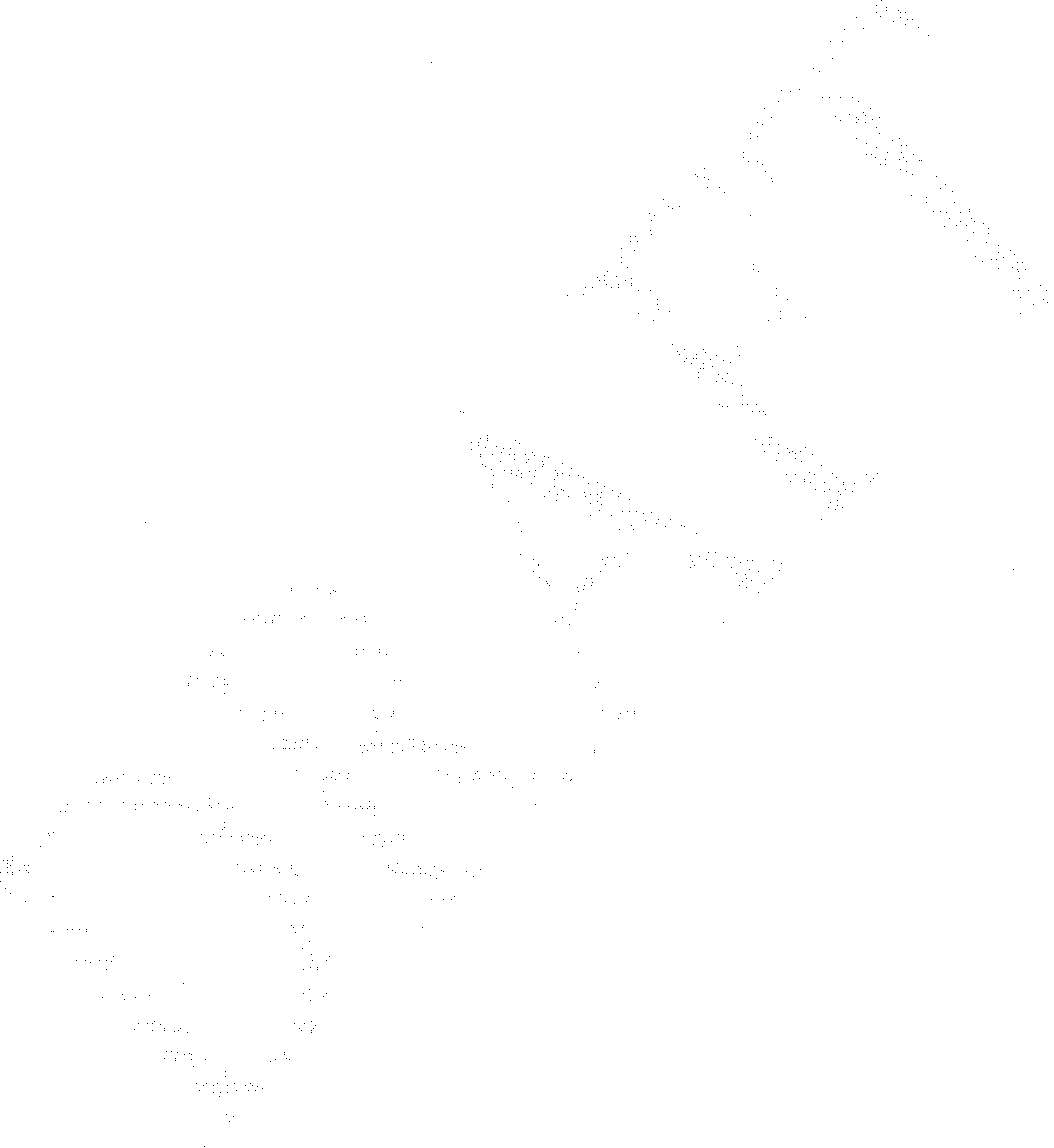
Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District

*174 Finney Blvd*

*Malone, NY 12953*

*(518) 651-2097*

**[*www.fcswcd.org*](http://www.fcswcd.org/)

**ATTENDANCE:**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS May 20, 2025**

**Directors:** Ralph Child Dennis Egan

Tommy Derouchie Paul Lauzon Justus Martin Steve Gokey

**Staff:**

Kristin Ballou Devin Normandeau Sarah Otis

Shayla Pfendler

**Partners:**

Ryan Cunningham



1. **Meeting was called to order:** Chairman, Ralph Child, called meeting to order at 8:58 AM - Quorum present
2. **Meeting Minutes** - **Motion to correct and approve draft minutes from April 2025 meeting:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Paul Lauzon, motion carried. (Correction to the April draft minutes is that Paul did not speak directly to the auditor.)
3. **Report of Officers:**
   1. **Chairman Report:** Chairman periodically stops by the office to review secretary applications. None of the new applications have stood out.
   2. **Board Member Reports:** Justus Martin is thankful for the Arbor Day tree planting event in Moira.
   3. **Treasurer and Financial Report:** AEM Base Soil Sample Account balance is incorrect in the previously sent email but is correct on the printed physical copy everyone has at the meeting. The Budget Report: the amount budgeted for newsletters should be $2500 since no newsletters or reports have been sent out for 2025, the amount represented was from the 2024 printing of the Tree and Shrub flyer and fall/winter newsletter. Kristin will get reports from Paychex to show how much money has been spent on staff salaries as this is incorrectly shown on the financial reports.
      1. Transfer $4,022.37 from CAFO 3 to Project Account checking account- The grant is closed, and the farmer is paid, but the money needs to be transferred for staff time. **Motion to transfer $4,022.37 from CAFO 3 to Project Account checking account:** made by Justus Martin, 2nd by Steve Gokey, motion carried.
      2. **Motion to close CAFO 3 Grant Checking Account:** made by Steve Gokey, 2nd by Justus Martin, motion carried.
      3. Transfer $2,514.27 from Trust and Agency to Project Account checking account- The comptroller has stated that the district should not have a Trust and Agency account. **Motion to transfer $2,514.27 from Trust and Agency to Project Account checking account:** made by Dennis Eagan, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
      4. **Motion to close Trust and Agency Checking Account** (as advised by comptroller): made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
      5. **Motion to transfer $122,500 from Part C to savings for staff time:** Made by Steve Gokey, 2nd by Paul Lauzon, motion carried.
      6. Transfer $26,000 from Part C to Equipment and Vehicle Account for a new district truck- Everyone was able to look at the adjusted budget which better reflects what the district has spent so far this year.

**Motion to transfer $26,000 from Part C to Equipment and Vehicle Account:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Justus Martin, motion carried.

* + 1. **Motion to transfer $15,000 from Savings to No-Till Account** (no -till purchase will be reimbursed through CRF7 grant): made by Paul Lauzon, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
    2. **Motion to transfer $20,000 from Part C to Building Fund savings:** made by Paul Lauzon, 2nd by Dennis

Egan, motion carried.

* + 1. **Motion to transfer $3,384.00 from Computer Fund savings account to Project Account:** made by Steve Gokey, 2nd by Paul Lauzon, motion carried.
    2. **Motion to close Computer Fund savings account:** made by Paul Lauzon, 2nd by Dennis Egan, motion carried.

Rhonda Jarvis will present on NYCLASS at the next board meeting. Since the district has closed the smaller accounts, it will be easier to use NYCLASS as an account.

* 1. **Correspondence-** Current credit card balance for Alissa and Donna is $0. Received Collateral Statement from M & T Bank, Notice from Vision and Dental Insurance, Confirmation from King Clark that insurance for contract forester has been cancelled.

1. **Ryan Cunningham Presentation** - Capacity Building- Staff Recruitment and Retention
2. **SWCD Business:**
   1. **Motion to approve the District Manager to sign the contract extension for Ag NPS 27 for Roger Trumble:**

made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Steve Gokey, motion carried.

* 1. **Motion for pre-approval for AEM 18- Tucker's Black Angus Ranch reimbursement of $20,000.00:** made Dennis Egan, 2nd by Paul Lauzon, motion carried.
  2. **Motion for pre-approval for AEM 18- The Cook Farm Reimbursement $6,831.00:** made by Steve Gokey, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
  3. **Motion for pre-approval for AEM 18- The Jason Ingle Re-imbursement $13,125.00:** made by Tommy Derouchie, 2nd by Justus Martin, motion carried
  4. **Motion to approve revised 2025 Part C Budget:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Steve Gokey, motion carried.
  5. Review truck bids for district truck- The board would like the district to ask the dealership and local companies for a quote to undercoat the new truck. **Motion to accept the lowest bid for a new district truck:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Paul Lauzon, motion carried.
  6. Review no-till bids- the district needs 3 bids since the purchase will be over $20,000. So far, the district has only received 2 bids. Devin will reach out to Dragoons again about the third bid. **Motion to accept the lowest responsible bid of for a no-till (either Esch or Great Plains):** made by Denis Egan, 2nd by Paul Lauzon, motion carried.
  7. Soil health project update- Poppydale completed the corn planter retrofit project. Devin will monitor the implementation of no-till corn and receive producer feedback throughout the next year. The reimbursement for no-till conversion is presented for approval on the abstract.
  8. **Motion to approve purchasing lumber for additional bird, bat and duck houses of up to $150:** made by Paul Lauzon, 2nd by Justus Martin, motion carried.
  9. **Motion to purchase new display materials for events and career fairs up to $500:** Made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Steve Gokey, motion carried.
  10. Sick bank policy discussion- **Motion to approve Kristin donating 250 hours of sick leave to Sarah Otis:** Made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Steve Gokey, **Dennis Egan withdrew motion, Steve Gokey withdrew 2nd, motion withdrawn. Motion to approve Kristin Ballou donating 250 hours of sick leave to the sick bank:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Steve Gokey, motion carried.

I. **Motion to approve new proposed language for cell phone policy:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.

1. **Motion to approve compensation policy update:** Made by Steve Gokey, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
2. **Motion to approve revised language to Employee Handbook section "Employee Classifications":** Made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
3. Breach notification policy update - tabled until June 2025 meeting
4. District logo discussion- Dennis Egan can get a quote from BOCES for a truck decal with the new logo on it. **Motion to approve option number 4 as the new district logo:** made by Paul Lauzon, 2nd by Dennis Egan motion carried.
5. **Motion to hire Kelly Freeman as the new Secretary to the Soil & Water Conservation Board** made by Dennis Egan, 2d by Paul Lauzon, motion carried. **Motion to approve the secretary starting salary of $19/hour with a full time 30 hour work week and a probationary period of 6 months:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Paul Lauzon, motion carried.
6. Review SUV bids for the Watershed Coordinator Contract. Discussion ensued and board elected to decline the two lower bids as those vehicles offered do not meet the requirements necessary - **Motion to accept bid for Nissan Rouge for $28,639.20:** made by Steve Gokey, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
7. Watershed Coordinator interview update and offer- The committee has chosen Sue Hagar as the top candidate and would like to offer her the position with a salary of $63,000/ year with a 6-month probationary period. **Motion to accept the recommendations of the committee and hire Sue Hagar as the Watershed Coordinator:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Steve Gokey, motion

carried.

1. **Motion to approve Watershed Coordinator Contract office supplies purchase NTE $3000:** made by Steve Gokey, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
2. **Motion to approve an additional cell phone for the Watershed Coordinator Contract:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Tommy Derouchie, motion carried.
3. **Motion to approve adding two new Wex cards, one for each new vehicle:** made by Dennis Egan, 2nd by Steve Gokey, motion carried.
4. **Reports:**
   1. Kristin Ballou, District Manager AEM
5. Working on Forest Conservation Plans as time allows
6. Site visit with staff regarding current and future projects Part B - 4 Forest Management Plans - 2025 4 Forest Management Plans Meetings/Workshops/Other
7. CWICNY
8. CWICNY SWTS Meetings and event planning
9. CWICNY Watershed Coordinator meetings and interviews
10. Project site visits
11. Meeting with producers regarding funding opportunities
12. NARE Event
13. Earth Day Environmental Cleanup
14. Bird House decorating workshop
15. AEM Strategy Meeting
16. Site visits with DEC
17. Stream bank erosion site visits
18. CSW Planning Meeting
19. Town of Moira FEMA flooding assistance
20. Forestry site visits

Grants:

1. Ag. NPS Round 24-working on closeout, partial payment information submitted to ag & markets for approval
2. Ag. NPS Round 27 -project under construction, nearing completion of Phase 1
3. CRF 7 - executed contract received, 25% voucher submitted
4. CRF 8 -waiting on contract
5. CAFO 3 - received closeout approval, final voucher submitted - closing account
6. CAFO ENMP - 1 project awarded - waiting on contract
7. Franklin County Septic Grant- application review and closeout document review and approval
8. LCBP Covered Barnyard Project -working on contractor bids
9. Lake Champlain Watershed Capacity Contract- contract executed- need to hire to fill position
10. Nature Conservancy Planting with a Purpose Grant - 3 projects implemented in 2025
11. RRAMP and Forest Roads 1 (CWICNY)-cleaning up financials, tracking projects and payments. Prepping to closeout Round 1 cleaning up and sorting database. Working with Ag & Markets to develop a different data collection option that will also make the data tracking easier. Anticipated to roll out in the spring.
12. RRAMP and Forest Roads 2 (CWICNY) - projects planned for 2025; need to plan on closing out at the end of 2025
13. RRAMP and Forest Roads 3 (CWICNY)- contract executed and voucher submitted will be implementing projects this summer
14. Smart Growth Grant - signed Inter-Municipal Agreement waiting for opening meeting of project
15. WQIP Hydroseeding - Mulch delivered and planning fieldwork
16. WQIP NAACC - Planning fieldwork

Next Month-site visits, CWICNY SWTS event prep, work with CWICNY Watershed Coordinator, LCBP Covered Barnyard Project, Forest Management Plans, septic grant application and closeout material review, grant closeouts, site visits with DEC, 2 tire recycling events, Northeastern Clinton Central environmental education at Lake Clear Girl Scout Camp, Managers Meeting June 6 Ray Brook, Brushton Safety Day

* 1. Devin Normandeau, District Technician

**AEM**

AEM Round 18 Tier 4 Projects:

1. Draft Engineer Designs
2. Closing out
3. Collecting bids
4. Not started
5. Access Road started

Working on:

2 forest management plans 1 grazing plan

1 soil health plan Annual Action Plan

2026-2030 AEM Strategy Plan AEM Strategy Meeting - 4/24

1. **Closed Out**
2. **Closed Out**
3. **Closed Out**
4. Closing out
5. Closing out
6. **Closed Out**

**No Till**

Sent out once

**Agricultural Assessment**

3 completed

**AgNPS**

Rd. 24, 16-1 (Oakes) manure storage

* No updates Rd. 27 (Trumble)
* Engineer designing project

**CAFO WSTSP/ENMP**

CARSADA Dairy

* Collecting bids

**CRFRd 7**

Received 3 no till bids (one no bid)

**CRFRd8**

No updates

**PartC**

Soil samples Arbor Day event

**WQCC**

Hydroseeding at the Amvets

**Meetings/Workshops**

Northern Adirondack Regional Envirothon - 5/1 Lake Champlain Training - 5/16

**Next Month**

AEM site visits, Strategy Plan, Tier 3A plans, Tier 4 site visits Division 5 Training

NYS Envirothon

Tire Recycling events - Chateaugay and Dickinson Managers Meeting

* 1. Sarah Otis, District Technician

**AEM**

* Soil Sampling and gave out cover crop checks with Devin

**No-Till**

* Brought to Roger Trumbles

**Part C**

* Helped tribe with bark peeling for EAB larva
* Earth Day Community Clean-Up at Arsenal Green, West Street and Willam King Parks (4 people)
* Bluebird box library program- educated 16 kids and handed out 16 bluebird boxes
* Jason Ingles riparian buffer planting
* Arbor Day tree planting at Church Park in Moira (10 people)
* Gave out extra trees from tree sale to Chateaugay, Davis Elementary, Malone Middle School, Salmon River, Saint Regis Falls, Tupper Lake High School
* Saint Regis Falls Soil pH program for 5th grade (6 students)
* Malone Davis Elementary School Arbor Day program

o Educated 237 students, 3rd-5th grade about the importance of roots using the rainfall simulator

* 2024 annual report
* Spring 2025 Newsletter

**Northern Adirondack Regional Envirothon**

* Set up, helped proctor aquatics test, take down - great event

**Planting with a Purpose**

* Mary Jo tree planting and site visit, Michael Cohen site visit, Devin site visit

**WQIP-hydroseeding**

* Hydroseeded softball field for Amvets with Malone BOCES heavy equipment students

**Permits**

* Reflagged Robinson's Pit Expansion in accordance with new DEC wetlands laws
* Flagged permit area for Robert Fountains gravel mine

**Workshop**

* Completed ArcPro online class

**Meetings**

* + AEM strategic plan meeting

**Next Month**

Spring 2025 Newsletter, NAACC assessments, Update Robinson's Pit Expansion maps, hydroseeding with Malone BOCES, pollinator program with Brushton- Moira Senior Center, Training in Lake Luzerne, NYS Envirothon, table at Tractor Supply for outreach, tire recycling programs, stream table education for managers meeting in Ray Brook, Pollinator Pals program at Wead Library, Brushton Safety Day

* 1. Shayla Pfendler, District Technician

Part C

Municipal Assistance

* Salt Reduction Program: Chateaugay, Town of Dickinson, Saranac Lake
* Tire Recycling locations and dates: Chateaugay 6/2/25, Town of Dickinson 6/4/25, Saranac Lake will be later this year (September)

Invasive Species Project

* Emerald Ash Borer Sites found & Verified
  + Meacham Lake, Duane, St. Regis Falls, etc. NAACC Culvert Assessment training
* Completed 11 Culvert assessments throughout Town of Brushton to assess FEMA demands 2025 Tree Sale
  + Sold over 12,000 plants
* donated roughly 600 to various schools/programs (Davis Elementary, Salmon River, Adirondack Education Center, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Tupper Lake, Arbor Day)

Social Media

* + Tire recycling, AEM Strategy form, World Water Week, STMW Tradeshow Save-the-Date, NARE photos
  + Created Facebook for CWICNY
  + Potential new Logo for our office Drone Certification
  + FAA Regulated License received, can begin use North Country Stormwater Tradeshow
  + Save-the-Date complete
  + 2 more slots to be filled for event, awaiting word from agencies Meetings and Site Visits Attended
  + Awkwasasne Ash Peeling (4/16)
  + CWICNY Monthly Meeting & Westport meeting (4/17, 5/15)
  + Soil sampling/AEM Site visits
  + St. Regis Falls Soil Workshop (4/29)
  + Envirothon (5/1)
  + Hydroseeding AM Vet field with FEH BOCES Class (5/12)
  + Sea Grant Boat Tour (5/16)
  + ALCOA Foundation Grant Meeting (5/19)

**Next Month:** complete Planting with Purpose monitoring, education outreach events, Lake Luzerne Division V Training, NYS Envirothon, Tractor Supply Outreach booth, Tire Recycling Events, Hydroseeding, Lake Clear Event,

Region 4 meeting@ Raybrook, Brushton Safety Day

* 1. Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC

**NYS SWCC News**

**SFV 2025-2026 Environmental Protection Fund:** The Enacted SFY 2025-2026 Budget is now available at [www.budget.ny.gov.](http://www.budget.ny.gov/) This year, the overall EPF was increased from $400 million to **$425 million.** Within the EPF Enacted Budget, all the funding lines that support State Committee programs have received increases in appropriation. This is a

testament to the work of Soil and Water Conservation Districts and demonstrates the state's continued support for natural resource conservation.

* $19.5 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including $500,000 for the Cornell Soil Health program and $500,000 to maintain forests and woodlands located on agricultural land for the purpose of carbon sequestration - **this represents a $4.25 million increase**
* $18.5 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including $250,000 for Cornell Pesticide Management Education Program (PMEP)- **this represents a $1 million increase**
* $25 million for Farmland Protection, including up to $150,000 for the Cornell Land Classification and Master List of Soils - **this represents a $4 million increase**
* $1.85 million for Biodiversity Stewardship, including $500,000 for pollinator protection, $200,000 for the Cary Institute, $200,000 for Paul Smiths College for the Watershed Institute, and $200,000 for UAlbany Atmospheric Sciences Research
* $3.5 million for Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance
* $250,000 for Lake Erie Watershed Protection
* $25.3 million for the Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP), w/ $1.2 million for the Eastern Finger Coalition
* $24.6 million for the Oceans and Great Lakes Program - (Supports Ecosystem Based Management Program)
* $18.55 million for Invasive Species
* $18 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts- **this represents a $750,000 increase. With this increase to State Aid, Districts that receive full Part A reimbursement, Part B funding, and meet all performance measures could receive approximately $306,000.00!**

**May SWCC Meeting:** The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **May 20th** 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 PMl, 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 - WNY: **June** 3rd, Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street, Batavia, NY - Victor DiGiacomo
* Region 2 - Central NY: **June** 11th, Cortland SWCD Office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY- PJ Emerick
* Region 3 - Eastern NY: **June 2nd,** Montgomery County Emergency Services 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY - Scott Fickbohm
* Region 4 - Northern NY: **June 6th,** Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY - Ryan Cunningham
* Region 5 - Southeast NY: **June 12th,** Dutchess SWCD office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY - Ben Luskin

**AEM Round 19** of the noncompetitive Base Program is open! This is a three-year program offering funding for technical assistance *and* cost-share projects based on the local AEM Strategy. The AEM Base Round 19 Program and Contract Policies and the AEM19 Action Plan Excel workbook for Options A, B, and C have been uploaded to the SWCC's SharePoint site (Soil and Water Conservation Committee - Home): see "Resources for Districts > Agricultural Environmental Management > AEM Base Program Materials > AEM Base Round 19 Materials" Additional AEMl 9 documents used for activities once AEMl 9 begins will be uploaded this summer. **Action Plans are due July 1, 2025.**

Please join us for a **Webinar from 10AM to 12 PM on Tuesday, May 13th,** where we'll tour through AEM19's upgrades and workings and field questions. Please use the following WebEx info to join (will also be recorded and posted to SharePoint). https://meetnv-gov.webex.com/meetnv-

gov/i.php?MTID=m7729d843 ld0238e6e0948d7cb920eae0 Questions? Please feel free to contact Chas Miller [(chastitv.miller@agriculture.nv.gov](mailto:(chastitv.miller@agriculture.nv.gov) or 518-573-7021) or your Regional Coordinator.

**2025 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 28th **and** 29th, **2025.** 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 nvsenvjrorhon(a:gmail.corn.

**Informal NYS SWCC Program Reviews:** NYS SWCC staff are available, upon request, to review your District's processes/procedures for grant administration. This is an excellent opportunity to work one on one with your Regional AEA to take stock of your current grant administration processes, identify high risk areas and discuss possible internal controls to manage the risks. These reviews are meant to be informal and educational. If you are interested in scheduling a review, please reach out to your Regional AEA.

**Help Document NY's Changing Water Levels and Weather Impacts:** The **MyCoast New York** portal is used to collect and analyze photos of changing water levels, shorelines, and hazardous weather impacts across New York's varied coasts and water bodies. Photos are linked to real-time environmental conditions to create reports that help stakeholders like government agencies, business owners, and residents understand our changing environment and make informed decisions. Learn more and download the app, here: https://mvcoast.org/nv

**Other Events**

**Greene County SWCD's Watershed Wednesdays Webinar Series:** The series has returned for 2025! All are welcome to join.

* **May 7:** An Interactive Chat About Drought in New York State with Sylvia Reeves, National Integrated Drought Information System

https://us02vveb.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN CGeRqwbxRcmGcKpDafUjXA#/registration

* **May 14:** How Biodiversity Protects Us from Infectious Diseases with Dr. Felicia Keesing, Bard College https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN q W HLH YTW6b3q 1 HFvZT \_g#/registration
* **May 21:** Sustaining a Brook Trout Stronghold: Initiatives in the Upper Schoharie with Steven Swenson, NYSDEC

https://us02vveb.zoom. us/webinar/register/WN 8coLhbd4 R2q I UD2GagQxSA#/registration

* **May 28:** The "Deep Time" History of the Schoharie Watershed with Dr. Chuck Ver Straeten, New York State Museum

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/registe1-/WN s-uiRslERKK7s0wc7m3by,i;�:\_#/re\_gistration

**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 May 20-22.** 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://healthvvvaters.org/annual­ meeting/. **This event qualifies for Performance Measure lg- Participation at a State, Regional, and National meeting or function.**

**NACD Northeast** & **NYACD Annual Event and Training Session:** Save the date! **September 21st- 24th, 2025,** DoubleTree Hilton, East Syracuse, NY. Details and information to follow soon.

**Other Funding**

**Resilient Watersheds Grant (RWG) Program Application Period is Now Open:** At least $45 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 6, 2025 at 4:00 PM.** https://dec.nv.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantitv/resilient-ny

* 1. USDA NRCS - No Report
  2. USDAFSA

SUBJECT: FSA Updates

**Conservation Reserve Program Signup**

Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for both the General and Continuous CRP from now through June 6, 2025.

**General CRP (Signup 64)**

Agricultural producers and landowners submit offers for General CRP through a competitive bid process. Offers are ranked and scored, by FSA, using nationally established environmental benefits criteria. USDA will announce accepted offers once ranking and scoring for all offers is completed. In addition to annual rental payments, approved General CRP participants may also be eligible for cost-share assistance to establish long­ term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

**Continuous CRP (Signup 63)**

Continuous CRP offers are not subject to a competitive bid process. To ensure emolled acres do not exceed the current statutory cap of 27 million acres, FSA is accepting Continuous CRP offers on a first-come, first-served basis through June 6. However, should allotted CRP acreage remain available following the June 6 deadline, FSA will accept continuous CRP offers from interested landowners through July 31, 2025, and may be subsequently considered for acceptance, in batches, if it's determined that the offered acres support USDA's conservation priorities.

Continuous CRP participants voluntarily offer environmentally sensitive lands, typically smaller parcels than offered through General CRP including wetlands, riparian buffers, and varying wildlife habitats. In return, they receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover, fencing, watering systems and livestock stream crossings..

FSA will announce dates for Grassland CRP signup in the near future.

**Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP):** Signup continues through through August 15, 2025. ECAP will help agricultural producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices. Payments are based on 2024 planted acres. Producers who did file 2024 crop reports with FSA, can do late-file reports for ECAP purposes only at no charge.

**Price Support Interest Rates (May 2025):**

* Marketing Assistance (Commodity) Loans: 5.125%
* Farm Storage Facility Loans:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 3 year | 3.875% |
| 5 year | 4.00% |
| 7 year | 4.125% |
| 10 year | 4.25% |
| 12 year | 4.375% |

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**Farm Loan Program Interest Rates (May 2025):**

* Operating Loans 5.125%

Ownership Loans Emergency Loans

5.625 %

3.75%

Feel free to reach out if you have any questions!

1. **N\_ext Meeting:** June 17, 2025, at 9am
2. **Adjournment: 11:27am Motion to adjourn meeting:** made by Tommy Derouchie, 2nd by Dennis Egan, motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted;

Sarah Otis

District Technician