



Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District

103 County View Drive • PO Box 166 • Lake Pleasant NY 12108

Phone: 518-548-3991 • Fax: 518-548-5602

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 September 3, 2024

Hamilton County SWCD office: 103 County View Drive, Lake Pleasant NY 12108

Inlet Highway Department: 65 Limekiln Lake Rd, Inlet, NY 13360

Zoom

Board of Directors

Victoria Buyce, Chairperson

John M. Stortecky, Vice Chairperson

Beth Hunt, Town Supervisor - Zoom

Betsy Bain, Town Supervisor

Shawn Hansen, Member-at-Large - Zoom

District Staff

Caitlin Stewart, District Manager

Leonard Croote, Senior District Technician

Katie WhitKovits, District Technician

Marjorie Remias, Clerk and Secretary to the Board

Jacob Vander Pyl, Seasonal Intern

Partners

Ryan Cunningham, Associate Environmental

Analyst, Soil and Water Conservation

Committee

Absent

District Conservationist, Vacant, Natural

Resources and Conservation Service

I. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance – Buyce called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

II. Roll call – Buyce conducted roll call.

III. Reading and approval of the August 6, 2024, meeting minutes – The minutes were provided in advance of the meeting.

- **A motion was made by Buyce seconded by Bain to approve the August 6, 2024, meeting minutes. All 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.

Balance	7/31/24	530,677.42
Receipts		5,101.91
Disbursements		51,412.33
Balance	8/31/24	484,367.00

- **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 voted in favor, motion carried.**

V. Executive Session to discuss recommendation for the District Technician position – Stewart reported that she did not receive any applications for the District Technician vacancy. Executive session cancelled.

VI. NYCLASS municipal cooperation resolution – Cunningham mentioned that Jefferson, Oswego, St. Lawrence and Essex SWCDs joined NCLASS and shared their experiences. The funds are not federally insured; however, they are required to have all their funds collateralized (~\$12B, currently). They only invest in legal funds permitted under GML and carefully choose high quality securities (e.g. A variety of U.S. Treasury Securities, Collateralized Bank Deposits, etc.). As it was explained at their presentation last fall, nothing is guaranteed (even the faith of the U.S. Government), but the goal is to protect the principal investments and earn modest interest rates with short-term securities (generally in the 4-5% range for the past few years). Most importantly, they have cash on hand for routine, daily transactions from investors. Districts have relayed to him that they can move/use money within 24 hours. The Board discussed and had concerns that the County would need to sponsor us or at least be invested in NYCLASS as well. Stewart and Remias will investigate County investments and requirements for the District. Resolution tabled.

VII. Compost sock filler machine – Croote reported that he received quotes from 3 companies for the compost sock filler machine: MKB Stormwater Innovation - \$13,884.50; Hydroseed Supply - \$14,495.00; and Hydrograss - \$83,747.50. Supplies total \$2,736.16. Stewart showed a video of the machine and reported that the Hydroseed hopper can be used to fill sandbags and other erosion and sediment control items. Croote discussed the fillers and explained why he recommended the Hydroseed Supply Quote. The Board concurred.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by Bain to purchase the compost sock filler machine from Hydroseed Supply (skidsteer with auger and cones) in the amount of \$14,495.00, and supplies in the amount of \$2,735.16. All voted in favor, motion carried.**

VIII. NYACD Annual Meeting registration – Stewart reported that the cost of the 2024 NYACD Annual Meeting registration is Full w/two nights stay \$529.00, and full w/one-night stay \$389.00. Early bird registration is due September 13, with a deduction of \$25.00.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by Hansen to approve the NYACD Annual Meeting Registration for Caitlin Stewart, Katie Whitkovits, and John M. Stortecky at the early bird rate. Bain, Buyce, Hansen and Hunt voted in favor, J.M. Stortecky abstained, motion carried.**

IX. Logo– Stewart reported that she would like a simplified logo with fewer colors for our District that would allow for crisp reproduction. She contacted Aubry Zegstoo of the Adirondacks Speculator Region Chamber of Commerce for a quote. \$525.00 includes 3 initial mood boards of

different project directions, 3 initial roughly designed logos, and thumbnail sketches/planning, 2 rounds of feedback/edits, and 1 final color logo, 1 final b/w logo.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to approve the new Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District logo expense of \$525.00. All voted in favor, motion carried.**

- X. North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference registration** – Stewart reported that the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference will be held October 15, 2024, at the Queensbury Hotel. Registration is \$135 per person. Croote mentioned he gets credits for his CPESC certification for attending and it’s a great opportunity for networking with vendors and viewing presentations regarding their materials and how they can be of use to us in upcoming projects. WhitKovits noted that last year there were also presentations from other districts showing different methods of stormwater management that can also give us fresh ideas.,
- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to approve the North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference registration for Caitlin Stewart, Lenny Croote, and Katie WhitKovits in the amount of \$405.00. All voted in favor, motion carried.**

- XI. Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant application approval** – WhitKovits reported that she did not receive any further applications.

XII. Septic System Replacement Fund Resolution

RESOLUTION #4-2024

RESOLUTION REQUESTING HAMILTON COUNTY SUPPORT THE SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT FUND ROUND 4 WITH THE APPLICATION MAILING EXPENSE

DATED: SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

BY: Ms. Buyce

WHEREAS, The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation is administering the New York State Septic System Replacement Program, and

WHEREAS, Round 4 funding is available to Hamilton County in the amount of \$200,000, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is overseeing Round 4 on behalf of Hamilton County, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation designated nineteen waterbodies as priority geographic areas eligible for funding, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District determined that 2,016 landowners are

eligible for Round 4, and

WHEREAS, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District will mail an application packet to 2,016 landowners and rank the applications, be it

RESOLVED, that the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Directors does recommend to the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors that Hamilton County support the Septic System Replacement Fund Round 4 with the application mailing expense approximating \$1,471.68.

SECONDED BY: J.M. Stortecky and adopted by the following vote:

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

NAYES: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: None

XIII. District activities

- a. **Welcome Supervisor and new Director Beth Hunt!** - Hunt introduced herself and gave a brief overview of her background. She is currently the Wells Town Supervisor and has worked with Stewart and Croote in the past and is happy to be supporting our Board.
- b. **WQIP grant application** - Stewart reported that Croote and Vander Pyl assisted her with completing a DEC Water Quality Improvement Project grant application for the Hamilton County Roadside Stabilization and Erosion Prevention Program. The application was in the amount of \$ 148,970.00 to stabilize approximately 20 acres of erosive roadsides and ditches. This Program will improve water quality by decreasing erosion and sedimentation that adversely impact surface waters with the installation of roadside and ditch stabilizing Best Management Practices (BMPs) after highway departments complete road construction and following storm events.
- c. **Sediment and Erosion Control Program** – Croote continues work on the Shaw Brook streambank stabilization project in Long Lake, and the Rob’s Creek bridge replacement project on Old Route 30 in Wells. Croote is utilizing turbidity curtains, coffer dams, and culverts to allow the water to bypass the site so that work can be completed without creating turbidity in the stream. Croote sized out the span for the new bridge, assisted the County Engineer, and submitted DEC permits. Croote reported that the logging operation in the Town of Arietta is now complete, and he ensured the landing had a series of water bars installed to control sheet erosion until the vegetation becomes established.

- d. Adirondack Waterfest** – WhitKovits reported that Waterfest was a wonderful day. She thanked Betsy and the staff for all their help putting together a terrific event. There were over 425 attendees who had a great time. There were several education outreach booths, and oak mountain brought their snow making machines. There was misting water everywhere and sprinklers for little ones to run through and around. We had partners from other soil and water districts, APPIP and several other organizations as well as Ronnie Raindrop who met lots of children and went paddleboarding. We also had representatives from Senator Walczyk’s office attend.
- e. Agricultural Environmental Management** – WhitKovits reported that she is working with Franklin and Warren Counties to accompany them on site visits.
- f. Invasive Species Program** –Croote reported that the team treated a significant number of purple loosestrife stands with manual and chemical management along road rights-of-way. He will begin treating knotweed next week. Stewart, WhitKovits, and Vander Pyl monitored Limekiln Lake for aquatic invasive species and found none. They surveyed plants, scooped up with a rake toss and plankton net, for spiny and fishhook water flea. WhitKovits, Remias, and Vander Pyl conducted a plankton net tow on Sacandaga Lake to collect spiny waterflea. They gave samples to lake stewards Nick Mauro and Darcy Fouch. WhitKovits reported this is the first treatment season for Japanese knotweed that we have kits to lend out to the public for treatment. Interest has been high, but we haven’t had anyone in for kits yet. WhitKovits thinks that the insurance that landowners must obtain beforehand is keeping them from participating.
- g. Conservation Field Day** – WhitKovits reported that the event will be held Thursday September 19, 9:15 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and has been working with staff on event logistics. She also noted that this year we are allowing the 6th grade students to have outside sources of information cited for their essays.
- h. Conservation Education Program** – Stewart reported that she and WhitKovits have been on a summer tour of county board meetings, and have attended the Towns of Arietta, Hope, Long Lake, Indian Lake, Morehouse, Lake Pleasant, and Village of Speculator board meetings to share the District’s 2023 accomplishments and 2024 programs and events. Stewart gave water quality, invasive species, and sediment and erosion control themed presentations at the Blue Mountain Lake Water Watch Indian Lake Association, and Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association annual meetings. Vander Pyl, WhitKovits, and Stewart volunteered at the NCF-Envirothon for 2 days and took photos, guided teams to testing stations, and assisted with advisor field trips, and anything else that the committee needed. WhitKovits and Stewart tabled at the Northville Placid Trail’s 100th anniversary Trial Mix and Tunes event at the Irondequoit. Stewart volunteered at the SWCD booth at the New York State Fair and spoke with 309 people. Croote presented a Septic System Inspection Program to the Village of Speculator as they are working to adopt a septic system inspection law.

- i. **Lake Monitoring Program** – Stewart, WhitKovits, and Vander Pyl completed the August rotation and delivered the samples to Paul Smith’s Adirondack Watershed Institute.
- j. **Water Testing Program** – Remias oversaw the August drop off and reported that 27 samples were delivered.
- k. **Septic System Replacement Fund** – Stewart reported that she and WhitKovits are responding to dozens of inquiries from landowners and lake associations. A reporter from the *Adirondack Explorer* contacted Stewart for more information about the program. If homeowners are eligible, they will receive an application in the mail when the program is launched.
- l. **Watershed partnership update-**
 - 1. **FLLOWPA** – Stewart reported that she and Remias are overseeing the implementation of the annual work plan for FY2022-2023, tracking the budget, and discussing close out.
 - 2. **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition** – As President, Stewart rescheduled the September meeting. Staff are implementing the Water Quality Improvement Project grant for the Upper Hudson River Roadside Erosion Remediation Phase II and the Non-Ag Nonpoint Source Planning grant for the Elbow Creek Assessment. Remias oversees the financial report for Phase II Roadside Erosion Remediation Program grant.
 - 3. **St. Lawrence River Watershed Project** – As President, Stewart is preparing for the September 10 meeting.
 - 4. **Mohawk River Watershed Coalition** – As President, Stewart prepared for and held the August 19 meeting. She wrote a letter of education for the Water Resources Development Act that was approved by the coalition members and sent it to NYACD and SWCC for their approval. NYACD asked questions and did not approve it at their August meeting. The WRDA is legislation that authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program for projects to improve the nation’s ports and harbors, inland waterway navigation, flood and storm protection, and other aspects of our water resources infrastructure. It passed in the House of Representatives on July 22, 2024, and if approved by the Senate, could provide New York State SWCDs with funding to implement stormwater, wastewater, and flood mitigation projects in the watershed. \$100 million is proposed for 2024. Congresswoman Elise Stefanik and Congressman Brandon Williams support the legislation and want to ensure that the Coalition receives funding for project implementation.

5. Black River Watershed – Nichelle Swisher, Lewis County SWCD, is preparing materials to form the coalition.

m. Other – Board Chairman Buyce thanked intern VanderPyl for a great summer of work.

n. Directors' comments – Board member J.M. Stortecky noted that there will be an article in Adirondack Life magazine featuring Century Gap Farm that has received two high tunnels through the NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program in partnership with the District.

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

XV. Partner reports

1. District Conservationist's report – No report, position vacant. WhitKovits met with the new representative.

2. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee report – appended to minutes.

XVI. Correspondence- Stewart passed around the correspondence folder that had several thank you notes in it. The Black River Watershed thanked Caitlin for her Presentation at their annual meeting and Warren County SWCD thanked Katie for her participation in their Arbor Day Program in May. The Maintain the Chain, Eco Arts Festival also thanked WhitKovits for bringing our stream table and her talent for educating children and other event attendees on streams and stream erosion.

XVII. Next meeting date – Reschedule! October 8th, 9:30 AM, at the Hamilton County SWCD (103 County View Drive, Lake Pleasant NY 12108) and virtually on Zoom.

XVIII. Adjournment – A motion was made by Buce seconded by J.M. Stortecky to adjourn the meeting at 11:04a.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 – Contacted Officer Carole Ruiz for an update on the District Technician exam exemption request and Senior Tech exam
- Submitted 2025 Hamilton County budget allocation request to Budget Officer Barry Baker
- Updated job description, advertised District Technician vacancy
- Answered inquiries from seasonal technician about full time position
- Staff meetings
- Tracked performance measures that ensure our District receives state aid funding
- Reviewed budget with Marj
- Assisted Tim Ellifritz with computer maintenance and updates
- Website updates
- Social media posts

● **Technical Assistance**

- Septic System Replacement Fund inquiries – 34
- Call from Adirondack Explore reporter – Septic systems, sediment and erosion control programs, flood resiliency
- Call from another Adirondack Explorer reporter – flood risk in Hamilton County
- Indian Lake Association meeting – water quality, invasive species, and septic systems – 15
- Town of Indian Lake board meeting questions – Lake monitoring program, invasive species – 5
- Town of Morehouse board meeting questions – invasive species – 3
- Town of Lake Pleasant board meeting questions – invasive species and water quality – 5
- Town of Benson board meeting questions – invasive species - 2
- Oriental bittersweet site locations
- Social media promotion for the APIPP summit
- Sediment Runoff from Old Piseco Road Logging-Summer 2024
- Purple loosestrife control in Speculator
- Purple loosestrife manual management project for Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association
- Oriental bittersweet management in Blue Mountain Lake
- Failed water testing program results
- Village of Speculator board meeting – 3 inquiries related to septic systems and invasive species
- Dr. Thomas Wassmer, biology professor at Siena Heights University, MI, requested the use of our aquatic invasive plant survey photos for his book.
- Village of Speculator septic system meeting – 2 inquiries related to water quality
- LPSA meeting – 8 inquiries related to water quality, invasive species, and sediment / erosion control

● **Watershed Coalitions**

1. **FLLOWPA** – Overseeing the implementation of the annual work plan for FY2023-2024.
2. **Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition** – As President, I rescheduled September meeting. Staff are implementing the Water Quality Improvement Project grant for the Upper Hudson River Roadside Erosion Remediation Phase II and the Non-Ag Nonpoint Source Planning grant for

the Elbow Creek Assessment. Remias oversees the financial report for Phase II Roadside Erosion Remediation Program grant.

3. **St. Lawrence River Watershed Project** – As President, I am preparing for the September 10 meeting.
4. **Mohawk River Watershed Coalition** – As President, I prepared for and held the August 19 meeting. Wrote a letter of support for the Water Resources Development Act that was approved by the coalition members, and sent it to NYACD and SWCC for their approval. NYACD asked questions and did not approve it at the August meeting. The WRDA is legislation that authorizes the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Program for projects to improve the nation’s ports and harbors, inland waterway navigation, flood and storm protection, and other aspects of our water resources infrastructure. It passed in the House of Representatives on July 22, 2024, and if approved by the Senate, could provide New York State SWCDs with funding to implement stormwater, wastewater, and flood mitigation projects in the watershed. \$100 million is proposed for 2024. Congresswoman Elise Stefanik and Congressman Brandon Williams support the legislation and want to ensure that the Coalition receives funding for project implementation.
5. **Black River Watershed** – Nothing new to report.

- **Lake Monitoring Program** – assisted WhitKovits with the August rotation.

- **Conservation Education**

- Presentations
 - SWCD Programs and Services – Blue Mountain Lake Association Water Watch – 35 attendees
 - Attended the Towns of Arietta, Hope, Long Lake, Indian Lake, Morehouse, Lake Pleasant, and Village of Speculator board meetings to share the District’s 2023 accomplishments and 2024 programs and events.
 - Indian Lake Association annual meeting – lake water quality – 89 attendees
 - Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association annual meeting – 3 years of erosion presentations and place based field trips – 67 attendees
 - Village of Speculator meeting on Septic Systems – 8 attendees
- NCF-Envirothon volunteer – oral presentation evening judge and photographer
- Tabled at the Northville Placid Trail’s 100th anniversary Trial Mix and Tunes event at the Irondequoit and spoke with 76 guests about water quality, invasive species, and sediment and erosion control
- Volunteered at the SWCD booth at the Great New York State Fair and spoke with 309 people

- **Septic System Replacement Fund**

- Brainstormed ways to disseminate Round 4 information to landowners
- Responded to dozens of phone calls and emails from landowners and lake associations
- Call with an *Adirondack Explorer* reporter

- **New York State Conservation District Employees Association**

- Tracked NYS Envirothon Committee forms for CDEA board approval
- Developed agenda and preparing for the September 11 - 12 30 – 31, Great Camp Sagamore, 1105 Sagamore Road, Raquette Lake, NY 13436.
- Sent course suggestions to the Administrative Conference Committee

- I emailed Mr. Cavazos, Municipal Assistance Unit regarding civil service challenges twice. Focus areas included updating the pool of testing question or transitioning to training and experience tests, and addressing the long length of time it takes for exams to be held after they are ordered.
- The August CDEA Newsletter is hot off the press, and back issues are available at <https://www.nyscdea.com/>
- Met with DEC to discuss giant hogweed treatment and funding for SWCDs
- August Soil and Water Conservation Committee meetings
- August State Program Advisory Committee meetings
- Volunteered at the NCF-Envirothon
- Worked a booth shift at the Great New York State Fair
- Coordinating and instructing media and drone classes for the Cons Skills Workshop
- Coordinating and instructing a Director Orientation for the NYACD Annual Meeting
- Charing the Education Track for the 2025 Water Quality Symposium, developed draft class schedule with committee

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

General

7/10/23 Storm event

Shaw Brook Restoration Plans and permits

Show Brook Bridge Grade Control Plans

Permits for 2024 construction season

Dugway Creek Survey and plans and permits

Elbow Creek restoration site plans and permits

Elbow Creek Corridor assessment

Robbs Creek Bridge Repair

Emergency tower stream crossing summary

Hydroseeding

Vehicle and equipment maintenance

Erosion site inspections

Septic Inspection

Trail Maintenance

Researched Silt Sock Filling machine

Septic inspection presentation for Village of Speculator

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

- Agricultural Environmental Management
 - Working with Warren and Franklin Counties to shadow AEM farm and forestry visits
 - Planning site visits in Hamilton for AEM Forestry with Franklin County

- Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant
 - Sent out a reminder to all municipalities
- Conservation Field Day
 - **John – time keeper?**
 - **Vicky – Photography?**
 - Thursday September 19th
- Lake Monitoring
 - Conducted AIS surveys on Limekiln and Sacandaga
 - Uploaded YSI data
 - Ordered more calibration solutions and Chlorophyll filtration units

Other

- Attended NPT 100th anniversary event with Caitlin – outreach to ~75 individuals
- Assisting the Conservation Skills Workshop planning team with various tasks
- Assisting Warren Co with Knotweed
- Many septic system replacement fund calls
- Many Japanese knotweed calls
- Attended APIPP Lake Protectors training in Newcomb
- Attended Village and Town meetings with Caitlin (Speculator, Indian Lake, Morehouse, & Benson)
- Attended Village septic law meeting with staff
- Purple Loosestrife management on routes 8 & 30
- Landowner pond inspection in Indian Lake
- Participated in NRCS Local Working Group Meeting in Ballston Spa – this provided input and guidance to NRCS on local needs to guide their programs and funding

**Seasonal Technician’s report
Submitted by Jacob Vander Pyl**

- Treat Purple Loosestrife along
 - Route 8
 - Route 30
- Assist Lenny in Elbow Creek Stream Assessment
- Attend Trainings for:
 - Beach Leaf Disease
 - Invasive Aquatic Species
 - National Grid Power Line Safety
- Deliver straw to county residents

- Hydroseed along
 - Fish Mountain Road
 - Overlook Road
- Lake monitoring
- Indian Lake erosion site visit
- Aquatic invasive species survey of Sacandaga Lake and Limekiln Lake
- Assist Lenny with the Robbs Creek Project
- Attend meeting about septic system inspection within the Village of Speculator
- Cedar River Road pond evaluation and report
- Work on eco trail

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

Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News:

NYS SWCC Seeking Candidates for the At Large Urban, Suburban, Rural non-farm interest Voting Member Position: The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, made up of five voting members and nine advisory members, works to advance comprehensive natural resources management in partnership with and through the support of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Soil and Water Conservation Committee, established within the Department of Agriculture and Markets, creates policy, fosters partnerships, and supports diverse Conservation District programming that help landowners and communities within the agricultural and non-agricultural sectors to address environmental challenges and protect New York’s natural resources. The NYS SWCC is seeking interested candidates to serve as the at large representative for urban, suburban, rural non-farm landowner interests. This is an excellent opportunity to support the work of Soil and Water Conservation Districts on a statewide level. If you are interested in learning more about the NYS SWCC and voting member responsibilities please contact Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director: Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov by **September 30, 2024**.

(CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program: \$14 million has been made available for on-farm projects through Round 1 of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP). 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 **5PM, October 28th, 2024**.

2025 Annual Plan of Work (APOW): It’s time to start updating your APOW for 2025. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is **November 1, 2024**. 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.

Upcoming NYS SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **September 17th, at 10:00 AM**. This will be a hybrid meeting with in-person meeting locations in Albany and in Syracuse, as well as a virtual option. Meeting Link:

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m08fa4a0a6e4e8400c3322a72088101b4>. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

2025 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance: Part B proposals are Due **November 1, 2024**. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2025. Part B requests and claim for payments should be submitted via email to ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov.

2024 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.

2025 Part C Performance Measures – There will be no Performance Measures changes for 2025. SWCC will analyze the District's performance on the 2024 reports and consider changes for 2026 after holding a meeting for District input.

Other Events

2024 Great Lakes Coastal Symposium: The Great Lakes Coastal Symposium, hosted by the Great Lakes Coastal Assembly, will take place **October 7-9, 2024**, at the Hyatt Regency in Downtown Rochester, NY. This year's theme is Great Lakes, Greater Resilience: Conserving Coasts and Sustaining Communities. For more information, <https://web.cvent.com/event/b74152e4-4f1e-4ae7-a9a8-e2a74d050a6b/regProcessStep1:ee81b298-249e-4af8-b213-cb3c40e33435>

2024 SWCD Administrative Forum: The Administrative Conference Committee is diligently working on a great line-up of classes for the 2024 event in Saratoga Springs, NY. Please save the dates of **November 18th – 19th, 2024**. More details to follow.

Funding Opportunities

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative - Forest Restoration & Weed Management: The U.S. Forest Service is anticipating \$5.2 million in new funds to be available for reforestation, ecosystem restoration and forest health improvement and an additional \$1 million to support Weed Management. This funding will be competitively awarded based on applications received by the deadline **September 18, 2024**. All applications must be prepared and submitted through www.Grants.gov. **For Forest Restoration,** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898819>. **For Weed Management,** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898821>

NOAA Funding Available for Great Lakes Habitat Restoration: NOAA announced the availability of up to \$12 million in GLRI funds to support work restoring habitat for Great Lakes native fisheries. NOAA is seeking proposals for projects that restore Great Lakes habitats and lead to significant and sustainable benefits for Great Lakes native fish species. Applications will be accepted and considered on an annual basis. To be considered for funding in the 2025 federal fiscal year, applications are due by **October 28, 2024**. For more information, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/noaa-great-lakes-fish-habitat-restoration-partnership-grants>.

