by 30 minutes of a question and answer period. **Pre-Registration is required at** [https://opengovernment.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/02/coog-virtual-foil-information-session\\_03242022.pdf](https://opengovernment.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/02/coog-virtual-foil-information-session_03242022.pdf)

**2021 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: Save the Date.** The 2021 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Niagara Falls on **April 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**. Registration information is pending and will be shared when available. For more information, go to: <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/index.html>

### **Other Funding**

**Community Forest Grant Announcement:** NYSDEC announces a new Community Forest Conservation Grant Program. \$1 million in grant funds will be available to municipalities for forest land acquisition to establish community forests. The grant program's goal is to assist communities in the conservation of local forests to create opportunities for public access, help protect natural areas from development, and encourage sustainable management of forested lands. Applications are **due 2 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**. For more information about this grant, go to <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/124345.html>

**NYS Pollution Prevention Institute Community Grant Application:** The New York State Pollution Prevention Institute (NYSP2I) is accepting applications for the 2022-2023 Community Grants Program. Eligible applicants can receive up to \$20,000 to fund their project. Proposals are solicited from community organizations, municipal departments, and other public sector and not-for-profit entities for projects that raise awareness and understanding of pollution prevention practices and lead to implementation at the local level. The application deadline is **5 p.m. EDT on April 15, 2022**. [https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nyssp2i/funding?mc\\_cid=24927495d4&mc\\_eid=87e3fa3421#community-grants](https://www.rit.edu/affiliate/nyssp2i/funding?mc_cid=24927495d4&mc_eid=87e3fa3421#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 and other efforts to achieve measure of progress under the GLRI Action Plan III. The due date for applications is **5:00 p.m. Eastern on April 22, 2022**. More information can be found here, <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2022>