



**Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
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 Find us on Facebook and You Tube

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

## **Board of Directors Meeting Minutes September 5, 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  
 Betsy Bain, Town Supervisor  
 Chris D. Rhodes, Town Supervisor  
 Shawn Hansen, Member-at-Large

**Partners**

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

**Absent**

Leonard Croote, District Technician  
 Katie WhitKovits, District Technician

- I. Call to order** – Buyce called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Roll Call** conducted.
- IV. Reading and approval of the August 1, 2023, meeting minutes** – The minutes were provided in advance of the meeting.
  - **A motion was made by Bain, seconded by Stortecky to approve the August 1, 2023, meeting minutes. All voted 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>6/30/23</b>	<b>\$424,219.55</b>
<b>Receipts</b>		<b>2,193.08</b>
<b>Disbursements</b>		<b>51,217.27</b>
<b>Balance</b>	<b>7/31/23</b>	<b>\$375,195.36</b>

**A motion was made by Stortecky, seconded by Buyce to approve transfer of \$100,000.00 from NBT General Savings Account to NBT General Checking Account, accept the Treasurer’s Report, and**

**approve the bills to be paid. All in favor, motion carried.**

RESOLUTION #

AUTHORIZING THE REVIEW OF THE NEW YORK ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT'S ANNUAL LEGISLATIVE BOOKLET BY NYACD OFFICERS AND DIVISION DIRECTORS AND THE NEW YORK STATE CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION'S PRESIDENT

DATED September 5, 2023

BY: Betsy Baine

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) made and entered into by and between the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC), New York Association of Conservation Districts (NYACD), New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. (NYSCDEA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is to cultivate strong partnerships, and strengthen cooperation among the Parties for the coordinated, interagency delivery of conservation assistance to landowners and others to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of New York State's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the MOA lists examples of activities the Parties will address, included but not limited to using sound approaches to strengthen each Party and its role in the delivery of natural resources conservation across the State, continuing to support the delivery of excellent and innovative services, and broadening our outreach to existing and new customers and partners; and

WHEREAS, NYACD solicits Conservation Districts and Directors for projects to include in the NYACD's annual Legislative Day booklet distributed to legislators; and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Legislative Day booklet "Districts Working to Protect New York's Soil and Water" had spelling, grammar, and punctuation errors; and

WHEREAS, the formatting of District submissions was altered to blue, underlined text that was difficult to read, and

WHEREAS, the 2023 Legislative Day booklet's Letter from the NYACD President & Executive Director stated, "With your support and the hard work of the local Soil & Water Conservation Districts we can continue to improve New York's soil and water, by allowing us to 'keeping NY's soil and water' clean and protected, with additional funding, and supporting District Law changes as needed;" and

WHEREAS, the mention of District Law changes by NYACD occurred when the Watershed Health Coalition drafted changes to District Law that the majority of Directors, CDEA, and NYACD opposed; and

WHEREAS, Directors and CDEA brought these errors to the attention of NYACD; and

WHEREAS, NYACD did not edit the booklet that was distributed to legislators during the 2023 Legislative Day event; be it

RESOLVED, that NYACD annually email a draft of their Legislative Booklet to all NYACD Officers and Division Directors and the NYS CDEA President for review before printing, and be it further

RESOLVED, that all NYACD approved edits be incorporated into the Legislative Booklet before printing, and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution take effect immediately.

Seconded by: John M. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Victoria Buyce, John M. Stortecky, Betsy Bain, Chris D. Rhodes, and Shawn Hansen

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

- VI. Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant application approval** – Stewart reported that one application was received. She reviewed the application per the ranking sheet. With the approval of this mini grant, \$5,283.55 will be expended of the \$10,000, with a balance of \$4,716.45. Stewart mentioned that she attended a press conference and tour with North Country Public Radio’s Todd Moe for the Indian Lake Monarch and Milkweed Challenge that was approved for one of the District’s Mini Grants. The challenge is educational and very well done by all partners involved.
- **A motion was made by Bain, seconded by Stortecky to approve the following Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant application: Town of Inlet’s two stage snowplow carbide edges trying to reduce road salt usage. Buyce, Stortecky, Rhodes, and Bain in favor; Hansen abstained; motion carried.**

## **VII. North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference registrations**

- **A motion was made by Stortecky, seconded by Buyce to approve the registration fees for Stewart, Croote, and WhitKovits to attend the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference to be held October 19, in Queensbury. All voted in favor, motion carried.**

**VIII. Japanese Knotweed Injector Tool Rental Program** – Stewart reported that County Attorney Chuck Getty commented: if the District finds this program is really necessary and important, then we should have at least \$1 million in liability insurance. Our insurance provider commented: “The Soil and Water District carries General Liability coverage in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence with a \$2,000,000 aggregate (the most that would be paid out in any one policy term). Loaning equipment out, with proper safety procedures in place, would appear to fall within “normal business operations” of the District. If any claim were to arise, the details would be investigated to determine coverage.” APIPP, housed under Adirondack Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, oversees an effective Invasive Knotweed Control Program, including injector tool rental, with the same liability insurance we are proposing. WhitKovits updated the Landowner Assumption of Risk and Release of Liability document to include proof of liability insurance and required signature to the statement as follows-

**PROOF OF LIABILITY INSURANCE:** Landowner agrees to acquire appropriate liability insurance, with coverage in the amount of \$500,000 for an individual. Landowner agrees to provide District with appropriate proof of liability insurance with a Certificate of Liability Insurance prior to scheduling rental of herbicide application equipment. Under penalty of perjury, I certify that I am the owner of the Property and will use Equipment only on the Property per the guidelines set in the “A Landowners Guide to Knotweed Control”.

“By my signature, I acknowledge that I have read, understand, and agree to follow the policies and procedures of “A Landowners Guide to Knotweed Control”.

- **A motion was made by Bain, seconded by Stortecky to approve the Japanese Knotweed Injector Tool Rental Program, and proceed with promotion to landowners. All in favor, motion carried.**

**IX. Purchase EM River Model** – Stewart proposed the purchase of an EM River Model to engage students with STEM education and demonstrate river conservation and streambank erosion principles to people of all ages and educational backgrounds. The EM2 stream table is optimized for ease of setup, use and portability. WhitKovits has used Herkimer County SWCD’s EM2 stream table, and is competent with set up, take down, and demonstration techniques. The table will be purchased with FL-LOWPA funds. Following the procurement policy, Stewart researched other river models and polled Conservation Districts.

Brand	Dimensions	Features / comments	Price
Emriver2	6.2 ft X 2.6 ft	Many Districts use this model, Katie is familiar with it, portable. Reservoir, pump, power supply, flow controller. Modeling accessories: Measuring tape, quartz and plastic stones and rocks, acrylic shapes to simulate culverts, plastic vegetation, dye injection bottles for visualizing flow, scoops, and scrapers. User and laboratory manual, river geomorphology DVD.	\$6,349.00
Science First Stream Table	4 ft. X 1.6 ft	Small size would make teaching difficult, plastic. Rugged plastic construction. Features five water jets. One water jet yields one piddly stream, while many jets form tributaries that form rivers. Integrated reservoir with sediment trap prevents particulates from clogging the pump. Clear acrylic sides allow views of sediment layers. Integrated prop holds the table at several angles. Removable dam creates a lake to illustrate how sediments form deltas. Fully watertight. Folds for storage.	\$640.00

- **A motion was made by Stortecky, seconded by Buyce to purchase an EM2 Stream Table in the amount of \$6,349.00. All in favor, none opposed, motion carried.**
- X. Sell canoe** – Stewart reported that the District no longer uses the old canoe, and would like to sell it.
- **A motion was made by Bain, seconded by Stortecky to permit the District to sell the canoe for \$200.00. All in favor, motion carried.**
- XI. Approve 2023 NYACD Annual Meeting and Training registration** – Stewart reported that the training will be held at the Hampton Inn, 110 Mace Street, Penn Yan, NY. Tuesday – Thursday, October 24th – 26th, 2023. Attendance meets Performance Measures that make our District eligible for state aid funding.
- **A motion was made by Hanson, seconded by Bain to permit Stewart, WhitKovits, Buyce and Stortecky to register for the 2023 NYACD Annual Meeting and Training in the amount of \$1,577.00. Bain, Hanson, and Rhodes in favor. Buyce and Stortecky abstained, motion carried.**
- XII. Minor excavation and grading for Cold Stream Stabilization Project** – Stewart reviewed the project. Cold Stream had major erosion issues along it’s streambanks. The landowner

reached out to the District because he had to remove several trees at the direction of the FAA (Federal Aviation Association) for the safety of the Piseco Airport. Croote utilized the landowner's trees to stabilize Cold Stream streambank. Hamilton County DPW would have provided in kind services, but their priority shifted due to the July 2023 flood in Long Lake and Indian Lake. Tree removal was at the expense of the landowner. We paid Fulton County SWCD \$3,000 for an operator, for root wad and toe wood installation for bank stabilization. The yard was destroyed, and needs to be graded and hydroseeded. Croote estimates the remainder of project expense-grading, top soil, and hydroseeding, at \$5,000. This stream restoration project will cost around \$8,000 in District funds, which is a bargain. Croote involved U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who were on sight to review and sign off on the project. We need to get the soil stabilized to prevent erosion and re-establish the homeowner's lawn before the end of the season. Costs are covered under Part C.

<b>Contractor</b>	<b>Price</b>	<b>Time Frame</b>
G.H. Wood	\$110.000 per hour	3 month out at the earliest
C&R Excavation	\$125.00 per hour	End of the week, but has other work scheduled for next week.
Jaquish Excavation	\$150.00 per hour	End of the week, and has no other work scheduled.

- **A motion was made by Rhodes, seconded by Stortecky to hire Jaquish Excavation, capping costs at 3,000.00, with technician Croote on-site supervising. All in favor, motion carried.**

### **XIII. District Activities**

- Wage discussion** – Stewart reported that she contacted Associate Environmental Analyst Ryan Cunningham for more information about District wages. Cunningham discussed District wage policies as they relate to federal guidelines.
- Annual audit to be completed by a Director** – Stewart asked if Buyce would again be willing to perform the 2023 annual audit before the end of the year. Buyce agreed.
- Gilmantown Road Bank Stabilization** – Historically, water created head pressure and was transported through a series of culverts; this system blew out, and banks collapsed. Croote is installing an open channel in a small stream to eliminate water from funneling down the bank. He will use GeoWeb on the banks of the open channel to hold soil in place because hard pan underlies the project site. Geoweb will allow vegetation to establish and green the project site. This project is covered under the Upper Hudson River Roadside Remediation Phase II grant. Partners include Hamilton County DPW and the District. The District's trash pump was utilized to pump the small stream around the project site and release water into Elbow Creek to allow for project installation.

- d. Performance Measure update** – Stewart reviewed 2023 Director Performance Measures that make our District eligible to receive state aid funding. She encouraged Directors to attend a PRISM meeting and the NYACD annual meeting and will email information about how to join.
- e. July 2023 Storm update** – Croote completed Emergency Authorization for permits, and has begun work on General Permits for DEC. He is also attending agency meetings to review projects. District Conservationist Bielli reported that the Long Lake Town Board approved request for assistance from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. The next step is a damage survey report which will provide a cost estimate to remove all debris (stone and gravel) from Shaw Brook. An environmental evaluation will also need to be completed. The Town of Long Lake will be required to provide 25% of the cost with in-kind services or funds.
- f. Lake Monitoring Program** – Stewart reported that the August rotation was successfully completed, and samples were delivered to AWI for analysis. The new bimini kept staff dry during a pop-up rainstorm.
- g. Trail Stewardship Program** – Stewart reported that Croote contacted Mike Mulligan, DEC, regarding trail work recommended by Bill Farber on the trail from Farm Road in the Town of Morehouse to DeBraine Lake, and then to Trout Lake. Croote reported that DEC already performed trail maintenance at those locations. Stewart participated in a trail meeting to discuss a DEC contract with Chris Rhodes, Supervising Forester Region 5 Mike Mulligan and Region 5 Regional Forester Robert Daley. The District is waiting to hear back from DEC regarding questions that were raised during the meeting.
- h. Sediment and Erosion Control Program** – Stewart reported that Croote, Whitkovits, and Remias are hydroseeding per the Upper Hudson River Roadside Remediation Program Phase II, and other municipal and landowner jobs. The hydroseeder is running well.
- i. Agricultural Environmental Management** – Whitkovits and Stewart continue to update the Hamilton County producer contact list and promote the program.
- j. Conservation Field Day** - Whitkovits has secured all presenters and invited the teachers and special guests for this year's Conservation Field Day. The event is September 21, 2023.
- k. Water Testing Program** – Nineteen samples were received on the August 21<sup>st</sup> collection day. They were transported to the Mohawk Valley Water Authority for testing. Staff refilled test kits throughout the county.

- l. Invasive Species Program** – Stewart reported that staff continue to check the emerald ash trap for adult insects. She and WhitKovits attended the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program’s Lake Protectors workshop. They surveyed Indian Lake from the DEC campground to Timberlake for aquatic invasive species. Stewart received a report for a possible hemlock woolly adelgid infestation on the OK Slip Falls trail and will investigate. APIPP contacted Stewart to check on a giant hogweed report on Rt. 30 in Lake Pleasant; it was queen Anne’s lace.
- m. Conservation Education Program** – Stewart presented watershed quality at the Long Lake Association’s meeting on August 11 to 30 people. WhitKovits hosted an outreach booth at Family Fun Day with Gyotaku fish print making.
- n. Watershed partnership update**

  - 1. **FOLLOWPA** – Nothing new to report.
  - 2. **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition** – Stewart prepared for and oversaw the August 10 meeting.
  - 3. **St. Lawrence River Watershed Project** – WhitKovits attended the August 9 meeting.
  - 4. **Mohawk River Watershed Coalition** – Nothing new to report.
  - 5. **Black River Watershed** – WhitKovits attended a Black River Adaptive Model meeting on August 2.
- o. Other**
- XIV. Staff reports** – Stewart disseminated and emailed copies of the staff reports. They are also appended to the minutes.
- XV. District Conservationist’s report** – Bielli reported earlier in the meeting about progress with Shaw Brook and the Emergency Watershed Protection Fund. He also said he is continuing to receive applications for high tunnels in Hamilton County and as always appreciates any forest management inquiries sent his way.
- XVI. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee report** – Cunningham reported that 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. He also noted that



November 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for 2024 Part B requests, 2024 Annual Plans of Work and AEM 18 Action Plans. The remainder of his report is appended to minutes.

- XVII. Correspondence** – Two thank you notes were received. One from Barbara Taylor, Long Lake Association regarding a presentation, and one from Daisy Kelly regarding Pollinator mini-grant program.
- XVIII. Next meeting date** – Tuesday October 17, 2023, 9:30 AM, Hamilton County SWCD office, 103 County View Drive, Lake Pleasant NY 12108 and virtually on Zoom.
- XIX. Adjournment** – A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by Stortecky to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 a.m. All in favor, carried.

Respectfully Submitted



Marjorie Remias  
Secretary to the Board/Treasurer

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

- **Administration**
  - Board of Directors meeting preparation
  - Staff meetings
  - Reviewed budget with Marj
  - Preliminary 2023 budget
  - Assisted Tim Ellifritz with computer maintenance and updates
  - Prepared Senior Technician Civil Service position
- **Technical Assistance**
  - Disseminated information to Hamilton County officials regarding the Emergency Watershed Protection Program on behalf of District Conservationist Tom Bielli NRCS
  - Lake Eaton landowners – snails – referred to APIPP
  - Coordinated lake monitoring with a Dr. Paul Bukaveckas
  - Septic System Replacement Fund inquiries – 2
  - Terrestrial invasive plants – Barbara McIlroy, Piseco Terrestrial Invasive Plant Team
  - Attended Lake Adirondack Weed Committee Meeting with Katie – answered their water quality and carp inquiries

- Budget and admin questions from Cayce Salvino, District Manager, St. Lawrence County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association invited me to attend board meetings to coordinate educational programs
- Commercial Pesticide Applicator inquiry - Patrick M. Crast, Executive Director, Jefferson County SWCD
- **Watershed Coalitions**
  - FLOWPA – Nothing new to report.
  - Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition – prepared for and oversaw the August 10 meeting.
  - St. Lawrence River Watershed Project – Nothing new to report.
  - Mohawk River Watershed Coalition – Nothing new to report.
  - Black River Watershed – Nothing new to report.
- **Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant** – Reviewed and ranked application.
- **Invasive Species**
  - Assisted Katie with Japanese knotweed stem injector program
  - Attended the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program’s Lake Protectors workshop
  - Surveyed Indian Lake from the DEC campground to Timberlake for aquatic invasive species.
  - APIPP contacted me to check on a giant hogweed report on Rt. 30 in Lake Pleasant; it was queen Anne’s lace.
- **Conservation Education**
  - Watershed Quality - Long Lake Association’s meeting, August 11, 30 people
- **Conservation Field Day** – meetings with Katie to review event logistics.
- **Press**
  - Attended an interview and tour with North Country Public Radio’s Todd Moe for the Indian Lake Monarch and Milkweed Challenge
- **Lake Monitoring Program**
  - Completed the August rotation.
  - I completed the Chain of Custody
- **Water Testing Program**
  - Program promotion
- **Septic System Replacement Fund**
  - Replied to inquiries
  - Mailed and emailed acceptance letters and grant information
- **Caring Through Conservation Mini-Grant Program**
  - Reviewed and ranked application for board approval
- **Hamilton County Trail Stewardship Program**
  - Oversaw program logistics
  - Met with DEC and Chris Rhodes

- **Trainings**
  - Website
- **New York State Conservation District Employees Association**
  - Prepared for August meeting
  - August CDEA Newsletter
  - Attended Water Quality Symposium meeting and assisted with event
  - New York Association of Conservation Districts – attended monthly meeting
  - Gathered information from SWCDs about solar and wind farm project installation on farmland

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

Project Permits

7/10/23 Storm event

Emergency Authorization Permits

Meetings with Engineers

Project Permits

Meeting with DOT for Hydroseeding projects

Hydroseeding

Cold Stream Streambank stabilization

Gilmantown Road Bank Stabilization

Water Monitoring

Office Cleaning

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

- Japanese Knotweed
  - **Please see updated landowner agreement/hold harmless form for your approval**
- Lake Monitoring
  - Conducted AIS survey of Indian Lake with Caitlin
  - Completed August water monitoring rotation
  - Now collecting chlorophyll samples using Kemmerer instead of integrated tube sampler
  - Input field data and ProDSS data into master data spreadsheet
- Conservation Field Day
  - All presenters are secured
  - I've requested ticket donations for prizes from local businesses
  - Assemblyman Smullen will attend the entire event & will speak at 9am and noon!
  - Senator Walczyk will also attend, arriving around 11am and stay to speak after the final presentation!

- Agricultural Environmental Management
  - Signed up to take 3 days of training at Conservation Skills Workshop in Auburn
  - Working with Warren and Oneida SWCDs to do some farm visits in early October
- SLRP Watershed Meeting Update:
  - The Department of State in collaboration with DEC submitted a letter of intent on the watershed's behalf for \$15 million in federal funds for culvert assessment, replacement, and a new assessment app tool
  - State Committee update from Ryan – they are working on creating subcommittees with districts to help steer the increasing funding to area needs
    - Climate Resilient Funding is expected to increase and expand
- Landowner requests about hazardous waste, lake parameters, plant ID, Japanese knotweed treatment & more
- Attended APIPP's Lake Protector training on 8/8 in Long Lake with Caitlin
- Cold Stream in Piseco – Jacobs project
- Had a booth at Family Fun Day in Speculator with Jacob
- Presented on streambank erosion and flood plains at Maintain the Chain EcoArts event
- Trucked straw with Lenny
- Hydroseeded Bells Cliff in Franklin County with Lenny and Franklin Co staff
- Social Media posts by myself & Caitlin: July recap video, Mindful Moment Mondays, Lake Pleasant Highway project using our Trash Pump, Adirondack Water week & related events, EcoArts Festival in Old Forge, Cold Stream project in Piseco, Pollinators, Beaverland, Jacob's planning and execution of Cold Stream project, Family Fun Day, Lake Monitoring, National Relaxation Day, New bimini on boat for monitoring, Water Testing Program, Jacob's last day & all the projects he worked on, Dr. Bukaveckas of Virginia Commonwealth University partnership, Trash Pump on Gillmantown stabilization project, Invasive species survey on Indian Lake, North County Stormwater Tradeshow & Conference

**New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 4 Report – April 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](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). 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>