

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
5 PARK LANE  
HIGHLAND, NY 12528  
September 24, 2025**

- 1. OPENING MEETING** - The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 9:06 AM. Directors Present: L. Tantillo, F. Wilklow, H. Litts, K. Nolan (joined remotely from 5321 Route 28 Mount Tremper, NY 12457) and J. Delaune. SWCD Staff in attendance: J. Wedemeyer - Executive Director, C. DeGroodt - Program Assistant, T. Ferry – District Technician, C. Hernsdorf – Jr. District Technician, M. Garfinkle - Ashokan Stream Project Manager, B. Taylor-CSBI Program Coordinator, M. Tollefson-Watershed Technician, G. Bonse-Watershed Technician and Allison Lent-Stream Assessment Coordinator.

**2025-9-1 Nolan made the Motion, Litts seconded, to enter into Executive Session at 9:07 AM to discuss a particular employee. All in favor.**

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:47 AM. No Motions were adopted, passed, or agreed to in Executive Session.

The Ulster County SWCD received a series of findings from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) concerning our contract performance. These findings highlight the need for immediate and consistent adherence to all required standards, policies and procedures. **2025-9-2 Litts made the Motion, Nolan seconded, to send out the SWP-101 Contract Compliance and Performance Standards memo to all staff enumerating the need to comply with the contract. All in favor.**

**2. NEW BUSINESS**

- b) **Board Approval for 2025 Part B Conservation Project/Location Change** – There was a brief discussion. **2025-9-3 Delaune made the Motion, Wilklow seconded, to move the 2025 Part B Conservation Project location to a Rondout location. All in favor.**
- c) **Part C Funds to Cover Agricultural BMP Project Cost Overruns** – Discussion followed. **2025-9-4 Nolan made the Motion, Delaune seconded, to approve \$38,000.00 in surplus of cover crop funds to be used for cost overruns and that no single project receive more than \$5,000.00 per farm up to \$38,000.00 total. All in favor.** Nolan requested that a list of projects be generated and be presented to the Board.

(H. Litts left the Meeting at 9:59 AM)

(J. Delaune left the Meeting at 9:59 AM)

**3. WORK REPORTS**

- a) **SWCD**  
**J. Wedemeyer - (see attached staff report)**

**AEM** – Wedemeyer has been busy with field visits. See work report.

The District's CAT-494 audit went well.

Wedemeyer passed out his presentation for the Ulster County Economic Development Legislative Committee Meeting, to be held on October 14, 2025.

Wedemeyer mentioned that A. Lent submitted her resignation letter, effective today (September 24<sup>th</sup>). Ferry has also submitted a resignation letter, effective October 8<sup>th</sup>. Lent has been with the District for 13 years and Ferry 3 years.

**C. DeGroodt – (see attached staff report)**

DeGroodt did not have anything to add in addition to her work report.

**T. Ferry – (see attached staff report)**

Ferry did not have anything to add in addition to his work report.

**C. Hernsdorf – (See attached staff report)**

Completed a site inspection for an access road and a survey for an as-built design for engineering certification with Wedemeyer and Ferry.

AEM projects been picking up and there are a lot of projects scheduled for this fall.

The no-till equipment has been busy but no one is ready to use the lime spreader yet.

**b) AWSMP**

**M. Garfinkle – (See attached staff report)**

The Broadstreet Hollow project is now moving from the conceptual phase to 30% design which is anticipated to be in-hand by October 31<sup>st</sup>.

Hollow Tree Brook has been put on pause, and we have asked SLR to come up with a more conventional design approach that would remove engineered log jam features and replace it with a more conventional grade control approach.

Garfinkle has been meeting frequently with Lent to go over her transition from the organization.

**c) NRCS**

**O. Velez-Juarbe** – NRCS has finished the year with 56 new contracts.

The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will have more funding next year.

**(AWSMP Continued)**

**B. Taylor (See attached staff report)**

Taylor was out on Paid Family Leave, working approximately two days a week at the office. He is now back in the office full time.

CSBI is actively working to complete 2-3 fall projects.

**A. Lent (See attached staff report)**

Lent said that it has been a busy field season this summer. She completed the monitoring of the Elk Bushkill Stream Restoration Project, the pre-restoration monitoring of Woodland Creek above Esopus confluence, the monitoring of Woodland Creek control reach (see attached staff report for all).

Lent said that SFI mapping began on Birch Creek in early August and that Tollefson has taken over as the lead.

**M. Tollefson (See attached staff report)**

**G. Bonse (See attached staff report)**

**B. Luskin (See attached August and September reports)**

The next CRF Round is due November 17, 2025.

A new Request for Proposals (RFP) for Ecosystem Based Management has been released. This opportunity is entitled "Stream Corridor Management Program". The goal is to improve water quality, reduce erosion and sedimentation, improve wildlife habitat, and support the long-term health of our natural riparian ecosystems. RFPs must be submitted by November 21, 2025.

**4. OLD BUSINESS**

**a) External District Audit – CAT-494 (previously mentioned)**

**b) Hollow Tree Brook Stream Restoration Project (previously mentioned)**

**c) Mount Academy Envirothon Report – passed out to Board Members.**

**5. NEXT MEETING** - The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

**6. ADJOURNMENT** – There was no quorum. Board meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine DeGroodt  
Program Assistant

## **JLW Activities – July 15 through September 17, 2025**

**AEM:** AEM Tier 4-Access road construction inspection and project completion, T/O Gardiner. AEM Tier 5B – Assistance with soil sampling for nutrient management plan, T/O Gardiner. AEM Tier 4- Assistance with fence quotes, T/O Rochester. AEM Tier 4- Assistance with fence quotes, T/O Marlboro. AEM Tier 3A – Access road planning, T/O Rochester. AEM Tier 5B – Conservation plan update, T/O New Paltz. AEM Tier 4 – Irrigation design advancement, T/O Marbletown. AEM Program Evaluation – NY Grown and Certified Assistance, T/O Hurley. AEM Tier 4- Reviewed design with contractor for On-Farm Secondary Containment Facility, T/O New Paltz. AEM Tier 4 – Barnyard design review and assistance with design, T/O Gardiner. AEM Tier 4 – Construction scheduling, T/O Rochester. AEM Reporting – Signed/Notarized AEM Round 19 contract.

**Inventory and Evaluations:** Mary Heyer, T/O New Paltz – Assistance with advancing conservation easement with the Town. Jason Hutchins, T/O Rochester – Assistance with wetlands delineation on farm. Hector Tejada, T/O New Paltz – Assistance with NY Naturally Grown Certification application. Saunderkill Farm, T/O Rochester – Coordination of Trees for Tribs planting and invasive species removal. Ulster County Economic Development – Assisted intern with climate resilient farming study. Meade DeWitt, T/O Rochester – assistance with rye seed certification for resale. Woodstock Tennis Club, T/O Woodstock – site visit for sink hole remediation. Daniel Yoo, T/O Gardiner – Agricultural feasibility assistance. Roger Davis, T/O Olive – Pond site enhancement site visit and recommendations. Fred Destefano, T/O Plattekill – no-till drill rental assistance and hay field renovation recommendations. Ernest Fabiano, T/O Saugerties – no-till drill rental assistance and hay field renovation recommendations.

**NYC DEP SWP-101:** CAT 494 external audit. SWP 101 quarterly reports and reconciliations. Project Managers monthly meetings. In-person check-in meetings with staff. Met with US Fish and Wildlife Service regarding application of engineered log jams. Pause for Hollow Tree Brook stream restoration project design. Assistance with progression of Broad Street Hollow stream restoration project design. BEMS site tour with DEP. Worked with M. Garfinkle with updating CSBI landowner agreements, streamlining Riparian Corridor Management Plans and a progressive process for CSBI projects and deliverables. Reviewed and approved invoices.

**Round 27:** Prepared invitation to bid for legal notice in Daily Freeman and discussed sealed bids with producers.

**CRF Round 7:** Construction scheduling and advancing three written quotes for 4 Winds Farm irrigation system. Final design clarification and as-built approval by NRCS.

**CRF Round 8:** Assisted with initial claim for payment submitted to NYS and change of landowners in the contract.

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

- Attended the UC Economic Development Legislative Committee monthly meetings.
- Assistance to Cooper and Travis for no-till drill and row mulcher rentals and scheduling.
- Bank statement reviews and reconciliations with Chris.
- Collaborating with Hudson River Estuary Program and Cornell University with grant opportunities and project planning.
- Prepared Economic Development Legislative Presentation for 2026 County Appropriation.
- Completed 2026 Annual Plan of Work.
- Updated staff training plans and training completion.
- Certified Crop Advisor continuing education credits.
- Reviewed quarterly financial reports to the County to receive quarterly appropriation payments.
- Ulster Count Dept. of the Environment – Coordination of 4-hour erosion and sediment control course to be held in November.

## **Christine DeGroodt**

### **Activities July 16, 2025 – September 16, 2025**

**NYS Retirement** – I continue to do the monthly reporting.

**SWP-101 Contracts** – The SWP-101 Expense and Capital quarterly reports have been completed. The District was reimbursed for staff time and mileage.

Per the last Board Meeting, Ashokan salaries were updated with their increases effective 7/24/25.

An M&T credit card was received for Garfinkle and renewed WEX cards were given to staff.

I have been working with MVP on cancelling Lent's family health insurance plan and opening a family plan under Taylor's name.

The two old M&T bank accounts for CAT-494 have been closed.

I obtained updated ACORD insurance forms along with a broker's certificate for the SWP contracts.

Information was submitted to NYS Retirement regarding their request for Lent's payroll going back to 2013 and a record of her appointment with the District.

On July 30<sup>th</sup> Wedemeyer and I worked with our accountant on the CAT-494 audit in-person, and then multiple days after via phone and email.

**County Quarterly Report** – I have begun compiling the financials for the next quarter.

**District Website** – The website is updated as needed. The District's 2025 Soil Health program was added to the home page with the application.

**Ongoing**- mail, bank deposits, bill payments/receipts, abstracts, Board Minutes, bank transfers, bank account reconciliations, deferred comp, supply orders, payroll, etc.

### **TRF Activities – July 16, 2025 – September 16, 2025**

**AEM:** Spent a lot of time working on access road constructions inspection for Tier 4 implementation. Completed as-built drawings for access road project. Worked on AutoCAD drawings for barnyard design to send to JESS engineering. Completed Tier 1 and 2 for a goat/cow operation in Clintondale, planning to do a rotational grazing plan there as well. Checked on riparian buffer planting from last year in New Paltz. Worked on cover crop plan for new participant in CRF8. Attended NRCS working group meeting. Delivered no-till drill to New Paltz producer.

**Part C Cover Crop Program:** Working on taking applications for fall.

**Inventory and Evaluations:** Soil mapping for new farmer. Site visit to landowner in T. of Gardiner for drainage issues.

**CRF Round 6:** Started certifying final year of cover crop.

**CRF Round 7:** emails with producer and engineer to get change in hydrant location approved. NRCS engineer that worked on plan set has retired, coordinated with NRCS to figure out who would sign off on irrigation project.

**CRF Round 8:** Completed landowner/district contracts. Worked on landowner change amendment paperwork as one original participant is in the process of closing their operation. Funding was able to be swapped to the other tenant at that location. Worked on claim for payments.

**NYC DEP SWP101:** Toured BEMS sites with AWSMP crew and NYCDEP. Helped AWSMP crew do bar sampling and pebble counts for Woodland Creek control site. Attended 2-day wilderness first aid training in Arkville. Attended teams meeting with AWSMP crew to coordinate workloads.

**AgNPS Round 27:** Reviewed notice of bid documents for Jake. Worked on fuel storage design plan set to send to JESS engineering.

**No-Till/Soil Health Program:** Drill requests are ramping up, Cooper has been taking the bulk of the equipment moves.

**Trees for Tribs:** Reviewed plans that Hudson River Estuary program sent over.

**Misc:** Attended CDEA meeting in person.

Worked on setting up RUSLE2 on my computer.

Working on wrapping up things I'm working on, making sure Cooper and Jake are up to speed and aware of important things.

## **Cooper Activities July 15th, 2025 – September 16th, 2025**

**AEM:** New Paltz//*Tier 4* – Site inspection for access road and surveying for as-built design for engineering certification w/ TF&JW. *Tier 4* – Soil sampling w/ JW, producer will likely follow up by using the lime spreader after sample results come back in. *Tier 4* – Maintaining riparian buffer at Million Dollar Farm, watering and mowing. *Tier 5b* – Mapping updates WVF.

*Tier 4* – Assisting farm with implementing pollinator strip. Buckwheat cover crop used to smother mugwort. Using no-till drill to assist with planting efforts.

Highland//*Tier 2* – Tier 2 worksheets for new farm interested in working on rotational grazing management plan.

Kingston//*Tier 3* – Finishing Tier 3 plan for farm now participating in CRF Round 8.

*Technical Assistance* – Reaching out to farms on behalf of Ag & Markets regarding expiring Grown and Certified certs.

**CRF Round 6:** Began certifying cover crops w/ TF.

**CRF Round 8:** Reviewing LOCs with participants and getting final signatures.

**NYC DEP SWP 101:** Assisted Shokan team with field work on Woodland Creek.

**Part C:** Meeting w/ JW and Kingston Land Trust to assess log jam on lower Esopus.

Soil mapping for landowner in Wallkill.

Contacted farmers regarding participation in District's local cover crop program.

Visited potential Part B project sites. Acquired quote for brushcutter to help with riparian buffer maintenance.

**No-Till Program:** Demo'd row mulcher for Hepworth Farms. 7ft No-Till drill has been out to several farms already for fall cover crop implementation. Lots of new users this year.

**Misc:** More soil worksheets coming in – particularly from Saugerties. Perhaps more town assessors will follow suit with total review of all ag assessments?

Spending lots of time assisting town of Marbletown and engineering firm Tighe & Bond with water sampling and mapping in ArcGIS for water quality study at Marbletown town beach.

Attended Farmscape Ecology field day at FarmHub.

Completed workplace violence training.

Max Garfinkle

Project Manager

September UCSWCD Board Meeting Work Report (7/17/25-9/17/25)

### Stream Restoration Projects

- Broadstreet Hollow is now moving from the conceptual phase to 30% design which is anticipated to be in hand by October 31st
  - Have begun to re-engage landowners on the project site to make sure they are apprised of the current stage of the project.
  - Acoustic monitoring results have been submitted to FWS for their acceptance and review.
    - Confirmed presence of Tri-colored bat occupying the site outside of the hibernation period.
- Hollowtree Brook has been put on pause, and we have asked SLR to come up with a more conventional design approach that would remove engineered log jam features and replace it with a more conventional grade control approach.
  - Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> with Stantek engineer to get a fresh set of eyes on the site/ their perspective on how best to move forward.
- Participated in a site tour with DEP staff to aid in the identification of future restoration projects that would meet the FAD deliverable goals.

### Assessment and Monitoring

- Have been meeting frequently with Allison to go over her transition from the organization.
- Developed job description for the Stream Technical Specialist position and had DEP review.
  - Needs UCSWCD Board review and set salary range.
  - Hoping to post ASAP
- Met with USGS biologist to discuss the next 5 years of AWSMPs involvement in stream restoration study funded by the SMIP program administered by CCE.
- Staff are focusing on geomorphic surveys of Hollowtree Brook and Warner Creek as well as finishing the Birch Creek stream feature inventory, before wrapping up their field season.

### CSBI

- Have been meeting regularly with DEP to discuss programmatic guidelines/ expectations for CSBI deliverables.

- Waiting on DEP approval/ review of new CSBI specific landowner agreement, RCMP template/ components, and workflow chart for CSBI program.
- Bobcat is in shop for a radiator issue causing overheating.
- Staff are working on RCMP development for three fall projects and conducting vegetation monitoring on past CSBI project sites.

#### Other

- Will be pursuing hiring a 10 month SCA intern funded fully by DEP contract with Green County
- Town of Olive held their first public meeting on the new LFA SLR is developing for Shokan and West Shokan Jake and I attended.
- Working with Ulster County DOE to assist with updating Shandaken Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Held 2 staff meetings and will continue to hold 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday coordination meetings with staff moving forward.
- Traverse will be brought to the dealership for service; check engine light is on.

## **Allison Lent Work Activities July 23, 2025 – Sept. 24, 2025**

Last PFL day used Aug. 8, returned to work full time Aug. 11

### **Stream geomorphic and habitat monitoring field surveys and data analysis for USGS fisheries study evaluating impacts of our stream restoration:**

- Completed monitoring of Elk Bushkill Stream Restoration Project (2<sup>nd</sup> year post-construction)
- Completed pre-restoration monitoring of Woodland Creek above Esopus confluence
- Completed monitoring of Woodland Creek control reach
- Coordinated with USGS on fish sampling at Broadstreet Hollow future restoration site, Broadstreet Hollow control reach, Hollow Tree Brook and Warner Creek control site. WCC students stationed with UCSWCD were made available to USGS to complete fish sampling.
- Completed data QAQC, analysis, and report for Broadstreet Hollow SRP 2025 monitoring. Shared report and data with EPR for use in their analysis and engineering design
- Began QAQC and analysis of Broadstreet Hollow control reach
- Spent time with other staff reviewing data analysis procedures, introducing worksheets and data analysis notes documents
- Meeting with USGS and CCE to discuss status of study and path forward with my impending departure from program

### **Stream Feature Inventory (SFI)**

- SFI mapping began on Birch Creek in early August. Currently completed approximately 1 mile of the planned 2 miles of assessment. Encountered reaches of significant geomorphic instability with rotational failures and erosion into clay in channel bed and adjacent banks. These sites may warrant further investigation and monitoring for determining potential/priority for restoration consideration
- Mark T. has taken over as the lead on Birch Creek SFI starting Aug. 8
- Began going over DEP streams SFI geodatabase structure and data processing procedures with other staff who will be tasked with it moving forward

### **Stream Restoration Project Assistance**

- Provided data requested by EPR and coordinated with DEP on getting the detailed 2024 SfM topographic data of streambank erosion processed and available for sharing.
- Provided review of Broadstreet Hollow SRP conceptual plan and feasibility report
- Participated in review meeting for conceptual plan with DEP and EPR
- Will be meeting with DEP for further discussion on reference reach application concerns and data needs for Broadstreet Hollow SRP design

### **Other work**

- Participated in BEMS field tour of Stony Clove basin sites with DEP staff. Original 10-yr BEMS study in Stony Clove basin is ending and the purpose of this tour was to develop a plan for final monitoring and re-evaluate purpose of BEMS with discussion on continuing this monitoring process in some capacity as a tool for evaluating sites with high potential for future restoration
- Prepared information and documents on assessment and monitoring activities in current and past contracts for meeting with UCSWCD and new DEP Dep. Director of SMP
- Provided review/input for presentation slides being developed for talk at Catskill Environmental Research and Monitoring conference by Dany Davis (DEP) in which UCSWCD and CCE are being acknowledged as important collaborators in Upper Esopus Creek watershed turbidity study
- Currently drafting content for inclusion in USGS research paper related to the Panther Kill SRP turbidity monitoring. USGS is planning to submit paper as a case study to the Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies

## **SWCD AWSMP Board Updates – CSBI Coordinator Mid July through September 2025**

Taylor came off 60%Family Leave/40% work on August 27<sup>th</sup>. Back full time

### **Fall 2025 planned projects**

CSBI is actively working to complete 2-3 fall CSBI Projects.

Riparian Corridor Management Plans are being re-formatted to be a more useful document that lays out project proposals for internal planning while also still being an educational tool to help landowners understand riparian management practices specific to their individual properties.

**Martynka at Fox Hollow** – This project is a multi-year phased project. Year 1, 2025 will focus on invasive management while the team at AWSMP determines what is the best possible project for this parcel. BT has developed a draft multi-year-old phased approach Riparian Corridor Management Plan that creates a roadmap for an idealistic full scale riparian buffer restoration of the site. The plan sets out a scope of work through the duration of the SWP-101 contract. The plan will be updated at each phase, so all parties are in agreement. The 4 phases are: 1-Invasive Management (2025), 2. Bioengineering design and Implementation for the streambank (2025-2027), 3. Top of bank and lawn area restoration plan (2027), 4. Monitoring and Maintenance (2027-2032).

**Thomas, Sandy** – Pantherkill Tributary adjacent to Pantherkill Stream Project. A draft RCMP in the old format has been developed. This document is being transitioned into a new format. Outstanding items include Landowner Agreement, Plan Development, Final Riparian Corridor Management Plan, Securing Plant Materials, Installation.

**Litton, Sam** – Birch Creek. A draft RCMP in the old format has been developed. This document is being transitioned into a new format. Outstanding items include Landowner Agreement, Plan Development, Final Riparian Corridor Management Plan, Securing Plant Materials, Installation.

**Boiceville FBO/CSBI** – Year 1 of invasive treatment has occurred in 2025. BT to present to Olive Planning Committee on invasive control plan and long term re-vegetation of the creekside parcels on October 9.

### **Invasive Treatment Sites**

#### **CSBI**

1. Boiceville FBO Site: 2<sup>nd</sup> knotweed treatment occurred week of 8/22.
2. Ridge Road – Thomas CSBI site: 2<sup>nd</sup> treatment occurred week of 8/22.  
Treatment has been very successful and will not need to be treated again in 2025 before planting phase begins.
3. Martynka Fox Hollow – Waiting on initial treatment until we have an approved RCMP. Gabe will be cutting knotweed bi-weekly until treatment occurs.

#### **STRPs**

1. Woodland above Wilmont Way – 2<sup>nd</sup> mugwort treatment occurred week of 8/22. Will assess injury on 8/22 and determine if 3<sup>rd</sup> treatment will occur.
2. Elk Bushkill SRP – Developed detailed Japanese Knotweed Invasive Control Plan for the stream project at Elk Bushkill. Plan was sent to DEP on 8/27/2025. We are waiting to hear back from DEP on next steps and hopeful we can conduct the critical fall treatment on this site.

### **CSBI Project Monitoring**

CSBI project monitoring effort kicked off on 9/17. QA/QC of existing monitoring data before collecting new data on 11 sites for 2025. Gabe and Cooper are assisting with field data collection.

### **Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) Support**

Plank Road UC-DPW Culvert Enhancement – Project is being constructed. BT has been checking in on progress regularly. On 9/16 BT met with DPW employees Andrew Emrich (Engineer) and Robert Mooers (Bridge Supervisor) to advise on grade control structure(s) and stream bed re-construction through the culvert in coordination with Leslie Zucker at CCE.

Mckenely Hollow Flood Mitigation Project – Project scope shifted between 30 and 60% design phasing. Landowner support is dwindling creating project implementation uncertainties. 60% design expected on 9/19 at which time AWSMP will re-engage with landowner.

Shokan/ West Shokan Local Flood Analysis – Public meeting #1 was held on 9/11. BT, MG & JW were in attendance to listen to public concerns related to flooding and stormwater issues impacting these two hamlets.

Mt Tremper LOMR / 11-mile stretch of Esopus Creek Flood Map Revisions – AWSMP working closely with SLR consulting and FEMA met to discuss updates to the re-mapped section of Esopus Creek and Mt. Tremper. Model outputs are inconsistent between consultants and FEMA. AWSMP & DEP meeting regularly with FEMA to get the most accurate maps for the communities.

Phoenicia Additional Modeling - BT participated in public meeting at Shandaken Town Hall to release the results of the SLR Consultant's enhanced modeling and mitigation strategies to achieve significant flood reduction in the Phoenicia Main Street District. Take Home: Flood surface elevations can be lowered through a series of mitigation measures but they are not easy projects to embark on, they will require a lot of community support, future planning and capital to implement.

Bonnie View Avenue Pine Hill LFA Implementation - Two crossing designs advanced to 30% design. 30% plans were received on 9/10/25. BT to review 30% design in coordination with CCE as time allows. Resilient NY funding application submitted for lower crossing

(Between Mill Street and Station Road). Funding decision announced this fall. Landowner resistance is complicating design alternatives.

**Technical Site Visits:**

Francesca Grassi – Yankeetown Pond – Future CSBI project potential

Adrian Calurusso – Stony Clove – Future CSBI project potential

Stewart Ward – Woodland Creek – bank erosion

Stephanie Roecker – Pantherkill – Stream stability & flood program outreach

Willow beds tour with Rondout & Neversink Stream Program

**Meetings:**

SMIP Coordination with Leslie Zucker

UCSWCD staff meeting & Bi-weekly check-in progress update meetings

West Shokan LFA Flood Committee & Public Meeting (3 meetings)

NYCDEP/FEMA/AWSMP Check in for Re-mapping Esopus Floodplains (2 Meetings)

Shandaken Town Board Special Meeting

## **September 2025 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

### **Stream Monitoring**

- Assisted in Birch Creek SFI
- Assisted in habitat studies and monitoring on numerous sites

### **CSBI & Site Maintenance**

- Managed invasive species on various CSBI sites through means of mowing, cutting, removing, etc. Sites include; Walker-Miserlain, Dan Spencer, Wawrzyniak, Pantherkill, Elk Bushkill, etc.
- Sprayed herbivory deterrent on Elk Bushkill and Pantherkill project sites
- Conducted vegetation monitoring data collection
- Conducted quality control on old monitoring data
- Prepared for upcoming monitoring
- Mowed DEP willow fields

### **Misc**

- Attended multiple staff meetings
- Managed and maintained the Plant Material Center
- Completed various other tasks and needed/assigned
- Attended Wilderness First Aid Training
- Worked with Summit Bobcat to get servicing/ repairs for bobcat and bobcat equipment
- Maintained tools and equipment

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 5 Report – September 2025  
Submitted by: Ben Luskin – Region 5 Associate Environmental Analyst

**NYS SWCC News**

**New SWCC Staff:** Please join us in welcoming Gideon Frisbee to the SWCC team. Gideon joins our team as an Associate Environmental Analyst in the program area with Ron Bush, Brendan Jordan, Chastity Miller, and Greg Albrecht supporting technical assistance, training, and certification throughout the AEM framework to SWCD staff, AEM Certified Planners, and other Ag conservation partners. Based on Gideon's many years of experience he will also provide valuable insight and assistance to the entire Committee, Division, and Soil and Water Conservation team. Gideon will be based out of Delhi, New York, and work statewide. He can be reached at: [gideon.frisbee@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:gideon.frisbee@agriculture.ny.gov) and (518) 646-1133.

**NEW Stream Corridor Management Program:** A new Request for Proposals (RFP) for Ecosystem Based Management has been released in the State Financial System (SFS). This opportunity, entitled, **Stream Corridor Management Program** (RFP0365), can be found in SFS Grants under the **Event ID# AGM-SCMP25**. The goal of this program is to improve water quality, reduce erosion and sedimentation, improve wildlife habitat, and support the long-term health of our natural riparian ecosystems. Funding from this program will support activities that improve or protect stream corridors, including stream stabilization, establishment of riparian buffers, and the reduction of roadside erosion and sedimentation due to runoff and failing culverts systems. The Stream Corridor Management Program is part of New York's Ocean and Great Lakes Initiative. The Ocean and Great Lakes Initiative works to make connections between ocean and Great Lakes ecosystem health, economic vitality and community well-being.

The RFP and associated documents are now available through SFS. The RFP is posted at <https://agriculture.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>, as well as the SWCC SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/Ecosystem%20Based%20Management/RFP0365%20Stream%20Corridor%20Management%20Program?csf=1&web=1&e=3EkhwM>. **Please be sure to read all documents carefully.** For many, this will be a first time using SFS Grants. Assistance can be found at <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov/>, in the form of videos, instructional documents and live training events. If you are unable to access SFS, please contact the SFS Help Desk at (518) 457-7717 or (855) 233-8363 (toll free). Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Lauren Prezorski ([Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov)) by **November 21, 2025**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the SFS website by **4:00 PM December 8, 2025**. Stay tuned for further information regarding a Request for Proposals Webinar.

**SWCC Meeting:** The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will convene on **September 16<sup>th</sup>**, via Webex. Further details and an agenda will be available as in the week prior to the meeting. **Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

**State Aid to Districts Forum:** The SWCC will be hosting a State Aid to Districts Forum on **September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 10am-Noon**, to discuss the State Aid to Districts Program for 2026. We will provide an update on the status of the Annual Report form and anticipated updates, review changes/updates to Part C performance measures, and have an open discussion regarding other elements of the program.

- **Join meeting by clicking link below**  
<https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=mefb405fab2332da36b8c24b211ef6c61>
- **Or join by phone** +1-415-527-5035 United States Toll - Meeting number (access code): 2831 786 6720

**2026 Annual Plan of Work (APOW):** It's time to start updating your APOW for 2026. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is **November 1, 2025**. 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.

**State Aid to Districts:**

- **2026 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance** – Part B proposals are due, **November 1, 2025**. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2026. Part B requests should be submitted via email to Bethany Bzduch, [bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov).

• **2025 Part C Performance Measures** - As for Performance Measures, the end of the year is rapidly approaching and SWCDs should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling their obligations for meetings, training, training plans, etc., to be able to earn all the funds that will be available. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions that you may have.

**SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee – Recording:** A recording of the August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025, SPAC meeting has been uploaded to Sharepoint. The next SPCC meeting will convene **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 1:00 PM – 3:30 PM** Details to follow. <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/NYS%20SWCC%20State%20Programs%20Advisory%20Committee/2025%20SPAC%20Meeting%20Materials/August%2014,%202025?csf=1&web=1&e=wDJmcq>

**NYS SWCC Procurement Policy – Best Practices:** The purpose of the SWCC procurement policy is to ensure fair and open competition and to ensure public funds are being spent responsibly. The Policy provides guidance to Districts and details the information which is required to be documented to ensure funds are being spent in a responsible way.

- SWCDs must ensure that participating landowners are aware of the procurement requirements prior to the project implementation. Early communication with the landowners is key to procurement success.
- Projects and/or project components that exceed the \$20k cost threshold must be competitively quoted.
- Competitive quotes should be reviewed by the farm operator and District and the Price Solicitation section of the form should be signed prior to construction. SWCDs must retain copies of all quotes/bids.
- SWCDs must retain copies of all quotes/bids, record them in the Price Solicitation Record and include them in the project closeout packet submitted to SWCC.
- SWCDs must retain copies of all invoices and proofs of payment for eligible expenses and record them in the Project Expenditure Summary.

#### **Other Events**

**2025 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 2025. Registration is now live for the **September 9<sup>th</sup>** event in Union Springs, the **September 11<sup>th</sup>** event in Fillmore, the **September 16<sup>th</sup>** event in Rochester, and the **September 23<sup>rd</sup>** event in Corning/Bath. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information.

**Healing Our Waters Coalition 2025 Great Lakes Conference:** Save the date - **September 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025**, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Rochester, NY. <https://web.cvent.com/event/adc2fab0-c0f9-4015-a0a5-9a00561cbb17/summary>

**iMapInvasives Training Workshop:** Attend to learn how you can become involved with reporting invasive species in your community. Training to convene on **September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025, 1PM – 3PM**, located at the Albany SWCD office, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY. To register for this event, please contact [susan.lewis@ny.nacdnet.net](mailto:susan.lewis@ny.nacdnet.net). **Registration deadline is 9/22/25**

**2025 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum:** There is still time to register for the Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum to be held at Binghamton University on **October 2, 2025**. Early registration deadline is 9/10, with a cost of \$20. If you register after 9/10, cost increases to \$25. So please take a minute to register now! <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSccZGgHAQfJbllW8TQAx0zPn0q2nt-2hOdm0v9bCq2U9hb6g/viewform>

**Biochar Field Day at White Feather Farm:** Join American Farmland Trust (AFT) at White Feather Farm in Saugerties, NY on **Thursday, October 23, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM** for a hands-on event that will spotlight biochar and climate-resilient farming practices. Registration is free and lunch will be provided. To learn more and to register, visit <https://farmland.salsalabs.org/whitefeatherfarmfieldday/index.html>