

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting - January 26, 2023

## Attending:

John Rieger, Chairman

Kate Ziehm, Treasurer

Jay Skellie, Director

Cassie Fedler, Director

Others:

Dave Holck, Farm Service Agency (FSA)

Aaron Gabriel, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager

Lori Sheehan, Office Manager

Lyndsy Hilder, District Technician

Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician

Amber Luke, District Technician

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Call to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.

At 10:06 a.m. Chairman Rieger turned the meeting over to Sheehan to call for election of the Chairman of the Board.

## Organizational Business:

Sheehan called for nominations from the Board for Chairman.

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

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

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

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

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

**Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to appoint Lyndsy Hilder as Chairman (Jacob Fetterman of Trout Unlimited as Alternate) of the Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC). **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to appoint the following representatives:

- WQCC: Lyndsy Hilder / Jacob Fetterman (alternate)
- Farmland Protection Board: John Rieger / Corrina Aldrich (alternate)
- Upper Hudson River Coalition: Amber Luke / Corrina Aldrich (alternate)
- CWICNY: Corrina Aldrich – SWCD; Lyndsy Hilder – WQCC; Amber Luke – SWCD alternate; Jacob Fetterman – WQCC alternate

**Unanimously carried.**

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

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

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

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

Agency & Staff Reports:

FSA: Factsheet "Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program" distributed and reviewed by Holck

CCE: Attachment, reviewed by Gabriel

District Manager: Verbal report by Aldrich

District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh

District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke

District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Hilder

NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment – submitted by Cunningham

**Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to dispose of certain 2015 financial records according to Records Retention and Disposal Schedule LGS-1. **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve participation in the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Program and appoint Luke as AEM Coordinator. **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve participation in the Regional Envirothon (including cost of event expenses). **Unanimously carried.**

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

**Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to cancel cooperators Charles Waite (Greenwich) and Steve Skellie (Greenwich). **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve time extension request Amendment for CAFO Contract #C012096 – Woody Hill Farm. **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve purchase of computer for Hilder (est. \$1,500-\$2,000). **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve the following: Washington County Highway Association Dues (\$100); NY Association of Conservation Districts Assessment (\$1,500); WQS Training Registration Fee for (3) Staff Members (\$1,560); NOAF & CCE Master Forest Training for Aldrich (est. \$185). **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve NYS-DEC Nonpoint Source Grant – Mattison Road/Halfway Creek Project payment to engineer DuBois & King (\$3,275). **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve AEM Round 17 Cover Crop Payments: Burchdale Farm – Fred Burch (\$4,386.90), Mercure Farm – Matthew Mercure (\$2,154.60), Rollin Hill Farm – Darren Tyler (\$5,331.90). **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to sell the Haybuster No-till Drill and to use the on-line auction site Auctions International for the sale. **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to use the “Square” Payment System as an option for making payments to the district (i.e., Tree Program) and not to impose the surcharger fee to customers for 2023. **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to set the Equipment Reserve Fund amount to \$10,000. **Unanimously carried.**

**Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve the “*Drone Service Agreement & Policy.*” **Unanimously carried.**

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

The next Board meeting will be held on February 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

**Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to adjourn the meeting at 11:20 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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

## CCE Report – January 2023

### **Upcoming winter meetings:**

#### **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Hudson Valley Value-Added Grain School**

Processing Grains and Growing for New Markets

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 – 10:00 am – 3:30 pm

At the Tilly Foster Farm (Putnam County)

100 NY-312, Brewster, NY

#### **Exploiting the Vulnerabilities of Weeds**

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Italian-American Community Center,

257 Washington Ave. Ext., Albany, NY 12250

***2.5 NYSDEC PESTICIDE CREDITS categories 1A, 3A, 3B, 21, 23, 25, 10***

***4.5 Certified Crop Advisor credits – Integrated Pest Management***

Aaron Gabriel, Sr. Extension Resource Educator, Agronomy

Cornell Cooperative Extension

## **Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 01/26/2023**

### **AEM:**

Cover Crop Tier IV Implementation – I have completed all the paperwork with the participating farms and have submitted it for board approval.

### **Grants:**

- Lake Champlain Basin Program Cover Crop – I have completed all the paperwork with the participating farms and will submit it for board approval.
- CAFO Round 1 Deep Roots – Aaron Weiss (engineer) has completed the design for the larger manure storage. Albert is soliciting bids from contractors.

### **Ag Assessments:**

Request for Soil Group Worksheets have been steady. There are new assessors in the towns of Argyle and White Creek. They have both reached out to us to help them get acclimated with the process.

### **Interseeder:**

The interseeder has been built. Fenning is waiting on some parts that will be here the end of February; it should be ready to ship to us shortly after that.

### **Reports:**

I have been working on time sheets and information needed for the annual reports.

### **Newsletter:**

I have submitted an article for the winter newsletter.

### **Meetings Planned:**

01/31 – King's Agri-Seed Winter Meeting, Fonda

## **Technician's Report - Amber Luke - January 26, 2023**

### **Ag Non-Point Source-**

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Plan of Work has been reviewed and approved by Ryan Cunningham (our AEA). Now we just wait for a contract.

### **Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-**

- Round 6-
  - Plan of Works were submitted to our AEA for both funded grants (Beavers and Morrow). We are waiting for them to be approved by Ryan. We have only heard back on Beavers, and we are making necessary adjustments as needed. Once these go to contract it is out of our hands.
  - We had a Zoom call with the engineer on 1/6/2023 that John Beavers plans on working with to clarify between non engineering practices and engineering practices.

### **CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-**

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill – I will be working with Lori on the closeout of this grant as soon as state reports are done. We have been in contact with Ryan and will work with him to make sure we meet the contract deadline.

### **AEM-**

- REPORTING: Working on putting together a full report. This will be added as an attachment most likely at the February meeting.
- Still waiting on updated AEM hours from a couple of people but that are slowly starting to get completed.
- According to the Performance Measure time log we earned \$57,936 in YR 1 of our 2-year reporting for AEM. We had budgeted \$60,000 for YR 1 and \$90,000 for YR 2. We are a little behind which just means in order to earn all our money we will need to do more pertaining to AEM this year (2023).

### **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:**

- We did not get funded for our 9-element plan that Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board Submitted on behalf of the Upper Hudson Coalition. This is a bit of a disappointment as we were told that we had a good chance of being funded.
- We will most likely be trying to get funded through another source of funding in the future.

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

- Attended the Managers Meeting in Syracuse 12/13-12/14/22
- Ag. Learn Bias Training and 508 Training (mandatory) were completed.
- Upper Hudson Meeting was attended on 1/12/2023

### **Miscellaneous**

- Round 29 Ag. Non-point source grants have been pushed back. Now Ag. And Markets expects RFP's to come out sometime in February with a due date of May to June 2023.
- CRF Round 7 also pushed back. RFP's expected to be announced in February with a due date of June to May 2023.

- All Performance Measure, AEM, and grant time logs have been completed for 2022.
- Newsletter articles were submitted to Lori.
- I reached out to Maggie Hogan at Hudson Falls Central School about participating in Envirothon. She is the new Ag. Teacher and I was given her name as someone who may be interested. I did not hear back.

## **Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder - January 26, 2023**

- **Grants and Projects:**

- **Beavers:**

- Zoom meeting with engineers: January 6, 2023

- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**

- Capital Region PRISM Partner Meeting: attended December 13, 2022
  - TU Meeting at Georgi: attended December 13, 2022
  - CWICNY: attended December 15, 2022
  - CDEA Division 6 Meeting: attended December 16, 2022
  - TU Meeting: attended January 10, 2023
  - Ag Assessment Training: attended January 11, 2023
  - Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition Meeting: attended January 12, 2023
  - CWICNY meeting: zoom meeting January 19, 2023
  - Washington County Federation of Sportsmen Meeting: attended January 25, 2023

- **Office work:**

- Assisting Schoharie County SWCD: Schoharie County SWCD is currently interested in a drone for their district and was wondering what other districts had done to get a drone and what they were using. I typed up a couple of pages explaining what I had done last year on our journey to getting a drone and for me getting licensed.
  - Bank Reconciliations: completed on Jan. 17, 2023

- **SWCD Projects:**

- NYACD Legislative Booklet 2023: Submitted an article for the 2023 NYACD Legislative Booklet talking about our partnership with Trout Unlimited on the Skellie project. I explained the project as well as our district's contributions and included photos that showed what the project looked like before, during and after and a drone photo.
  - 2022 Part B Project: Our Certified Wildlife Habitat in Salem has been awarded as a People's Garden by the USDA. People's Garden are made to not only empower the communities to participate in the production of local food, but to teach about the benefits of sustainable, local agriculture. Our habitat has been recognized as a People's Garden due to its benefit to the community, the making of it being a collaborative effort, the use of sustainable practices and its educational benefits to the public.
  - Grain Bin Safety Nomination: I have contacted Paul Stevenson from Nationwide about the designated program for the grain bin safety week. In this program, a sponsor can donate



\$6,000 and designate a grain rescue tube/auger/ and training to a fire company of their choice. The training is 4 hours long, 1.5 hours in classroom setting and the rest is on their mobile trailer set up at the fire department. All fire persons who attend will be trained and the rescue tube/auger will be left with them. The \$6,000 sponsorship barely covers the cost of the rescue tube, rescue auger and expenses to do the training. They will not deliver the rescue tube without doing the training as it is unsafe.

- MudU: Hubbard Hall in Cambridge NY is going to be putting on little classes throughout February and March and we have signed up to put on a “Planting for Pollinators” class. This class will be on February 27<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at Hubbard Hall and we will be presenting information about creating pollinator habitats and gardens.
- Tree and Shrub Sale: I have been working on finishing up the fliers for the tree and shrub sale as well as the Square website to allow for the district to accept credit card and for people to make payments online. Most of it is set to be able to make it live for everyone to access and begin ordering. One thing that needs to be talked about is who is going to take care of the fee involved with the use of a credit card on the site. Square is a free site, except for when a credit card is used. For every card manually entered into the site, the fee is 3.5% +15 cents and for any card swiped using one of their card readers, the fee is 2.6% + 10cents. I have looked on the site and we can get a card reader for \$1 to have at the office and to use during the days of pickup for anyone who wishes to add to their order. Most of the orders will be done by people on their own time and therefore will include the higher fee. New York State allows for credit card surcharges, but this has to be advertised for their products or services. I have done the math based on last year’s numbers to show what it would have looked like if the district were to take on the fees. This year is a trial year to see how people take to the credit card option instead of our usual cash or check only options and we do not expect everyone to pay with a card, but if that were to have happened last year with all of the preorders it would total about \$224.11.

Square fee of 3.5% plus 15 cents

Smallest order= \$12→ fee would be \$0.57

Largest Order= \$229 largest placed order, almost had a \$450 order but could not supply the number of blueberries they wanted

- \$229→ \$8.165
- \$450→ \$15.90

Half all money spent= \$107.35

Average price= \$77.54→ \$2.86

All orders and possible fees associated

Total Spent	Possible Fee
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\$140	\$5.05
\$105	\$3.83
\$67	\$2.50
\$112	\$4.07
\$177	\$6.35
\$42	\$1.62
\$90	\$3.30
\$189	\$6.77
\$175.91	\$6.31
\$37	\$1.45
\$20	\$0.85
\$70	\$2.60
\$16	\$0.71
\$45	\$1.73
\$34	\$1.34
\$95	\$3.48
\$32	\$1.27
\$67	\$2.50
\$52	\$1.97
\$30	\$1.20
\$52	\$1.97
\$24	\$0.99
\$24	\$0.99
\$54	\$2.04
\$92	\$3.37
\$16	\$0.71
\$57.21	\$2.15
\$19	\$0.82
\$56	\$2.11
\$75.56	\$2.79
\$69.56	\$2.58
\$134	\$4.84
\$223	\$7.96
\$12	\$0.57
\$129	\$4.67
\$14	\$0.64
\$141.50	\$5.10
\$20	\$0.85
\$32	\$1.27
\$75	\$2.78
\$61.41	\$2.30
\$64	\$2.39
\$16	\$0.71
\$106	\$3.86
\$167	\$6.00
\$64	\$2.39
\$108	\$3.93
\$65	\$2.43
\$86	\$3.16
\$37	\$1.45
\$40	\$1.55
\$48	\$1.83
\$32	\$1.27
\$66	\$2.46
\$88.42	\$3.24
\$47.91	\$1.83
\$124	\$4.49
\$45	\$1.73

\$46	\$1.76
\$16	\$0.71
\$229	\$8.17
\$450→ \$180	\$15.90→ \$6.45
\$83	\$3.06
\$28	\$1.13
\$32	\$1.27
\$208	\$6.39
\$158	\$5.68
\$72	\$2.67
\$121	\$4.39
\$90	\$3.30
\$28	\$1.13
\$80	\$2.95
\$151	\$5.44
\$57.91	\$2.18
\$65	\$2.43
\$97.56	\$3.56
\$144	\$4.14
\$58	\$2.18
Total= 6,125.95	\$224.11

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – January 2023  
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

### **NYS SWCC News**

**New Division Administrative Assistant:** Please join us in welcoming Melissa Gordon to the Division of Land and Water Resources as our new Administrative Assistant! We are so pleased to have Melissa joining our team. Among her various duties in support of SWCC and Farmland Protection Unit mission goals, you will begin to see emails from Melissa ([melissa.gordon@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:melissa.gordon@agriculture.ny.gov)) that are sent on behalf of the SWCC. Welcome Melissa!

**2022 State Aid to Districts – DUE 2/15:** All 2022 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, 2023**. Please contact [ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov) or your Regional AEA with any questions.

**Round 28 AGNPS and Round 6 CRF Plans of Work:** Please submit plans of work for projects awarded through Round 28 AGNPS and Round 6 CRF to your Regional AEA for review and approval. Submitting this information as soon as possible can help to expedite the contracting process.

**Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA) Scoping Plan:** On December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the NYS Climate Action Council (CAC) voted to approve the CLCPA Scoping Plan. The Scoping Plan provides a road map for how New York State will meet the emission reduction targets set by the law. Chapters 15 (Agriculture and Forestry), 19 (Land Use), and 21 (Adaptation/Resilience) include strategies for the farm and forest sectors to both reduce emissions, increase carbon sequestration/storage and elevate adaptation/resilience. The agricultural and forestry strategies call in part for the expansion of current programs and conservation technical assistance through SWCDs. Please click the link for the entire scoping plan <https://climate.ny.gov/resources/scoping-plan/>.

**NYS SWCC Cost Share Program Procurement Policy:** In March 2021, the Procurement Policy and Form utilized by NYS SWCC Cost Share programs was updated. This policy and the updated Procurement Record must be used for projects that were procured after March 2021. For all active contracts, please be sure to collect appropriate proofs of payment for each project invoice. Acceptable proofs of payment are defined in the Procurement Policy.

**January SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on January 24<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

**Ag Value Assessment Liaisons from Tax and Finance:** The Department of Tax and Finance has compiled a county-by-county list of Customer Service Liaisons who are available to help answer questions related to the Agricultural Value Assessment Program: <https://www.tax.ny.gov/research/property/regional/crmlist.htm> Please be patient with the liaisons as many of them will be learning along with you. For questions related to the annually updated soils series or soil classifications, please reach out to Jason Mulford [jason.mulford@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:jason.mulford@agriculture.ny.gov). For other questions related to values per acre, landowner issues, and Agricultural Districts, please contact Jeff Kehoe [Jeffrey.kehoe@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Jeffrey.kehoe@agriculture.ny.gov).

### **Other Events**

**New York Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting:** Farmers and agricultural service providers are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the Empire State Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society on **January 24, 2023**, at the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. Participants can expect to learn how technology interacts with conservation efforts for improved water quality and climate resiliency. This year the meeting will be both in person and virtual. To learn more and to register, please visit: [bit.ly/EmpireSWCS2023](https://bit.ly/EmpireSWCS2023)

**WEBINAR, Assessing Trends and Advancing Research for Smart Solar:** Learn how American Farmland Trust is advancing Smart Solar principles in New York, **Wednesday January 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am - 12:30pm**. The session will include highlighting cutting edge research led by Cornell University and its Sustainable Solar initiative. Please register for the event here: <https://forms.office.com/r/meZcV1Yaph>

**2023 Water Quality Symposium:** The New York State Conservation District Employees' Association and Soil and Water Conservation Committee are thrilled to announce the 2023 Water Quality Symposium in Syracuse, NY. **March 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Registration is due no later than January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Please note that this year, **each County Soil and Water District will receive one free admission coupon for one staff to attend the full week**. Registration packet available here:

<https://www.nyscdea.com/training-sessions/> Online registration form here: <https://forms.gle/GWidbu9G6aQiZp2aA>

**NACD 2023 Annual Meeting:** Registration for The National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 77th Annual Meeting is now open! Hosted in partnership with the Louisiana Association of Conservation Districts, the 2023 Annual Meeting will take place in New Orleans, Louisiana from **February 11-15, 2023**. To learn more and to register, please visit <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScRMcacKQGe22Q2RjVKF2knpcugUTP4ZZI17rl1Gx-eDFieA/viewform>

#### **Other Funding**

**Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program 2023 Request for Proposals:** The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and partners are requesting proposals for the 2023. 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 31, 2023**. 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-restoration-grant-program-2023-request-proposals>

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – February 23, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman  
Jay Skellie, Director  
John Dickinson, Director  
Kate Ziehm, Director  
Cassie Fedler, Director

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager

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1. Call to order at 10:08 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Dickinson/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/Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for January and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
  - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
  - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
  - 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, submitted by Hilder
  - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
  - A. **Motion** by Ziehm/Dickinson to approve acceptance of grant withdrawal letters from Luncrest Farm and Happenstance Farm for CFR Round 5 Grant Contract #C012305 and proceed with grant closeout. **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve NYS-CDEA Silent Auction Donation (\$20). **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to approve refunds to tree customers as applicable. **Unanimously carried.**
  - D. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve adding the County's "*Employee Assistance Program*" as a benefit to district employees. **Unanimously carried.**
  - E. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to add a category "*School Assistance Program*" to Part C Projects when funds are available. **Unanimously carried.**
  - F. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to accept the highest bid over \$5,000 for the sale of the Haybuster Drill on Auctions International, and to add these funds from the sale to the Equipment Reserve Fund. **Unanimously carried.**
  - G. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to enter into Executive Session at 11:12 a.m. to discuss a particular person. **Unanimously carried.**

H. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to leave Executive Session at 12:08 p.m. and resume regular meeting. **Unanimously carried.**

6. The next Board meeting will be held on March 23, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 p.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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

## **Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 02/23/2023**

### **AEM:**

- Gave Tier I's to Sarah Winslow and Nate Mattison to complete.
- Started Tier IIIA for Bert Davis.
- Looking into a possible Tier IIIA for Lee Hennessy.

### **Ag Assessments:**

I have completed 81 soil group worksheets for ag assessments. March 1<sup>st</sup> is the assessor deadline for submitting requests.

I attended a Town of White Creek public meeting hosted by the newly elected town assessor. There was only one question about ag assessments.

### **No-till Drill:**

The drill will be going up for sale on Auctions International website the first week of March.

### **Meetings Attended & Planned:**

01/31 – King's Agri-Seed Winter Meeting, Fonda

02/24 – NYS Farm Show, Syracuse



## Technician's Report - Amber Luke - February 23, 2023

### Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Plan of Work has been reviewed and approved by Ryan Cunningham (our AEA). Now we just wait for a contract.

### Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
  - Plan of Works were submitted to our AEA for both funded grants (Beavers and Morrow). We are waiting for them to be approved by Ryan. We have only heard back on Beavers, and we are making necessary adjustments as needed. Once these go to contract it is out of our hands.

### AEM-

- REPORTING: See attached report on the next page with what we completed to date.
- As far as deliverables go, we have met our goals on number of Tier 2, 3A, 3B, and Tier 4s. We will need to work on getting Tier 1s, 5As and 5Bs. 5As are an update to a Tier 2 assessment and 5Bs are previously installed BMP evaluations. As far as time goes, we earned \$57,936 in YR 1 of our 2-year reporting for AEM. We had budgeted \$60,000 for YR 1 and \$90,000 for YR 2. We are a little behind which just means in order to earn all our money we will need to do more pertaining to AEM this year (2023).
- Conducted a site visit with Lyndsy to Jim Lindsay's. We talked about the planning process, and we updated his tier 2 and tier 1 information that was last done in 2002. He would like to continue with the planning process.
- Lyndsy and I met with Tyler Knapp (via Webex on 2/7/2023) to go over our AEM database and how we could make changes to make the database more useable. We have an in-person meeting scheduled for 3/7/2023 to go over the Access Database and go over how to use it to benefit us.

### Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:

- Submitted projects completed in the Upper Hudson Watershed in 2022 to Caitlin Stewart (Hamilton County SWCD) for the annual report.
- WQIP Phase 1- Roadside Erosion. Work has been completed and closeout has been submitted by Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning.
- Training Grant- All closeout paperwork has been submitted. We held a NAACC training for highway departments in June 2022.

### Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Listened to a Webinar on Biological Management for Soil Health (2/6/2023)
- Upper Hudson Meeting was attended (via zoom) on 2/9/2023.

### Miscellaneous

- Round 29 Ag. Non-point source grants & CRF Round 7 have been pushed back. Now Ag. and Markets expects RFP's to come out sometime in early **MARCH** with staggered due dates of May to June 2023.

## Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder - February 23, 2023

- **AEM:**
  - Lindsay: Worked with Amber on going to Mr. Lindsay's farm to go over the AEM process, asked questions to update his tier 1 and 2 and start the process of a tier 3. He was interested in a new way to store manure on the farm and we went over many possibilities with him and laid out an approximate timeline and what would be needed to move forward.
  - AEM Database: Amber and I are working with Tyler Knapp to set up an AEM database to make it easier for everyone here to access information about current AEM participants and their status. We have a meeting on March 7<sup>th</sup> to get everything set up so I can begin putting in all of the information about our AEM participants.
- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**
  - Division 5 meeting: Attended January 31, 2023
  - Stormwater Tradeshow Committee Meeting: zoom meeting attended February 9, 2023
  - CWICNY Meeting: zoom meeting attended February 16, 2023
  - CaroVail Annual Winter Meeting: attended February 17, 2023
  - Pollinator Stewardship training: zoom meeting attended February 21, 2023
  - Managing Forests for Wildlife and Forest Health: zoom meeting attended February 22, 2023
  - Washington County Sportsman Federation: attended February 22, 2023
- **Office Work:**
  - **Scholarship:** I applied for the Game of Logging Scholarship through ASA for this coming year's 4-part Game of Logging.
  - **Pollinator Stewardship Certification Training:** This zoom training is put on by Pollinator Partnership, it empowers those interested in pollinator stewardship with the scientific understanding and practical know-how to help these immensely important animals. Once completing the 9-part virtual training I would need to complete 1 habitat creation action and 1 outreach and education action. This training is offered on a donation model to ensure accessibility for as many people as possible. They suggest a donation of \$250 for those who can afford it. As I have been doing more with pollinators in the past year, I think that this certification would help the district and help spread more information about pollinators.
- **SWCD Projects:**
  - Mud U Planting for Pollinators: Almost sold out for our class on February 27<sup>th</sup> I have completed a PowerPoint and have multiple handouts for people attending.
  - Tree and Shrub Sale: Square has taken off, we had 62 orders as of 2/21/2023, sold 3,540 trees and plants (which is more than we sold last year= 3,105) prior to sending out the paper order forms with our February newsletter. Most of the customers were new customers who

ordered through the square website. We have gotten a lot of positive feedback on this option. There were a few issues along the way but we are working on it and know what we should do for next year's sale. The average sale has increased from \$77.54 last year to \$118.38 so far.

- Grain Bin Safety Week: During lunch at the CaroVail Annual Winter Meeting, Corrina talked with Katherine Vail who said that she could get some other seed companies to partner with CaroVail and Washington County SWCD on sponsoring a fire department to receive a Grain Bin Safety Tube and Training. In order to designate a training and grain bin safety tube to a fire department the donation needs to be at least \$6,000.
- Drone Software- Our current plan is up in April of this year. Even though drone deploy has been very helpful in our projects. I have been looking around to possibly find a cheaper drone software as the price from Drone Deploy has increased.
  - **Current plan:** We are currently using Drone Deploy Ag Lite which is \$1,788 per year, up from \$1,284 which was what we paid last year. This has been very helpful in the creation of 3D maps over time of Kenyon Hill.
    - Mobile Flight App
    - Live Map
    - Annotations and measurements (2D map only)
    - Elevation
    - Stand Counts and Assessments
    - Export Maps
  - **WebODM:** One time purchase of \$147 for business model, comes with 1 year priority installation support, updates includes and 30 days money-back guarantee. This software allows for us to have the ability to get our money back if we don't like it, it also offers similar features as Drone Deploy but also has more features that would be helpful such as contours.
    - Features include:
      - Orthomosaics
      - Point Clouds
      - Elevation Models
      - 3D models
      - Measurements
      - Plant Health
      - Ground Control Points
      - Contours

- Any Camera, Any format, Any orientation
- Multispectral
- Rolling shutter correction support
- Share your maps and 3D models

### **NYS SWCC News**

**2022 State Aid to Districts – DUE 2/15:** All 2022 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, 2023**. Please contact [ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov) or your Regional AEA with any questions.

**Payments and Blackout Period:** We are fast approaching the annual blackout period during which time EPF funds are not available to process payments. Claim for Payments need to be submitted by **Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023** to meet the cut-off date. Any Claim for Payment received during the Blackout period will be included on the next fiscal year EPF list with payments processed the following month. If projects will begin this Spring/Summer and you still have not submitted a CFP for necessary advance or implementation payments, it is advisable that you submit these vouchers with applicable supporting documentation ASAP. If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Irish ([Maureen.irish@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Maureen.irish@agriculture.ny.gov)) or your Regional AEA.

**February SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on February 28<sup>th</sup>**. 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 Leopold Conservation Award 2023:** NYSAGM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York's award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The deadline for applications is **May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. More information can be found at <https://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf>

**Tools and References Wiki Update:** The Tools and References Wiki has just been updated for 2023. This is a useful resource for new employees to learn about resources used in New York State conservation planning and design and related fields. Check it out! <https://www.nyscdea.com/useful-resources/>

### **Other Events**

**Fruit Tree and Raspberry Pruning & Maintenance Workshop:** Franklin County SWCD and Franklin County CCE are hosting this workshop from 10am-4:30pm on Friday February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 in Malone, NY. Topics will include pruning, scouting and treatment of disease and pest damage, seasonal maintenance, food safety recommendations and more. Register at <https://franklin.cce.cornell.edu/events> or by contacting the Franklin County SWCD at 518-651-2097.

**Soil Health & Nutrient Management Workshop:** Ontario County SWCD is hosting a Soil Health & Nutrient Management Workshop on **Wednesday, March 1, 2023** from 8:00am to 3:00pm. Focal topics will include weather impacts, soil testing, tackling tough weeds, erosion control, manure management and much more. Pre-registration is \$15 and walk-ins will be \$20. This fee also includes refreshments, lunch, raffle prizes, and exhibits. DEC Pesticide Applicator and CCA credits available. For more information and to register: <https://www.canandaiguallakeassoc.org/2023-soil-health-workshop/>

### **Other Funding**

**SOGL 2023 Funding Opportunity:** The Sustain Our Great Lakes (SOGL) program is soliciting proposals to benefit fish, wildlife, habitat and water quality in the Great Lakes basin. The program will award up to \$18.7 million in grants in 2023 to improve and enhance: 1) stream, riparian and coastal habitats to benefit species; 2) water quality in the Great Lakes and its tributaries. Details about this funding opportunity are provided in the Request for Proposals. The submission deadline for **pre-proposals** is **February 14, 2023**. Additional application information is available at [www.nfwf.org/greatlakes](http://www.nfwf.org/greatlakes).

**Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program:** New York Sea Grant, in partnership with DEC, has announced that funding is now available for projects that apply an ecosystem-based management approach to address local watershed challenges. A total of \$460,000, with up to \$50,000 per project, in New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants will be awarded. Applications are due by **4:30 p.m. on March 1, 2023**. For more information, contact New York Sea Grant at 716-645-3611. <https://small-grants-program-ccegeomaps.hub.arcgis.com/>

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – March 23, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman  
Jay Skellie, Director  
Kate Ziehm, Director  
Cassie Fedler, Director

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager  
Robert Kalbfliesh, District Technician  
Amber Luke, District Technician  
Lyndsy Hilder, District Technician

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1. Call to order at 10:08 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Fedler/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/Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for February and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
  - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
  - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
  - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
  - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
  - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
  - F. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Hilder
  - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
  - A. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Cooperator Agreement for Jason Beecher. **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve disbursing Part C Funds for Drone Software (WebODM est. \$150) and USDA Laptop Computer for Hilder (\$1,809.81). **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve disbursing Part C funds for Grain Bid Safety Tube & Training Sponsorship for local fire department (\$6,000). **Unanimously carried.**
  - D. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve disbursing Part C funds for CropwareNet license (\$1,000/year). **Unanimously carried.**
  - E. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve engineering payment (\$906.25) to DuBois & King for NYS-DEC Mattison Road / Halfway Creek Streambank Study. **Unanimously carried.**
  - F. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve: Pollinator Stewardship Training for Hilder (\$250 donation), Soil & Water Conservation Society Membership (\$230), Purchase Projector (est. \$500), QuickBooks Software (\$550 1-year subscription). **Unanimously carried.**
  - G. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve the Haybuster No-till Bid offer of \$13,200. **Unanimously carried.**

- H. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve disposal of old computers and projector. **Unanimously carried.**
- I. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve purchase of ferns and wildflower seeds for Tree Program. **Unanimously carried.**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued a Request for Proposals inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit proposals for funding under Round 29 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program; and

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

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

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

1) That **Corrina Aldrich**, District Manager, or such person's successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District's governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under Round 29 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program. The representative is authorized to make application, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Project;

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

3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 29 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program;

4) That this resolution take effect immediately.

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued a Request for Proposals inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit proposals for funding under Round 7 of the Climate Resilient Farming Program; and

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

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

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

1) That **Corrina Aldrich**, District Manager, or such person's successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District's governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under Round 7 of the Climate Resilient Farming Program. The representative is authorized to make application, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Project;

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

3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 7 Climate Resilient Farming Program;

4) That this resolution take effect immediately.

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6. The next Board meeting will be held on April 27, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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



## **District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh - March 2023**

### **AEM**

- Completed a Tier II farm visit with Nate Mattison; Lyndsy assisted.
- Completed a Grown & Certified renewal for Easton Station Farm (Erin & Jeremy Perkins).
- Sent Burt Davis a Cooperator Agreement.

### **Ag Assessments**

- Most of my time in February was dedicated to my ag assessments. There has been requests since the deadline of March 1<sup>st</sup> has passed. I have been completing them as they come in.

### **No-till Drill**

- The Haybuster drill has been listed on Auction's International and as of Tuesday 3/21 with 4 hours left in the auction the high bid is \$10,600.

### **Meetings Attended & Planned**

- 3/15 – 3/17      Water Quality Symposium, Syracuse
- 3/22              Whitman's Annual Meeting, Greenwich

## Technician's Report - Amber Luke - March 23, 2023

### Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Plan of Work has been reviewed and approved by Ryan Cunningham (our AEA). Still waiting for a contract.

### Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-Waiting for contracts. Been in contact with both farms who were awarded to make them aware of the situation.

### CAFO WSTSP-

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- I have been working with Lori on the closeout of this project. All BMP's installed have been checked using the As-Built's with appropriate amounts, photo array has been completed showing before and after photos, and narrative of the overall project has been completed. We are now trying to set up a time for Ryan Cunningham to come out and visit the project. We are hoping to have all paperwork submitted for closeout by the end of the month.

### AEM-

- REPORTING: I will be sending out an email to all staff asking for hours to be updated at the end of the month seeing how it is the end of the first quarter for 2023.
- Conducted AEM overview meeting with a landowner who is interested in the process on March 3, 2023. We discussed all the landowners' goals and the next steps in the AEM process. Lyndsy is working on setting up a time to do a tier 2 visit to the farm.
- Conducted a site visit with Corrina to go over the AEM process with Lillie Valley Farm. They have a tier 1 and 2 done and would like to have a plan done but as far as Tier 4 and implementation projects go their timeline currently does not fit with our funding timeline.
- Lyndsy and I met with Tyler Knapp at Water Quality Symposium (3/14/23). To go over our AEM database in person and practice entering data into the Database he created for us based on our goals. We have saved the database to an external hard drive for now. Tyler Knapp is planning on coming out Tuesday March 28<sup>th</sup> to trouble shoot any issues we have.

### Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:

- Next meeting is on April 13, 2023. There was no meeting in March due to Water Quality Symposium.

### Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-

- Ag Learn Training- Workplace Violence Training was completed on 2/28/23.
- Water Quality Symposium (3/14/23-3/17/23) Classes attended include NYS Agricultural BMP System: Short Term Waste Collection and Transfer System, Leadership Course: Growing Emotional Intelligence through Constructive Communication, Working Through the Red Tape, Stream Stabilization Techniques, and Updates on the CAFO and Construction Stormwater Permits and 360 Regulations.

### Miscellaneous

- Round 29 Ag. Non-point source grants & CRF Round 7 have been pushed back. We are still waiting to hear the announcement for RFPs to come out. Now Ag. And Markets expects RFPs to come out sometime in **MARCH** with staggered due dates of May to June 2023.

## Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder- March 23, 2023

- **AEM:**
  - AEM Database: Amber and I met with Tyler Knapp during Symposium to download his database outline onto my computer. Now I am starting to dive into our AEM records and create a base to go off of to create this database.
  - Sarah Bergstein: Amber and I had a meeting with Sarah to talk about the soil sampling we did last summer and to talk about how we are going to move forward with a tier 2 site visit. We will be doing a tier 2 site visit this coming spring, depending on weather.
  - Nate Mattison: Bob and I went out to Nate Mattison's farm to conduct a tier 2 site visit.
- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**
  - Pollinator Stewardship Certification Training: zoom meeting attended February 28, 2023
  - Mud U Graduation Meeting: attended March 11, 2023
  - Meeting with Neil Pickus from Camp Chingachgook: zoom attended March 13, 2023
  - **Water Quality Symposium:**
    - Terrestrial Invasive Species Management: attended March 14, 2023
    - Understanding Forest Carbon, Markets and Management: Attended March 15, 2023
    - Wildlife Habitat Management, Improvements, Projects and Programs: Attended March 16, 2023
    - Municipal Assistance Subcommittee Meeting: Attended March 17, 2023
  - Pollinator Stewardship Certification Training: zoom meeting attended March 14, 2023
- **SWCD Projects:**
  - Tree and Shrub Sale: We are up to 100 orders, 4,600 trees and plants sold. Most of the customers are new, but we still have some returning customers. The problem is that Square really took off and we ended up turning people away towards the end due to not having the trees to fulfill their orders. I am currently coming up with new ideas as well as species and numbers for next year's tree and shrub sale which will hopefully continue to grow and reach more people, as well as sell more trees.
    - Need to order ferns and seeds:
      - Ferns= \$149.99 for 100, need to purchase 200 ferns, plus shipping= \$324.07
      - Seeds=
        - Quick Bloom: sold 12, will purchase 15
        - Perennial Low Grow: sold 18, will purchase 21
        - Shade Wildflower Seed Mix: sold 13, will purchase 16
        - = \$653.40, after 20% off discount= \$522.72
  - Grain Bin Safety Program: We need to get together to talk about what we are going to be doing and how we will be working with CaroVail and others to make the donation of at least \$6,000 to designate a volunteer fire station to receive the training and rescue tube and auger. Due by April 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Camp Chingachgook: I have been in contact with Neil from Camp Chingachgook about partnering with them to be able to reach out to more children for educational events. This YMCA Camp on Lake George puts on a variety of nature and farm based educational events for schools to bring students to. They are currently reaching out to schools to see who would like to be involved in allowing me to go out and teach the students more about what we do and offer as a soil and water district in the county.
  - Drone Software: Our plan is up in April, and we need to figure out what we will be doing. As of now we are beginning to offer drone assistance on natural resource projects, but we do not need to pay as much as we do for what we need. I have been looking around to possibly find a cheaper drone software as the price from Drone Deploy has increased.
    - **Current plan:** We are currently using Drone Deploy Ag Lite which is \$1,788 per year, up from \$1,284 which was what we paid last year. This has been very helpful in the creation of 3D maps over time of Kenyon Hill.
      - Mobile Flight App
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    - **WebODM:** One time purchase of \$147 for business model, comes with 1-year priority installation support, updates included and 30 days money-back guarantee. This software allows for us to have the ability to get our money back if we don't like it, it also offers

similar features as Drone Deploy but also has more features that would be helpful such as contours.

- Features include:
  - Orthomosaics
  - Point Clouds
  - Elevation Models
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  - Measurements
  - Plant Health
  - Ground Control Points
  - Contours
  - Any Camera, Any format, Any orientation
  - Multispectral
  - Rolling shutter correction support
  - Share your maps and 3D models

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – March 2023  
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

- **NYS SWCC News**
- **2023 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning for AEM:** The AEM Partners are pleased to announce that the CNMP Training, a prerequisite class for AEM and NRCS Level II CNMP Planner Certifications, is scheduled for **April 4-6, 2023**, on the Cornell Campus in Ithaca, NY. The registration deadline is **March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. To register please visit: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTGa6JTacmdUSKOC1GzCW2sSL97NrFQsOIF2Zy9PPp8CjMg/viewform> For more information or questions, please reach out to me at [ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov) or (315) 314-0352.
- **AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2023:** NYSAGM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York's award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust,
- and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The deadline for applications is **May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. More information can be found at <https://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf>
- **March SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on March 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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.
- **NCDEA Don Aron Scholarship Announcement:** The NCDEA Scholarship was established in the memory of Don Aron for his foresight of a National Conservation District Employees Association. The scholarship application is open to any conservation district employee or their immediate family member along with a few other eligibility requirements; and applicants may request up to \$1,000 in assistance. The deadline to submit is **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. For more information, please visit <https://www.ncdea.us/dascholarship>. Questions can be sent to the NCDEA Executive Director at [executivedirector@ncdea.org](mailto:executivedirector@ncdea.org).
- **Other Events**
- **Freedom of Information Law & Open Meetings Law Virtual Training:** In recognition of Sunshine Week, the Committee on Open Government will be presenting a virtual Freedom of Information Law information session on **Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 10AM – 11:30AM** and a virtual Open Meetings Law information session on **Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> from 2PM – 3:30PM**. Each program will consist of a one-hour overview of the statute, followed by 30 minutes of Q & A. Pre-registration is required, FOIL registration at: <https://meetny.webex.com/weblink/register/r9f4c15a559c76aec5ad9b29988c4418a>. Open Meetings Law registration at: <https://meetny.webex.com/weblink/register/r3c711e07efc0c7269a0de6efe53f1d00>
- **2023 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: Save the Date.** The 2023 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Niagara Falls on **April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**. To register, please visit: <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/registration.html>
- **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 **5:00 p.m. Eastern on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2023>
- **NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Funding:** NRCS is announcing the availability of Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) State Program funding to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. A total of up to \$500,000 is available for the New York CIG competition in FY 2023. Applicants must submit their applications via Grants.gov by 11:59 pm

Eastern Time on **April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2023**. Please read the full announcement at [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=New+york&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=New+york&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

- **NRCS Funding Opportunity for Resource Conservation Partners in New York:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing the availability of funding for conservation work in New York. Awards will go to partners to provide direct technical services to address water quality, soil health, wildlife and plant health, as well as other key conservation objectives. All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by **April 27<sup>th</sup> 2023**. Please read the full announcement at [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=New+york&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=New+york&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – April 27, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

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

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager  
Amber Luke, District Technician  
Other – Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

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1. Call to order at 10:07 a.m. by Vice Chairman Dickinson.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/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 March and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
  - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
  - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: Attachment, submitted by Gabriel
  - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
  - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Kalbfliesh
  - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
  - F. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Hilder
  - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, reviewed by Cunningham
5. New Business:
  - A. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the District to participate in the Homesteaders Conference at Washington County Fair May 20 & 21 (\$85.00 for booth rental space). **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve NY State Fair Booth Assessment (\$100) and NYS Envirothon Event at Hobart Williams & Smith College (\$600). **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve fish customer refunds as applicable. **Unanimously carried.**
  - D. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve updates to website to meet ADA accessibility standards using Part C Funds (est. \$550). **Unanimously carried.**
  - E. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve Lake Champlain Basin Program – Cover Crop Grant Payments (Clinton County SWCD pass-through funds) to: Albert Marns (\$7,000), Wayne Foote (\$1,799.90), Jennifer Alexander (\$336), Foothill Farm (\$3,500), Yorkmont Farm (\$1,400), Kenneth Thomas III (\$3,150), Toolite Farm (\$5,250), Twin Brooks Farm (\$7,000), Ideal Dairy Farm (\$12,250). **Dickinson abstain/carried.**

F. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve CAFO Round 1 Contract C011867 – Kenyon Hill Farm: **Unanimously carried.**

- BMP grant payment to Kenyon Hill Farm (\$37,450)
- Grant administration fee to Washington County SWCD (\$10,500)
- Close dedicated grant checking account.

G. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve obtaining a quote for a consultant to assist the District in preparing a Strategic Plan. (Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**

H. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to table making a motion on Water Quality Symposium Comp Time. **Unanimously carried.**

6. Ryan Cunningham conducted District Law Board Training.
7. The next Board meeting will be held on May 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
8. **Motion** by Fedler/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: CCE Report, Treasurer Report, District Technicians Reports, NYS-SWCC Report



## CCE Report – April 2023

2023 Spring Turn-Out Tour  
Tuesday, May 9, 6:00 pm

[Grazin' Acres Farm](#), 288 Gilchrist Rd, Argyle, NY 12809

A Tour of Grazin' Acres Farm

- Come see the grazing operation, learn how they raise beef, lamb and poultry on pasture and market their products at local farm markets.
- Bring your pasture and livestock management questions for Aaron and Rachel
- Enjoy some socializing and networking

Free Event

Light refreshments will be provided.

Please register by 5:00 pm, May 5, 2023 at: <https://caahp.ccext.net/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=175>.

If you need assistance with registration, please call (518)765-3518 or email [cce-caahp@cornell.edu](mailto:cce-caahp@cornell.edu).

For program questions or special accommodations, contact: Rachel Moody, [ram72@cornell.edu](mailto:ram72@cornell.edu)

- Soil Health Farm Tour & BBQ on July 19<sup>th</sup> – Landview Farm, Tiashoke Farm, Hickory Hill Farm (Andy Brizzell), Otter Creek Farm (Brad Wiley & Elizabeth Collins), Wind Flower Farm, and probably another vegetable farm. BBQ at Liberty Ridge Farm.

Aaron Gabriel, Sr. Extension Resource Educator, Agronomy  
Cornell Cooperative Extension

## **District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – April 2023**

### **AEM**

- Completed forms for Nate Mattison's Grown & Certified Certification.
- Updated Cyd Groff's Tier I & II for Grown & Certified Certification.

### **Ag Assessments**

- There has been a bunch of late assessor approved ag assessments. I have completed them as they come in.

### **No-till Drill**

- Nate Mattison picked up the Haybuster from the fairgrounds; I ordered a new manual for him.
- I organized a field demo for the new Great Plains Drill. We held the demo at Chris McKernon's farm. The Great Plains representative came out and gave instructions on how to operate the drill - Bill Lundy, the Fullerton's and Drew Hoag (Rensselaer County SWCD Technician) also attended. It was a very productive event on how to operate the drill.

### **Interseeder**

- I spoke with Cody Cisco the representative from Fenning; he stated that all the parts were there and it was a matter of putting it together. He said late April for delivery; it looks like it will be in May now.

### **Silvopasture Walk**

- I participated in the silvopasture walk at Nate Mattison's; the walk was led by Kristin Ballou, Franklin County SWCD Forester.

### **Meetings Attended & Planned**

- Round 29 Ag Non-point Webinar – 4/11
- CRF Round 7 Webinar – 4/25

## **Technician's Report-Amber Luke- April 27, 2023**

### **Ag Non-Point Source-**

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Waiting for contracts from the state.
- Round 29-
  - Eric Mayer has shown interest in applying for a manure storage at Trinkles Farm. I plan on conducting an information meeting about funding next week to go over the ins and outs of the funding process and to feel out the interest. Ag Non-Point Source grants are due no later than June 26, 2023 @ 4:30 pm. We as an office have decided on a deadline of 6/20/23 to have the grants done so they can be passed around the office for review.

### **Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-**

- Round 6-
  - Waiting for contracts. Been in contact with both farms who were awarded to make them aware of the situation.
  - Conducted a site visit to Bill Morrow's to discuss what they can do in the meantime to control excess water until we see a contract from the state. We also discussed the need to address other resource concerns as well.
  - Had a conversation via email with John Beavers discussing where we are at with the status of the contract. He said he is actively working with the engineer to get a design done for at least phase 1 of the project.
- Round 7-
  - I conducted a site visit on 4/13/2023 to Hunter Southerland (Gardenworks) to discuss CRF funding. We discussed the timeline, engineering requirements if needed, reimbursements etc. The farm is looking at doing an Access Control System (stream crossing) and a Riparian Buffer System.

### **CAFO WSTSP-**

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- Working on finishing up all closeout documents with Lori. Went out and got signatures on 4/25/23. Final site visit is to be conducted on 4/27/2023.

### **AEM-**

- REPORTING: Time sheets have been updated by staff as requested to help stay on top of what still needs to be done to reach our goals.
- Conducted an AEM Tier 2 site visit with Lyndsy at Little Dream Farm. We discussed the potential for planning opportunities at the farm but in the current state they would not be a good candidate for funding until the farm got more up and running. The farm is still in the planning phase. I am working on writing the grazing/farmstead plan.
- Conducted a Tier 2 site visit with Ian Kaminski to follow up on our tier 1. I conducted a thorough walk around the farm and listened to his concerns and goals. Currently the farm is all in hay, pasture, and a small garden. Currently the highest resource concern is excess water in his hayfields due to an area of drainage coming off a steep side slope. We discussed diverting the water so that it does not enter the hay fields and the potential of a fragipan holding the water at the surface. I told him I would start planning out potential solutions. We will follow up in May with a site visit to GPS the drainage path.
- Site visit to Nate Mattison's was conducted on 4/24/23 to discuss the potential for Silvopasture. We walked the woodlot and discussed the pros and cons of doing Silvopasture along with the farm's goals.

- **DATABASE:** Lyndsy and I met with Tyler Knapp on March 28, 2023, at the office. He helped us to get all our data transferred from excel to Access format. He also helped show us how to make queries in an access database. So now most queries that we will need are already in the database so if we need to run a query we can at a click of a button. (ex. Farms in the upper Hudson watershed that have completed a Tier 2 from 1/1/22-12/31/23). The goal is to make the available data more useable and efficient. Tyler will update the database with all grant information the state has as soon as we get all our information in the database.
- **OUTREACH:** Granville Central School reached out to us via my email to participate in an Agricultural Fair at the school. The Ag Fair is going to be 3 days 4/27/23-Grades Pre-k-6<sup>th</sup>, 4/28/23-Grades 7-12, 4/29/23-Public (all ages). Thursday and Friday there will be 700-800 kids filtering through each day as they are required to go as part of their class. The goal of the Ag Fair is to help educate and share the diversity of the Ag. Industry. We plan on attending this event.

#### **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:**

- Meeting attended via zoon on 4/13/2023.
- WQIP Phase 1- Roadside Erosion grant is closed out. Saratoga County will be sending out all outstanding checks and they should all be in the mail by the end of the month.
- **FUNDRAISING:** Plans to re-visit the joint septic training that was cancelled last fall due to low attendance. We are going to try to do it a little earlier in the year with better advertising.
- Next Meeting via Zoom will be on May 11, 2023 @ 10 am.

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

- Round 29-Ag NPS Webinar attended on 4/11/23, Round 7 CRF Webinar attended on 4/25/23.
- Attended a webinar about the new SWPPP Permits and how it is going to affect planning and construction. (4/30/23)

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Tree Sale went great. Lyndsy did a great job organizing the event!

## **Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder – April 27, 2023**

- **AEM:**
  - AEM Database: I have been able to almost completely finish the AEM database, I have been able to input all of the Tier 1 forms as well as the information found on Tier 2, Tier 3 and 5a and 5b forms I was able to find in the office. I have a few things to go through such as grown and certified information and eastings and northings.
- **Landowner Assistance:**
  - Nate Friend: I had gone out on 4/17 to assist Mr. Friend in understanding his property and where he would be able to plant the tree seedlings he is planning on getting as well as how to create wildlife habitat on his property.
- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**
  - Staff meeting: attended April 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Stormwater Tradeshow meeting: attended April 6<sup>th</sup>
  - Adirondack Chapter Trout Unlimited Banquet: attended April 8<sup>th</sup>
  - Pollinator Steward Certification Training: zoom meetings attended 4/11, 4/12, 4/13, 4/25
  - PRISM Spring Partner Meeting: attended April 13<sup>th</sup>
- **SWCD Projects:**
  - Tree and Shrub Sale: We were able to sell 106 orders by the end of our ordering window which totaled 4,675 trees. During the sale we sold an additional 328 plants for a record 5,003 plants sold during our sale. We reached a lot of new people who had not done anything with Washington County SWCD prior.
  - Grain Bin Safety Program: I was able to submit the form for us to designate the Grain bin safety training and rescue tube to the Easton Volunteer Fire Department.
  - Granville Ag Day: We were invited to the Granville Ag Day 3-day event April 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>; 29<sup>th</sup>. I am attending on the 27<sup>th</sup>, where I will be teaching Pre-K through 6<sup>th</sup> graders about SWCD as well as soil health.
  - Invasive Species Removal: on April 12<sup>th</sup>, I was joined by two Boy Scouts at The Georgi to teach them about invasive species identification as well as remove some invasives along the Battenkill. We focused on the removal of Oriental Bittersweet as well as Multiflora Rose.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – April 2023  
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

### **NYS SWCC News**

**New Executive Director to the State Soil Water Conservation Committee:** We are pleased to announce that Bethany Bzduch will serve as the new SWCC Executive Director! Bethany started her career with the SWCDs in 2008. In 2012, she joined the staff of the SWCC as a Regional Program Assistant and has excelled over the years to manage a number of our very important SWCD cost share programs. As the SWCC Executive Director, Bethany will be providing staff leadership to the SWCC, in addition to working with SWCDs across the state, and developing and implementing the SWCC's Strategic Plan, policies and programs, along with many other responsibilities. Please join us in congratulating Bethany on her new position and welcoming her as the new Executive Director!

**Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 7:** \$15 million is available to support agricultural projects and related equipment purchases that aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help agricultural producers prepare for and better manage impacts of climate change, including increased heavy storm events, overall rainfall, and periods of drought. 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 Jennifer Clifford [jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov) by **June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM August 7, 2023**.

**Agricultural Non-Point Source Program Round 29:** \$13.5 million is available to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the State through Round 29 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Program. 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 **May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM June 26, 2023**. A webinar to discuss the RFP for Round 29 will be held on **Tuesday April 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM**.

**April SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on April 26<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

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

**AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2023:** 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. The deadline for applications is **May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. More information can be found at <https://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf>

**Share Your SWCD Project Success Stories:** The SWCC is always looking for opportunities to promote the diverse work of SWCDs. Do you have a completed project that your SWCD has found to be innovative, or a great example of partners working together, and/or had a beneficial impact to your local natural resources? Help us tell your story. If you would like to share the details about a recent project, please submit to the SWCC a short project description letter which includes a: Project Name; Grant Round/Funding Source; a short synopsis of the project which details goals and successes and; quality pictures of the project. Farmer/landowner testimonials would also be a great addition to your submission. Project description information, as well any questions, can be directed towards your Regional AEA.

### **Other Events**

**Webinar - On-Farm Biogas System Opportunities, Increase Farm Sustainability with Biogas Production:** Anaerobic digesters are an opportunity to produce biogas on-farm to use for heat or power and are poised to become an increasingly important source of renewable energy. Join Penn State Extension as they explore an anaerobic digester system's role in enhancing a farm's sustainability. The webinar will be held **Thursday, April 13th 12:00-1:00pm**. Registration is available at <https://web.cvent.com/event/3f580b30-e341-4b80-8435-ea5cabb0bdc3/summary>

**Webinar - Using the Riparian Opportunity Assessment in Project and Resiliency Planning:** Join staff from the Tug Hill Commission, NYS DEC and others, to learn how the Statewide Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool can be used in local and regional project and resiliency planning. No experience with the tool is necessary to attend. The webinar will be held **Friday, April 21, 2023, 1PM – 2PM**. Registration is available at <https://tinyurl.com/3knk63d3>

**2023 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference:** The 2023 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference will take place in Niagara Falls on **April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>**. To register, please visit: <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/registration.html>

**2023 NACD Northeast Regional Conference: Save the Date.** This year the conference will be held in Portland, ME at the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks on **September 17-20, 2023**. Further details will be available shortly.

#### **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. 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 **5:00 p.m. Eastern on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**. <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2023>

**NRCS Funding Opportunity for Resource Conservation Partners in New York:** The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing the availability of funding for conservation work in New York. Awards will go to partners to provide direct technical services to address water quality, soil health, wildlife and plant health, as well as other key conservation objectives. All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by **April 27<sup>th</sup> 2023**. Please read the full announcement at [https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=New+york&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=govdelivery](https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=New+york&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery)

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting - May 15, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman  
Jay Skellie, Director  
Kate Ziehm, Director  
Cassie Fedler, Director

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager  
Bob Kalbfliesh, District Technician  
Amber Luke, District Technician  
Lyndsy Hilder, District Technician

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1. Call to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
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 April and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
  - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
  - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
  - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
  - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
  - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
  - F. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Hilder
  - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
  - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to un-table discussion on Comp Time for Water Quality Symposium. **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. After discussion by the board and staff on Comp Time **Motion** was made by Fedler/Ziehm to table discussion on comp time and comp time for Water Quality Symposium until next meeting after staff prepares a policy/guideline for further discussion. **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve opening interest-bearing checking account for AgNPS Round 28 grant project – Steele Brook Waste Transfer. **Unanimously carried.**
  - D. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve opening interest-bearing checking account for CRF Round 6 grant project – Permaculture and Soil Health. **Unanimously carried.**
  - E. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve opening interest-bearing checking account for CRF Round 6 grant project – Water Management on Grazing Land. **Unanimously carried.**
  - F. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve Part B Project expense (est. \$500) for the Lake Water Quality Monitoring project. **Unanimously carried.**
  - G. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve Washington County Sportsmen Federation Membership Dues (\$30). **Unanimously carried.**



H. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve disbursing Part C Funds for Drone Software (est. \$160). **Unanimously carried.**

6. The next Board meeting will be held on June 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to adjourn the meeting at 11:00 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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

## **District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – May 2023**

### **AEM**

- Prepared list of AEM Tier 5B's for farm site inspections of installed BMP's.
- Gathered up AEM data for Lyndsy to enter into new AEM database.

### **Ag Assessments**

- All that is left to do with ag assessments for the 2022-2023 season is to file the paper copies alphabetically.

### **No-till Drill**

- Activity: Chris McKernon  
Bill Lundy  
Zahar Racine

All landowners that have leased the drill so far have not had any problems. Everyone is still learning how to calibrate the new drill. There is a learning curve to it.

### **Interseeder**

- The last time I spoke to Cody Cisco, the Fenning representative, the seeder was due to arrive this month.

### **Meetings Attended & Planned**

- Homesteaders Festival, Washington County Fairgrounds – May 19 - 21

## **Technician's Report-Amber Luke- May 15, 2023**

### **Ag Non-Point Source-**

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Waiting for contracts from the state.
- Round 29-
  - Continuing work on grant applications. Grant applications are due Monday June 26th by 4:30 pm.

### **Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-**

- Round 6-
  - Waiting for contracts. Been in contact with both farms who were awarded to make them aware of the situation.
- Round 7-
  - Working on collecting and quantifying data to help bolster the grant applications.

### **CAFO WSTSP-**

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- Working on finishing up all closeout documents with Lori. Went out and got signatures on 4/25/23. Final site visit conducted on 4/24/2023.

### **AEM-**

- REPORTING: Time sheets have been updated by staff as requested to help stay on top of what still needs to be done to reach our goals.
- Conducted a Tier 2 site visit with Ian Kaminski to follow up on our visit last month. I GPS'd the drainage concern. Corrina and I walked the property to get a handle on the issues so we can go about planning the best way to resolve the issue.
- Continuing to write a variety of 3A plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process. Lillie Valley Farm, Little Dream Farm, Kaminski etc.
- OUTREACH: Granville Central School Ag Days went really well. We were able to reach 1,000+ students and public over the course of 3 days. Some were more interested than others but the ones that were interested did seem really engaging. The community day was a bit of a wash out but still got to talk to a lot of nice community members.

### **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:**

- Meeting attended via zoon on 4/13/2023.
- We will be hosting at 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training later in the summer as a fundraising event. This meeting will be held at Saratoga County SWCD.
- The next meeting, we will be having at potluck lunch at the Warren County Fish Hatchery. Date TBD.

### **Landowner Assistance Program:**

- Had a call from a landowner looking for overall funding assistance and regenerative Ag questions. I set up a time to meet with the landowner to see his property and go over his goals and discuss how they align with our programs. Site visit set up for 5/22/23.

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

- Envirothon- Attended 5/3/23. Successful event held at Saratoga County Fair.

## **Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder - May 15, 2023**

- **AEM:**
  - AEM Database: I have been adding more AEM information as others give me more forms. I have created a list of AEM numbers where I have very little information on, I will be working with everyone in the office on these farms and continue to update all AEM numbers.
- **Landowner Assistance:**
  - Anne Flournoy: I assisted Anne with her soil analysis as she had contacted the district about needing to understand the forms that she had received after sending in her soil tests. I gave her a few recommendations on the amendments that her soil needs as well as why she has issues growing certain plants.
  - Soil Testing: Assisted a landowner on how to fill out his soil testing form as well as the proper way to collect and handle his soil tests.
- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**
  - Pollinator Stewardship Certification Training: Finished on May 4<sup>th</sup>
  - Stormwater Tradeshow Meetings: Attended May 2<sup>nd</sup>, May 9<sup>th</sup>, and May 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Composting 101 Webinar: zoom meeting May 15<sup>th</sup>
- **SWCD Projects:**
  - Envirothon: We all assisted with the Saratoga County, Fulton County and Washington County Envirothon at the Ballston Spa Fairgrounds
  - Fish Sale: I assisted Lori with the day of pickup for the fish sale on May 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Granville Ag Day: As well as manning the AG Day Fair in Granville on the 27<sup>th</sup>, I assisted Amber with the highschoolers on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The 27<sup>th</sup> allowed for me to reach 500 students and the 28<sup>th</sup> brought 600 students through the fair where we were able to teach them about soils and a few of the many projects we help farmers with.
  - Grain Bin Safety Training: Received a thank you letter from the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety about our donation.
  - Part B Projects: Currently planning which waterbodies we will be testing this year as well as figuring out what materials will be needed for this testing.
    - Earth force Standard Water Quality Kit- \$315
      - 100 samples each- dissolved oxygen, biochemical oxygen demand, pH, temperature change, nitrate, phosphate, turbidity, coliform bacteria, benthic macroinvertebrates
      - Waterworks School Kit= \$106.95

- 60 tests each- Nitrates, Nitrites, Total Hardness, Total Alkalinity, Total Chlorine, Free Chlorine, Copper, Iron and pH
- Free shipping offer ends May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Total= \$421.95

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – May 2023  
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

### **NYS SWCC News**

**SFY 2023-2024 Environmental Protection Fund:** The Enacted SFY 2023-2024 Budget is now available at [www.budget.ny.gov](http://www.budget.ny.gov). In total, this year's approved EPF budget is yet another very strong showing of support for conservation programs. Overall appropriations for the FY 2023-2024 EPF were approved at level funding of \$400 million. Proposals of interest to SWCC/SWCDs in this budget include the following:

- \$19.5 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including \$2 million for Cornell IPM, \$500,000 for the CCE of Suffolk County and \$250,000 for Cornell's Pesticide Management Program
- \$16 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (**\$1.5 million increase over last year's levels**)
- \$15.25 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including \$500,000 to support Carbon Sequestration Projects and \$500,000 for the Cornell Soil Health Program
- \$22 million for Water Quality Improvement Program
- \$22.5 million for Oceans and Great Lakes (EBM Program funding)
- \$14.275 million for Waterfront Revitalization Program
- \$21 million for Farmland Protection

**Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 7:** \$15 million is available to support projects. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Jennifer Clifford [jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov) by **June 5th, 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM August 7, 2023**.

**Agricultural Non-Point Source Program Round 29:** \$13.5 million is available to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the State. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Bethany Bzduch [bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov) by **May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM June 26, 2023**.

**May SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on May 16<sup>th</sup>**. 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-2pm. 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.

- **June 12<sup>th</sup>** - Region 3, Scott Fickbohm ([scott.fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:scott.fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov)), Eastern NY – Montgomery County Emergency Services, 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY
- **June 14<sup>th</sup>** – Region 2, PJ Emerick ([patrickj.emerick@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:patrickj.emerick@agriculture.ny.gov)), Central NY – Cortland SWCD office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY
- **June 15<sup>th</sup>** – Region 5, Ben Luskin ([ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov)), Southeast NY – Dutchess SWCD office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY
- **June 16<sup>th</sup>** – Region 1, Victor DiGiacomo ([victor.digiacomio@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:victor.digiacomio@agriculture.ny.gov)), Western NY – Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY 14020
- **June 21<sup>st</sup>** - Region 4, Ryan Cunningham ([ryan.cunningham@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ryan.cunningham@agriculture.ny.gov)), Northern NY – Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY

**AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2023:** 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. The deadline for applications is **May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. More information for Districts can be found on the SWCC SharePoint site (<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/Home.aspx>, then Resources for Districts > Agricultural Environmental Management > AEM Leopold Conservation Award > 2023) and for the public, here ([www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf](http://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf)).

### **Other Events**

**2023 Practical Pasture Management Training:** This opportunity is advertised as a unique grazing training that will offer hands-on learning and strategies to help peers help farmers implement resilient grazing systems. Trainers will be addressing a

multitude of pasture management topics in a light-hearted and hands-on manner. Hosted by the Bishopp Family Farm, Oneida and Madison SWCDs, convening on **May 18<sup>th</sup>, 10am to 3pm**, at 2809 Rt. 12-B, Deansboro, NY. To register for this training, email Troy Bishopp at [troy-bishopp@verizon.net](mailto:troy-bishopp@verizon.net) or contact Madison County SWCD at (315) 824-9849.

**2023 Conservation Leadership Conference - Save the Date:** NYSCDEA has announced that The 2023 Conservation Leadership Conference will commence from **July 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>**, at The Ranger School of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry located in Wanakena, New York. The program is open to all board members and staff of the sponsoring 4-way partnership and is geared towards: new managers or leaders, those with anticipated leadership responsibilities and those simply interested in personal development. Please save the date, more information will be available shortly.

**2023 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date:** This year the conference will be held in Portland, ME at the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks on **September 17-20, 2023**. Further details will be available shortly.

**The Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool** webinar took place last month and the recording is available at: [Webinar: Using the Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool - YouTube](#) The link to the NY Natural Heritage Program Riparian Opportunity Assessment tool is <https://www.nynhp.org/projects/statewide-riparian-assessment/> For questions and comments about using the tools in project and resiliency planning, or to participate in the needs assessment for updating the tool, please reach out to Emily Fell at [Emily.fell@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Emily.fell@dec.ny.gov) or Kristen Hychka at [kch235@cornell.edu](mailto:kch235@cornell.edu)

### **Other Funding**

**Federal Funding Available for Urban and Community Forestry:** The USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program is a technical, financial, and educational assistance program assists State Forestry agencies and partner organizations in addressing and applying nature-based solutions to chronic and emergent economic, social, and environmental challenges in communities. **Approximately \$1 Billion** is expected to be awarded under this program nationally. All proposals must be received by **June 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EDT**. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://iraucfgrants.urbanandcommunityforests.org/>

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting - June 14, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman  
Jay Skellie, Director  
John Dickinson, Director  
Kate Ziehm, Director  
Cassie Fedler, Director

### Others:

Aaron Gabriel, Cornell Cooperation Extension (CCE)

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Amber Luke, District Technician  
Lyndsy Hilder, District Technician

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1. Call to order at 9:35 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
  2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/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/Dickinson 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: No Report
    - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: Attachment, reviewed by Gabriel
    - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
    - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Kalbfliesh
    - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
    - F. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Hilder
    - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Ryan Cunningham
  5. New Business:
    - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to un-table discussion on Comp Time and Comp Time for attending Water Quality Symposium CDEA Annual Meeting and/or Annual Banquet. **Unanimously carried.**
    - B. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve updating the Personnel Policy as per the following: **Unanimously carried.**

### **Compensatory Time**

*Compensatory time earned by an employee will be charged at a rate of one and one-half hours (1.5) of compensatory time for each hour of overtime **worked** for a 40-hour week. The District Manager has the authority to approve or deny any compensatory time if it is deemed a misuse of Compensatory Time. The maximum of Compensatory Time that an employee can accrue is 40 hours at any given time and must be taken off in a minimum of one-half (0.5) hour increments. Compensatory time should be used similarly to an employee's Annual Leave and should be used before an employee's anniversary date when possible. Carry over of compensatory time will be at the discretion of the District Manager. Attendance at the Conservation Districts Employees Association Annual Meeting and/or the Annual Banquet during Water Quality Symposium is eligible for compensatory time.*



## **Employee Training**

Employees are responsible for developing their abilities by using their own effort, time and resources as well as opportunities provided by the District. The District Board agrees that staff and funds shall be committed to provide high quality training or developmental activities for their employees. All training of District employees will be requested of and approved by the District Board of Directors. District employees are expected to attend any and all training designated by the Board of Directors. *All staff attending the Water Quality Symposium hosted by the Conservation District Employees Association (CDEA) are required to attend the CDEA Annual Meeting and/or the Annual Banquet if attending on days where these events occur.*

- C. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the following for CRF Round 5 Interseeder Green Cover Grant:
- Fennig Equipment Balance Due Payment on Interseeder (\$26,950 grant funds)
  - District Grant Reimbursement for Cost Share of purchase of Interseeder (\$9,625).
  - District cost share for delivery of equipment (\$3,000) **Unanimously carried.**
- D. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve Closeout of CFR Round 5 Ponds for On-Farm Resiliency Grant:
- Return funds to State (\$18,381.81)
  - Reimburse District for Personnel Services Earned (\$2,000)
  - Close grant checking account. **Unanimously carried.**
- E. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve Round 24 Kingsbury CAFO Improvement Grant payment to Walker Farms (\$145,000). **Unanimously carried.**
- F. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve closeout of Round 24 Kingsbury CAFO Improvement Grant and expend contingency funds if justified. **Unanimously carried.**
- G. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve placing pre-orders (credit card purchases) for the 2024 Tree Program. **Unanimously carried.**
- H. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve Washington County Highway Officials Directory Advertisement (\$75). **Unanimously carried.**
- I. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to reimburse the District for staff hours earned under Part C Funding Program (\$25,000). **Unanimously carried.**
- J. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve donation for Ag Stewardship Association 2023/2024 Events & Programs (\$250). **Unanimously carried.**
- K. **Motion** by Ziehm/Dickinson to approve hiring a consultant to assist with the District's Strategic Plan (Part C Funds). **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on July 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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

## **CCE Report – June 2023**

- Soil Health Farm Tour & BBQ on July 19<sup>th</sup> – Drive-Yourself Tour
  - Some farms on the tour: Landview Farm, Ottercreek Farm, Baileys Christmas Tree Farm, Windflower Farm
  - Chicken BBQ at Liberty Ridge Farm

Aaron Gabriel, Sr. Extension Resource Educator, Agronomy  
Cornell Cooperative Extension

## **District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – June 2023**

### **AEM**

I have conducted 12 AEM Tier 5b's on several farms. The 5b in the AEM planning process is an evaluation of BMP systems installed on farms through various grants. On the farm visit I inspect the individual BMPs in the system to check on maintenance by the farm and if the BMP is functioning as intended.

### **No-till Drill**

- Activity: Skiff Farms and Ben Stromback

### **Interseeder**

The interseeder is here; check it out in the far parking lot.  
I will be in contact with the three participating farms in the grant.

### **Meetings Attended & Planned**

- Homesteaders Festival, Washington County Fairgrounds – May 19 - 21

### **Homesteaders Festival**

I covered the booth on Saturday afternoon. People mostly asked about soil testing. It was good outreach to a group of smaller farms that we might not normally have contact with.

## **Technician's Report - Amber Luke - June 14, 2023**

### **Ag Non-Point Source-**

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Waiting for contracts from the state. We have been told contracts have been in review by the fiscal department.
- Round 29-
  - Continuing work on grant applications. Working on combing through CNMP's for supporting information for the narrative. Due Monday June 26th by 4:30 pm.

### **Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-**

- Round 6-
  - Waiting for contracts. We have been told contracts are being reviewed by the fiscal division. Been in contact with both farms who were awarded to make them aware of the situation.
  - I have talked with FSA loan department as one of our awarded grantees are looking to apply for an FSA loan to help cash flow their grant. Farm Loan Program told me it should not be an issue seeing how we do not have a contract in hand yet and they have not started the project.
- Round 7-
  - Working on grant applications. Due August 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **CAFO WSTSP-**

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- All grant closeout paperwork has been submitted! We are just waiting for final 10% payment from the state.

### **AEM-**

- REPORTING: Time sheets continue to be updated as needed. I will be working on updating all our goals at the end of the month to see what we still need to do to reach our goals.
- Continuing to write a variety of 3A plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process. Lillie Valley Farm, Little Dream Farm, Kaminski, etc.

### **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:**

- Meeting attended via zoom on 5/11/2023.
- The next meeting, we will be having at potluck lunch at the Warren County Fish Hatchery June 22, 2023

### **Landowner Assistance Program:**

- Conducted a site visit with Michael Fernandez on 5/22/23. We discussed funding options and goals he had for his farm. We walked around his property as well. I told him it seems like he is a little early for funding and that there is no real resource concern as things sit now (permanent grass).

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

- Regional Managers Meeting attended on Monday 6/12/23. We discussed Cover and Flare projects, the changes to CRF and AEM and overall staff retention and salaries.
- Ag Learn Training- Information Security Awareness Training was completed on 6/6/23. This training is mandatory to maintain access to the federal system.

## **Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder- June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

- **AEM:**
  - Sarah Bergstein: I have been assisting Sarah with more soil testing of the property to provide more information for the creation of tier 3 plans.
  - AEM Database: I have been continuing to slowly add information to the database to ensure that we have all the information we have on paper in the database. This will always allow for easier access to all the information.
- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**
  - CWICNY meeting: attended May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
  - Washington County Federation of Sportsmen meeting: Attended May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.
  - Native Alternatives for Common Invasive Garden Plants: zoom training attended June 6, 2023
  - Pathways of Invasion-Understanding How Invasives Spread: Zoom training attended June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
  - Stormwater Tradeshow Meeting: Zoom meeting attended June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
  - Photography for iMap Invasives: Zoom training attended June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- **SWCD Projects:**
  - Homesteading Event: I assisted Amber with the set-up of the SWCD and FSA table at the Homesteading Festival at the Washington County Fairgrounds
  - Georgi Cleanup: I finished cleaning up the invasive species that were cut at the Georgi.
  - Hydroseeding: I picked up the hydro-seeder from the fairgrounds and I will be in contact with highway departments throughout the county to see where hydroseeding will be needed.
  - People's Garden / Certified Wildlife Habitat: I have been working with Michael Wood who handles the Tourism/marketing efforts in Washington County to bring more attention to our People's Garden / Certified Wildlife Habitat in Salem. I met with him on June 9<sup>th</sup> to talk about the site as well as for him to get pictures. He believes that the site is a great opportunity for people to be able to get out and learn about nature, pollinators, and invasive vs native species. We will continue to work with him over time to get more people interested in the wildlife habitat/people's garden as we continue to do work there and more species continue to grow and bloom.
  - Part B Water Quality Monitoring Project: I will begin working on our Part B project this year of going to a lot of the water bodies in the county to observe what is going on as well as collect a sample and test it for a variety of things such as total alkalinity, nitrates and nitrites, free chlorine, total chlorine, total hardness, copper, iron, pH, biochemical oxygen demand, temperature change, phosphate, turbidity, and coliform bacteria.

- Drone: I have downloaded the Web ODM software onto my laptop, and I was able to try it out. So far it has been easy to use and provides a lot of options that will help us in the future. I have also kept up to date on the issue of the remote ID module that will be required come September 2023. They have just begun offering this module in the United States, it follows all rules and regulations set by the United States FAA and allows the drone to emit the Remote ID broadcast that is going to be required. I will continue to do research on what is available in the United States and how they are accepted and used in the drone community.
- Bank Statements: I assisted Lori with the bank statements.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

Region 4 Report – June 2023

Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

**NYS SWCC News**

**Listening Sessions to Advance Bond Act:** Governor Hochul has announced the details for the next couple locations in the statewide educational listening tour to advance the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. The tour provides an opportunity for the public and potential funding applicants to learn more about the Bond Act and the draft eligibility guidelines being developed to identify potential projects. Details are being finalized for additional locations, as well as two virtual meetings. To register for any of these sessions, visit <https://www.ny.gov/programs/clean-water-clean-air-and-green-jobs-environmental-bond-act>

- **Central New York: June 8, from 1 to 3 p.m.,** State University of New York Cortland, Corey Union Function Room
- **North Country: July 14, 1 to 3 p.m.,** North Country Community College, Sparks Athletic Complex Alumni Gymnasium

**Agricultural Non-Point Source Program Round 29:** \$13.5 million is available to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the State. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM June 26, 2023**.

**Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 7:** \$15 million is available to support projects. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM August 7, 2023**.

**June SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on June 20<sup>th</sup>**. 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.**

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

**Other Events**

**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. **Thursday, Jun 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**. Register here, <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2233481280518001238>

**2023 NY Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Field Days:** The NY Soil Health Alliance Group will convene a series of Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Days throughout the State during 2023. Registration is now live for the **June 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> event at the Ontario County Fair Grounds** and the **July 13<sup>th</sup> orchard event at the Rodman Lott and Son Farms in Seneca Falls**. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

**2023 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date:** This year the conference will be held in Portland, ME at the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks on **September 17-20, 2023**. Further details will be available shortly.

**Other Funding**

**Consolidated Funding Application Requesting Proposals:** [Round XIII of the Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\) is open](#) and applications are requested by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 28, 2023**. More than \$750,000,000 in funding will be made available under this year's CFA. Grant programs of interest to SWCDs offered via the CFA include:

- Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>
- Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html>

**Regenerate New York Forestry Cost Share Grant Program:** Funding for private landowners with five acres of land or more is available to support the regeneration of forests so they may continue to deliver vital services such as mitigating climate change, protecting air and water quality, and supporting the economy. A minimum of \$10,000 and a maximum of \$100,000 with a 25% match requirement is available. Applications for Round 3 will close **Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5:00pm**, or when funds are exhausted, whichever comes first. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/119950.html>. **Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) are able to apply for funds on behalf of private landowners.**

**NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 18 - Conservation Easement Projects** – A reminder that these applications are taken on a rolling basis. The intent of the grant program is to fund the implementation of certain farmland protection activities intended to maintain the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture. For more information about applying, please visit, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0238-farmland-protection-implementation-grants-round-18-conservation-easement>

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – July 10, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman  
Jay Skellie, Director  
John Dickinson, Director  
Cassie Fedler, Director

### Staff Members

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

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1. Call to order at 10:08 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
  2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
  3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for June and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
  4. Agency & Staff Reports:
    - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
    - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
    - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
    - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Kalbfliesh
    - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
    - F. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Hilder
    - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
  5. New Business:
    - A. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve staff to attend CCE Soil Health Tour & BBQ (\$20/pp). **Unanimously carried.**
    - B. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve purchases for Fair Booth and 2024 Tree Program Pre-orders (amount up to \$5,000). **Unanimously carried.**
    - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve staff to attend Conservation Skills Workshop in September (registration fee, hotel, meals, est. \$1,000). **Unanimously carried.**
    - D. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve modifications to Interseeder to add a platform/walkway for safety (use equipment reserve funds for expense est. \$1,500). **Unanimously carried.**
    - E. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve AEM Round 18 Request for Applications project(s) document prepared by Luke. **Unanimously carried.**
    - F. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve County Appropriation Request of \$220,000. **Unanimously carried.**
    - G. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve letter of support for the Grassland Bird Trust's grant for Northeast Forests and River Fund for Habitat for Bobolinks Program in Eastern New York. **Unanimously carried.**
  6. The next Board meeting will be held on September 13, 2023 at 8:00 a.m.
  7. **Motion** by Dickinson/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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



## **District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – July 2023**

### **AEM**

Reviewed the AEM Tier 4 implementation funding Request for Applications (RFA) that Amber prepared.

### **No-till Drill**

We have hit that time of the summer when it is too late to seed cool season grasses and too early for fall season seedings. Warm weather species could be planted now until the end of July. No requests as of this date for drill rental.

### **Interseeder**

The interseeder needs a platform and ladder as the seed box is inaccessible without them. I have contacted several welders/fabricators and are waiting on quotes from them. A platform, safety rail and a ladder will provide access and safety when climbing on the machine for both district personnel and the farmers operating the interseeder.

### **Round 24 Kingsbury CAFO Improvement Grant**

I have started working on documentation for Round 24 closeout on Deep Roots Farm and Walker Farms. This includes narrative, as-builts and photos.

### **Meetings Attended & Planned**

Vacation 7/5 – 7/10, 7/13, 7/14

CCE Soil Health Field Tour – 7/19

2023 Annual Field Day, VT – 7/27

## **Technician's Report-Amber Luke- July 10, 2023**

### **Ag Non-Point Source-**

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Waiting for contracts from the state. We have been told contracts have been in review by the fiscal department.
- Round 29-
  - Two grants were completed and submitted to the state on June 23, 2023 prior to the deadline on June 26<sup>th</sup>. Both grants were for manure storages on farms located in Washington County with the main Farmstead being located outside of Washington County.

### **Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-**

- Round 6-
  - Still waiting for contracts. We have been told contracts are being reviewed by the fiscal division. Been in contact with both farms who were awarded to make them aware of the situation.
- Round 7-
  - Working on grant applications. Due August 7<sup>th</sup>. We have set an internal Deadline of August 3<sup>rd</sup> due to staff having time off. We are applying for a Waste Storage and Transfer System (alternative manure management/composted bedded pack), Stream Corridor and Shoreline Protection System, and potentially an Erosion Control System.
  - Site visit with Luncrest Farm to go over information needed for the grant application.
  - I will be off the last week in July so that gives me about 2.5 weeks to finish up the grants.

### **CAFO WSTSP-**

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- All grant closeout paperwork has been submitted! We are just waiting for final 10% payment from the state.

### **AEM-**

- REPORTING: Time sheets continue to be updated as needed. We have earned approximately \$40,000 of our \$90,000 goal for 2023.
- Continuing to write a variety of 3A plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process. Lillie Valley Farm, Little Dream Farm, Kaminski Etc.
- I have worked up a Request for Applications (RFA) for our proposed AEM Tier 4 cost share money for the next round of AEM. It has been proposed that the state ups the available money to \$200,000 with discretion left up to districts on who gets the money. To be fair and help take liability off us I have come up with a Draft RFA for review. If we don't get applicants, we will use the money how we see fit based on priority areas. To be eligible for this funding farms will need to have at least a Tier 1 and 2 done and be working to complete a Tier 3.

- I will be working on a Newsletter Article announcing the RFP. We will be posting on our Facebook page and website as well as having applications available at the office. We will also potentially be sending out letters to active AEM participants as well.

**Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:**

- Corrina attended the meeting on my behalf on 6/22/2023

**Landowner Assistance Program:**

- Soils Map questions from Anthony Conyers. Went over all the information that Corrina previously sent to him. Discussed soil types and what they meant.

**Trainings/Meetings Attending or Attended-**

- Upcoming Meetings- Local Working Group meeting 7/12/2023, Practical Conservation Tillage for Organic Cropping (webinar for CCA credits) June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## **Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder- July 10th, 2023**

- **AEM:**
  - Went on my landowner assistance site visit, I had informed the landowner about our AEM process as they want to start strawberries and Christmas trees and I sent out a Tier 1 sheet to be filled out.
  - AEM Database: Continuing to work on database and add to it as new AEM work is done.
- **Landowner Assistance:**
  - Went on a site visit to talk about Invasive species, specifically Honeysuckle, and ways the landowner can begin to get rid of the shrub that has taken over the property. I have also done some research for the landowners based on their goals and some questions they had.
- **Workshops and meetings:**
  - Washington County Federation of Sportsmen Meeting: Attended June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
  - The Reality: The Status of Pollinators: Zoom attended June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
  - Solutions: Getting more done at once: Zoom attended June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - Chain Saw and Forestry Safety: Zoom attended June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- **SWCD Projects:**
  - Georgi: Had a meeting with Corrina and Carl at the Georgi on June 14<sup>th</sup> to talk about other possible solutions to the erosion problem as well as coming up with a possible timeline for the project.
  - Hydroseeding: Hydroseeding in Salem on June 15<sup>th</sup> and Hartford on June 19<sup>th</sup>, more will be done in Salem towards the end of July when the projects are done.
  - Fair Booth: Beginning to plan this year's fair booth which will be focusing on Cover Crops as well as Pollinators. I have started a handful of cover crop species in my greenhouse to have at the fair and I am creating handouts and poster ideas. We were also thinking of getting a Monarch Grow Kit and raising monarch caterpillars to be released.
    - Monarch grow kit- \$39 plus \$17.99 shipping= \$56.99
      - Includes:
      - 6-12 monarch butterfly caterpillars
      - Milkweed seeds
      - Extra artificial diet
      - Rearing cups
      - Larvae brush
      - Larvae forceps
      - Feeding kit
      - Pop-up butterfly cage
      - Monarch lifecycle chart
      - Instructions
  - Part B Water Quality Monitoring Project: I am waiting for the rain to stop as too much rain can cause issues with testing the water in the lakes around the county.
  - Tree and Shrub: I have put together what I will be needing to order for next year's tree and shrub sale. I was planning on ordering from Alpha in July and waiting to order from Engels in August because that is when they will be putting out their

definite list of what they will have as well as accurate prices. I have a list based on what the prices were last year, but it may need to be updated when the new list comes out. I have attached the list. Will need to order from Alpha this month, will order from Engels in August when they put out their definite plant list, this list is based off of last year's order form.

### **2024 Tree and Shrub Sale Prices**

- Red Osier Dogwood (200 @ \$0.75 each) = \$150 (Engels) (6-12")
- Black Cherry (250 @ \$0.61 each) = \$152.20 (Alpha) (6-12")
- Red Oak (225 @ \$0.58 each) = \$130.50 (Alpha) (6-12")
- American Plum (250 @ \$0.82 each) = \$205 (Alpha)
- Fraser Fir (500 @ \$0.40 each) = \$200 (Engels) (9-12")
- Norway Spruce (300 @ \$0.60 each) = \$180 (Engels) (9-12")
- Pawpaw (250 @ \$1.33 each) = \$332.50 (Alpha) (6-12")
- Highbush cranberry (250 @ \$0.83 each) = \$207.50 (Engels) (6-12")
- American Chestnut (150 @ \$2.85 each) = \$427.50 (Alpha) (6-12")
- Red Current (250 @ \$1.03 each) = \$257.50 (Alpha) (6-12")
- Balsam Fir (500 @ \$450 per 500) = \$450 (Alpha) (5-10")
- Concolor Fir (500 @ \$0.35 each) = \$175 (Engels) (6-9")
- American Hazelnut (300 @ \$0.83 each) = \$249 (Engels) (6-12")
- Flowering Dogwood (200 @ \$0.75 each) = \$140 (Engels) (6-12")
- Ninebark (200 @ \$0.72 each) = \$144 (Alpha) (6-12")
- Tulip Poplar (300 @ \$0.66 each) = \$198 (Alpha) (6-12")

Engels= \$1,301.50, shipping= 18%= \$ 234.27

Alpha= \$2,297.20, shipping= 15%= \$344.58

Total= \$3,598.70

Total after shipping= \$4,177.55

Total trees= 4,625

Berries ordered through Saratoga= 1,300 plants

Blueberries= 400

Raspberries= 300

Strawberries= 600

Total plants= 5,925 as of these numbers, will be updating as we go, if we need to downsize or try to order more of things.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – July 2023  
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

### **NYS SWCC News**

**Listening Sessions to Advance Bond Act:** Governor Hochul has announced a statewide educational listening tour to advance the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. The tour provides an opportunity for the public and potential funding applicants to learn more about the Bond Act and the draft eligibility guidelines being developed to identify potential projects. To register for any of these sessions, visit <https://www.ny.gov/programs/clean-water-clean-air-and-green-jobs-environmental-bond-act>

- **North Country: July 14, 1 to 3PM**, North Country Community College, Sparks Athletic Complex Alumni Gymnasium
- **Capital District: July 20, 1 to 3PM**, University at Albany: Campus Center Auditorium
- **Virtual Meeting #2: July 26, 6 p.m. to 8PM.** <https://www.nysebatour.com/virtual-2>

**Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 7:** \$15 million is available to support projects. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM August 7, 2023**.

**July SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on July 18<sup>th</sup>**. 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.**

### **Other Events**

**2023 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 2023. Registration is now live for the **July 13<sup>th</sup> orchard event at the Rodman Lott and Son Farms in Seneca Falls**. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

### **Save the Date:**

The Adirondack Lakes Alliance is very excited to announce a return to our summer Educational Symposium. This year the Symposium will be held on **Friday, August 11, 2023, at Paul Smith's College, in Paul Smiths, New York**. We hope to see you there and look forward to meeting and sharing your experiences. More importantly, going forward the Symposium will be known as the **Ed Griesmer Annual Adirondack Lakes Alliance Symposium**, to honor our late founder.

**Grasstravaganza 2023 PLANET GRAZE:** The Grasstravaganza 2023 conference is **July 20-21 at SUNY Morrisville**. This event features lectures from many great speakers, panel discussions, and a variety of workshops on different aspects of grazing for different species of livestock. the full agenda and conference registration can be found at: <https://grasstravaganza.morrisville.edu/> **Please notice the registration deadline! July 13th!**

**2023 Empire Farm Days: August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023** (<https://empirefarmdays.leetradeshow.com>).

**2023 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date:** This year the conference will be held in Portland, ME at the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks on **September 17-20, 2023**. Further details will be available shortly.

**2023 Conservation Skills Workshop – Save the Date: September 18-21, 2023**, at the Auburn Holiday Inn. Registration materials will be available soon.

#### **Other Funding**

**Grants Available for Communities in the Finger Lakes Watershed:** DEC has announced \$350,000 in competitive funding is available to help communities in the Finger Lakes watershed restore and protect water quality. Submit applications online through the State's Grants Gateway by **3 p.m. on July 21, 2023**. Contact the Finger Lakes Watershed Hub at [FLWP@dec.ny.gov](mailto:FLWP@dec.ny.gov) with questions.

[https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants\\_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx](https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx)

**Consolidated Funding Application Requesting Proposals:** [Round XIII of the Consolidated Funding Application \(CFA\) is open](#) and applications are requested by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 28, 2023**. More than \$750,000,000 in funding will be made available under this year's CFA. Grant programs of interest to SWCDs offered via the CFA include:

- Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>
- Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html>

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – September 13, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman  
Jay Skellie, Director  
John Dickinson, Director  
Kate Ziehm, Director  
Cassie Fedler, Director

### Others:

Aaron Gabriel, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

### Staff Members

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

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1. Call to order at 8:07 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
  2. Minutes: **Motion** by Ziehm/Dickinson 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 July & August 2023 and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
  4. Agency & Staff Reports:
    - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
    - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: Attachment, reviewed by Gabriel
    - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
    - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
    - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
    - F. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
  5. New Business:
    - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve the district to participate in AEM Round 18 two-year Program (January 1, 2024 – December 31, 2025). **Unanimously carried.**
    - B. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to approve 2023 Part B Project for Town of Salem – Rexleigh Bridge NYS-DEC Public Fishing Access Improvement (est. \$2,150). **Unanimously carried.**
    - C. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to disburse Part C funds to the district to reimburse for staff hours earned under 2023 Part C Funding (\$23,000). **Unanimously carried.**
    - D. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve 2024 Part C Project for Mike Durrin, Town of Jackson with a not-to-exceed amount of \$20,000 with landowner cost-share match (cash and/or in-kind services). **Unanimously carried.**
    - E. **Motion** by Ziehm/Dickinson to approve Aldrich to attend the NYACD Annual Meeting (Penn Yan, NY) in October. **Unanimously carried.**
    - F. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve advertising for a Natural Resources Conservation Technician with a salary range of \$38,000 - \$42,000. **Unanimously carried.**
    - G. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve 10% payroll increase for current staff (Aldrich, Kalbfliesh, Luke, Sheehan) for 2024. **Unanimously carried.**
    - H. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the 2024 budget as presented at meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
  6. The next Board meeting will be held on October 18, 2023, at 9:00 a.m.
  7. **Motion** by Fedler/Dickinson to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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



## **District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – September 2023**

### **AEM**

- Hick's Orchard: I have been working on updating Hick's Orchard 3A Plan. The update is to help Dan Wilson handle the apple waste from two production rooms. I met with Dan and Jeff Wilson (engineer) to discuss possible solutions to this problem. The Orchard has applied for AEM Tier 4 implementation funds.
- Deep Roots: Completed a Tier 5b.
- I have completed 21 AEM Tier 5b's this summer. Each 5b is an inspection of BMP systems installed with a source of grant funds. Each BMP system has anywhere from 2-5 individual BMPs within the system.
- Scheduled Matt Rathbun to update his grown & certified certification.

### **No-till Drill**

I am starting to get some calls from people interested in renting the drill.

### **Interseeder**

Brian Nilsen has finished welding the platform and ladder on the interseeder. I plan to set up a day with Woody Hill after they have chopped the corn off. I would like to run the interseeder over the stubble this fall to help get the machine calibrated. Jeff Sanders from the Northwest Crops and Soils Program with UVM Extension is willing to come down for a day to help calibrate it. He has a very similar model.

### **Training**

I have completed the required Rules of Behavior (ROB) certification from Ag Learn.

### **Meetings Planned**

Sexual Harassment Training – 09/11

## **CCE Report – September 2023**

- Soil Health Farm Tour & BBQ on July 19<sup>th</sup> was successful. Planning on conducting soil health assessments at various farms as a result of the event, and to assist farms with knowledge on cost-share options for cover cropping from NRCS and SWCDs.
- Planning a fall round-up meeting about swines.
- Recommend remediation for the muddy fall harvest we are anticipating.

Aaron Gabriel, Sr. Extension Resource Educator, Agronomy  
Cornell Cooperative Extension

## **Technician's Report-Amber Luke- September 13, 2023**

### **Ag Non-Point Source-**

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Fully executed contract has been received from the state. The farm has been notified.
- Round 29-
  - Waiting to hear if the 2 grants that we submitted were funded. The State Soil and Water Committee is supposed to be going over the ranked list at the September State committee meeting. This is being held on 9/19/2023. Both grants were for manure storages on farms located in Washington County with the main Farmstead being located outside of Washington County.

### **Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-**

- Round 6-
  - We have received both contracts for our 2 Round 6 CRF grants. Both Landowners have been notified. Seeing how both landowners are new to how our funding works I am working to set up times to meeting with both landowners to go over the next steps in the process and get Landowner contracts signed.
- Round 7-
  - 3 grants were submitted on August 3<sup>rd</sup> before the grant deadline of August 7<sup>th</sup>. One was submitted under Track 1- Alternative Manure Management, one under Track 2-Water Management and one under Track 3-Healthy Soils.
  - Ranked lists are expected to be done sometime around late October to early November.

### **CAFO WSTSP-**

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- All grant closeout paperwork has been submitted! We are just waiting for final 10% payment from the state.

### **AEM-**

- REPORTING: Time sheets continue to be updated as needed. We have earned approximately \$42,000 of our \$90,000 goal for 2023.
- We are on track to earn around \$108,944 for the YR 17 contract period. This is 72% of our overall requested amount of \$150,000. With the state raising the amount of money we can earn we need to keep it in the back of our minds to keep earning at least 50% of the requested amount.
- With reduced staff we are most likely going to apply for the same amount in YR 18 as we did in YR 17 and if we get closer to reaching that goal, we can apply for more in the following round. I will have the 2024 Action Plan prepared for board approval at the October meeting.
- We have received one application for the YR 18 Tier 4 implementation money. I am keeping a folder and will complete the rankings once the deadline is reached. The Request for Application have been posted to our website, advertised in the newsletter and are available at the counter.
- Continuing to write a variety of 3A plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process. Lillie Valley Farm, Little Dream Farm, Kaminski when time permits.
- I am working on CNMP edits as time permits as well.

### **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:**

- Attended on 8/17/23. The next meeting is in October.

### **Landowner Assistance Program:**

- Received a call from Mike Durrin who was very concerned about odor from a neighboring farm. Not only was he concerned about odor, but he was also concerned about overall neighbor relations with this farm. Corrina and I went out and conducted a site visit to the landowner's

property. We discussed all potential solutions with the landowner, and we have previously proposed the same solutions to the farm, but they did not want to do anything. Seeing how this is a reoccurring issue with a high emphasis of neighbor relations and it would be the same project that was proposed to the farm we would like to present the proposed solution to the board.

- Floodplain Map information given to a landowner. Definitions of the floodplain areas according to FEMA were given to the landowner.

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

- Conservation Skills Workshop 9/20-9/21/2023
- State Aid to Districts Forum attended 8/16/2023

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- Fair Booth- Cover Crops and Pollinators was the focus of our booth. I think the booth went over very well and was very well received. I talked to a lot of people. Wednesday seemed much busier than Thursday.
- I am working on a presentation for the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow where I will be showcasing Landview's Silage Leachate Control and Treatment System and Stormwater BMPs in Ag.
- Performance timesheet updated.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – September 2023  
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

**NYS SWCC News**

**September SWCC Meeting:** The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee is scheduled for **10AM on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting will take place via video conference. There will also be multiple locations where in person attendance is an option. Further details can be found in the available meeting agenda.

**AEM Base Program Round 18 Announced:** AEM Base 18 offers non-competitive funding for technical assistance and cost-sharing BMP implementation projects based on the local AEM Strategy. The two-year AEM Action Plan is due **November 1, 2023, and the program runs from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025**. Visit the SWCC's SharePoint site for program details (<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>): "Resources for Districts > Agricultural Environmental Management > AEM Base Program Materials > AEM Base Round 18 Materials". please feel free to contact me ([greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov) or 607.229.4654) or your Regional Coordinator with any questions.

Also, please join us for a webinar from **1 to 3 PM on Tuesday, September 12<sup>th</sup>**, where we'll tour through AEM18's upgrades and workings and field questions. Please use the following WebEx info to join:  
<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m3902ea43e3bf78bde19939c820602972>  
Webinar number (access code): 161 389 2738, Webinar password: r2iJKdMWj88

**2024 Annual Plan of Work (APOW):** It's time to start updating your APOW for 2024. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is November 1, 2023. This will allow time to review, provide feedback, and recommend to the SWCC for approval by the end of the calendar year. Please don't hesitate to discuss with your Regional AEA if there are any questions or concerns.

**State Aid to Districts:**

- **2024 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance** – Part B proposals are Due November 1, 2023. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2024. Part B requests should be submitted via email to [ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov).
- **2023 Part C Performance Measures** - As for Performance Measures, the end of the year is rapidly approaching and SWCDs should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling their obligations for meetings, training, training plans, etc., to be able to earn all the funds that will be available. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions that you may have.

**SWCC Operations Sub-Committee:** The SWCC is preparing to re-establish the Operations Sub-Committee SWCC is currently looking for interested SWCD staff to help serve. A major component of the sub-committee's focus is directed at the upkeep of the SWCD Office/Operations Manual. We anticipate the first meeting to occur in the Winter of 2023. If you are interested in serving on the sub-committee, please contact your Regional AEA.

**Applications for use of CDEA 4-HR Funds:** The NYS CDEA is pleased to announce the release of their application form for use of funds generated from the NYS DEC Endorsed 4-Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Online Training. Funds are available for SWCDs to host or attend a training that will benefit SWCDs state-wide. All information is available on SharePoint (CDEA Materials - Application for Use of 4 Hour Funds.) All questions and application submissions should be sent to Caitlin Stewart at Hamilton SWCD, [caitlin@hamcoswcd.org](mailto:caitlin@hamcoswcd.org).

**Other Events**

**Silvopasture Training for Professionals:** CCE and other partners will host a three-day training centered around Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest starting on **Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm and concluding on Wednesday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at noon**. This inaugural field-based training (<http://cceschuyler.org/resources/silvopasture-agenda-2023>) is tailored to Technical Service Providers and resource management professionals who work with grazing operations that are already using or interested in developing silvopastures. Cost is \$60. The training is limited to 30 participants on a first-come, first-serve basis so register before September 21<sup>st</sup> at: [https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2023\\_Silvopasture\\_Training-2\\_244](https://reg.cce.cornell.edu/2023_Silvopasture_Training-2_244)

**2023 CDEA Administrative Conference:** The New York State Conservation District Employee Association (NYSCDEA) is happy to announce the 2023 Administrative Conference! The conference will convene **November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>**, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Syracuse, 6301 State Route 298, East Syracuse, NY. Registration details will be available shortly. Please save the date.

**2022 CREP Annual Report** now available on SharePoint:

<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/CREP.aspx> The report focusses on the number of CREP contracts, practices implemented and acres enrolled as well as highlights success Stories and list suggestions to improve the Program. Please use the link above to also access previous years reports, CREP fact sheets and USDA training material. If you have any questions about the CREP Program, please contact Scott Fickbohm at [Scott.Fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Scott.Fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov)

### **Other Funding**

**Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants:** Nearly \$175 million in funding is available for fish passage projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. This funding will support projects that reopen migratory pathways and restore access to healthy habitat for fish around the country. Proposals must be received through [www.grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov) by **11:59 PM Eastern time on October 16, 2023**. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants>

**DEC Invasive Species Grant Program Funding Available:** DEC recently announced that \$3 million is available in the third round of the State's Invasive Species Grant Program (ISGP). This grant program is designed to advance projects that target both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species across the state, with six funding categories that address invasive species spread prevention; early detection and rapid response; research; management planning; and education and outreach. DEC is accepting applications for these grants through **Nov. 1st, 2023**. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115742.html>

**NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant:** NOAA recently announced that they will provide nearly \$240M to prioritized high-value, high-impact habitat restoration projects that advance resilience. The competition closes **November 17th**. Proposals can request between \$1M - \$25M. Eligible project types include planning and assessments; feasibility studies; engineering design and permitting; on-the-ground implementation; pre- and/or post-implementation monitoring; capacity building, stakeholder engagement or a combination of activities. For more information and to apply, visit, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/240-million-available-transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience>

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – October 18, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

Cassie Fedler, Director

Jay Skellie, Director

John Dickinson, Director

Kate Ziehm, Director

Others:

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager

Lori Sheehan, Office Manager

Amber Luke, District Technician

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1. Call to order at 9:08 a.m. by Director Skellie.
  2. Minutes: **Motion** by Fedler/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/Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for September and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
  4. Agency & Staff Reports:
    - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
    - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: Attachment, submitted by Gabriel
    - C. District Manager: Attachment, reviewed by Aldrich
    - D. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Kalbfliesh
    - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
    - F. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, reviewed by Cunningham
  5. New Business:
    - A. **Motion** by Dickinson/Fedler to approve Part C Funds for the 2024 National Conservation Foundation Envirothon Event (\$3,000). **Unanimously carried.**
    - B. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to approve AEM Round 18 Action Plan Option B Technical Assistance Track (\$158,000). **Unanimously carried.**
    - C. **Motion** by Dickinson/Fedler to approve AEM Round 18 Tier-4 Cost-Share Project for Hicks Orchard – Process Wash Water Management. **Unanimously carried.**
    - D. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to approve 2024 Annual Plan of Work. **Unanimously carried.**
    - E. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve 2024 Part B Project: Georgi Museum Battenkill Habitat Restoration Survey and Design (\$6,000). **Unanimously carried.**
    - F. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Aldrich & Sheehan to attend Administrative Conference (\$75/pp). **Unanimously carried.**
    - G. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Kalbfliesh & Luke to attend Certified Crop Adviser Conference (est. \$500/pp hotel & registration fee). **Unanimously carried.**

- H. **Motion** by Fedler/Dickinson to approve Part C Municipal Assistance (\$10,000) to Washington County DPW pending the County's purchase of proposed brine equipment. **Unanimously carried.**
  - I. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve reimbursement to the District for 2023 Staff Hours Earned under Part C Funding (\$30,000). **Unanimously carried.**
  - J. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve offering Roth Contribution option to our Deferred Compensation Plan. **Unanimously carried.**
  - K. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve AgNPS Round 25 – Ideal Silage Leachate BMP Payment (\$54,000). **Dickinson abstained/carried.**
  - L. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve monies to budget for a grade/step payroll system starting in 2025 (grade/step system has not been decided upon at this time). **Unanimously carried.**
- 6. The next Board meeting will be held on November 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. Directors Fedler and Skellie will conduct internal audit of the 2022 financial records.
  - 7. **Motion** by Ziehm/Dickinson to adjourn the meeting at 10:45 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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

## **District Mangers – Corrina Aldrich - Report 10-18-23**

### **AEM**

Review of Round 18 contract request with Amber.

PDR paperwork for Walker Farms Tier 2 Certification.

Site visit and Tier 1 with Michael Sieckhaus-Jackson beginning grassfed beef operation.

Round 17 Tier 4 implementation project-Mapleland Farm- reached out to engineer and spoke with contractor on details needed to complete project, moving ahead now that the fuel tank is empty.

### **LAP-Landowner Assistance Program**

Site visits to Rachel Costello and Michael Sieckhaus both with wetland and pond questions, information about wetland mapping to David Borthwick regarding building another pond on his property in Salem.

Correspondence with Army Corp regarding Peter Askin request to build a boardwalk out into a mapped wetland area this winter-deemed to not require permit and waiting for a letter of confirmation on this from the regional Biologist before proceeding with this project.

Site visit to Dry Brook Road in Salem, regarding concerns about potential erosion issue on the White Creek voiced by Salem residents to Kathy Chambers-stream corridor has a great deal of rip rap already on the toe of the bank slopes and appear stable, removal of vegetation along the top of the bank has changed the look of banks. Will continue to observe.

Fielded phone calls regarding Ag Assessments when Bob has been out.

### **MAP Municipal Assistance Program**

Met with Brenda Levy and Travis Keyes at the Georgi Museum to discuss Hydroseeding.

Hydro seeder out for last time to Town of Salem to do bank seeding at the Georgi and along Dillon Hill Road and short stretches on some other roads.

Emails from Jim Hogan regarding financial assistance to the county to purchase Salt Brine Equipment for application and transport to the various Towns that are interested, requested he write up a proposal for the Board to review at this meeting.

Attended Highway Meeting in Whitehall spoke with several about 4-hour erosion and sediment control trainings available later in the month. Hydro seeder will be put away for the winter and if they are continuing to do any ditching to utilize winter rye and hay mulch for ground cover.

Review of Hampton Ag Plan.

### **Part B**

Town of Salem DPW requested assistance for making improvement to the public fishing access parking area by the Rexleigh Bridge as it is severely degraded and needs material to bring it up to grade and improve the site for proper stormwater management and drainage. The Town utilizes this to turn around with their equipment that is too large to go across the bridge. The amount requested was similar to the unused portion remaining from Part B funds. Proposal written and submitted after Board approval to move forward and has been approved to move forward. Work has commenced with brush and tree removal Town will be providing match through the use of equipment and Part B will be providing the gravel and materials needed for site improvement. Landowner and DEC have given approval for the project to move ahead as well.

### **Grants**

#### **AGNPS Round 29**

Ranking list was sent out and letters of notification received-unfortunately neither of our applications were awarded. We scheduled a debrief with Bethany and Ryan to understand the low rankings. We will likely not do another application for Copses Farm (this is the 3<sup>rd</sup> time). We will however take information we received from the debriefing and meet with Kings Ransom and Saratoga County SWCD to think about resubmitting their application another time.

**AGNPS Round 24 Walkers and Marns**-paperwork preparation for closeout.

**AGNPS Round 25 Ideal Dairy**-closeout preparation.

**CAFO Round 1 Marns** farm has met with financial institution-2 bids received waiting on a 3<sup>rd</sup>

**CAFO Round 3 Woody Hill**-waiting for bids.

**CRF Round 7**-still waiting for the ranking list-State Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Oct 31<sup>st</sup> hopefully we will hear more then.

**Miscellaneous**-quote for fertilizer tabs for CDEA.

EEF fundraising research and conference call.

Met with Benec Hershon-interested in possibly doing some contract work for the District has specialized in marketing and outreach activities with Cheshire County NH SWCD would be looking to work remotely as she is interested in relocating further



south in the Hudson Valley.

Review of Annual Plan of Work.

Job Announcement sent out to various venues.

Looking into update of employee evaluation forms.

Strategic Planning activities and phone conversations with Consultant.

Successful NYACD Distinguished Service Award nomination for John Reiger-with help from several folks-John will be receiving at NYACD Annual meeting on Oct 25<sup>th</sup>.

Spoke with Sherri Slater and John Mattison regarding District Board Member duties and responsibilities created document for guidance. Dan Wilson of Hicks Orchard has also expressed interest in serving. All have been requested to submit a letter of interest and brief resume of related experiences to the Board for consideration. John Mattison did call back and say that he has since been asked to serve on a committee for the Town of Greenwich and needs to make that his first priority at this time but would definitely be interested in the future.

Update PM timesheet

Upper Hudson Zoom meeting.

### **Upcoming**

CWICNY Stormwater Tradeshow Oct 19

NYACD meeting Oct 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

Admin Conference Nov 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

NYCDEA meeting Nov 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>

## **District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – October 2023**

### **AEM**

- Hick's Orchard: I have continued to work on their 3A Plan to include BMPs for the apple waste water from the production rooms.
- Rathbun's: I have completed an update of their Tier I & II, and their Grown & Certified Certification update as well.

### **No-till Drill**

Recent rentals:

- Ethan Henderson
- Dennis Kelly

### **Interseeder**

The interseeder had a vacuum hose missing; Fenning sent the hose. I have a formula and a basic understanding of how to calibrate the machine.

### **Ag Assessments**

I am preparing to dive into ag assessment season. I have about a dozen requests so far.

### **Cover Crops**

- AEM Tier IV Implementation

- CWICNY Lake Champlain

All farmers in these two programs indicated they were going to complete year 2 of the cover crop program they are in.

To date, I have not heard of any reports of cover crops being completed. The fall saw corn in many cases maturing late and rain delayed harvest.

### **Training**

I plan to attend the 2023 Northeast Region Agribusiness and CCA Training on November 28 & 29 in Syracuse. It is a great opportunity to catch up on CCA certification credits.

### **Meetings Attended & Planned**

Completed Sexual Harassment Training – 09/11

CCA Training, Syracuse – 11/28 & 29

## **CCE Report – October 2023**

### **Small Grain Production Field Meeting / Pre-Winter Crop Assessment. Farmers can earn 2 pesticide recertification credits.**

Wednesday, November 15, 2023, from 1 – 3 pm  
Against The Grain Farm, 224 Waite Road., Easton, NY

Wheat – Malting Barley – Rye – Small Grain Forages  
2 Pesticide Applicator Credits – Categories 1A, 21, 23, 10

#### **AGENDA**

##### **OUTSIDE (dress for the weather)**

- Assessing crop establishment
- Weed survey
- Soil health assessment

##### **INSIDE**

- Herbicides for small grains
- Preparation for early spring
- Marketing feed and food grains

Aaron Gabriel  
Cornell Cooperative Extension

## **Technician's Report-Amber Luke- October 18, 2023**

### **Ag Non-Point Source-**

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Fully executed contract has been received from the state. The farm has been notified.
- Round 29-
  - We did not get funded for either project.
  - Corrina and I met with Bethany to go over what we did good and some areas to improve.
  - Bethany did say that this particular round of funding was highly competitive with a much tighter ranking and requests for funding were higher dollar amounts than in previous years so funds did not go as far.

### **Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-**

- Round 6-
  - We have received both contracts for our 2 Round 6 CRF grants. Both Landowners have been notified.
- Round 7-
  - 3 grants were submitted on August 3<sup>rd</sup> before the grant deadline of August 7<sup>th</sup>. One was submitted under Track 1- Alternative Manure Management, one under Track 2-Water Management and one under Track 3-Healthy Soils.
  - Ranked lists are expected to be done sometime around late October to early November.

### **CAFO WSTSP-**

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- Closeout approved and we received that last 10% from the state. The farm has been notified and paid.

### **AEM-**

- REPORTING: Time sheets continue to be updated as needed.
- Annual Action Plan- I tried to keep our goals around the same as we did in previous rounds as we fell short of reaching those goals for the past 5 or so years. I did lower the hours earned by 125 hours due to the fact that we seem to be short around 750 hours this round and due to our current workload, that we will have coming in the future. \$158,000 is what was requested for funding for the technical assistance track (including \$5,000 for soil, plant, and manure testing services).
- We have received one application for the YR 18 Tier 4 implementation money. We are proposing requesting funding for this one project only (process Wash Water Management System.) Total project cost is estimated at \$65,000 with 75/25 cost share.
- Continuing to write a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process. Lillie Valley Farm, Little Dream Farm, Kaminski when time permits.

### **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:**

- Attended on 10/12/23. I am currently working on writing up the minutes from the meeting.
- The UHRWC is planning on hosting a 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Training in Ballston Spa on Wednesday October 25, 2023. Registration is due by October 20, 2023! This is used as a fundraiser for the UHRWC.
- Next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be a potluck on December 14, 2023, at 10 am at Warren County SWCD.

### **Landowner Assistance Program:**

- Mike Durin- working on finishing up the plan for the Windbreak/Shelterbelt project that was approved at the last meeting. Landowner has been contacted. This project is proposed for Spring of 2024.

## **CWICNY- North Country Stormwater Tradeshow**

- I have been working on a presentation to present at the North Country Stormwater Tradesow on October 19, 2023. The topic will be a case study highlighting the Silage Leachate Control and Treatment System at Landview that was implemented in 2020 and focusing on stormwater practices in Agriculture.

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

- I am planning on attending the CCA Conference 11/28/23-11/29/23 (2 days in person) and December 12-13, 2023 (zoom)

## **Miscellaneous:**

- Karen Strong-Strategic Planning meeting. We all met with Karen over the course of the day in a group and individually to go over goals, concerns, accomplishments, failures etc.
- Bank Recs
- Performance timesheet updated.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – September 2023  
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

### **NYS SWCC News**

**AGNPS Round 29 Awards:** Congratulations to those Districts who will be receiving funds to help farms via the Agricultural Non-Point Source Program! \$13.8 million will be divided between 21 Districts to implement projects on 80 farms. The funding will help protect and preserve NY's natural resources by enhancing water quality in priority watersheds. Information about Plan of Work development will be available shortly. More info about the Round 29 awards can be found here:

[https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/agnpsround29projectdescriptions\\_0.pdf](https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/agnpsround29projectdescriptions_0.pdf)

**2023 (AEM)-Leopold Conservation Award:** Congratulations to Dygert Farms of Palatine Bridge and the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District for taking top honor for the 2023 AEM Leopold Conservation Award! The Dygert family and the SWCD were honored at a ceremony which convened on the farm in September. Thank you to all the SWCDs who nominated a farm this year.

**October SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on October 17<sup>th</sup>**. 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.

### **SWCC November 1st Reminders:**

- **2024 Annual Plan of Work (APOW):** It's time to start updating your APOW for 2022. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is **November 1, 2023**. This will allow time to review, provide feedback, and recommend to the SWCC for approval by the end of the calendar year. Please don't hesitate to discuss with your Regional AEA if there are any questions or concerns.
- **AEM 18 Action Plan Submittal:** The two-year AEM Action Plan is due **November 1, 2023**, for a program which runs from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025. Action Plans and other documents should be uploaded to your SWCD AEM Sharepoint folder, with confirmation emails sent to the Program Manager and your Regional AEA.
- **2024 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance:** Part B proposals are Due **November 1, 2023**. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2024. Part B requests should be submitted via email to [ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov).
- **Interim Reporting:** Interim reports for AGNPS Contracts (Round 21-Round 23), CAFO WSTSP (Round 1 and Round 2), CRF (Round 1 – Round 4) are due **November 1st**. Reports should be sent to [Maureen.Irish@nyagriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Maureen.Irish@nyagriculture.ny.gov), as well as the appropriate program manager and your Regional AEA.

**SWCC Operations Sub-Committee:** The SWCC is preparing to re-establish the Operations Sub-Committee SWCC is currently looking for interested SWCD staff to help serve. A major component of the sub-committee's focus is directed at the upkeep of the SWCD Office/Operations Manual. We anticipate the first meeting to occur in the Winter of 2023. If you are interested in serving on the sub-committee, please contact your Regional AEA.

### **Other Events**

**2023 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum:** USC is thrilled to return to an in-person watershed forum for 2023, and to be returning to the beautiful Binghamton University Center of Excellence. **October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. All information regarding the forum can be found at <http://u-s-c.org/useforum> including registration and opportunities for posters and displays.

**2023 Empire State Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting of the Empire State Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will be held **November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, 9:00AM to 4:00PM at the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. The meeting will be held in person with a virtual option for those interested.

**Please save the date.** An agenda and registration link will be available shortly.

**2023 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference:** Including the Basic Training track for those preparing to take the CCA exams as well as the Advanced Training track for current CCAs. An in-person track will commence at the Doubletree Hotel, East Syracuse, NY on **November 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, followed by a virtual track will commence on **December 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, when additional programming will be offered. More information and a registration link can be found here, <https://www.nysaba.com/educational-meetings>

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

### **Other Funding**

**Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants:** Nearly \$175 million in funding is available for fish passage projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Proposals must be received through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by **11:59 PM Eastern time on October 16, 2023**. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants>

**DEC Invasive Species Grant Program Funding Available:** DEC recently announced that \$3 million is available in the third round of the State's Invasive Species Grant Program (ISGP). DEC is accepting applications for these grants through **Nov. 1st, 2023**. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115742.html>

**NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant:** NOAA recently announced that they will provide nearly \$240M to prioritized high-value, high-impact habitat restoration projects that advance resilience. The competition closes **November 17th**. For more information and to apply, visit, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/240-million-available-transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience>

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting – November 14, 2023

## Attending:

### Board Members

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

### Staff Members

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

- 
1. Call to order at 10:05 a.m. by Vice Chairman, Dickinson.
  2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/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 October and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
  4. Agency & Staff Reports:
    - A. Farm Service Agency: No Report
    - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: Attachment, submitted by Gabriel
    - C. District Manager: Verbal Report
    - D. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
    - E. District Technician: Attachment, reviewed by Luke
    - F. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment, submitted by Cunningham
  5. New Business:
    - A. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve AEM Round 18 Board Resolution to participate in the program. **Unanimously carried.**

## RESOLUTION of the

### Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District

*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 18 of the AEM Base Program and Tier 4 Cost Share Track; 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; and
- 3) That the District agrees to support the following farm participating in the AEM Tier 4 Cost Share Track: Hicks Orchard; and
- 4) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 18 of the AEM Base Program; and
- 5) That this resolution take effect immediately.

B. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve the following expenditures: NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Membership – Aldrich (\$100) and CCE Renewal for Luke and Kalbfliesh (\$115 per person). **Unanimously carried.**

C. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve closing out Round 25 Contract #C012194 Ideal Silage Leachate System Improvement grant and to expend contingency funds if justified. **Dickinson Abstained; carried.**

D. Directors Fedler and Skellie completed an internal audit of the 2022 financial records. The records were found to be correct and in balance.

6. The next Board meeting will be held on December 14, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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

## **CCE Report – November – Aaron Gabriel**

- CCE is working on winter meetings.
- I have been visiting farms and giving them a packet about soil health with the hope of returning to the farms at some point to do an in-field soil health assessment with the farmer.

Aaron Gabriel  
Cornell Cooperative Extension  
Capital Area Agriculture and Horticulture Program

## **District Technician Report – Bob Kalbfliesh – November 2023**

### **AEM**

AEM Tier IV Implementation - Cover Crops:

I have been working on field and map reports for Fred Burch and Darren Tyler. Mecure Farms did not have any cover crops that met the requirements this fall.

### **No-till Drill**

Steve Petteys has the drill for a late cover crop seeding of rye.

### **Interseeder**

The interseeder is in storage.

### **Ag Assessments**

I have been working on the early ag assessment requests.

### **Cover Crops**

CWICNY: I have been working on field and map reports. Should be able to do field checks this week.

### **Meetings Planned**

CCA Training, Syracuse – 11/28 & 29

## **Technician's Report-Amber Luke- November 14, 2023**

### **Ag Non-Point Source-**

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Touched base with Mike Nolan on when he plans on starting construction on his Waste Transfer project. We discussed starting the bid process and completing that this winter, I reminded him he needed 3 bids. Mike said they plan on starting construction in the Spring, and I told him to make sure he keeps us in the loop so we can have a pre-construction meeting. I will set a reminder on my calendar to keep in touch with the farm.
- Round 25-
  - Lundy's- We have received stamped engineering designs for the manure storage. I have been reviewing those plans and writing down any questions I have.

### **Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-**

- Round 6-
  - We have received both contracts for our 2 Round 6 CRF grants. Both Landowners have been notified. I will be working with both landowners to get landowner contracts signed and make sure progress is being made.
- Round 7-
  - We have been notified that we received 2 of the 3 grants that we applied for, but no public announcement has been made yet, so we have not informed the landowners yet.

### **AEM-**

- REPORTING: Time sheets continue to be updated as needed.
- Annual Action Plan- Was submitted to the state and approved. We will have \$158,000 in technical assistance money we will need to earn and \$100,000 in tier 4 cost share money to spend over 2 years (1/1/2024-12/31/2025). We submitted similar hours for the next 2 years as we are not earning all money requested and due to staffing.
- Working on finishing up our Tier 4 cost share projects. Corrina and I met with the engineer and contractor on the Fuel Storage project at Mapleland and everything seems to be on track to finish by the end of the year.
- I have begun compiling data for the AEM closeout which is due February 29, 2024.
- Continuing to write a variety of 3A and 3B plans for landowners that are interested in going further with the AEM process.

### **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition:**

- There is no meeting in November.
- The UHRWC held a 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Training in Ballston Spa on Wednesday October 25, 2023. Money earned from this event will be used as a fundraiser to help support the watershed coalition.
- Next meeting is tentatively scheduled to be a potluck on December 14, 2023, at 10 am at Warren County SWCD.

### **Landowner Assistance Program:**

- Ron from the Grassland Bird Trust called and wanted some assistance in interpreting his soil tests. We have been working with the Grassland Bird Trust to help them bring up pH of their soil and control invasives.
- Corrina and I had a call with Danielle Baldwin from DEC regarding manure storage issue with Tyler Farm. The farm is cooperating with DEC to resolve this issue.

### **CWICNY- North Country Stormwater Tradeshow**

- I successfully presented on the use of Stormwater Best Management Practices in Agriculture to a room of approximately 90 of my professional peers. There were a lot of good questions and conversation following my 30-minute presentation. The topic was highlighting the Silage Leachate Control and Treatment System at Landview that was implemented in 2020 and focusing on stormwater practices in Agriculture.

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

- I am attending the CCA Conference 11/28/23-11/29/23 (2 days in person) and December 12-13, 2023 (zoom)
- There will be a Round 29 State meeting to discuss the good, bad, and potential changes of the grant funding with districts. This is intended to be an avenue for SWCD's to give the State input into the AGNPS funding program.
- Corrina and I have a Civil Service meeting scheduled for 11/21/23 to discuss questions we have regarding me being a provisional employee.

### **Miscellaneous:**

- I submitted a class proposal to Mud U in Cambridge to teach a class on the basics of conservation planning for small farms. If accepted we will be discussing participating in our AEM program, planning, how to identify resource concerns, tools, and resources the district can provide to help address the resource concerns. We will know if classes got accepted by January 7, 2024.
- Sat in on interviews on November 9, 2023.
- Performance timesheet updated.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – November 2023  
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

### NYS SWCC News

**New NYS Grants Management System Coming:** The SWCC wanted to make SWCDs aware that NYS is anticipated to launch a new integrated grants management system during the Month of January 2024. We expect to have more details on the transition to this new system in the coming weeks. The new system will effectively be replacing the grants gateway, and vendors (SWCD) that have registered in the old system to apply for grants will be rolled over to the new system automatically. At this time, we don't expect any changes in the application process for CRF or AGNPS. As we learn more about the new system, we will be sure to relay the information to SWCDs ASAP.

**November SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on November 21<sup>st</sup>**. 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.

**2023 Part C Performance Measures:** The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and you should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling its Performance Measure goals. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions.

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

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

### Other Events

**2023 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference:** Including the Basic Training track for those preparing to take the CCA exams as well as the Advanced Training track for current CCAs. An in-person track will commence at the Doubletree Hotel, East Syracuse, NY on **November 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, followed by a virtual track will commence on **December 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, when additional programming will be offered. More information and a registration link can be found here, <https://www.nysaba.com/educational-meetings>

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

**Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub Basin Work Groups – Save the Dates:** NYSDEC has announced that dates and locations have been set for the Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub Basin Work group meetings. These work groups are being held in each of New York's Great Lakes Sub Basins to offer opportunities for stakeholders to learn, connect, and coordinate to support implementation of New York's Great Lakes Action Agenda, which was recently updated in 2023. Please let DEC know if you would like to attend in person or join remotely by emailing [greatlakes@dec.ny.gov](mailto:greatlakes@dec.ny.gov).

- Southeast Lake Ontario: Wednesday, **11/29/23, 1:00 - 4:00pm** – McCrobie Civic Center, 21 Lake St. Oswego, NY
- Northeast Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River: Thursday, **11/30/23, 1:00 - 4:00pm** – Massena Town Hall, Massena, NY
- Lake Erie: Monday, **12/4/23, 1:00 - 4:00pm** – Tifft Nature Preserve 1200 Fuhrmann Boulevard, Buffalo, NY
- Southwest Lake Ontario: Tuesday, **12/5/23, 1:00 - 4:00pm** – Seymour Library, 161 East Ave. Brockport, NY

### Other Funding

**Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant Program** – NYSAGM invites eligible organizations to apply for funding through the Urban Farms and Community Gardens Grant Program. Funding is available to support the development and expansion of community gardens, school gardens, and urban farms across the state. **The deadline for applications is December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 (4PM).** The program website supplies the RFP, FAQ, and an informational webinar recording (<https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfp-0318-urban-farms-and-community-gardens-grant-program>).

**NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant:** NOAA recently announced that they will provide nearly \$240M to prioritized high-value, high-impact habitat restoration projects that advance

resilience. The competition closes **November 17th**. For more information and to apply, visit, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/240-million-available-transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience>

**DEC Urban and Community Forestry Funding Available:** NYSDEC is accepting applications for a total of \$12.9 million for urban and community forestry projects through the Inflation Reduction Act funding opportunity. Applicants may apply for funding under two categories, Community Forest Management Plan Implementation (\$10 million) and Ash Tree Management (\$2.9 million). The maximum request is \$500,000 per application and no match is required. All projects must take place in disadvantaged communities as identified by any of three Federal and State tools listed in the Request for Applications (RFA). The deadline to submit applications is **Wednesday, Jan. 31, 2024**. DEC's Urban and Community Forestry program is holding a virtual information session on **Wednesday, Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>**, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. to provide more information. The RFA can be found here: [https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html#Inflation\\_Reduction](https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html#Inflation_Reduction). Register here: <https://meetny.webex.com/webappng/sites/meetny/meeting/register/e9d8613039a14fac9460fd9ea65c74ca?ticket=4832534b0000000684ded2171befed1f26676dae10067ec1d683ebd24a06e2f60e6ae4650bc148bc&timestamp=1699014406078&RGID=raf052a25587eccb5b719641845d549d1>