



Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

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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 May 7, 2024

Lake Pleasant Public Library: 2864 NY-8, Speculator, NY 12164 Inlet Highway

Department: 65 Limekiln Lake Rd, Inlet, NY 13360

Zoom

Board of Directors

Victoria Buyce, Chairperson
John M. Stortecky, Vice Chairperson
Betsy Bain, Town Supervisor
Shawn Hansen, Member-at-Large – via Zoom

Partners

Ryan Cunningham, Scott Fickbohm, Victor DiGiacomo, and Tyler Knapp, Associate Environmental Analysts, Soil and Water Conservation Committee

District Staff

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

Absent

Chris D. Rhodes, Town Supervisor
Lenny Croote, District Technician
Vacant, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

- I. **Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance** – Buyce called the meeting to order at 9:28a.m. Pledge of Allegiance conducted.
- II. **Roll call** – Buyce conducted roll call.
- III. **Reading and approval of the April 2, 2024, meeting minutes** – The minutes were provided in advance of the meeting.
 - **A motion was made by Buyce seconded by JM Stortecky to approve the April 2, 2024, meeting minutes. All voted in favor, motion carried.**
- IV. **Treasurer’s Report** – Remias reviewed the Treasurer’s Report and distributed the expenses for Board review and approval for payment. She mentioned that 2 certificates of deposit for \$50,000 each were purchased as was recommended by the Board at April 2, 2024 meeting.

Balance	3/31/24	\$548,378.41
Receipts		1,685.55
Disbursements		31,317.87
Balance	4/30/24	\$518,746.06

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by JM Stortecky to accept the Treasurer’s report, approve the bills to be paid. All voted in favor, motion carried.**

V. Water Testing Program prices – Stewart reported that Remias oversees the Water Testing Program and has coordinated sample drop off dates with the Mohawk Valley Water Authority on May 20, June 17, July 22, August 19, and September 16. Total Coliform/E.coli qualitative test price has increased from \$30 to \$35.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by JM Stortecky to set the 2024 Water Testing Program prices as follows: Total Coliform / E. coli – qualitative - \$35, Total Coliform / E. coli – Quantitative - \$45, Lead and Copper - \$45, Water Chemistry Panel (alkalinity, total hardness, calcium hardness, fluoride, chloride, conductivity, sulfate, and turbidity) - \$105. All in favor, motion carried.**

VI. Senior District Technician position – Stewart mentioned that Croote has been a District employee since 2002, and with 24 years of experience, she would like to elevate his Civil Service title to Senior District Technician. She wrote the job description, and Hamilton County Personnel Officer Carole Ruiz submitted the forms to the HELPs program and is coordinating a public hearing. This is a non-competitive title, and Croote will not have to take an exam.

- **A motion was made by Bain, seconded by Buyce to create a Senior District Technician civil service position for Leonard Croote. All in favor, motion carried.**

VII. Libraries Love Lakes – Stewart reported that Libraries Love Lakes is an outreach program that pairs libraries with lake scientists to provide collaborative programming emphasizing the importance of lakes in our everyday lives. Stewart coordinated a successful program in 2022 that included purchasing books for all Hamilton County libraries and presenting a lake-themed story time and activity during summer reading programs. She is seeking board support to host the program again this year using the FLOWPA funds to purchase lake-themed books for all libraries and materials for the activity.

- **A motion was made by JM Stortecky seconded by Buyce to approve the purchase of lake-themed books and materials for the activity for the 2024 Libraries Loves Lakes program in the amount of \$1,000. All in favor, motion carried.**

VIII. Adirondack Watershed Institute contract for the Lake Monitoring Program – Stewart provided the contract to the board in advance of the meeting for their review. Water samples will be collected from 19 lakes May through October and analyzed for 10 analytes. The expense will be split between FLOWPA and Part C.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by JM Stortecky to approve the Paul Smith’s College Adirondack Watershed Institute Contract for Laboratory Services in the amount of \$21,800.**

All in favor, motion carried.

IX. Cyber Liability security – Stewart reported that she researched cyber and data compromise coverage, and the annual premium for a limit of \$100,000 is approximately \$845.00. Insurance covers events including loss or theft of electronic or physical files, accidental release, or publication, as well as voluntary release due to fraud, and lost data must have been in the care, custody or control of the insured or a third party with whom the insured has a direct relationship and has directly turned over such data. Discussion ensued and the Board tabled motion as they would like more information before deciding.

X. Capacity Building presentation – Moved to end of meeting.

Technician WhitKovits had to leave early to go to Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute to pick up water monitoring supplies, so she reported on the Caring Through Conservation Mini-Grant and AEM programs. Her summaries are in District Activities in corresponding categories.

XI. SWCC Managers' Meeting – Stewart reported that AEA Ryan Cunningham will host a regional Managers' Meeting on June 7, 10:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., APA office, Ray Brook, and encouraged Directors to join. Director attendance will meet performance measures that make our District eligible to receive state aid funding.

XII. Enacted budget - FY25 Environmental Protection Fund – Stewart reported that within the 2024 Environmental Protection Fund Executive Budget, State Aid to Districts totaled \$18 million, and FLOWPA totaled \$3.5 million. The FLOWPA breakdown is \$137,200 per Alliance member. Stewart continued that Hamilton County's allocation is essential to the District because it allows us to leverage county dollars for grant writing and BMP implementation, making large scale conservation projects possible while retaining a talented team.

XIII. District activities

- a. **Senate Bill S7854**– Stewart reported that Buyce signed the letter and mailed it to Assembly Robert Smullen and Senator Mark Walczak. She shared the email message from Senator Walczak's staff person James Corl regarding said letter.
- b. **Sediment and Erosion Control Program** – Croote has conducted logging site visits in Arietta and Indian Lake, both look excellent.
- c. **Adirondack Tree and Shrub Sale** – Stewart reported that landowner feedback was positive, and customers were happy to have a local place to purchase native trees and shrubs for conservation plantings. 1084 trees and shrubs were sold, and net income totaled \$3,583.78.
- d. **Agricultural Environmental Management** – WhitKovits is working with Warren County SWCD on forestry and farm experience. WhitKovits expressed her appreciation to Warren

County for all the help they've been giving her through her shadowing them and because they are integrating forestry elements of AEM into their program. This has been helpful to WhitKovits as forestry will likely to be the primary use of AEM in Hamilton County. WhitKovits and Stewart met with SWCC AEA Scott Fickbohm about the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program and discussed ideas for Hamilton County. Fickbohm provided an overview of the CREP and how it pays farmers to plant vegetation on sensitive farmland near streams, lakes, reservoirs, or wetlands over a period of time to protect water quality.

- e. **Caring Through Conservation mini grant** – Stewart reported that she trained WhitKovits how to oversee the mini grant program, rank applications, and track the budget. WhitKovits explained that we offer mini grants up to \$2,000, and anyone or organization in the community can apply. We require applications to meet 5 points of criteria regarding educating the public, providing tangible benefits, realistic timeframes, appropriate use of funding and prior project history. She reviewed the three applications we received with the board. Board member JM Stortecky inquired about researching each organization's legitimacy. Stewart assured him of the current 3 organization's credentials and will incorporate this point going forward.
- **A motion was made by Bain, seconded by Buyce to approve the Friends of Lake Algonquin Caring Through Conservation mini grant application in the amount of \$2,000 to complete a lake survey for Eurasian watermilfoil growth patterns and management. All in favor, motion carried.**
- **A motion was made by JM Stortecky, seconded by Buyce to approve the Town of Lake Pleasant's application in the amount of \$1,975.96 for the Community Garden Greenhouse. Buyce, Stortecky, and Hansen in favor, Baine abstained, motion carried.**
- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by Bain to deny the 4th annual Maintain the Chain event application due to ineligible items and the EcoArts Festival is not in Hamilton County. All in favor, motion carried.**
- f. **Invasive Species Program** – Stewart reported that Invasive Species Awareness Week is June 2 – 8, and the District will coordinate activities. Stewart and WhitKovits attended APIPP's spring partner meeting on April 25. Emerging species of concern include winterberry, mile a minute, swallow-wort, stilt grass, carpet grass, tree of heaven, spotted lanternfly, and beech leaf disease. APIPP presented on environmental DNA (eDNA), and Stewart would like to incorporate this developing tool into the District's invasive species monitoring and detection program. Organisms shed cellular material that accumulates in the environment, and eDNA allows for detection without the organism itself being present. APIPP's research found that invasive positives could be from native species, and while eDNA has mixed results, it is viewed as an emerging tool that can help with early detection / rapid response. The field trip to the Essex Quarry Preserve was fantastic. The Adirondack Garden Club is managing invasive bittersweet, honeysuckle, and buckthorn, and is replanting open spaces with native plants. Tammara Van

Ryn, APIPP Director, submitted the final report on the Knotweed Management Partnership, appended to the minutes.

- g. Conservation Education Program** – Wells Central School did not attend the Warren County Envirothon because of student attrition and unreturned permission forms. Stewart and WhitKovits are preparing for an Erosion in Your Neighborhood Field Day for Lake Pleasant students on May 29. Their summer schedule is filling up fast with requests for presentations from Lake Associations.
- h. Arbor Day Poetry Contest** – Thirteen senior citizens participated in the 16th annual contest. Stewart ranked the poems and coordinated the gala with Long Lake Library Manager Kristel Guimara for May 8. Stewart will award certificates, and seniors will read their poems.
- i. Lake Monitoring Program** – Stewart reported that AWI sent the 2023 lake monitoring results, and Croote and WhitKovits followed up with questions. DEC approved the 2024 Quality Assurance Project Plan. WhitKovits and Croote completed the Data Usability Assessment Report, and DEC approved the document. WhitKovits ordered calibration solutions, Croote checked boat mechanics, and the team is ready to monitor the week of May 13.
- j. Septic System Replacement Fund** – Stewart received the Round 4 Septic System Replacement Program County Participation Agreement from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (ECF) and sent it to Board of Supervisors Chairman Brian Wells, who submitted a resolution for consideration at the May 2 meeting. The ECF set Round 4 funding at \$200,000.00 for the priority geographic area based on the Priority Waterbody List for Big Moose Lake (0801-0035); Fulton Chain Lakes: First - Fourth Lakes (0801-0373); Fulton Chain Lakes: Fifth - Seventh Lakes (0801-0376); Limekiln Lake (0801-0388); tribs to Limekiln Lake (0801-0391); Raquette Lake (0903-0081); minor tribs to Long Lake (0903-0179); Blue Mountain Lake (0903-0204); Lower, Upper Browns Tract Pond (0903-0210); minor lakes in Uppper West Branch Sacandaga Watershed (11-04-0013); Indian Lake (1104-0021); Piseco Lake (1104-0047); Sacandaga Lake (1104-0050); Lake Pleasant (1104-0051); Murphy Lake, Willis Lake (1104-0155); Lake Algonquin (1104-0173); minor lakes in Uppper Sacandaga River Watershed (1104-0174); Cedar River: upper, and tribs (1104-0278); and Fourmile Brook and tribs (1203-0056). Stewart mentioned issues regarding how to get word out about the program. Board member Bain recommended getting information to each Town Supervisor to be taken to their town board meetings.
- A motion was made by Bain, seconded by JM Stortecky to permit the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District to oversee Round 4 of the Septic System Replacement Fund on behalf of Hamilton County, and list Caitlin Stewart as the county contact. All voted in favor, motion carried.**
- k. Watershed partnership update**

1. **FLLOWPA** – Stewart and Remias competed and submitted the FLOWPA SFY 2021-22 close out. DEC approved the 2024 QAPP and 2023 DUAR. Stewart could not attend the board meeting due to connectivity issues.
2. **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition** – Stewart hosted the April meeting and is working with Warren County SWCD’s Nick Rowell on a website.
3. **St. Lawrence River Watershed Project** – Stewart ensured participation on Northeast Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Sub-Basin Work Group Members, and suggested an Ecosystem Based Management project to President Chastity Miller. The next meeting is May 8.
4. **Mohawk River Watershed Coalition** – Stewart canceled the April meeting. She attended the Mohawk River Basin Steering Committee meeting on April 26, and Mohawk Watershed Coordinator Katherine Czajkowski announced her retirement in a few months.
5. **Black River Watershed** – Stewart will MC the 2024 Black River Watershed Conference and present Lake Monitoring. The conference is June 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the View Arts Center, Old Forge. Director attendance will meet performance measures that make our District eligible for state aid funding.

l. Other –

1. Stewart reported that Seasonal Technician Jacob Vander Pyl begins May 28.
2. Croote and WhitKovits attended 4 Arc Pro GIS training in Warren County and mentioned that they are phenomenal. A professional instructs the course, and the team has learned a lot.

m. Directors’ comments – none.

Capacity Building Presentation – Conducted by Scott Fickbohm and Victor DiGiacomo, and Tyler Knapp-Associate Environmental Analysts from the Soil and Water Conservation Committee. They presented information about capacity building, recruiting, and retaining employees and how growth is assessed at the district level. The overall trend that they see is increased funding in the recent past for the future but staffing not increasing at the same time. They discussed the challenges of recruiting and retaining employees and strategies to help with these issues.

XV. Staff reports – Stewart disseminated and emailed copies of the staff reports.

XV. District Conservationist’s report – No report.

XVI. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee report – appended to minutes. Cunningham highlighted State Aid and said funding is estimated at \$290,000 per district, and talked about subcommittees that are working to build policy across the state. He also mentioned an upcoming meeting having regional permit administrators and DEC talk about stream and wetland permitting that would be relevant to Hamilton County.

XVI. Correspondence – none

XVII. Next meeting date – June 4, 2024, 9:30 AM, at the Hamilton County SWCD office (103

County View Drive, Lake Pleasant NY 12108) and virtually on Zoom.

XVIII. Adjournment – A motion was made by JM Stortecky, seconded by Bain to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. All in favor, carried.

Respectfully Submitted



Marjorie Remias
Secretary to the Board/Treasurer

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

- **Administration**
 - Civil Service position for Senior District Technician for Lenny and District Technician as non-competitive for Katie
 - Meeting with SWCC AEA Scott Fickbohm about Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program
 - PERMA site inspection
 - Researched cyber liability security
 - Board of Directors meeting preparation
 - Staff meetings
 - Reviewed budget with Marj
 - Assisted Tim Ellifritz with computer maintenance and updates
 - Website updates
 - Social media posts
- **Technical Assistance**
 - Septic system information for watershed protection – Duane Lake Association
 - Erosion place-based field trip – Lake Pleasant Central School
 - Turbidity curtain – Rensselaer County SWCD
 - Arbor Day Poetry Contest
 - Susan Van Patten, DEC – Septic System Replacement fund
 - Invited to MC the Black River Watershed Conference
 - Submitted drone video at NYACD's request
 - Tree and shrub inquiries – 4
 - Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant
 - Invasive species spread prevention for seaplane pilots – Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association
 - Kathy O'Connell – Caring through Conservation Mini Grant
 - Connie – Water Testing Program
 - Maintain the Chain – request for stream table demonstration
 - Lakeshore Property Owners' Evaluation – Washington County SWCD
 - Lake monitoring program data questions – Fulton Chain of Lakes Association
 - Request for water quality presentation at the Blue Mountain Lake Water Watch's annual meeting
 - Request for water quality presentation at the Indian Lake Association's annual meeting

- Water Testing Program
- **Adirondack Tree and Shrub Sale**
 - Promoted the sale on social media, ran the Lake Pleasant sale with Marj.
- **Watershed Coalitions**
 - FLOWPA – Completed and submitted the FLOWPA SFY 2021-22 close out. DEC approved the 2024 QAPP and 2023 DUAR. Stewart could not attend the board meeting due to connectivity issues.
 - Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition – Hosted the April meeting and is working with Warren County SWCD’s Nick Rowell on a website.
 - St. Lawrence River Watershed Project – Ensured participation on Northeast Lake Ontario- St. Lawrence River Sub-Basin Work Group Members, and suggested an Ecosystem Based Management project to president Chastity Miller. The next meeting is May 8.
 - Mohawk River Watershed Coalition – Canceled the April meeting. She attended the Mohawk River Basin Steering Committee meeting on April 26, and Mohawk Watershed Coordinator Katherine Czajkowski announced her retirement in a few months.
 - Black River Watershed – Will MC the 2024 Black River Watershed Conference and present Lake Monitoring. The conference is June 13, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the View Arts Center, Old Forge.
- **Lake Monitoring Program**
 - Staff meetings to prepare for the May rotation.
 - Reviewed contract with AWI.
- **Conservation Education**
 - Arbor Day Poetry Contest – ranked poems, printed certificates, scheduled gala.
 - Preparing for presentations for the spring and summer for Lake Associations and schools.
 - Trout are Made of Trees Earth Day story time and activity – Long Lake and Lake Pleasant Libraries – 9 attendees.
- **Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant**
 - Updated materials and website
 - Meeting with Katie to review how to oversee the program
- **Invasive Species**
 - APIPP spring meeting
- **New York State Conservation District Employees Association**
 - SWCC April meeting
 - NYACD April meeting
 - Special Programs Advisory Committee meeting
 - Assisted Ryan with DEC permit topic for Municipal Assistance Subcommittee meeting
 - Reviewed 4-Hour Fund applications and close out materials
 - Emailed updated By-Laws and 4-Hour Fund application packet state-wide
 - April CDEA Newsletter
 - Preparing for May meeting
 - Assisting with Conservation Skills Workshop - media training

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

General

7/10/23 Storm event

Shaw Brook Restoration Plans

Pine Brook Bridge Replacement Permits
GIS Arietta Snowmobiles trails
GIS Wells Snowmobiles trails
Permits for 2024 construction season
Elbow Creek restoration site visit
Vehicle and equipment maintenance
2024 Tree and Shrub
 Pick up and packed trees.
 Handed out trees.
Erosion site inspections

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

- Envirothon
 - BIG thank you to Warren Co SWCD who were gracious enough to let our team from Wells participate in their local event on May 1st
 - Our team backed out last minute, but I did still volunteer
 - I plan to also volunteer at the National Envirothon
- Japanese Knotweed
 - Still obtaining signed agreements and homeowners' insurance to have on file for the next treatment season
- Lake Monitoring
 - Completed and submitted the DUAR & it has been signed and approved by DEC
 - Shared our 2023 updated Master Data with interested parties
 - Picking up bottles and Deionized water for May monitoring
- Agricultural Environmental Management
 - Working with Warren County to shadow AEM farm and forestry visits
- Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant
 - We received 1 application from Friends of Lake Algonquin

Other

- Stream buffer planting on Cold Stream with Lenny
- Attended APIPP Spring Partner meeting with Caitlin
- Took the PERMA Safety Coordinator Certificate Training in Latham
- Several Arc Pro trainings with Lenny through Warren Co SWCD
- Took 2 Stormwater classes: Post Construction Stormwater, and SWPPP Preparation and Review course class
- Met with DEC for Hope and Wells stream project planning with Lenny
- Piseco Logging site visits with Lenny
- Indian Lake construction site visit with Lenny
- Packed Trees, built rain barrels, Blue Mountain handout for Tree & Shrub sale

**New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – February 2024**

Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

SFY 2024-2025 Environmental Protection Fund: The Enacted SFY 2024-2025 Budget is now available at 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 2024-2025 EPF were approved at level funding of \$400 million. Proposals of interest to SWCC/SWCDs in this budget include the following:

- \$17.5 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects (Level funding over last year)
- \$500,000 for the CCE of Suffolk County and \$250,000 for Cornell's Pesticide Management Program
- \$17.25 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (**\$1.25 million increase over last year's levels**)
- \$15.25 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program
- \$22.250 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 8: \$28.75 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 by **May 28, 2024**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **5PM, June 24, 2024**.

A series of three webinars have been planned to provide information about the Round 8 RFP. All webinars will be recorded and made available after the events. Calendar invites will be sent out statewide for all three webinars. Please feel free to forward to anyone who may benefit from attending.

- Round 8 RFP Highlights Webinar – **Tuesday, May 7th, 1:30pm – 2:30pm**
- Round 8 RFP Federal Tracks Webinar – **Wednesday, May 8th, 1:30pm – 2:30pm**
- Round 8 RFP Track 4 Informational Webinar - **Tuesday, May 14th, 11:00am – 12:00pm**

May SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on **Tuesday, May 21st starting at 10:00 AM**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

Spring Managers Meetings – Save the Date: The following dates have been set for regional manager's meetings this June! Meetings will be from 10am-2:30pm. Please participate in whichever date and location is most convenient but please RSVP to the AEA for that meeting. As always Directors are invited to attend as this

meeting can count towards Performance Measures.

- Region 1 - Western NY: **June 3rd**, Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY 14020 – Victor DiGiacomo
- Region 2 - Central NY: **June 11th**, Cortland SWCD Office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY – PJ Emerick
- Region 3 - Eastern NY: **June 6th**, Montgomery County Emergency Services 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY – Scott Fickbohm
- Region 4 - Northern NY: **June 7th**, Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY – Ryan Cunningham
- Region 5 - Southeast NY: **June 4th**, Dutchess SWCD office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY – Ben Luskin

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2024: 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 application can be found at, <https://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/our-work/leopold-conservation-award/application-info>. The deadline for applications is **May 15th, 2024**.

2024 NYS Envirothon Call for Volunteers: The NYS Envirothon Committee is pleased to host the 2024 NYS Envirothon at State University of New York in Cortland, NY, on **May 22nd and 23rd** and is putting out a call for all volunteers.

Please let the Committee know if you are willing to volunteer by completing the online volunteer registration at, <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMFLrYPXZkYXm7qMQABYrUCCb7jYjR5nzi7Mx9Mu-6MKSzqg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

2024 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date: This year the conference will be held in Boston, MA at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel on **August 10-14, 2024**. Further details will be available shortly.

Knotweed Management Partnership 2020-2023 Accomplishments

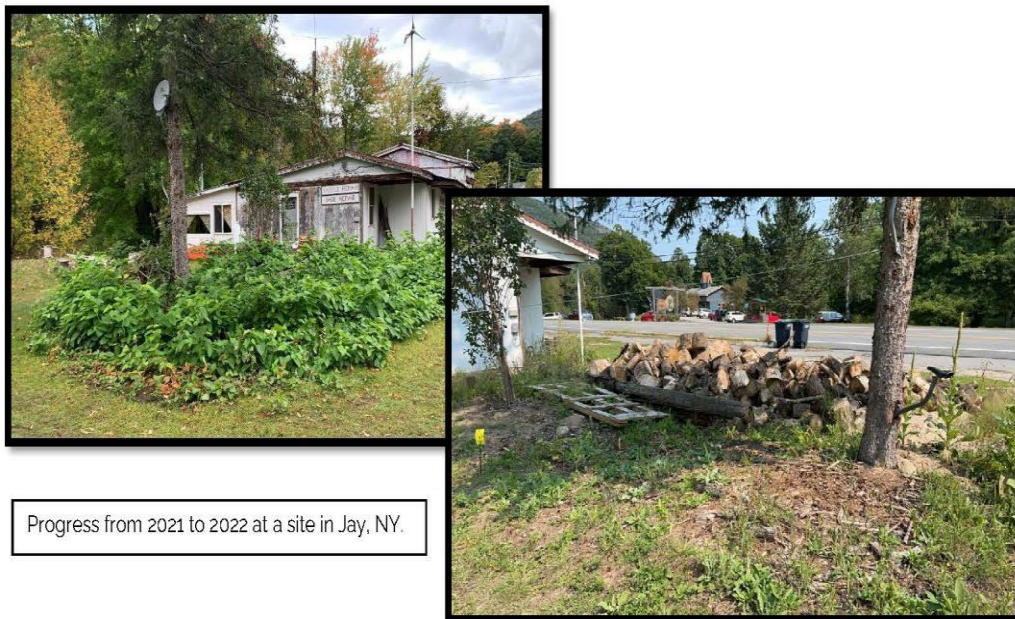
The Nature Conservancy was honored to host the Knotweed Management Partnership from 2020 until 2023. This program started in 2008 as the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program, hosted by the Town of Inlet. In 2015, coordination for the program was assumed by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District which transferred coordination to the Conservancy in 2020.

During the Conservancy's stewardship of the program, the name of the program was changed to the Knotweed Management Partnership to better represent the wide geographic range of the program. From 2020-2023 a total of 214 knotweed infestation sites were visited at least once. At the last visit, 87 (an impressive 40%) of these sites no longer had knotweed present indicating that past treatments were effective; 123 sites were treated*. The table below summarizes work completed each year from 2020-2023.

Year	Number of Sites Managed	Number of Sites with No Knotweed Observed
2020	92	12
2021	120	15
2022	137	28
2023	83	38

The Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program and the subsequent Knotweed Management Partnership made a lasting impact on the Adirondacks. Through these programs, hundreds of landowners not only received invasive species treatment but were also educated about invasive species!

*Four sites were surveyed but not treated due to unclear property ownership.



Progress from 2021 to 2022 at a site in Jay, NY.

