

MINUTES  
ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
5 PARK LANE  
HIGHLAND, NY 12528  
July 26, 2023

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 7:00 PM. Directors Present, S.VanNostrand, J.Delaune, Legislature H.Litts and Legislature K.Nolan (arrived 7:10 PM.) Staff in attendance M. Wagner-Program Assistant, T. Ferry-District Technician, A.Doan A.W.S.MP.Project Manager and J. Wedemeyer, Exec. Director. Absent: R.Davenport and F.Wilklow,

**1. STAFF REPORTS**

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

**a) Work Reports**

**SWCD - J. Wedemeyer**

- **AEM updates** – AEM Tier 4: Covered barnyard and rotational grazing/fence project are out to bid. AEM Rnd 17, T/O Marletown and Rochester. Tier 4 – reviewed proposed seed mix, no till planting seed rate and urea dressing recommendations, T/O Olive. T/O New Paltz – met w/ farmer to look at fuel storage and agrichemical mixing area. Forage harvest equipment demo for CCE of Ulster County. Outreach – Coordination with NOFA NY to have table/AEM display at farm event. Education assistance with program requirements and cost share funding options. Tier 4 – Discussed sub surface drainage trench depths, irrigation system as-built's for pumping plant permit, T/O Esopus.
- **Inventory and Evaluations reviews.**
- **Part B Arbor Day Imitative:** T/O Ulster planting proposal was reviewed. Working with UC DOE with 2023 budget.
- **NYC DEP CAT 494:** Administration, payroll delivery, Bi-Weekly meetings with AWSMP staff. Bank transfers reconciliation. Woodland Valley SRP mugwort control costs and approval, Elk Bush Kill pre-bid site visit showing. Woodland Valley SRP site visit. Reviewed Hollow Tree Brook scope of services agreement and obtained UC SWCD Chairman's signature. Obtained NYC DEP approval to have the CAT-494 contract to reimburse half of the District's insurance premium costs. Approved KER pay App 7 for retainage. Corrected SLR invoice. Answered questions for PP 07E to D.Burns, assistance with FY23 Q4 Capital and Expense quarterly reports. Seed germination for Panther Kill, reviewed photos and winter kill of oats for spring germinations , provided recommendations. Construction inspection training for AWSMP and District Staff. Reviewed Elk Bush Kill plan set and SWPPP.
- **District Updated/Other Projects:** Working with CCE of Ulster County to do another "Meat the Farmer" event in October 2023. Working on CRF Round 7 applications. Spent a lot of time training the former Program Assistant and corrected June 2023 Abstract. Presented at the Economic Legislative Committee.

**b) SWCD – T.Ferry**

- **AEM:** Tier 1 & 2 – T/O Rochester – completed tier 1 and 2 with sheep, vegetable, and egg farm interested in grown and certified. Tier 4 – T/O Hurley – look for old irrigation project files w/ new engineer. Tier 5B – T/O New Paltz – met w/ farmer to look at fuel storage and agrichemical mixing area.
- **Inventory and Evaluations:** T/O Rochester – Ivan Goodman – report for riparian buffer and mapping. C/O Kingston – Peter Criswell – met with Peter to look at driveway drainage issues.
- **CRF Round 7:** Spent a lot of time working on Round 7 proposal.
- **NYC DEP CAT 494:** Elk Bushkill site showing and construction inspection training.
- **Round 27:** No activity.
- **No-Till Program:** Moved no-till drill from Fair Grounds to Fred Wilklow's, due to the upcoming Ulster County Fair
- **Misc:** Worked with Joe Basil Chevy to get our truck order confirmed, truck will be ordered this month, and should be here sometime this winter.

**c) AWSMP – A. Doan: - Stream Project Manager**

- Administration
- Stream Management Implementation Program support - SMIP
- Assessment & Monitoring
- Projects
- CSBI
- Meetings/Site Visits

**d) AWSMP – A.Lent, A.Doan, B.Taylor and M.Tollefson (refer to attached report for details).**

- Administration
- Received Capital request for funds approval.
- Assessment & Monitoring
- Projects: Stony Clove SRP, Warner Creek SRP, Panther Kill SRP, Mink Hollow Bridge, Elk Bushkill, Woodland SRP, and CSBI.

**e) NYS SWCC**

Region 5 Report – July 2023 was submitted for review in the Directors package.

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

**a) Elk Bush Kill Engineers Bid Recommendation**

Stantec recommendation in correspondence dated July 18, 2023 was to proceed with Hubbell Inc. as the selected contractor for the Project as they provided the lowest qualified bid.

K. Nolan made a **MOTION** to accept Stantec recommendation to proceed with Hubbell Inc. as the selected contractor for the Project seconded by S.VanNostrand. All ayes.

**b) Program Assistant Position and Temp Service Agency Contact**

J.Wedemeyer explained effective 7/13/2023 J.Witkowski formally submitted her resignation from the District. J.Wedemeyer said there are two options open: the Board

can go through a temp agency – H.Litts voiced his opinion that he was oppose to the temp agency because you do not know what you are going to get and in the long run it may not work out. J.Wedemeyer said the second option which he highly recommended C. DeGrootd as a replacement for M.Wagner. DeGrootd is highly qualified for the position she has been working for OC SWCD for the past 28 years. Salary was discussed.

J.Wedemeyer said he would like to keep M.Wagner as part time. Her salary would be paid by NYC DEP. K.Nolan was unsure where the money in the budget is allocated.

J.Wedemeyer explained he had a discussion with B.Cahill from economic Development and he recommended for J.Wedemeyer to sharpen his pencil and request an additional 10,000 for 2024 budget. J.Wedemeyer asked the Board to approve a 3% raise for M.Wagner to be retroactive effective as of July 1, 2023. K. Nolan discussed the matter and will take it under advisement.

H.Litts made a **MOTION** to approve the Executive Director J.Wedemeyer recommendation to hire DeGrootd as the new Program Assistant for the District, seconded by S.VanNostrand. All ayes. K.Nolan made a **MOTION** for C.Degrootd salary to match M.Wagner present salary, seconded by S.VanNostrand. All ayes. K.Nolan made a **MOTION** to approve a 3% increase raise for M.Wagner to be retroactive effective July 1, 2023, seconded by J.Delaune. All ayes.

- c) Economic Development Legislative Meeting Presentation and County Funding  
J.Wedemeyer gave a topnotch presentation to the UC Economic Development Legislature Committee Meeting on July 6, 2023 on the District current projects, stream restoration, covered barnyard and manure management, rotational grazing system, completed projects, climate resilient farming, UC SWCD Mini-Grant Cover Crop Program, assistance to residents and municipalities, 2023 funding sources and where the District is heading. L.Tantillo applauded J.Wedemeyer on his superior work.

### 3. OLD BUSINESS

- a) External Audit  
Work in progress.
- b) Insurance Policies Reimbursement by NYC DEP  
Insurance Polices Reimbursement will be reimbursed 50% by the District and 50% By NYC Dep.
- c) 2024 Budget and County Appropriation Amount  
K. Nolan made a MOTION to amend 2024 Budget to the County by an increase of \$10,000, seconded by S.VanNostrand. All ayes.
- d) Fred Wilklow Board Appointment Approved – Resolution No. 620 was submitted to the Directors appointment of Fred Wilklow as a Farm Bureau Representative – Present to December 31, 2023.
- e) Scenic Hudson Supplemental Funding for Agricultural Projects – Discussion was held in J.Wedemeyer Work Report, Scenic Hudson has not been responsive. All future collaboration with Scenic Hudson will be reviewed and approved by the board to hold them more accountable.
- f) New Truck Purchase Status – Reviewed in T.Ferry work report.
- g) Proposed District Law Changes – J.Wedemeyer reviewed the District Law Changes and will keep the District informed of the outcome.
- h) K.Nolan – update on the 2 million project for farmers. Money is sitting, project will move forward as soon as new person is hired.
- i) K.Nolan bought before the Board for discussion the proposed legislation bill to eliminate pesticides/neonics used in farming (in case the District is interested she has post cards to distribute at the office). H.Litts said he would like to see some studies on this proposal. J. Wedemeyer stated that since this is a Federal office, political solicitation is

prohibited and he will double check with O. Velez-Juarbe, USDA/NRCS District Conservationist to see if this is allowed.

**4. Minutes Approval**

H.Litts made a **Motion** to approve the June 2023 minutes, seconded by K.Nolan. All ayes.

**5. Financial Reports and Abstracts – November and December**

H.Litts made a **Motion** to approve the June Financial Report and Abstract, seconded by K.Nolan. All ayes.

**6. Next Meeting**

Scheduled for September 27, 2023 at 7 PM.

**7. Adjournment**

H.Litts made a **Motion** to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 P.M., seconded by K.Nolan. All ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margarete Wagner  
Program Assistant

## JLW Activities June 22 through July 19 2023

**AEM:** AEM Tier 4 – Covered barnyard and rotational grazing/fence projects are out to bid. Irrigation preliminary design and cost estimate for CRF Round 7, T/O Marbletown. AEM Tier 4 - reviewed proposed seed mix, no till planting seed rate and urea top dressing recommendations, T/O Olive. AEM Partnership - forage harvest equipment demo for CCE of Ulster County. AEM Outreach - Coordination with NOFA NY to have table/AEM display at farm event. AEM Education - assistance with AEM program requirements and cost share funding options, T/O New Paltz. AEM Tier 5B- Farm visit to address resource concerns, T/O New Paltz. AEM Tier 4 - Discussed sub surface drainage trench depths, irrigation system as-built's for pumping plant permit, T/O Esopus.

**Inventory and Evaluations:** Rivia Jaffe, T/O Woodstock - seeding recommendations for septic leach field. Michael Johnson, T/O Ulster- riparian planting recommendations on Lower Esopus Creek, 60 LF. Ivan Goodman, T/O Rochester - reviewed field visit photos, receipts and voucher for riparian buffer project. T/O Hurley - Letter of support for natural resource inventory. Dom Sorbello, T/O Lloyd - Status of farm drainage, retaining an attorney for a drainage easement with Scenic Hudson. Town of New Paltz Riparian Buffer Assessment with CCE of Ulster Co. - reviewed and discussed potential participants and LO contact information. Kymara Longran, T/O Esopus - office visit, discussed organic certification and ag value assessment. Johnaton Farber - ag feasibility, Greene County. David Gutteridge, T/O Marbletown - Pond site investigation/feasibility. Peter Criswell, City of Kingston - site visit, property drainage, driveway improvement due to roof runoff. Jim Mannese, T/O Marlborough - assistance with hay planting and soil sampling recommendations.

**Part B Arbor Day Initiative:** Reviewed Town of Ulster planting proposal, working with UC DOE with 2023 budget and expenditures to date.

**NYC DEP CAT 494:** Contract administration and reviewed and approved timesheets, payroll delivery, Bi-Weekly meetings with AWSMP staff. Bank transfer reconciliations. Woodland Valley SRP mugwort control costs and approval, Elk Bush Kill pre-bid site showing, Woodland Valley SRP site visit to see mugwort clipping and infestation. Reviewed Hollow Tree Brook scope of services agreement and obtained UCSWCD Chairman's signature. Obtained NYC DEP approval to have the CAT 494 contract to reimburse half of District's insurance premium costs. Reviewed and approved KER pay App 7 for retainage. Reviewed, corrected and approved SLR 7/7/23 invoice. Answered questions for PP 07E questions to D. Burns, assistance with FY23 Q4 capital and expense quarterly reports. Panther Kill seed germination, reviewed photos and winter kill of oats and spring germination, provided recommendations. Construction inspection training for AWSMP and District staff, reviewed Elk Bush Kill plan set and SWPPP.

### **District Updates/Other Projects:**

- Working with CCE of Ulster County to do another "Meet the Farmer" event in October 2023.
- Working on CRF Round 7 applications.
- Spent a lot of time training the former Program Assistant and corrected June 2023 Abstract.
- Presented at the Economic Legislative Committee.

### **TRF Activities - June 22, 2023 to July 18, 2023**

**AEM:** Tier 1 & 2 – T/O Rochester – completed tier 1 and 2 with sheep, vegetable, and egg farm interested in grown and certified. Tier 4 – T/O Hurley – look for old irrigation project files w/ new engineer. Tier 5B – T/O New Paltz – met w/ farmer to look at fuel storage and agrichemical mixing area.

#### **Inventory and Evaluations:**

T/O Rochester – Ivan Goodman – report for riparian buffer and mapping. C/O Kingston – Peter Criswell – met with Peter to look at driveway drainage issues.

**CRF Round 6:** No activity.

**CRF Round 7:** Spent a lot of time working on Round 7 proposal.

**NYC DEP CAT 494:** Elk Bushkill site showing and construction inspection training.

**Round 27:** No activity.

**No-Till Program:** Moved no-till drill from Fair Grounds to Fred Wilklow's, due to the upcoming Ulster County Fair

**Misc:** Worked with Joe Basil Chevy to get our truck order confirmed, truck will be ordered this month, and should be here sometime this winter.

Attended Economic Development Committee meeting with J. Wedemeyer.

Worked with new NRCS engineer to show her how to use Total station/surveying.

## Updates July 2023

### A. Doan – Stream Project Manager

- Administration
  - Responded to DEP request for information from reconciliation review
  - Capital request for funds FY24 Q1 approved
  - Updated subcontractor information in DEP Payee Information Portal
  - Coordinated/responded to requests for additional information to DEP
  
- Stream Management Implementation Program support- SMIP
  - Reviewed applications for summer funding round
  - Participated in SMIP Grant Review Working Group meeting
  
- Assessment & Monitoring
  - Coordinated with USGS staff on watershed conditions and fish sampling at study sites
  - Broadstreet Hollow SFI coordination and coms w/ SLR assessment staff
  - Coordinated with DEP/SLR regarding sediment study and use of Shokan office
  - Weekly to daily check-ins with Mark and Allison
  
- Projects
  - Stony Clove SRP
    - Received final pay application
    - Submitted Notice of Termination for stormwater activities
    - Submitted project close out to Department of Labor
    - Coordinated with herbicide applicator regarding Japanese knotweed treatment
  - Woodland Creek SRP
    - Herbicide application delayed due to conditions
    - Coordinated with herbicide applicator on revised scope and schedule
    - Updated landowners on status and next steps
  - Panther Kill SRP
    - Completed as-built review
    - Site visit to evaluate status of plantings and re-seeding efforts
    - Received final pay application/close out
  - Mink Hollow Bridge
    - Completed as-built review
  - Elk Bushkill
    - Completed bid process
    - Received 3 bids – Hubbell, Kingston Equipment Rental, Van Etten
    - Updated landowners of project status
    - Responded to comments/questions from permit reviewers
    - Drafted construction agreement
    - Coordinated bid review and recommendation memo with Stantec
  - Hollow Tree Brook
    - Executed design contract with SLR
    - Submitted subcontractor approval paperwork to DEP
    - Scheduled SLR site visit

Continued on back

- CSBI
  - Weekly to daily check-ins with Bobby

#### Meetings/Site Visits

- Town of Shandaken stream projects meeting
- Red Maple Culvert meeting w/SLR
- SMIP grant review meeting
- Elk Bushkill bid opening
- CCE/UCSWCD planning meeting
- EBK SRP – SWPPP comment meeting w/Stantec
- AWSMP Watershed Conference presentation review meeting
- Fall stream walk planning meeting
- SAFARI – Shandaken flood committee meeting
- Monthly Project Managers meeting with DEP, CCE
- Weekly check-in call w/ Jake (multiple over period)
- Ulster Co. Department of Environment planner check-in meeting
- Site visit – K. Monroe bank erosion Town of Shandaken
- Site visit – Panther Kill SRP for seeding and post-storm inspection
- Site visit – K. Lanier bank erosion Town of Shandaken
- Site visit – Town of Olive Red Maple Culvert landowner meeting

## Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program

- Administration
  - Received Capital request for funds approval
  - DEP agreed to cover half of UCSWCD insurance costs
  - Continued planning efforts for Ashokan Watershed Conference
  - Assisting CCE with planning for fall stream walk
  - Reviewed 3 SMIP applications which were approved for funding – USGS, Town of Olive, Town of Hunter
- Assessment & Monitoring
  - Completed geomorphic monitoring at restoration and control reach for USGS fisheries study
  - Assisted USGS with fish sampling at Elk Bushkill sites
  - Completed update of site selection protocol
  - Began geomorph monitoring at Hollow Tree Brook and Warner Creek study reaches
- Projects
  - Stony Clove SRP
    - SLR approved close out and final billing
    - Submitted Notice of Termination and Dept. of Labor close out
    - Awaiting as-built and report for review from SLR
  - Warner Creek SRP
    - Post-construction monitoring to continue via DEP and UCSWCD efforts for next 5 years
  - Panther Kill SRP
    - Approved for close out and final billing
    - Completed as-built review
  - Mink Hollow Bridge
    - Monitoring plantings associated with CSBI project and bridge project
  - Elk Bushkill
    - Completed bid process
    - Working with prospective construction contractor on submittals and approvals
    - Construction contract to be executed pending Board approval
    - Coordinating with Stantec on construction phase services scope
    - Completed construction inspection training for staff. Training was delivered by Jake.
  - Woodland SRP
    - Re-evaluating options after initial visit by herbicide applicator.
    - Site conditions were not favorable for treatment

- CSBI
  - Responded to DEP request for information for annual Regulators meeting
  - Completed CSBI presentation for Ashokan Watershed Conference

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 5 Report – July 2023  
Submitted by: Ben Luskin – Region 5 Associate Environmental Analyst

### **NYS SWCC News**

**Listening Sessions to Advance Bond Act:** Governor Hochul has announced a statewide educational listening tour to advance the \$4.2 billion Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. The tour provides an opportunity for the public and potential funding applicants to learn more about the Bond Act and the draft eligibility guidelines being developed to identify potential projects. To register for any of these sessions, visit <https://www.ny.gov/programs/clean-water-clean-air-and-green-jobs-environmental-bond-act>

- **North Country: July 14, 1 to 3PM**, North Country Community College, Sparks Athletic Complex Alumni Gymnasium
- **Capital District: July 20, 1 to 3PM**, University at Albany: Campus Center Auditorium
- **Virtual Meeting #2: July 26, 6 p.m. to 8PM.** <https://www.nysebatour.com/virtual-2>

**Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 7:** \$15 million is available to support projects. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM August 7, 2023**.

**July SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on July 18<sup>th</sup>**. 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.**

### **Other Events**

**2023 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 2023. Registration is now live for the **July 13<sup>th</sup> orchard event at the Rodman Lott and Son Farms in Seneca Falls**. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

**Grasstravaganza 2023 PLANET GRAZE:** The Grasstravaganza 2023 conference is **July 20-21 at SUNY Morrisville**. This event features lectures from many great speakers, panel discussions, and a variety of workshops on different aspects of grazing for different species of livestock. the full agenda and conference registration can be found at: <https://grasstravaganza.morrisville.edu/> **Please notice the registration deadline! July 13th!**

**2023 Empire Farm Days: August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023** (<https://empirefarmdays.leetradeshows.com>).

**2023 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date:** This year the conference will be held in Portland, ME at the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks on **September 17-20, 2023**. Further details will be available shortly.

**2023 Conservation Skills Workshop – Save the Date: September 18-21, 2023**, at the Auburn Holiday Inn. Registration materials will be available soon.

### **Other Funding**

**Grants Available for Communities in the Finger Lakes Watershed:** DEC has announced \$350,000 in competitive funding is available to help communities in the Finger Lakes watershed restore and protect water quality. Submit applications online through the State's Grants Gateway by **3 p.m. on July 21, 2023**. Contact the Finger Lakes Watershed Hub at [FLWP@dec.ny.gov](mailto:FLWP@dec.ny.gov) with questions. [https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants\\_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx](https://grantsgateway.ny.gov/IntelliGrants_NYSGG/module/nysgg/goportal.aspx)

**Consolidated Funding Application Requesting Proposals:** Round XIII of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) is open and applications are requested by **4:00 p.m. on Friday, July 28, 2023**. More than \$750,000,000 in funding will be made available under this year's CFA. Grant programs of interest to SWCDs offered via the CFA include:

- Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>
- Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant - <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html>