



HAMILTON COUNTY

Soil & Water Conservation District

103 County View Drive
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Lake Pleasant NY 12108

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Find us on Facebook, Instagram, and Vimeo

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

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 5, 2026

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

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

Town of Wells Municipal Office Building: 1438 State Rte. 30, Wells NY 12190
Zoom

Board of Directors

Victoria Buyce, Chairperson
Beth Hunt, Town Supervisor – Zoom
John M. Stortecky, Vice Chairperson – Zoom

District Staff

Caitlin Stewart, District Manager
Katherine WhitKovits, Technician
Marjorie Remias, Secretary to the Board

Absent

Betsy Bain, Town Supervisor
Shawn Hansen, Member-at-Large
Lenny Croote, Senior Technician
Ryan Cunningham, Associate Environmental Analyst,
Soil and Water Conservation Committee
Katherine Girard, District Conservationist, Natural
Resources and Conservation Service
Blanche Hurlbutt, Executive Director, New York
Association of Conservation Districts

1. Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance – Buyce called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

2. Roll call – Buyce conducted roll call.

3. Review and approval of the April 7, 2026, meeting minutes – The minutes were provided in advance of the meeting.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by Hunt to approve the April 7, 2026, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

4. Treasurer's Report – Remias provided the Treasurer's Report and April expenses for Board review and approval for payment.

Balance	3/31/26	\$498,109.46
Receipts		4,040.07
Disbursements		77,247.54
Balance	4/30/26	\$424,901.99

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

5. Executive Session to hire a Seasonal Technician

- **A motion was made by J.M. Stortecky, seconded by Buyce to enter executive session at 9:35 a.m. with Board members and District Manager Caitlin Stewart to review the Seasonal Technician applicant.**
- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to exit executive session at 9:45 a.m.**

The Board of Directors reported their findings that are summarized in the following motion.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by Hunt to offer the Seasonal Technician position to Shannon DuPuis McPheeters at an hourly wage of \$20.00 with paid trainings and cell phone reimbursement. All in favor, motion carried.**

6. Approve ELAP accredited laboratory for the Lake Monitoring Program – Stewart reported that she developed and sent a request for quotes to 8 ELAP accredited laboratories for Lake Monitoring Program water sample analysis. She reviewed the comparison chart of quotes and noted MDLs and PQL limits that do not meet the District's requirements, and analytes not offered by some labs. Funds have been designated in the FLOWPA contract for the Lake Monitoring Program.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky, to approve contracting with ALS Environmental for water sample analysis for the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's Lake Monitoring Program in the amount of \$60,078.00, and to permit District Manager Caitlin Stewart to sign the laboratory services contract. All in favor, motion carried.**

7. RFQ for a Certified Pesticide Applicator for terrestrial invasive plant control - Stewart reported that the Hamilton County SWCD team lacks the in-house staffing capacity to perform herbicide application to priority terrestrial invasive plant sites throughout the county. Without a purchase order for a contracted certified pesticide applicator, treatment will not take place and the infestations will not be contained. She proposed to contract with a certified Category 3A herbicide applicator to treat priority terrestrial invasive plant sites on private and public land throughout Hamilton County in close proximity to waterbodies. Stewart developed a Request for Proposals and sought Board approval to send it to area certified pesticide applicators. FLOWPA and Part C funds can support the District's Invasive Species Program.

- **A motion was made by Hunt, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to permit District Manager Caitlin Stewart to send a Request for Proposals: Certified Pesticide Applicator for**

terrestrial invasive plant treatment, and for the board to review and consider approving a proposal at the June 2026 board meeting. All in favor, motion carried.

8. Water Testing Program Nitrate / Nitrite Kit – Remias researched additional analytes offered by the MVWA to enhance the program, and sought Board approval to add Nitrate / Nitrite testing.

- A motion was made by J.M. Stortecky, seconded by Hunt to add Kit 5 Nitrate/Nitrite in the amount of \$35.00 to the Water Testing Program. All in favor, motion carried.

9. Increase straw sale cost – Stewart reported that the expense of straw has increased.

- A motion was made by J.M. Stortecky, seconded by Hunt to increase the price of 1 bale of straw from \$8.00 to \$8.50. All in favor, motion carried.

10. Approve Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant applications – WhitKovits reported that two mini grant applications were received since the last board meeting. The Town of Indian Lake's application 2026 Monarch & Pollinator Festival and More! and ADK Action's application Rooted in Place: Community Pollinator Planting at the Indian Lake Capped Landfill. WhitKovits reviewed both applications with the Board.

- A motion was made by Buyce seconded by J.M. Stortecky to approve the mini-grant request 2026 Monarch & Pollinator Festival and More! in the amount of \$1,918.40, and the mini-grant request Rooted in Place: Community Pollinator Planting at the Indian Lake Capped Landfill in the amount of \$2,000 for ADK Action. All in favor, motion carried.

11. District Activities

a. Ecosystem Based Management Stream Corridor Management Pilot Program grant – Stewart reported that the entire team assisted with writing, creating maps, and proofreading an EBM application for the Forked Lake Road Culvert Replacement Project. Our District was awarded the full amount requested of \$100,000 for this project that will improve the water quality of Pine Brook, reduce erosion, improve wildlife habitat, and support the long-term health of the natural riparian ecosystem by replacing an undersized squash culvert with a foot bridge, installing bank full benches, hydroseeding, and planting seedlings. Not only was our District 1 of 27 across the state to receive funding, but we were also top ranked. Stewart congratulated the entire team, and looks forward to partnering with the Hamilton County Department of Public Works to install the new culvert. Stewart disseminated the press release and list of awarded projects.

b. Adirondack Tree and Shrub Sale review – Stewart thanked Remias for providing the following summary stats: landowners placed 72 pre-orders, total income was \$8,118.11, and 2,007 native trees, shrubs, and berries will be planted.

c. Compost Filter Sock Program – WhitKovits reported that she and Croote filled over 200 feet of compost filter socks with wood chips stored at the Town of Lake Pleasant Highway Department. The machine worked well. Socks are available free of charge for municipalities, and at \$1.00 per foot for contractors and the public.

d. Sediment and Erosion Control Program – Nothing to report.

e. Fish Stocking Program – Croote reported that the District received 2 orders totaling 110 fish that will be distributed in May.

f. Agricultural Environmental Management – WhitKovits reported that she conducted an outreach site visit in Long Lake with NRCS Soil Conservationist Kate Girard.

g. Lake Monitoring Program – Stewart reported that DEC approved the Quality Assurance Project Plan, and she proceeded with obtaining signatures. WhitKovits and Stewart met with laboratory staff at ALS Environmental in Rochester to discuss sampling protocol and to tour the facility. WhitKovits reported that DEC approved the Data Useability Assessment Report and finalized all 2025 data which is now available to the public upon request.

h. Invasive Species Program – Stewart updated the RFQ for a Certified Pesticide Applicator for terrestrial invasive plant. Stewart and WhitKovits met with APIPP to discuss shared programs and future partnerships. Specifically revisited the possibility of the District treating for invasives on state forest lands under the regulatory umbrella of APIPP.

i. Conservation Education Program – AEA Ryan Cunningham invited Stewart to present on the Mohawk, Upper Hudson, and St. Lawrence River Watershed Coalitions at the April 21 New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting. She focused on membership, Watershed Management Plans, and funding for project implementation. WhitKovits reported that the annual Lake Pleasant CSD Erosion Field Trip at the county's newly installed bioswale was a success. 23 fourth, fifth, and sixth graders installed approximately 300 live willow stakes and 300 bare root plants to protect Lake Pleasant from sedimentation and pollution.

j. Hamilton County Envirothon – The 31st Envirothon event will be held Thursday May 7, 2026. 4 teams from Long Lake Central School District will attend.

k. Arbor Day Poetry Contest – Stewart is overseeing the 18th Annual Bob Tice Memorial Arbor Day Poetry Contest. 20 poets submitted Golden Shovel poems, and Stewart's mom Kathy is judging the entries.

l. Septic System Replacement Fund – Stewart reported that the team continues to answer landowner inquiries, and grantees have not submitted any requests for

disbursement. The state has not yet released information regarding Round 5.

m. Hazard Mitigation – Stewart completed and submitted the quarterly report, including completing the Scope of Work Tracker and Quarterly Progress Report forms. She also developed a Plan Update Request for Proposals that will be sent to consultants, and thanked Hamilton County Clerk of the Board Laura Abrams and Sheriff Confidential Secretary Carrie O'Neill for their assistance.

n. Water Testing Program - Stewart mentioned that the District hosts the Water Testing Program once a month May through September as a service to residents and business to test their drinking and swimming water. The District delivers samples to the Mohawk Valley Water Authority, who tests samples then sends certified results directly to the customer. The 2026 drop off dates are 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the District office on May 18, June 22, July 20, August 17, and September 14. She disseminated the flyer to the Directors.

o. Watershed partnership update

- FLOWPA – Stewart attended the full board meeting on April 29.
- Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition – Croote attended the April meeting.
- St. Lawrence River Watershed Project – As president, Stewart oversaw the April 9 meeting. She will develop a project needs assessment for the members to better focus on funding opportunities.
- Mohawk River Watershed Coalition – Nothing to report.
- Black River Watershed – The 16th annual Black River Watershed Conference will be held Wednesday June 3. WhitKovits reported that she presented on a watershed panel at the 30th annual Adirondack Research Consortium. The Coalition has been awarded funds through the DEC EBM grant to pilot a new educational stream program in New York for contractors and municipalities.

o. Grants

- **Hamilton County Sediment and Erosion Prevention Program DEC WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Project) Grant** – Nothing new to report.
- **Hamilton County Road Salt Reduction Program DEC WQIP Grant** – Nothing new to report.
- **Hamilton County Courthouse Complex Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study** - Stewart and Croote read and commended on the draft final report.

10. Other – Croote and WhitKovits delivered 185 bales of straw to the Indian Lake Garden Club.

Stewart reported that she has completed the annual report for 2025. She incorporated a suggestion from Director Bain to add Funding and how it impacts the residents of Hamilton County. She also did a Town-by-Town breakdown of projects and services offered.

11. Directors' comments - None

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

13. Partner reports

a. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee Associate Environmental Analyst's report – Appended to the minutes.

b. Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationist's report – No report.

c. New York Association of Conservation Districts Executive Director report – Appended to minutes.

14. Correspondence – None reviewed.

15. Next meeting – June 2, 2026, 9:30 a.m., Hamilton County SWCD office (103 County View Drive, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108), Inlet Highway Department (65 Limekiln Lake Rd, Inlet, NY 13360), Town of Wells Municipal Office Building (1438 State Rte. 30, Wells NY 12190) and Zoom.

16. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by J.M. Stortecky, seconded by Hunt to adjourn the meeting at 10:36 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted



Marjorie Remias
Secretary to the Board/Treasurer

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

- **Administration**
 - Advertised for the Seasonal Technician position and held an interview

- Completed the Hamilton County SWCD 2025 Annual Report and began work on the infographic
- Held staff meetings to discuss projects, programs, and events
- Tracked performance measures that ensure our District receives state aid funding
- Board meeting preparation
- Reviewed and signed staff time sheets
- Assisted Tim Ellifritz with computer maintenance and updates
- Website updates
- Social media posts

- **Adirondack Tree and Shrub Sale**
 - Updated website shop Promoted the event on Facebook
 - Ran the Lake Pleasant sale with Marj

- **Invasive Species**
 - Met with APIPP's Terrestrial Invasive Species Manager Ari Giller-Leinwohl to discuss 2026 monitoring and management season, and program logistics

- **Grants**
 - DEC Water Quality Improvement Program #C03042GM Hamilton County Roadside Stabilization and Erosion Prevention Program – resubmitted quarterly reports with updated information, reviewed contract, deadlines, and reimbursement request procedure
 - Nonpoint Source Planning Grant #128458 Hamilton County Courthouse Complex Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study - read and commented on the Hamilton County Courthouse Complex Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study

- **Hazard Mitigation**
 - Finalized RFP for firm to update the plan
 - Quarterly report, including completing the Scope of Work Tracker and Quarterly Progress Report forms

- **Septic System Replacement Fund**
 - Replied to inquiries

- **Lake Monitoring Program**
 - Prepared a request for quotes and contacted 8 ELAP labs, created comparison chart for Director review
 - Arranged and attended a meeting with ALS Environmental Rochester laboratory staff and toured the facility
 - Assisted Katie with ordering supplies and equipment

- **Watershed Coalitions**
 - FLOWPA – Attended full board meeting, assisting with the 30th anniversary celebration, completed QAPP
 - St. Lawrence River Watershed Project – prepared for and held the April 9 meeting
- **Education**
 - Presented on the Mohawk, St. Lawrence, and Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalitions at the April 21 New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting in Syracuse – 53 attendees
 - Assisted with planning for Erosion Field Trip with Lake Pleasant CDS, photographed with camera and drone
- **Arbor Day Poetry Contest**
 - Organized poems and submitted them to my mom for judging
- **Hamilton County Envirothon**
 - Wrote the Aquatics exam
- **Water Testing Program**
 - Updated the 2026 poster
- **New York State Conservation District Employees Association**
 - Prepared materials for and transitioned new President Jessica Armstrong

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

2026 Tree Program
 2026 Fish Program
 2026 Construction Permit
 Hamilton County Stormwater Bio-swale
 Uncas Road Permit
 Zacher Drainage Wetland permits
 Peters' 4th Lake Cottages Drainage
 Attended Upper Hudson Coalition Meeting
 Trout Unlimited meeting for Moose River Plains Projects
 Compost Filter Socks
 Attended the 2026 WQS
 Attended Vermont River and Roads Training series
 Vehicle maintenance
 Took Boat out of storage

Equipment maintenance

District Technician's report Submitted by Katie Whitkovits

- Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)
 - I conducted a site visit in Long Lake on 5/1 with NRCS, Soil Conservationist Kate Girard
- Black River Watershed Coalition
 - The 16th Annual Black River Watershed Conference is scheduled Wednesday 6/3/26
 - I presented on a panel at the Annual Conference on the Adirondacks on April 15th for the watershed coalition
 - We were awarded funds through the EBM grant to develop a stream health educational program for contractors and municipalities
- Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant
 - We have received 2 applications and several inquiries about the program
 - Application is from the Town of Indian Lake for the boards review
- Envirothon
 - The event will be held Thursday May 7, 2026
 - Long Lake will attend with 1 fully high school team, and 3 middle school teams
- Lake Monitoring
 - I completed the 2025 DUAR and it has been submitted to and approved by DEC
 - Our master data spreadsheet is up to date with 2025 data and available for public viewing and use
 - Met with ALS Environmental in Rochester with Caitlin. We toured the lab and asked many questions
 - Ordered additional materials for Chlorophyll-a sample collection

Other

- I met with 2 other members of CDEA and passed the baton to them to run the statewide Fish-On Challenge program
- Caitlin and I met with APIPP to discuss our shared programs and partnerships. We hope to partner with them to make herbicide treatments on state land
- I attended 2 online Vermont Rivers and Roads trainings
- Assisted with Tree Packing and hand out for the annual Tree & Shrub Sale
 - Lenny I built rain barrels
- Assisted Lenny with making over 200 ft of Compost Filter Socks

- Delivered 185 straw bales to the Indian Lake Garden Club with Lenny
- Hosted 23 students and 3 teachers for the annual Lake Pleasant CSD Erosion Field Trip
 - Planted 300 live willow stakes and 300 bare root plants in a bioswale on the County Highway property protecting Lake Pleasant from sediment and pollutants

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

Region 4 Report – May 2026

Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2026: NYSAGM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York's award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The deadline for applications is May 15th, 2026.

State Aid Part C/Performance Measures Check-In: As we move towards the half-way mark of the calendar year, SWCDs are encouraged to review their progress toward achieving their State Aid to Districts (Part C) performance measure goals. With roughly 6 months to go, now is an ideal time for directors and staff to evaluate current progress, identify any areas requiring additional attention, and plan accordingly to ensure all applicable performance measures are completed by year's end. Part C has seen significant growth in recent years, and that growth could conceivably continue based upon current budget proposals. Proactive tracking and timely completion of these goals will help maximize each district's potential Part C award. Please feel free to reach out to your Regional AEA, if you have questions.

EBM Pilot Stream Program: Congratulations to the awardees of the EBM Stream Corridor Management Pilot Program! 26 projects were awarded in this pilot program to protect water quality and the long-term health of the State's waterways. More information about awards and plans of work will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, questions can be directed towards Tim Sheldon (timothy.sheldon@agriculture.ny.gov) or to your Regional AEA.

May SWCC Meeting:

The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, May 19th 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.

2026 NYS Envirothon - Volunteers Needed: The New York State Envirothon Committee is pleased to announce that we will host the 2025 New York State Envirothon at SUNY Cortland, on May 27th-28th, 2026. Volunteers are the heart of this event, and it doesn't happen without

assistance from SWCD Directors and staff. Please consider Volunteering! A description of the volunteer positions available as well as an online registration link are available here on the NYS Envirothon website, <https://nysenvirothon.org/contact>. Any questions can be directed to nysenvirothon@gmail.com.

Spring Managers Meetings – Save the Date: The following dates have been set for regional managers' meetings this June! Meetings will be from 10am-2:30pm. Please participate in whichever date and location is most convenient but please be sure to RSVP to the appropriate Regional Coordinator by May 25th so we'll have accurate counts for lunch orders. As always Directors are invited to attend, as this meeting can count towards Performance Measures.

- Region 1: June 2nd, Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY – Vic DiGiacomo
- Region 2: June 3rd, Yates County SWCD - 417 Liberty St Penn Yan, NY – PJ Emerick
- Region 3: June 1st, Chenango County SWCD – 99 North Broad Street, Norwich, NY 13815 – Scott Fickbohm
- Region 4: June 10th, Croghan Fire Department – 6680 Fire Hall St., Croghan, NY 13327 – Ryan Cunningham
- Region 5: June 11th, NYS DEC Office – 232 Golf Course Rd., Warrensburg, NY 12885 – Ben Luskin
- Region 6: June 9th, Rockland County SWCD – 50 Sanatorium Rd., Bldg. A 6th Floor, Pomona, NY 10970 - Travis Ferry

Soil Science Watch Party Continues: A group of SWCC Staff, district staff, and partners are working their way through 39 hours of Soil Science lectures from Cornell University's Jonathan Russell-Anelli. The group meets virtually on Monday mornings at 9:00 am to watch prerecorded lectures and answer discussion questions. CCA credits are available for each session. The group uses Webex to coordinate and the recurring meeting link is: <https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m872f0a411cf3434a744799dc62f873fd> . Contact Tim Clark for more information.

Ecological Restoration Species Selection Tool Finalized: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and NY Natural Heritage Program finalized a Species Selection Tool that provides a list of native trees, shrub, and herbaceous species suitable for a project site. This tool matches a clicked site location and conditions like soil, geology, and other conditions to expected natural communities to narrow down the species list, and provides information on each species, including height, lifespan, shade tolerance, and climate adaptability. <https://nynhp.shinyapps.io/speciesselectiontool/>

Other Events

NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions Annual Meeting: The NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions is hosting its annual meeting at SUNY ESF in Syracuse, NY, May 19th-21st. This meeting will bring researchers, partners and stakeholders together for in-

depth discussions and networking as we look to find cooperative ways to address current and emerging water issues in New York. The event is free to attend. Please follow this link for more information and to register for the event: <https://healthywaters.org/annual-meeting/>. This event qualifies for Performance Measure 1g – Participation at a State, Regional, and National meeting or function.

From Planning To Action - Municipal Training Series: New York Sea Grant has announced educational opportunities for municipal leaders involved with land use management planning and implementation along New York's Great Lakes and connecting river channels. A two-part Coastal Community Development webinar series will feature information on coastal processes that impact the shorelines along Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, and St. Lawrence River.

- May 26, 2026, from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Great Lake Coastal Processes for Municipal Leaders in NY - New York Sea Grant staff will provide information on how shorelines respond to the natural, dynamic and changing action of the waters along New York's Great Lakes and connecting river channel shorelines.
<https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/8uA0bfuOSR-n15ZyJhWTcg#/registration>
- June 9, 2026, from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM, Keeping your Plan off the Shelf - a panel of local government representatives who have successfully developed and implemented land use planning goals will share tips for keeping an active process moving after completing a local plan to accomplish the desired objectives and benefits for the local community.
https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/-Ge8x470QFOtYB6ji_YvjA#/registration

NACD Northeast Regional Meeting – Save the Date: The 2026 Northeast Region Meeting, hosted by the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts, will be held on August 24-27, 2026, at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE.

<https://dacdnet.org/2026NACDNE/>

Other Grant Opportunities

Resilient Watersheds Grant (RWG) Program Application Period is Now Open: At least \$60 million of Environmental Bond Act funding is available for implementation of flood mitigation projects across New York State. Minimum grant amount: \$150,000; maximum grant amount: \$10,000,000. Applications are due Friday June 26th, 2026, at 4:00 PM.

<https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/resilient-ny>



**New York Association of Conservation Districts
c/o Steuben County SWCD
24 North Street
Edmeston, NY 13335
www.nyacd.org**

April 30, 2026

Dear Directors,

This past month I have reached out to the Legislators regarding the concerns related to the potential Cornell carve out of \$7 million in the EPF line-item Climate Resilient Farms Program. Once I have some more information I will share it with all of you.

I had a meeting with Jessica Armstrong the new CDEA President and we had an enjoyable conversation on what and how we can work together in the future. We also discussed the importances of communication moving forward.

The Great Lakes Commission Committee is preparing to hold its final meeting concerning the survey distributed to district directors and staff in August. The results of the survey will be distributed to the districts. NYACD received funding for the work and input that the committee members provided these last two years plus travel expenses. If you recall, this study identifies the obstacles and opportunities impacting the effectiveness of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the Great Lakes states, focusing on recruitment, training, retention, and collaboration among conservation professionals. Participation is voluntary and response is confidential.

The NYACD Annual Meeting will be held Monday, October 26 and Tuesday, October 27, 2026, at The Hampton Inn in Penn Yan. Our work includes valuable training sessions, and we also feature a guest speaker. I have been reviewing and updating the necessary paperwork and registration. The registration should be completed and up online in August.

The Delaware Association of Conservation Districts is excited to host the 2026 NACD Northeast Region Meeting on August 24-27 in Wilmington. I wanted to share our [meeting website](#) and ask for your help in spreading the word about our open Call for Presentations among your state associations, state conservation agencies, district employees, etc. A tremendous amount of magnificent work is being done throughout the region, and this is an opportunity to share that work and support the success of districts and partners. Please share this information in an upcoming monthly report, newsletter, or email out to your members.

I attended by Zoom a meeting with the St. Lawrence SWCD where I was able to provide them with answers to their questions, share additional information on what the NYACD Board's responsibilities are and mine. I hope to meet with additional districts soon.

NYACD Board by-laws subcommittee held their first meeting in April. We were able to begin making necessary changes, clarify statements, and hold another meeting in May to complete the first step in the process. We will then present them to the full NYACD

board for review before we forward them to the full body in advance of the annual meeting.

I sent out a request to districts for emails, addresses, and phone numbers of their full SWCD Board members. We are trying to have better communication between the board members and feel that being able to reach out to each other is the best way to make this happen. I have received information back from some but not all the districts presently.

NYACD Board meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Directors and staff are welcome to attend and will receive the meeting link if we have their contact information. FYI once NYACD board members approve the minutes they are uploaded to our website www.nyacd.org.

Sincerely,

Blanche

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, NYACD Executive Director