



**Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District**

103 County View Drive, PO Box 166

Lake Pleasant NY 12108 518-548-3991

[caitlin@hamcoswcd.org](mailto:caitlin@hamcoswcd.org) [www.hamcoswcd.org](http://www.hamcoswcd.org)

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*Working to manage and promote the wise use of natural resources in Hamilton County since 1965.*

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**October 17, 2023**

Hamilton County SWCD office, 103 County View Drive, Lake Pleasant NY 12108  
and on Zoom

**Board of Directors**

Victoria Buyce, Chairperson  
John M. Stortecky, Vice Chairperson  
Shawn Hansen, Member-at-Large

**Absent**

Betsy Bain, Town Supervisor  
Chris D. Rhodes, Town Supervisor  
Leonard Croote, District Technician  
Katie WhitKovits, District Technician  
Ryan Cunningham, Associate Environmental Analyst, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee  
Tom Bielli, District Conservationist, Natural Resources and Conservation Service

**District Staff**

Caitlin Stewart, District Manager  
Marjorie Remias, Clerk and Secretary to the Board

- I. **Call to order** – Buyce called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call** conducted.
- IV. **Reading and approval of the September 5, 2023, meeting minutes** – The minutes were provided in advance of the meeting.
  - **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to approve the September 5, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**
- V. **Treasurer’s Report** – Remias reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and asked for approval for a bank transfer.

<b>Balance</b>	<b>8/31/23</b>	<b>\$375,195.36</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>98,168.88</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		<b>33,796.85</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>9/30/23</b>	<b>\$439,567.39</b>

- **A motion was made by Buyce seconded by J.M. Stortecky to accept the Treasurer’s Report and approve the bills to be paid. All in favor, motion carried.**

**VI. Executive Session to discuss website-**

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to enter Executive Session to discuss the website at 9:36a.m. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to exit Executive Session at 9:56 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.**

No action taken.

**VII. 2024 Annual Plan of Work** – Stewart sent the document to the board for review in advance of the meeting.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to accept the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District’s 2024 Annual Plan of Work and permit Board Chairperson Victoria Buyce to sign the document. All in favor, motion carried.**

**VIII. 2024 Part B Project approval** – Stewart sent the document to the board for review in advance of the meeting.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to approve the 2024 Conservation Project Financial Assistance Request in the amount of \$6,000 to implement the Bear Creek Culvert Replacement project in the Town of Hope and permit District Manager Caitlin Stewart to submit the document to the Soil and Water Conservation Committee. All in favor, motion carried.**

**IX. 2023 Part B Project amendment** – Stewart reported that the Town of Hope was unable to install the Bear Creek Culvert Replacement Project. An amendment is needed to change our 2023 Part B Project.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to amend the 2023 Conservation Project Financial Assistance Request in the amount of \$6,000 to implement the Fishing Brook Stream Stabilization Project in the Town of Long Lake and permit District Manager Caitlin Stewart to submit the document to the Soil and Water Conservation Committee. All in favor, motion carried.**

**X. AEM Base Program Round 18**

**RESOLUTION # 5-2023**

**AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION BY THE HAMLITON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN THE AEM BASE PROGRAM ROUND 18**

**DATED October 17, 2023**

**BY: Ms. Buyce**

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

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 Hamilton 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; be it

RESOLVED by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

- 1) That Katherine WhitKovits, or such person’s successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District’s governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under the AEM Base Program. The representative is authorized to make application, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Project;
- 2) That the District agrees to fund its portion of the cost of the Project as provided in the application;
- 3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 18 of the AEM Base Program;
- 4) That this resolution take effect immediately.

Seconded by: Mr. J.M. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Ms. Buyce, Mr. Hansen, Mr. J.M. Stortecky

NAYES: None

ABSENT: Ms. Bain, Mr. Rhodes

**XI. MOA between Hamilton County SWCD and Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board**

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
Between Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and the  
Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board**

This memorandum of agreement is between the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board, hereafter called the LCLGRP, and the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, hereafter called the HCSWCD, to fully execute the objectives, tasks, and deliverables under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Water Quality Improvement Project grant Contract #C01903GG *Elbow Creek Comprehensive Stream Corridor Assessment Project*.

The LCLGRP agrees to perform the following services.

1. Perform all management tasks for the grant, including coordinating with HCSWCD, the selected consultant, and project partners, and compiling all narrative and fiscal information (receipts, vouchers, etc.) for the projects, and
2. Write all quarterly reports and produce all reimbursement requests. Staff will then provide paperwork to HCSWCD for signature and official submission to NYSDEC, and
3. Act as project liaison and communicate with NYSDEC Central and Regional offices on Contract status and manage any contract amendments or issues, for a sum of no more than \$7,500. It is understood that the LCLGRP will bill the HCSWCD \$7,500 upon completion of 75% of the project.

It is understood that the HCSWCD will reimburse the LCLGRP for tasks undertaken within thirty (30) days of submission of a request. The HCSWCD will also provide the LCLGRP with all assistance needed for task performance and completion.

This agreement is in effect immediately upon acceptance of both signatures until Contract # C01903GG is closed out with the funding agency. This agreement may be amended or expanded upon at any time, only in writing and signed by both parties.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to permit District Manager Caitlin Stewart to sign the Memorandum of Agreement Between Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board to fully execute the objectives, tasks, and deliverables under the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Water Quality Improvement Project grant Contract #C01903GG Elbow Creek Comprehensive Stream Corridor Assessment Project. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**XII. FLOWPA SFY 2023-24 Work Plan** – Stewart sent the work plan to the Directors for their review in advance of the meeting.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to permit Stewart to submit the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance FY 2023-24 Work Plan in the amount of \$107,200.00. All in favor, motion carried.**

**XIII. Letters of support for DEC Invasive Species grant** – Stewart reported that she received requests from Lake Association for letters of support that are required for their applications to the DEC invasive species grant.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to permit District Manager Caitlin Stewart to submit letters of support for Friends of Lake Algonquin’s herbicide treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil project, and Blue Mountain Lake Association’s – early detection / rapid response and control of variable leaf milfoil in Blue Mountain Lake, Eagle Lake, and Utowana Lake project for their DEC invasive species grant applications. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**

**XIV. Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant application approval** – Stewart reported that she received 1 application and reviewed it per the ranking sheet. With the approval of this mini grant, \$7,408.04 will be expended of the \$10,000, with a balance of \$2,591.96. The Town of Indian Lake completed all grant close out forms successfully, and requested reimbursement.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to approve the following Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant expenditures: Town of Lake Pleasant’s application for Salt Reduction Cutting Edges in the amount of \$2,000, and Town of Indian Lake’s reimbursement request for \$1,622.16 for the 2023 Monarch and Milkweed Challenge. All in in favor, motion carried.**

**XV. District Activities**

- a. **Gilmantown Road Bank Stabilization** – The project went well, and for the most part is completed with some minor touch up work. Croote and Remias hydroseeded the slope with ProGanics and FlexTerra mulch. The Geoweb failed in some areas due to the anchoring process over challenging site conditions. The Geoweb was installed on a steep slope on top of hardpan, and couldn’t be buried and dead anchored due to site conditions. Croote is happy with the results. Croote thanked the Hamilton County Department of Public Works, who was essential to the completion of this project.

- b. July 2023 Storm update** – Croote completed Emergency Authorization for permits, and has begun work on General Permits for DEC. Croote hopes to complete essential projects before winter.
- c. Lake Monitoring Program** – Stewart, WhitKovits, and Croote completed the October rotation in cold, windy, rainy, and sometimes sunny conditions. The boat ran very well in cold temperatures. The new bimini kept staff dry during a pop-up rainstorm. WhitKovits completed the chain of custody and is delivering samples to Adirondack Watershed Institute today for analysis.
- d. Trail Stewardship Program** – Stewart will attend a trail meeting on October 30 to discuss a DEC contract with Chris Rhodes, Supervising Forester Region 5 Mike Mulligan and Region 5 Regional Forester Robert Daley. Stewart asked questions during the first meeting that DEC will address in the upcoming meeting.
- e. Sediment and Erosion Control Program** – Croote, WhitKovits, and Remias are hydroseeding per the Upper Hudson River Roadside Remediation Program Phase II, and other municipal and landowner jobs. Croote partnered with DOT for road bank stabilization from the July storm in Long Lake and Blue Mountain Lake. The hydroseeder will be winterized.
- f. Agricultural Environmental Management** – Whitkovits watched a SWCC webinar, is completing Round 18 materials, and continues to reach out to producers and promote the program.
- g. Conservation Field Day** - Whitkovits organized a fantastic event that was attended by 83 students from Wheelerville, Wells, Lake Pleasant, Indian Lake, and Long Lake schools. Assemblyman Smullen and Senator Walczyk welcomed people to the event and toured the stations. Essays and posters are due Friday. Stewart wrote and submitted a press release. Stewart showed a video WhitKovits made. Ronny Raindrop made a special guest appearance. Board Directors Buyce and J.M. Stortecky both attended the event as volunteers and reported they thought it was very well run, well received and a stupendous event.
- h. Water Testing Program** – Remias facilitated the September drop off, the final event for the year. She is collecting kits from town offices and will coordinate the 2024 program.
- i. Invasive Species Program** – Croote reported that he and WhitKovits treated Japanese knotweed with herbicide. Sites were on private and public land. Many sites were re-treatments for re-growth. Staff partnered with Warren County SWCD and treated 2 knotweed sites. WhitKovits finalized the manual for the knotweed stem injector rental tool program.

**j. Conservation Education Program** – WhitKovits presented The Great Migratory Challenge at Homeschool Day at the Adirondack Experience, the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake. Stewart and WhitKovits attended the Invasive Species Expo at Saratoga Springs Park dressed as Munchy the Asian Longhorned Beetle and Dotty the Spotted Lanternfly. They interacted with and educated attendees throughout the day.

**k. Watershed partnership update**

1. **FLLOWPA** – Stewart completed the 2023-24 work plan.
2. **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition** – Stewart oversaw the September meeting
3. **St. Lawrence River Watershed Project** – Nothing new to report.
4. **Mohawk River Watershed Coalition** – Stewart oversaw the September and October meetings.
5. **Black River Watershed** – Nothing new to report.

**l. Other**

1. **Annual audit** – Buyce completed the 2022 audit and reported that everything was in order and questions she had were answered.
2. **Cold Stream Bank Stabilization Project** – The project is complete, and Dave Jaquish did a great job grading the site. District staff hydroseded the area, grass is growing, and the landowner is pleased with the project results.
3. **Septic System Replacement Fund** – Stewart and Croote reviewed three applications and answered inquiries.
4. Stewart reported that WhitKovits injured her foot while hydroseeding and is completely healed. Stewart submitted Workers Comp paperwork, and the case is now closed.

**m. Directors' comments** – Director Hansen complimented staff on the good work completed.

**XVI. Staff reports** – Stewart disseminated and emailed copies of the staff reports. They are also appended to the minutes.

**XVII. District Conservationist's report** – No report.

**XVIII. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee report** – appended to the minutes.

**XIX. Correspondence** –

- a) District Technician Croote received a thank you from landowners in Long Lake for his assistance with restoring their brook banks and water line and coordinating with NYS DOT and the Long Lake Water Department.
- b) The District received a thank you from The Town of Benson for the donation of a used USB Microphone for recording and streaming.
- c) A citation of commendation was received from Congresswoman Elise Stephanic for this year's Conservation Field Day.

**XX. Next meeting date** – Wednesday November 8, 2023, 9:30 AM, Hamilton County SWCD office, 103 County View Drive, Lake Pleasant NY 12108 and virtually on Zoom.

**XXI. Adjournment** – A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to adjourn the meeting at 10:32 a.m. All in favor, carried.

Respectfully Submitted



Marjorie Remias  
Secretary to the Board/Treasurer

**District Manager's report  
Submitted by Caitlin Stewart**

- **Administration**
  - Submitted 2024 Hamilton County allocation request to budget officer Barry Baker
  - Board of Directors meeting preparation
  - Staff meetings
  - Reviewed budget with Marj
  - Preliminary 2023 budget
  - Assisted Tim Ellifritz with computer maintenance and updates
  - Worked with Kim Parslow, Hamilton Count Personnel, to finalize the Senior Technician Civil Service position
  - Attended website meetings
  - Met with Piseco Terrestrial Invasive Plant Team to discuss DEC grant and priorities
  - Met with Piseco Lake Association to discuss DEC grant
  - Updated 2024 Annual Plan of Work
  - Amendment to 2023 Part B and proposal for 2024 Part B projects
  - Presented an autumn update to the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors

- Interview request by a SUNY ESF student
- Submitted award applications to NYACD
- Workers Comp paperwork
- **Technical Assistance**
  - Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation, Fulton Chain of Lakes, and Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association – lake data
  - PPE – Rensselaer County SWCD
  - DEC invasive species grant assistance, including meetings, watershed management plan verbiage to include in applications, and letters of support – Piseco Terrestrial Invasive Plant Team, Piseco Lake Association, Friends of Lake Algonquin, Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation, and Blue Mountain Lake Association
  - In-person meeting with Piseco Terrestrial Invasive Plant Team to review the grant and management protocol
  - Virtual meeting with Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association and Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board to discuss LPSA’s Lake Management Plan
  - Reviewed and commented on the Village of Speculator’s draft septic system law
  - Reviewed and commented on LPSA’s newsletter: erosion and watershed articles
- **Watershed Coalitions**
  - FLOWPA – completed 2023-23 workplan, assisted Herkimer County with their program.
  - Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition – polled members for interest in applying to the DEC invasive species grant, facilitated October meeting.
  - St. Lawrence River Watershed Project – nothing new to report
  - Mohawk River Watershed Coalition – DEC is nearing signage of the Action Agenda proposal for 1.5 million dollars. Polled members for interest in applying to the DEC invasive species grant. Hosted September 18 and October 16 meetings and discussed applying to the DEC invasive species grant.
  - Black River Watershed – Nothing new to report.
- **Meetings**
  - Fish Passage Restoration Grant meeting
  - Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association Lake Management Plan meeting
- **Invasive Species**
  - New York Invasive Species Expo – Saratoga Spa, September 24 – transformed into my alter ego Munchy the Asian Longhorned Beetle and chatted with people of all ages about the adverse impacts of invasive species – 200 people.
  - Invasive Species Advisory Committee – I was voted to be Secretary, attended September 28 meeting.
  - Conversation with Town of Lake Pleasant Supervisor Betsy Bain and Highway Superintendent Randy LaVarnway about decon station.
- **Conservation Field Day**
  - Assisted Katie with the event.
  - Presented Wonderful Watersheds

- **Conservation Education**
  - Assisted Katie with preparing for the Great Migration Challenge presentation for Homeschool Day, Adirondack Experience the Museum on Blue Mountain Lake
- **Lake Monitoring Program**
  - Assisted with the September and October rotation
  - Delivered samples to AWI
- **Press Releases**
  - Conservation Field Day
- **Water Testing Program**
  - Promoted program
- **Septic System Replacement Fund**
  - Reviewed 2 applications and replied to inquiries
- **Caring Through Conservation Mini-Grant Program**
  - Application and close out review
- **Hamilton County Trail Stewardship Program**
  - Responded to meeting request from DEC
- **New York State Conservation District Employees Association**
  - Facilitated September CDEA meeting
  - Water Quality Symposium planning
  - Presentation for Administrative Conference
  - CDEA News
  - New York Association of Conservation Districts meeting
  - Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting
  - 4-Way Partnership MOA
  - Recruitment and Retention

**District Technician's report  
Submitted by Lenny Croote**

**General**

Project Permits

7/10/23 Storm event

- Project Permits

Hydroseeding

- DOT Storm Damage

Cold Stream Streambank stabilization

Gilmantown Road Bank Stabilization

Invasive Plant Management

Water Monitoring

Attended Conservation Skills Workshop

Office Cleaning

**District Technician's report  
Submitted by Katie WhitKovits**

- Japanese Knotweed
  - Thank you for approving the injector rental program!
    - Working on finalizing the manual with input from the rest of our staff
    - Put together a running list of landowners – will work on obtaining signed agreements and homeowners' insurance to have on file for the next treatment season
      - Purchasing all accessories (markers, funnels etc) to go in rental kits
  - Treated sites in Hamilton and Warren Co with Lenny
- Lake Monitoring
  - Completed October water monitoring rotation and brought samples to Paul Smiths
  - Input field data and ProDSS data into master data spreadsheet
- Conservation Field Day
  - We had a wonderful event both Senator Walczyk and Assemblyman Smullen spoke
  - I will be sending thank you letters and preparing for the poster and essay contest
    - We received 2 tubing tickets from Oak Mountain for the winners
  - I created an Animoto video recap of the event
- Agricultural Environmental Management
  - Attended Intro to AEM, Tier 3A Farmstead, and AEM Forest Plans at Conservation Skills Workshop in Auburn
  - Working with Warren and Oneida SWCDs to do some farm visits this Fall
- Completed the 3 day Game of Logging Chainsaw safety course
- Attended the New York State Invasive Species Expo with Caitlin
- Presented on Migratory Birds at the ADKX Home School Day and played a Great Migration game with students and parents
- Attended Board of Supervisors meeting with Caitlin
- Hydroseeded with Lenny in Blue Mountain, Indian Lake, & Piseco for DOT and Cold Stream
- Our FaceBook page is currently on Lockdown 😞 Facebook is primarily run by AI – no specific reasoning was given, and the page was in no way used inappropriately. We are hoping they will unlock it and we will be able to post again in the future.
  - Social Media posts by myself & Caitlin: Indian Lake Monarch & Milkweed Challenge, September Employees Association meeting, Schenectady SWCD Compost Facility, View from our office, Erosion, Sediment Control and Stormwater Training, Mindful Moment Monday, Water Testing program, Conservation Skills Workshop classes, Mohawk River Watershed Coalition, September Lake Monitoring, Gilmantown Bank Stabilization project, Conservation Field Day prep, CFD Event, NYS Invasive Species Expo

**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/uscforum> 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://ww.w.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.nacdn.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>