



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

September 1, 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
John M. Stortecky, Vice Chairperson
Beth Hunt, Town Supervisor – Zoom
Meg Parascandola, Town Supervisor
Shawn Hansen, Member-at-Large

Partners

Ryan Cunningham, Associate Environmental Analyst,
Soil and Water Conservation Committee
Katherine Girard, District Conservationist, Natural
Resources and Conservation Service

District Staff

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

Absent

Shannon McPheeters, Seasonal Technician
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 9:30 a.m.
Pledge of Allegiance conducted.

2. Roll call – Buyce conducted roll call.

3. Review and approval of the August 4, 2026, meeting minutes – The minutes were
provided in advance of the meeting.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to approve the August 4, 2026 meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

4. Treasurer's Report – Remias presented the treasurer's report and August expenses for
Board review and payment approval.

Balance	7/31/26	\$435,679.24
Receipts		17,736.39
Disbursements		64,405.90
Balance	8/31/26	\$389,009.73

- 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 discuss a personnel matter

- A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by Parascandola to enter Executive Session at 9:34 a.m. to discuss a personnel matter excluding Cunningham, Remias, Croote and Whitkovits. All in favor, motion carried.
- A motion was made by J.M. Stortecky, seconded by Buyce to exit Executive Session at 10:25 a.m. All in favor, motion carried.

The board determined that if staff do not submit their time sheet upon completion of each time period paychecks will be held until the time sheet is received. Additionally, a new vehicle policy will be voted upon later in the meeting and all employees must sign and acknowledge their understanding of the policy.

Director Hansen left the meeting at 10:25 am.

Kate Girard arrived at the meeting at 10:26 am.

6. Vehicle Policy – Stewart reported that at the Board's direction, she updated the District's Vehicle Policy. She thanked Hamilton County Personnel Officer Carole Ruiz for sharing the Count's Fleet Management Policy that was recently revised in 2025. She also utilized the City of Stephenville's take home policy.

- A motion was made by Parascandola, seconded by Hunt to approve the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Vehicle Policy. All in favor, motion carried.

7. Conservation Skills Workshop – Stewart reported that The Conservation Skills Workshop offers field-based training sessions that will contribute to Katie and Lenny's professional development. The workshop will be held October 5 – 8 in Auburn, NY at the Hilton Garden Inn, and registration is free courtesy of the New York State Conservation District Employees Association. Lodging for Katie for 2 nights will be \$180. Croote will not be staying overnight. Meals will be paid for by the Hamilton County SWCD.

- **A motion was made by Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to approve the 2026 Conservation Skills Workshop hotel reservation in the amount of \$180.00, and the meal expense for Katie WhitKovits and Lenny Croote. All in favor, motion carried.**

8. Budget update – Stewart and Remias provided a 2026 budget update, reviewing all lines. Stewart thanked Remias for updating the budget and Cunningham explained state aid.

9. District Activities

a. Sediment and Erosion Control Program – Croote designed and applied for the permits for a stormwater control project for Peters Fourth Lake Cottages in Inlet. Croote received the permits and implemented the conduit stream crossing for the Morehouse Emergency Tower Project.

b. Agricultural Environmental Management – WhitKovits reported that reimbursement from Round 18 has been received.

c. Lake Monitoring Program – WhitKovits reported that the August lake monitoring rotation was completed and McPheeters delivered the samples to ALS Environmental. Dr. Paul Bukaveckas, Professor of Environmental Sciences with VCU School of Life Sciences and Sustainability, joined us to collect light profile data on our lakes. Dr. Bukaveckas has published multiple papers utilizing our lake monitoring data in the past and is working toward writing another where he will credit the district with authorship. As a thank you for working with him, Dr. Bukaveckas presented the district with a framed magazine cover photo of his dog Zuzu on our boat. WhitKovits also reported that samples have not been collected from Lake Pleasant due to the Marina's closure to the public, and the liability of using privately owned equipment to collect the samples. She stated that the District could pick Lake Pleasant back up if the district can find another site to launch our boat. Buyce offered the use of her boat launch and, at the suggestion of Parascandola, Stewart will write an MOU for her to sign. Parascandola noted that she enjoys the posts that are provided on social media of the lake monitoring process that provide information to the public on what we are doing.

d. Conservation Field Day – WhitKovits reported that the event will be held Thursday, September 17 and invited the board to attend. J. M. Stortecky will be the timekeeper, and Buyce will take photos. Presentations include Moose History Mystery, Bioaccumulation in Loons, Water Chestnut Invasion: Protecting Our Waters, Junior Watershed Steward Program, Growing Mushrooms at Home, and Sustainable and Efficient Agriculture.

e. Invasive Species Program – Stewart, WhitKovits, and McPheeters attended APIPP's Aquatic Plant Camp in Brant Lake on August 28. The training covered aquatic invasive species identification, aquatic plant viewing, a rake toss demonstration, an overview of APIPP's Lake Protectors and Lake Management Tracker, and a deep dive into native watermilfoils. Stewart thanked APIPP for an excellent training that was the perfect

primer for the upcoming AIS lake survey. As Secretary, Stewart attended and took minutes for the August 18 New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting. Croote, McPheeters, and WhitKovits performed Purple Loosestrife management throughout the county. Croote and WhitKovits had the Hamilton County SWCD Invasive Plant Indemnity Agreement approved by NYS DEC.

f. Conservation Education Program – Stewart presented Septic Systems and Road Salt to the Lake Abanakee Civic Association on August 8 with 47 attendees.

g. Septic System Replacement Fund – Stewart wrote a resolution for the County approving the SSRF Round 5 grant award of \$100,000 that was approved at the August 6 Board of Supervisors meeting. Croote reviewed 2 requests for reimbursement. Once Stewart completes the disbursement forms, she will send the documents to the Hamilton County Treasurer. The team continues to answer landowner inquiries.

h. Water Testing Program - Remias reported that August's water testing was held and 18 samples for testing were received and transported to the Mohawk Valley Water Authority for testing.

i. Grants update –

- Hamilton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update grant - Stewart attended the August 17 Monthly Outreach Meeting with Scott Feuerstein, DHSES, and prepared and emailed a briefing to Emergency Services Manager Timothy O'Neill (Emergency Services Manager) and Chairman Clay Arsenault. Stewart thanked County Attorney Matthew R. Coseo, Esq., for drafting the Agreement between the County and Chloeta for terms related to the Hazard Mitigation Plan update grant. Agreement execution is pending EMS Manager O'Neill's review.
- Hamilton County Sediment and Erosion Prevention Program DEC WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Project) grant – The next Quarterly Report is due September 12, and Stewart created a form for Croote and Remias to utilize.
- Hamilton County Road Salt Reduction Program DEC WQIP grant – DEC signed the contract, and Stewart sought authorization from the Board for her to sign the contract.
- **A motion was made by J.M. Stortecky, seconded by Buyce to authorize District Manager Caitlin Stewart to approve DEC WQIP C03495GM in the amount of \$200,000, with match totaling \$50,000 for the Hamilton County Road Salt Reduction Program, and permit Stewart to implement the work plan, and submit all required quarterly reports, requests for reimbursement, and the final report. All in favor, motion carried.**

- Stream Corridor Management Pilot Program grant (Forked Lake Road Culvert Replacement Project) – Cunningham reported that this grant, through the Department of Ag and Markets’ Ecosystem Based Management, is targeted toward non-agricultural projects like stream projects, RAMP, culvert inventories etc. There has been a bit of a delay in contract movement due to staff turnover. Hamilton County is in the open dates time period to be doing work. Stewart reported that with this grant we will save the Hamilton County Department of Public Works \$100,000.
- Hamilton County Courthouse Complex Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study grant – Stewart and Remias submitted quarterly and the final reports to the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board for the close out. Close out is still pending, and we are waiting on guidance from Regional Planning for a discrepancy in an overage amount submitted by the contractor.

j. Watershed partnership update

- FLOWPA – Stewart attended the 30th Anniversary Celebration in Liverpool on August 7 and showed a slide show she created. Assemblyman Palmesano sent a Citation and cover letter to Program Coordinator Kristy LaManche extending his heartfelt congratulations on the 30th anniversary, and Stewart disseminated copies. Stewart disseminated stickers and note pads to the Directors. Remias and Stewart began work on the 2024-25 close out.
- Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition – No report.
- St. Lawrence River Watershed Project – Stewart completed and submitted the CHAR 500 Annual Filing for Charitable Organizations report.
- Mohawk River Watershed Coalition – The Coalition is concerned about Senate Bill S7970A Enacts the Mohawk River Basin management act through an amendment to Environmental Conservation Law. The bill passed both houses and has been delivered to the Governor. Stewart reviewed and commented on a letter drafted by President Nick Klemczak that was sent to key committees and legislators respectfully requesting that the Coalition be appointed to the Mohawk River Basin Management Advisory Committee. WhitKovits maintains the Rural Roads Active Management Program application for the coalition and responded to several recent inquiries.
- Black River Watershed Coalition – No meetings have taken place.

10. Other – Croote preformed 2 septic system inspections, and Croote, McPheeters, and WhitKovits preformed 1 perc test.

11. Director's comments – J.M. Stortecky reported that he was contacted by Essex County SWCD and invited to attend an NYACD Division V meeting of Directors on September 3. He presented his history as NYACD Division V Director and why the NYACD bylaws changes are an important issue to him.

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 – Girard reported that NRCS is currently undergoing a large reorganization nationally as well as at the state levels. New York State was spared a major reorganization. There is potential for hiring due to the deferred resignation program and early retirements. Advertising should take place in September and there will be 2 positions for the Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Warren and Washington county area. Hamilton County did not have any applications for high tunnels funded this year. There were 3 applications. Two cancelled and the third did not rank high enough. We have one active conservation stewardship program contract for forestry work for Hamilton County. The sign-up deadline for this year for programs (Environmental Quality Incentives Program, EQIP, Conservation Stewardship Program CSP, and other easement programs) is September 18th. Girard also gave an update on the annual local work group meeting which solicits feedback from local stakeholders (farmers, districts, DEC, etc.). At this meeting they are asking what watersheds, resource concerns, water or air quality energy use and land use are priorities. All NRCS's programs are competitive and there is a ranking question in our application that asks if the resource concern that was identified by that county is addressed, so there is often a direct result in some funding and projects with the results of the local work group meetings determinations.

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

14. Correspondence

- 2025 Soil and Water Conservation Committee and Agricultural Environmental Management Annual Report from SWCC Executive Director Bethany Bzduch
- Thank you email from the President of the Crandall Park Beautification Committee for Japanese knotweed treatment.

15. Next meeting – Tuesday, October 6, 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 Buyce, seconded by J.M. Stortecky to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 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**
 - 2027 budget preparation
 - Prepared for the Personnel Committee meeting
 - Drafted the Vehicle Policy
 - Worked with Lenny to complete and submit the Part B revision to the SWCC for the West Stony Creek Streambank Restoration Project, Town of Benson, \$6,000
 - Coordinated work priorities for Seasonal Technician
 - Held team meetings
 - 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
- **Invasive Species**
 - Attended APIPP's Aquatic Plant Camp in Brant Lake on August 28
 - As Secretary, attended and took minutes for the August 18 New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee meeting
- **Grants**
 - Hamilton County Hazard Mitigation Plan Update grant - attended the August 17 Monthly Outreach Meeting with Scott Feuerstein, DHSES, and prepared and

emailed a briefing to Emergency Services Manager Timothy O'Neill (Emergency Services Manager) and Chairman Clay Arsenault

- Hamilton County Sediment and Erosion Prevention Program DEC WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Project) grant – the next Quarterly Report is due September 12, and I created a form for Lenny and Marj to utilize
- Hamilton County Courthouse Complex Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study grant – With Marj's assistance, submitted quarterly and the final report to the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board for the close out
- **Septic System Replacement Fund**
 - Replied to inquiries
- **Lake Monitoring Program**
 - Assisted Katie with field work for the August rotation
- **Watershed Coalitions**
 - FLOWPA – attended the 30th Anniversary Celebration in Liverpool on August 7, and showed a slide show I created, Marj and I began working on the 2023-25 close out
 - Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition – I was asked by the Coalition to take the lead on a Harmful Algal Bloom research grant, met with the contractor, and declined due to time constraints. I sent the District's Lake Monitoring Program data to the consultant.
 - St. Lawrence River Watershed Project – completed and submitted the CHAR 500 Annual Filing for Charitable Organizations report
 - Mohawk River Watershed Coalition – reviewed and commented on the letter regarding Senate Bill S7970A
- **Education**
 - Presented Septic Systems and Road Salt to the Lake Abanakee Civic Association on August 8 with 47 attendees
- **New York State Conservation District Employees' Association**
 - As Chair of the Legislative Committee, created a ranking sheet for the lobbyist RFP for committee use, read and ranked 9 proposals, interviewed 4 consultants with CDEA President Jessica Armstrong, attended the August 27 CDEA meeting to make the recommendation, emailed contract to top firm

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

General

2026 Construction Permit
Zacher Drainage Wetland permits
Peters 4th Lake Cottages Drainage design and permits
Emergency Culvert repair on Hernandez Road
Morehouse Emergency Tower Conduit crossing design, permit, implementation
Purple Loosestrife Management
Invasive Species Indemnity Agreement for landowners
Perc Test
Septic System Inspections for the Blue Mountain Lake Association
Started the 2027 Tree and Shrub plant list
Attended an Upper Hudson Collation Meeting
Vehicle maintenance
Equipment maintenance

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

- **Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)**
 - Nothing new to report
- **Black River Watershed Coalition**
 - I am on the strategic planning committee and serve as secretary
 - We were awarded funds through the EBM grant to develop a stream health educational program for contractors and municipalities
- **Caring Through Conservation Mini Grant**
 - Nothing new to report
- **CDEA**
 - I serve as the Division V representative and attended the August 27 meeting
 - Approved hiring a lobbyist- Thank you to Caitlin and the entire legislative committee for their hard work on this!
 - I will serve on the by-laws committee
- **Conservation Field Day**
 - Thursday Sept 17 on the EcoTrail behind our office

- Presentations include: Moose History Mystery, Bioaccumulation in Loons, Water Chestnut Invasion: Protecting Our Waters, Junior Watershed Steward Program, Growing Mushrooms at Home, and Sustainable and Efficient Agriculture
- **Lake Monitoring**
 - We had a successful August lake monitoring rotation, and Shannon delivered the samples to the lab's courier for us
 - Dr. Paul Bukaveckas, Professor of Environmental Sciences with VCU School of Life Sciences & Sustainability joined us
 - He collects light profile data on our lakes and shares his data with us, while we share our secchi readings with him
 - He has written scientific papers using our data and gives our district author credits
 - We have not collected water samples from Lake Pleasant because of the Marina closure
- **Mohawk River Watershed Coalition**
 - I maintain the Rural Roads Active Management Program application for the coalition and responded to several inquiries regarding this

Other

- Attended 2 Environmental Education Foundation meetings
- Completed a perc test in the Town of Wells with Lenny & Shannon
- I have been working with Shannon and Lenny on Purple loosestrife control efforts
- Caitlin, Shannon & I attended an Aquatic Plant Camp hosted by Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

Region 4 Report – September 2026

Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

Next SWCC Meeting: The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will convene their September meeting which at SUNY Oneonta at **10:00AM, September 15th**. The following day, on **September 16th**, Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District staff will be leading a conservation project tour which will feature a variety of conservation projects and best management practices implemented through various State Committee programs. An official meeting agenda, with tour stop information will be sent out in advance of the meeting. **If you are planning to attend the NYS SWCC meeting in person on the 15th and/or attend the tour on the 16th, please RSVP to Bethany Bzduch (Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov) by August 24th.**

NYS SWCC Statewide Managers' Meeting - Registration Open: Registration is now open for those interested in participating in the 2026 Statewide District Managers' Meeting. The meeting will take place on **November 4th and 5th** at the **DoubleTree in East Syracuse (6301 State Rte. 298, East Syracuse, NY 13057)**. On November 4th, the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be holding a meeting from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the hotel. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM and the Managers' meeting will begin at 1:00 PM on November 4th. The meeting will conclude in the early afternoon on November 5th.

Rooms and meals will be provided by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee for 2 attendees per District; Manager and Board member preferred. Please use this link to register for meeting: <https://forms.gle/VXQn1DPBj5zULoYJ7>. The form must be submitted by close of business on **Friday, September 25th**. Should a District want to send additional attendees, please contact me (Bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov) to see if this can be accommodated but be prepared to make separate arrangements

2027 Annual Plan of Work (APOW): It's time to start updating your APOW for 2027. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is **November 1, 2026**. 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.

2027 State Aid to Districts - Part B Project Request: 2027 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance – Part B proposals are **due, November 1, 2026**. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2027. Part B requests should be submitted via email to Bethany Bzduch, bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov.

2026 Performance Measures: This is a general reminder to check in on the status of your Performance Measures. Are you on track to meet all measures by December 31, 2026? If you need assistance with Board trainings or have questions regarding other performance measures please reach out to your Regional Coordinator.

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.

Other Events

2026 NY Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Field Days: The NY Soil Health Alliance Group will convene a series of Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Day's throughout the State during 2026. Registration is now live for the **September 17th event at the Musgrave Research Farm, located in Aurora**, the **September 22nd event at Cayuga Ag Enterprises in Trumansburg** and the

September 30th event at SUNY Adirondack, located in Queensbury. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

2026 NYACD Annual Meeting: The 2026 NYACD Annual Meeting and Training session will be held at the Hampton Inn, Penn Yan, NY on **October 26th & October 27th.**

<https://forms.gle/tWGAiqy4xaqjvCGX7>

Other Grant Opportunities

Consolidated Funding Application is Open: The Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) includes programs such as the Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) and the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP). More information regarding each program can be found by clicking on the link provided. <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>

Harmful Algal Bloom Research Grant Opportunity: Up to \$2.5 million is available for a new Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs) Research Grant complementing a comprehensive approach to addressing one of the most challenging water quality issues. DEC's HABs Research Grant Request for Applications is available online through the NYS Statewide Financial System (SFS) Grants Management. The deadline to apply is **September 15, 2026, at 3:00 PM** Contact HABResearchGrant@dec.ny.gov with questions. <https://www.sfs.ny.gov/>

Other Current AGM Funding Opportunities - <https://agriculture.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>

- **RFA 0331 – New York State Grown & Certified Cooperative Marketing Program**
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis. <https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfa-0331-new-york-state-grown-certified-cooperative-marketing-program>
- **RFA 0393 - Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 20 - Agricultural Conservation Easement Projects**
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis. <https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfa-0393-farmland-protection-implementation-grants-round-20-agricultural-conservation-easement>
- **RFA 0263 - Municipal Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants**
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis. <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0263-municipal-agriculture-and-farmland-protection-planning-grants>
- **RFA 0262 - County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants**
 - Applications are taken on a rolling basis. <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0262-county-agriculture-and-farmland-protection-planning-grants>



New York Association of Conservation Districts
c/o Steuben County SWCD
415 W. Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
www.nyacd.org

July 2026

NYACD Report for July

Blanche has received contact information for several full SWCD board members, including email addresses and phone numbers. Information for some district directors is still missing.

A 4-Way Partner meeting is scheduled for September 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the Oneida County SWCD office. Participants will discuss upcoming programs and ways to better support districts moving forward.

Blanche attended the latest in-person meeting with the Great Lakes Commission Committee and representatives from Ohio University to review the draft survey and identify any needed revisions. The study examines challenges and opportunities affecting the effectiveness of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in the Great Lakes states, with a focus on recruiting, training, and retaining conservation professionals and strengthening collaboration.

Participation was voluntary, and responses were confidential. The August meeting took place in Green Bay, Wisconsin. In September, Ohio University will hold individual meetings with each committee member. Final results are expected in October and will be shared with all districts in the Great Lakes region.

The NYACD Annual Meeting will be held October 26–27, 2026, at the Hampton Inn in Penn Yan. Registration, sponsorship information, and requests have been sent to directors and district staff. Early-bird registration is due Friday, August 28, and the final registration deadline is September 10. The event will include training sessions, a Yates County SWCD tour, the annual meeting, and a luncheon. We encourage directors and staff to attend, as proposed changes to the NYACD bylaws will be discussed. Each district should have received a copy of the proposed bylaws and should share it with its full board.

NYACD has contacted directors and managers in Divisions II, III, V, VI, VII, and VIII to seek their help in identifying division representatives for the NYACD Board. We hope to meet with these divisions in person or by Zoom to explain how NYACD is working on their behalf.

Blanche has requested monthly reports from divisions that are not represented on the NYACD Board and shares them with the full board at its monthly meetings. This is one way NYACD keeps these divisions informed and supported.

The NYACD Board prepared a letter outlining NYACD's roles, responsibilities, recent work, and planned activities for the year. A separate letter was sent to districts with unpaid assessments

to explain the services NYACD provides on their behalf. The Board hopes these letters will clarify what NYACD does, why its work matters, and how it supports districts; address false rumors; keep district board members better informed; and encourage greater participation on the NYACD Board and at the annual event.

Blanche took personal time in July to attend the 2026 NCF Envirothon. As a Member at Large on the NCF Envirothon Operating Committee, she supported the event while also spending time with the New York team. It was especially exciting to see New York earn first place overall.

The NYACD Board meets by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Directors and staff are welcome to attend and will receive the meeting link if NYACD has their contact information. After the Board approves the minutes, they will be posted at www.nyacd.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Blanche

Blanche L Hurlbutt,
NYACD Executive Director