

BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5 PARK LANE
HIGHLAND, NY 12528
June 24, 2026

- 1. OPENING MEETING** - The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 9:07 AM. Directors Present: L. Tantillo, J. Kovacs, F. Wilklow and K. Nolan. SWCD Staff in attendance: J. Wedemeyer - Executive Director, A. Sandor – District Technician, C. DeGroodt - Program Assistant and M. Garfinkle – Ashokan Basin Project Manager. Guest: Neal Horning, Mount Academy Envirothon Advisor.

The Board would like to conduct exit interviews with Garfinkle and Sandor. Garfinkle stated that he didn't feel the need to do an exit interview. Wedemeyer requested that several Board Members make up a hiring committee to interview the final round of applicants for the vacant technician positions.

Neal Horning, the Mount Academy Envirothon Advisor, introduced himself. Ulster County's Mount Academy won first place at the NYS Envirothon! They will now be moving on to represent Ulster County and NYS at the international competition in mid-July. He is requesting financial support for the international competition in the amount of \$3,600.00 (same as last year). This covers accommodations, food, and other travel expenditures that are not currently covered by the NYS Envirothon Committee. **2026-6-1 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, to provide \$3,600.00 to The Mount Academy to cover food, travel and accommodations. All in favor.** Horning thanked the Directors and Wedemeyer for their support.

(Horning left the Meeting at 9:14 AM)

2. WORK REPORTS

Written staff reports were mailed and emailed to Board Members prior to the meeting for review (attached to the filed minutes).

a) SWCD

J. Wedemeyer - (see attached staff report)

Inventory and Evaluations – Wedemeyer provided assistance to the Town of Hurley for a riparian buffer and a boat access site.

District Updates/Other Projects – Wedemeyer attended the May Economic Development Legislative Committee meeting, completed the District's annual budget, closed out the 2025 Part B Saunderskill Riparian Buffer project.

Tantillo and Wedemeyer attended the Regional District Managers Meeting in Pomona.

Wedemeyer coordinated a 4-Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Course with Rockland County SWCD and worked with the Ulster County Personnel Department to enroll all employees in the NYS HELPS Program.

C. DeGroodt – (see attached staff report)

A. Sandor – (see attached staff report)

b) AWSMP

M. Garfinkle – (see attached staff report)

Garfinkle's report was emailed to Directors prior to the Board Meeting and hard copies were available for review.

Hollow Tree Brook Project – This project is two to three weeks behind the Broad Street Hollow project. They are waiting to hear back from the Army Corp. of Engineers, still need to get DEC permits and have not yet begun the bidding process.

There are two watershed conservation coordinator interns that are working three days a week with their assessment field crew.

Their SCA field intern is doing very well and Garfinkle and other staff are meeting with her program coordinator tomorrow to review the program and do a 5-month check-in to evaluate how she's doing with the program.

Gedicks, Taylor and Bonse are going to Greene County to shadow construction oversight managers on an active construction project because they will be stepping in to oversee construction on Broadstreet Hollow. EPR's construction oversight proposal only provides part time oversight so the Ashokan crew will be filling in the gaps. There was discussion yesterday with the DEP and it was their suggestion to send them up there. Nolan asked why we did the construction oversight this way. Was it because it allowed EPR to have the low bid and we saved money? Garfinkle replied that was all that they were willing to offer and the decision was made before he was hired. Wedemeyer said that when they initially submitted their proposal, EPR was working in New York. Then when they were awarded the contract, their oversight person moved to Tennessee and now has to travel back and forth. Nolan said that it's no longer independent construction oversight and that there are benefits and disadvantages both ways and on-site people don't see the same things that independent people do. Nolan said she didn't see the contract so she doesn't know if we pay for the travel or not for the independent oversight engineer. Wedemeyer said that the DEP does pay for her travel. Nolan said that the company has a low bid but doesn't have sufficient staff to provide the oversight. Wilklow asked if the contract can be revised. Just because the company moved out of state why should the DEP have to pay the extra travel fees. He asked if going forward, there is a way to prevent this from happening again. Nolan said that we should ask the DEP lawyers to look at the contract. A brief discussion followed.

Taylor has been working with CCE frequently to do technical visits in multiple communities. He's also coordinating invasive species management work on past projects and will be helping with construction oversight.

Taylor is also working on writing Riparian Corridor Management Plans.

I. Gedicks – (see attached staff report)

M. Tollefson – (see attached staff report)

G. Bonse – (see attached staff report)

c) NRCS

O. Velez-Juarbe – Working on approximately 45 new preapprovals which will turn into contracts for the Lower Hudson Valley.

Wedemeyer asked if Velez-Juarbe had any information on computers for District staff. Velez-Juarbe said he did not. He is still waiting on more information but that SWCD has to have a cooperative agreement with NRCS. Oscar doesn't know what the process will be.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a) **Board of Directors Annual Training Plan** – Wedemeyer told the Board these Training Plans are reviewed annually with the Directors. Plans include Directors' attendance at Managers Meetings, taking District Law Training, NYS S&WCC meetings, reviewing employee evaluations, attending the Water Quality Symposium, etc. Nolan thanked Wedemeyer for putting the plans together and making it easy for Directors to follow. **2026-6-2 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, to adopt the Board of Directors Annual Training Plan as presented. All in favor.**

b) **Proposed 2027 Annual Budget** – Wedemeyer recommended a 3% cost of living increase for all staff. Discussion followed. **2026-6-3 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, to adopt the Proposed 2027 Annual Budget as presented. All in favor.**

c) **Envirothon Donation Request from The Mount Academy** – discussed previously

d) **Broad Street Hollow Stream Restoration Project Bids** – Garfinkle said that all of the permits are in place and all of the landowners are on board with the project. Three bids were opened and recorded.

- 1) Hubell - \$1,360,980.00
- 2) KER/Baker - \$2,449,129.48
- 3) Kinsley - \$957,010.00

2026-6-4 Nolan made the Motion, Wilklow seconded, to accept the bid from Kinsley in the amount of \$957,010.00 for the Broad Street Hollow Stream Restoration Project. All in favor.

e) **Construction Services Contract with EPR** – **2026-6-5 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, that the Board empower Executive Director Wedemeyer to enter into a contract with Ecosystem Planning & Restoration (EPR) for construction inspection at the total cost of \$109,075.00 for the Broad Street Hollow Stream Restoration Project. All in favor.**

f) **M. Garfinkle Resignation** – Garfinkle said that he enjoyed the job and working with everyone. His last day will be July 8th. Garfinkle requested to donate his unused sick leave to DeGroodt. **2026-6-6 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, to accept Garfinkle's offer to donate his unused sick leave to DeGroodt. All in favor.** DeGroodt thanked him and the Board.

2026-6-7 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, to extend Garfinkle's health insurance coverage up to one month past his final day with the District. All in favor.

Sandor told the Board that she appreciated her time at the District but took a job with the private sector. She also requested that her unused sick leave be donated to DeGroodt. **2026-6-8 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, that Sandor's unused sick leave be donated to DeGroodt. All in favor.** DeGroodt was very appreciative.

Nolan stated that she would like the Board to speak to both Sandor and Garfinkle after the Board Meeting.

4. OLD BUSINESS

- a) **2026 Chevy Silverado Purchase – Lowest Bidder Error** – Sandor told the Board that the lowest bidder, Nielsen Rt 46, Inc., had a mistake in their bid, so they are no longer the lowest bid. **2026-6-9 Nolan made the Motion, Wilklow seconded, to cancel the prior Nielson Rt 46, Inc. bid due to an error in their calculations and to award the bid to G and H Auto Group DBA Mohonk Chevrolet in the amount of \$48,867.15. All in favor.**
- b) **District Technician Interviews – Board Hiring Committee and Scheduling** – There were seven candidates chosen to be interviewed by Wedemeyer and Sandor and three of those candidates will be chosen to be interviewed by the special hiring committee comprised of four Board Members on Thursday, July 2nd starting at 10:00. Each interview will last approximately ½ hour. It was mentioned that the District will need to purchase another laptop computer for one of the technicians. **2026-6-10 Nolan made the Motion, Wilklow seconded, to allow the District to spend up to \$1,000.00 on a laptop for one of the new District Technicians. All in favor.**

5. Board Meeting Minutes Approval – 2026-6-11 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, to approve the May Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ABSTRACTS – 2026-6-12 Nolan made the Motion, Kovacs seconded, to approve the May Financial Report and Abstract as presented. All in favor.

7. NEXT MEETING - The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2026 at 9:00 AM.

8. ADJOURNMENT

2026-6-13 A Motion was made by Nolan to Adjourn the Meeting at 10:05 AM, seconded by Wilklow. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine DeGroodt
Program Assistant

JLW Activities –May 20 through June 17, 2026

AEM: AEM Tier 4 – No till drill delivery, T/O New Paltz. AEM Tier 4 – Row mulcher delivery, T/O Esopus. AEM Tier 4 – Assisted with Cultural Resources submissions for two farms, T/O Shawangunk and Rochester. AEM Tier 4 – Coordination of invasive species treatment for riparian buffer, T/O Rochester. AEM Tier 1 – Farm visit to update Tier 1 and access road and diversion recommendations. AEM Tier 4 – On farm secondary containment capacity and potential locations. AEM Tier 4 – Picked up row mulcher, T/O Lloyd. AEM Tier 4 – Roof water runoff site visit and preliminary design, T/O Gardiner.

Inventory and Evaluations: Michael Rothe, T/O Saugerties – SWPPP permit assistance. T/O Hurley – Riparian buffer and boat access site visit and recommendations. Justin Riccobono, T/O Gardiner – Access road recommendations. Mary Heyer, T/O New Paltz – Meeting with Town to progress conservation easement.

NYC DEP SWP-101: Chris and I reconciled the last quarter for Capital and Expense. Project Managers monthly meetings. Assisting M. Garfinkle putting the Broad Street Hollow stream restoration project out to bid and permitting, as well as coordination for hazard tree identification with certified arborist and Hollow Tree Brook stream restoration project, which is progressing to the 100% design phase and permitting. CAT 494 final contract closeout for Expense account/DEP reimbursement. Reviewing and approving invoices for stream restoration engineering design and contract expenses. Completed annual plan of work and annual budget, submitted to DEP for approval. Assistance to CSBI program with invasive species treatments.

Round 27: Construction scheduling with Pioneer Pole Buildings – early July.

CRF Round 6: Grant closeout has been completed with interest report, waiting for NYS SWCC for final closeout confirmation.

CRF Round 7: Irrigation system is completed, will be pressure tested for final certification.

District Updates/Other Projects:

- Attended May Economic Development Legislative Committee meeting.
- District Technician Position – Amanda and I reviewed resumes and conducted 7 in-person interviews
- Completed UCSWCD annual budget.
- Closed out 2025 Part B – Saunderskill Riparian Buffer project.
- Attended Regional District Manager's Meeting with L. Tantillo.
- Coordination of 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Course with Rockland Co. SWCD.
- Worked with UC Personnel Dept to enroll all employees in NYS HELPS program.

Christine DeGroodt

5/20/26 – 6/16/26

NYS Retirement and NYS Deferred Comp – I continued to do the monthly reporting for NYS Retirement and submit employees' NYS Deferred Comp contributions.

SWP-101 Contracts – The majority of my time the past few weeks have been spent working on the two SWP-101 quarterly reports (both reports have been completed). I am now getting a head start on the reports for the next quarter (April – June) as they will be needed for the District's annual audit scheduled for the middle of July.

I contacted our insurance company and the County for updated Certificates of Insurance for the SWP-101 contract.

Misc. – I spent several hours on the phone with Quickbooks. The desktop version (2023) the District has been using for years has been discontinued so we had to upgrade to the newer version (2024). Although I was an admin on the old version, Quickbooks has to add me as admin on the new version which requires a lot of forms to be filled out...again, and they are having issues doing it. Because of this, our online payroll (which is direct deposit) is on-hold. So paper checks are again being printed until Quickbooks can add me back on to the account.

The District's annual audit has been scheduled for July 16th. Nugent & Haeussler, P.C. will audit the District and SWP-101 finances. Since I've been back at the office, I have been spending time re-organizing and filing paperwork in preparation for the audit.

Amanda Sandor Work Report - May 20th-June 24th

SWCD Programs:

- Four Winds Farm Irrigation project - (approx 46 hours)
 - construction oversight, assisting in layout and monitoring trenching depths
 - taking construction photos and logging site activity, organizing site photos with captions for documentation of project
 - communicating with property owners/operators/J Wedemeyer/NRCS to ensure project is implemented per plan
- Interviewing applicants for District Technician position
 - Reviewing applications with J Wedemeyer
 - Seven applicants have been interviewed thus far
 - Working with J. Wedemeyer to determine top three candidates who will be selected for second interviews
- Visited farm in Gardiner to get AEM Tier 4 SW Implementation Budget signature
- Communicating with farmers regarding AEM program and Ag Assessments
- Communicating with landowners in Ulster County outside NYC watershed interested in site visits/assistance
- Dept of the Environment Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting and prep for Co-Leading working group with Ella Cattabiani
- NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting June 16
- No-Till Equipment Rental program - pick up and drop off No Till Drill in New Paltz, pick up and drop off No Till Drill to Accord
- Riparian Buffers - checking on buffer at Million Dollar Farm and buffer at New Paltz community garden area
- Helping with Silverado bid award/non-award communications
- Social Media posts

DEP Programs: (approx. 30 hours)

- Broad Street Hollow
 - assisted with pre-bid site meetings with property owner, EPR, DEP, and contractors
 - assisted with preparing pre-bid questions and responses, met with EPR and DEP to finalize for distribution

- visited site with Max and Ian to mark out trees shown on plan to be protected with fencing during construction using Trimble and FieldMaps

- Bid opening scheduled for June 22nd

- Three days of training with DEP staff in NYC watershed:

- 1 day in classroom for introduction to fluvial geomorphology

- 2 days on various sites with DEP and AWSMP staff learning Stream Feature Inventory techniques including utilizing survey equipment, pebble counts, bar sampling, etc.

-Onboarding/training

- Ag101 - 11 hour online training through Penn State about agriculture in PA/Mid Atlantic region

- Reviewing agricultural resources to learn about tillages, forages, equipment, etc

June UCSWCD Board Meeting Work Report

Reporting Period: May 21, 2026 – June 17, 2026

Max Garfinkle | Project Manager

Stream Restoration Projects

Broadstreet Hollow

- Continued working with EPR to move the Broadstreet Hollow Stream Restoration Project through bidding and construction preparation.
- Developed, reviewed, and refined bidding materials, including the Invitation to Bid, Instructions to Bidders, contract materials, permit references, supporting attachments, and bid schedule items.
- Held the on-site pre-bid meeting with interested contractors and project partners to review site conditions, access considerations, anticipated construction sequencing, and contractor questions.
- Coordinated remaining bid package updates, including permit updates, CGP Letter of Authorization materials, and final schedule items needed before bid opening.
- Tracked outstanding bidding items and coordinated with EPR and staff to keep the project moving toward contractor selection and construction start-up.
- Coordinated with EPR and internal staff on survey control needs, including verification of existing control points and clarification that the contractor will verify the site control network prior to construction.
- Reviewed construction access sequencing and clarified the intended use of multiple access points during different phases of construction.
- Coordinated with staff and project partners on hazard tree marking, tree company communication, and other site preparation needs prior to construction.
- Maintained communication with project landowners regarding project status, bidding, agency coordination, anticipated construction timing, and next steps so landowners remain informed as implementation approaches.
- Bids are scheduled to be opened on June 22.
- Anticipated construction start date is July 20, pending bid results, final coordination, and contractor mobilization.

Hollow Tree Brook

- Revised and coordinated permit narratives, FEAF materials, SEQRA Parts 2 and 3, Negative Declaration documents, and supporting environmental review language.
- Continued coordination with the Town of Hunter on floodplain development permit.
- Participated in permitting discussions with Stantec, NYSDEC, USACE, DEP, and UCSWCD staff to keep agency review moving toward completion.
- Reviewed project design materials and coordinated comments, questions, and next steps with Stantec and project partners.
- Coordinated with NYSDEC Region 4 regarding wetlands permitting considerations and current regulatory guidance that may affect the project permitting approach.
- Met with the USACE project manager to review Nationwide Permit 27 comments and discuss additional information needed to continue permit review.
- Incorporated to confirm floodplain impacts and support the Town's floodplain development permit review.
- 100% design review is scheduled for June 19.
- Permitting is expected to be finalized shortly after the 100% design is reviewed and agreed upon.
- Bid materials are expected to be developed during the week of June 22.

Assessment and Monitoring

- Continued preparing for the 2026 field season by coordinating with assessment staff on priorities, scheduling, workload planning, and monitoring deliverables.
- WCC interns started work and were integrated into field-season planning and support tasks.
- Reviewed SFI-related materials and coordinated with staff on upcoming SFI needs, field expectations, and outreach preparation.

- Worked with Ian Gedicks to finalize Beaver Kill SFI outreach and related coordination needs.
- Participated in discussions regarding turbidity reduction strategy, monitoring priorities, and reporting expectations.

CSBI

- Continued planning for upcoming CSBI implementation needs, seasonal priorities, staff scheduling, and field support.
- Coordinated CSBI work with broader restoration, maintenance, and vegetation management priorities for the field season.
- Assisted with general CSBI planning, including identifying staff support needs and keeping project tasks moving forward.
- Invasive species management has begun across all active project sites.

Meetings, Training, and Program Coordination

- Participated in DEP managers/project coordination meetings and the DEP quarterly meeting.
- Continued work on the 2026–2028 Action Plan, including review, editing, and coordination with CCE, DEP, and UCSWCD staff.
- Reviewed CHIFAC and other LFA-related materials and related program communications.
- Coordinated staff training opportunities, including Rosgen-related training and other professional development needs.
- Reviewed SCA time and attendance materials and coordinated intern/staff timecard items as needed.
- Continued coordination on project schedules, consultant deliverables, upcoming field work, and program priorities.

General Coordination

- Continued coordination with DEP, CCE, NYSDEC, USACE, Stantec, EPR, and local municipal staff on active project and program needs.
- Worked with Jake Wedemeyer, Adam Trescott, and assessment/field staff to track project priorities, permitting needs, field-season readiness, and partner expectations.
- Supported project planning, technical review, meeting preparation, and interagency communication across active work areas.
- Continued internal staff check-ins related to workload, scheduling, equipment, training, field needs, and upcoming project deadlines.
- Continued organizing project files, correspondence, and outstanding task lists to support project continuity and follow-up.
- Drafted and revised project correspondence, permit language, environmental review materials, survey control language, construction sequencing language, and agency response materials.
- Provided support across partner efforts where technical review, project tracking, meeting preparation, or follow-up communication was needed.

Upcoming Priorities

- Open and review Broadstreet Hollow bids and coordinate next steps toward contractor selection and construction start-up.
- Complete remaining Broadstreet Hollow pre-construction coordination with EPR, landowners, staff, and the selected contractor.
- Review Hollow Tree Brook 100% design materials and finalize remaining permit documentation.
- Develop Hollow Tree Brook bid materials during the week of June 22.
- Continue coordinating 2026 assessment, monitoring, SFI, CSBI, and intern field-season priorities.

Ian Gedicks

Stream Technical Specialist

June UCSWCD Board Meeting Work Report

Post Project Monitoring

- Warner Creek Site 1 & Site 2: Completed Year 5 Geomorphic survey
- Stony Clove above Jansen: Completed Year 3 Geomorphic survey
- Elk Bush Kill STRP: Completed Year 3 Geomorphic survey
- Working on monitoring reports for aforementioned sites

Stream Feature Inventory

- Preparing for 2026 SFI Beaver Kill: Plan to reassess Management Units 1-3
 - Sent out landowner mailings and have received a few responses.
 - Working on reviewing past data in GIS

Modified Bank Erosion Monitoring Study (BEMS)

- Still drafting an Upper Esopus Creek Turbidity Reduction Management Strategy
- Working on reviewing previous BEMS data and combining it with previous SFI data to determine priority sites to visit and assess

Geomorphic Assessments

- Collecting geomorphic data at Broadstreet Hollow STRP, Hollow Tree Brook STRP, and woodland potential project site. May add a site at Birch Creek.

Other

- Trained our two interns, Nick and Chloe. They've been very helpful with fieldwork!
- Assisted CSBI with Fence installation at Panther Kill site
- Beginning to familiarize myself with Broadstreet Hollow design
- Flagged trees to save at Broadstreet Hollow during construction
- Attended Broadstreet Hollow pre bid siter showing for contractors
- Site visit along Birch Creek with CCE investigating fine sediment along Culvert

June Board Report (5/21/25 – 6/17/26) Mark Tollefson – Watershed Technician

- **General Office Work**

- Continued GIS data management and technical assistance within AWSMP
- Server organization and general maintenance of storage
- CSBI fence installation assistance

- **Training**

- Assist in Watershed Conservation Corps training days (SFI, Survey 101)

- **Assessment & Monitoring**

- Birch Creek SFI Data Processing
 - Photo organizing
- Elk Bushkill year 3 project monitoring and data preparation
- CCE Assistance: Culvert geomorphic investigations
- Started Broad Street Hollow year 3 pre-project monitoring and data preparation

- **Meetings**

- Catch-up and task giving meetings with Brooke (SCA intern)

June 2026 Board Report-Bonse

Office Work

- Produced maps using ARC GIS Pro. Maps to be used in RCMPs, additional CSBI usage, and other future efforts conducted by AWSMP
- Created Safe Work Plans for multiple sites
- Created SOPs for multiple tasks

Stream Monitoring

- Assisted in both office and field work
- Assisted in all necessary tasks
- Assisted in Broadstreet hollow and elk Bushkill stream assessment
- Participated in Vegetation Monitoring for SRPs

CSBI & Site Maintenance

- Monitored multiple sites, and preformed maintenance when needed
- Prepared for upcoming planting season, through data, observation, maintenance, etc.
- Inputted and performed quality control on previous season's data
- Sprayed anti-herbivory spray at Elk Bushkill SRP, Pantherkill SRP, Willow Fields at Coldbrook and Thomas Planting
- Maintained Cold brook Willow Fields through mowing weed whacking and thinning of willow beds
- Attended landowner site visits with CSBI coordinator

Misc

- Attended multiple staff meetings
- Managed and maintained the Plant Material Center and office grounds
- Completed various other tasks and needed/assigned
- Maintained tools and equipment
- Assisted in education of SCA and WCC Interns

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 6 Report – June 2026
Submitted by: Travis Ferry – Region 6 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

New SWCC Staff: The SWCC is pleased to announce Maren Stoddard as the newest member of our team. Maren will be assuming the role of Program Analyst with the Division, specializing in data and environmental modeling work. Maren started her career in NYS conservation with the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, where she developed and grew programming for the District in the areas of Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM), stormwater, forestry management, conservation education and more. Please join me in welcoming Maren to AGM and the SWCC!
maren.stoddard@agriculture.ny.gov, (518) 925 – 5753

SFY 2026-2027 Environmental Protection Fund: The Enacted SFY 2026-2027 Budget is now available at www.budget.ny.gov. This year, the overall EPF remained level at **\$425 million**. Line items of interest to SWCDs include:

- \$27 million for Farmland Protection, including up to \$175,000 for the Cornell Land Classification and Master List of Soils; \$1M for Capacity grants
- \$18.7 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including \$250,000 for Cornell PMEP;
- \$19 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts; **This represents a \$1 Million increase.**
- \$26 million for the Oceans and Great Lakes Initiative;
- \$6.6 million for NYS Climate Adaptation, including \$20,000 for the Wood Products Development Council. WPDC remains at a reduced level due to a large amount of available reappropriations;
- \$20.5 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including up to \$700,000 for the Cornell Soil Health program; up to \$1,000,000 for agrivoltaics; up to \$2,000,000 for Cornell University satellite farms

June SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **June 16th** 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.**

Conservation Approval Authority Update: The SWCC has approved changes to the Conservation Approval Authority (CAA) program, expanding its scope and available certification tracks. All conservation standards not requiring a PE license, CAA certificate, CNMP certificate or Professional Animal Scientist license are now included in the program. Participants can earn certification in 3 ways:

- Coursework to earn a Basic Certificate
- Mentored course follow-up projects to earn an Advanced Certificate
- Evaluation of Education and Experience to earn an Advanced Certificate

The CAA program is intended to help train district staff and help document their knowledge, skills and abilities to give district boards confidence in them. The CAA policy and accompanying Approval Authority Definitions for SWCC Programs spreadsheet are available on the SWCC SharePoint engineering page. Questions can be directed to Tim Clark, tim.clark@agriculture.ny.gov

Director Training: A reminder that your Regional AEA is available to present training modules to your Board of Directors. Most notably the District Law training module which is training required every 3 years under the Performance Measure 1. Please reach out to your Regional AEA if you have any training needs. Additionally, the District Law training module is available to complete virtually via VIMEO: <https://vimeo.com/446525792>

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

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.

- **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/join/9tMRtYB6ji_YvJA#/registration

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 **June 25th event at Sheland Farm, located in Jefferson County** and the **June 30th event at the Nichols Farm in Cattaraugus County**. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

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>