

MINUTES

ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

5 PARK LANE, HIGHLAND, NY 12528

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 24, 2023

1. OPEN MEETING

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 7:01pm at the NRCS/UCSWCD Highland Office, located at 5 Park, Lane Highland, NY 12528. Directors Present, S. VanNostrand, F. Wilklow, J. Delaune. District Staff in attendance: M. Wagner-Program Assistant, T. Ferry-District Technician, and Executive Director J. Wedemeyer. (J. Witkowski-Program Assistant in Training was also present)

Absent: B. Davenport-Director/Member-At-Large, Legislator K. Nolan, and Legislator H. Litts. O. Velez-Juarbe -NRCS.

2. WORK REPORTS

Written staff reports were prepared and presented at the meeting for review (attached to the filed minutes).

SWCD: J. Wedemeyer reported:

- AEM updates.
- Inventory and Evaluations
- Part B Arbor Day Initiative
- NYC DEP CAT 494
- Round 27
- District Updates/Other Projects
 1. Ivan Goodman – Riparian Buffer Cost Share Assistance
 2. Soils Group Worksheets: 1
 3. Tree and Shrub Program Success, thanks to our team, especially Margarete
 4. Coordinated Fish Sale for May and October 2023
 5. Working with CCE of Ulster County to do another “Meat the Farmer” event in October 2023
 6. No-Till Program – First drill rental in May.
 7. Jake, Travis, and Mark Tollefson (watershed technician) attended the Water Quality Symposium in March 2023

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2. WORK REPORTS (Continued)

- District Updates/Other Projects (Continued)
 - 8. Candidate resume review and interviews for Program Assistant Position.
 - 9. County Professional Services Agreement.
 - 10. Coordinated annual external audit for District and CAT 494 contract.
 - 11. Facilitated new insurance carrier.
 - 12. Jake and Travis taught the 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Course for NYC SWCD on May 22, 2023.

SWCD: T. Ferry

- AEM
- Inventory and Evaluations
- CRF Round 6
- NYC DEP CAT 494
- Round 27
- No-Till Program
- Misc.

AWSMP: J. Wedemeyer reviewed AWSMP Report:

- Administration
- Assessment & Monitoring
- Projects
 - Stony Clove SRP
 - Warner Creek SRP
 - Panther Kill SRP
 - Mink Hollow Bridge
 - Elk Bushkill
- CSBI
- Meetings/Site Visits

NRCS: J. Wedemeyer reviewed NRCS Report:

- CSP & EQUIP

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3. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Welcome Jocelyn Witkowski, New Program Assistant**
- b) **Salary Discussion:** Discussed in Executive Session.
- c) **Hollow Tree Brook Stream Restoration Project Scope of Services:**

Bid: \$201,330 – Jake stated that the NYC DEP is paying for engineering services - SLR – Scope of Services for Design & Engineering Analysis - Professional Services Agreement. Jake said that we received approval from the DEP to do sole source since SLR has already done preliminary data collection and studies, and it will be more cost effective. Construction inspection services will be a separate scope of services. Jake stated that Allison and Travis should participate in this project. SLR usually will have 2-3 engineers at times. Jake feels that this is too much for one person to handle. Jake states that UCSWCD could do the Stormwater Inspections, and they would the NYC DEP will pay UCSWCD for this service. Jake has certification as a Certified Professional in Erosion Sediment Control. He wants Travis and Allison to obtain this Certification, as well. There was a class last winter up in Albany, but there weren't enough people for our staff mentioned to attend.

Since Hollow Tree Brook is under our contract, Jake is seeking a motion to accept the Scope of Services.

J. Delaune made the Motion, seconded by S. VanNostrand to adopt the Hollow Tree Brook Stream Restoration Project Scope of Services from SLR. All in favor.

- d) **Annual District Internal Audit:** Completed on April 6, 2023.
- e) **FOIL Policy Review:** Defined as: **Freedom of Information Law.** Completed Annually per Performance Measures. This means that if someone calls the office and requests information, we are required to provide them with the requested information. We are required to provide everything but our AEM Data. Financial records may be provided and discussed. Meeting Minutes may be provided and discussed. The Minutes aren't posted online, but Jake stated that when he has spoken with Karen, who handles postings to our website, she would be willing to post the minutes for a fee of \$10.00. Freedom of Information Act, all information, even our Personnel Policy, can be provided. Again, all data can be provided and discussed except for agricultural/producer related Data.

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Fee applies for requested information. Fee: Twenty-five cents a page. Protocol: Official records of Ulster County Soil and Water Conservation may be requested via writing, fax, or email.

- f) **UCSWCD Investment Policy Review:** Jake advised that we aren't allowed to have any more than 2 million dollars; must be in an interest-bearing account. Must have a designated bank. We have M&T Bank. Everything that we have is designated in separate interest-bearing accounts. We aren't investing anything. No changes from the year prior. Jake advised that we roughly have \$600,000 on hand between grants. Part C funds, roughly about \$400,000. We could use this for salaries, paying off equipment, paying off retirement. Can use for projects, for example cover crop program.

UCSWCD Investment Policy Document Signed by Chairman L. Tantillo

- g) **Ulster County Agreement for Professional Services:** Jake stated that this Agreement is identical to last year's. Page 6 has the only major change noted. This change was the addition of **Article 16 - Item C**. Jake had this item inserted. This article reads as follows: *"In accordance with NYS Agriculture & Markets (AEM) Chapter 69, Article 11-A, Section 151-g, Confidentiality. AEM plans and on-farm surveys and assessments filed with or prepared by County Soil and Water Conservation District shall be considered confidential and not subject to public disclosure, except such documents shall not be considered confidential as deemed necessary by the District and the County to implement the purposes of said article."*

Ulster County Agreement for Professional Services Document Signed by Chairman L. Tantillo

- h) **Part C Project, Ivan Goodman:**

Jake advised that Ivan Goodman completed a Riparian Planting Project. Ivan has been working with Oscar Velez-Juarbe of NRCS, and Scenic Hudson. Jake stated that we typically do 75% of Cost-Sharing Rate to sponsor, and the landowner typically covers 25%. He has been spending a lot of money on trees, and

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hiring labor. He reached out to UCSWCD, since he didn't have great communication/slow responses from Scenic Hudson. Jake said that we wanted to show Ivan that we would be there for him, especially for future projects, but also treading lightly without stepping on anyone's toes. Jake advised that we could devote \$1,400-\$1,500 towards the Riparian planting. Jake said that we could help Ivan, by using Part C funding to assist with his out-of-pocket costs. We could offer a minimum of \$1,400, and possibly offer up to \$2,000 for assistance. Basically, we would be bumping his cost-sharing from 70% to 75%. Ivan is learning our procurement policy. Jake said that we would have to receive an estimate from Ivan, and we would have to look at the site. The site visit would be part of Oscar Velez-Juarbe of NRCS's project. Ivan would have to provide us with receipts, and a record of the cancelled checks; then we would reimburse him. Jake stated that the total project cost was about \$24,000. We would be offering 5% of the cost of the project, if we provided \$1,400. Jake stated that the project is already complete. Ivan hasn't heard anything back, nor received any reimbursement from Scenic Hudson, yet. He last received a payment from the Federal Government (NRCS - Oscar Velez-Juarbe) back around November or December 2022.

F. Wilklow made the Motion, seconded by J. Delaune to provide cost share increase from 70% to 75% (\$1,400) for Ivan Goodman's Riparian Planting Project from Part C funds. All in favor.

i) District Polo Shirts:

Jake is requesting New Polo Shirts for the District with UCSWCD Logo. Roughly estimating between \$16-\$18 per shirt for embroidery. Jake is looking for a heavier cotton material. Jake is requesting at least 2 new shirts to be provided per staff member for the 2023 Summertime Season, and 1 long sleeve button down for the 2023 Winter Season. Budget: \$500 initially mentioned. Jake requested a Budget of up to \$1,000 to cover the cost of both the short sleeve and long sleeve shirts.

J. Delaune made the Motion, seconded by S. VanNostrand to allow up to \$1,000 for the Budget on New District Shirts. All in favor.

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(S. VanNostrand added a helpful suggestion after the motion was carried to check out Performa. They will send you samples of sizes to try on, before ordering. And they apparently embroider, as well.)

j) Logo and Spare Tire/Hub Assembly for No-Till Drill:

Travis stated that he still was in the process of obtaining quotes for the Logo. Measurements have been completed for the placement of the logo. Travis stated that the best placement would be located just below the grain box. In discussion Chairman L. Tantillo, and Executive Director J. Wedemeyer suggested to check out Timely Signs out of Kingston, NY. Travis said that he would do an outreach call to see what they would quote. Member-at -Large F. Wilklow suggested to check out Mike Llama, as well. Jake stated that he could not see the price of the Logo exceeding \$300.00.

Prices have been obtained for Spare Tire and Hub Assembly. Zimmerman quoted \$347.30 (doesn't include shipping) Roughly tack on \$90 for shipping. In total with estimating the shipping, this would cost around \$437.30. This would include the Wheel Assembly: which includes Tire and Rim; and the Spin Hub Assembly which assists with jacking up the drill to allow for the spare change.

F. Wilklow made the Motion, seconded by J. Delaune to allow up to \$700 in total for the Budget to cover both the Logo and Spare Tire/Hub Assembly. All in favor.

(After the motion was carried, Member-at -Large F. Wilklow inquired if we had found out if the No-Till Drill was insured for theft) – Jake stated that the No-Till Drill should be covered under our Insurance for Fire, Theft, Act of God.

Chairman L. Tantillo stated that the Farmer must have Insurance. Jake stated that we keep a certificate of insurance on file. They must provide that every year to UCSWCD.

Travis added that they have another farmer looking to rent the No-Till Drill in June 2023. This farmer inquired with his own insurance, because he did not have any rent/borrow clause; his insurance company quoted him roughly .30 cents a day. L. Tantillo stated that he uses Ryan and Ryan Insurance.

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k) Part B or C Funding for Bridge – Sorbello and Schellenberg Flood Mitigation:

This past week, Jake met with H.Litts, Ben from Ag and markets and the two farmers: Sorbello and Schellenberg to walk the site. Scenic Hudson has been very slow to respond. Ben Luskin of the NYS SWCC suggested using Part B or Part C funds to pay for a pedestrian bridge for hikers. Jake said that people have been putting logs, and rocks in the stream. This is causing water to back up on the farm fields. On Jake's preliminary investigation he realized that there is no slope between the farm and Scenic Hudson's land. The hiking access trail across the stream is part of the problem, not the entire problem. Ben asks Jake if UCSWCD could offer to pay for a bridge with State Funding, Part B or Part C Funds. "It's like we are offering an Olive Branch to Scenic Hudson." Saying to them that we will help you out, as well as the farmer. The bridge would really reduce the maintenance with clearing out the rocks and logs. Scenic Hudson was quick to respond in clearing out the rocks with a mini excavator. Domenic Sorbello said the water table went down 6-8 inches. He has been sending Jake photos. There is a direct correlation. Jake proposed for the Board for a budget of up to \$6,000 to put a bridge on Scenic Hudson's Property to prevent hikers from putting rocks in the stream, causing the stream to back up on agricultural properties. Scenic Hudson's first take was very supportive, and then their second correspondence to Jake, was to hold off, so that they could check with their team. Jake advised that he would see if the Board would discuss and approve the proposition, then if they decided to proceed then we would help with the labor between Jake, Travis, and the farmers. Jake said that we could get other designs from other counties to cover ourselves. However, the ultimate goal is to get this approved, so that if Scenic Hudson would like to act on it, when or if they are ready, then it would be approved and ready to proceed.

J. Delaune made the Motion, seconded by S. VanNostrand to allow up to \$6,000 cover the Funding for the Bridge. All in favor.

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I) AEM Round 17 Contract – Potential Project Change:

Jake said that we are doing a Rotational Grazing System on a farm, using our AEM Money. We have a 2 Year Contract. That means we have two years to complete the projects. The idea behind this, is that it is not competitive, and that the smaller farmers can get technical and financial assistance. This landowner understands since he doesn't own the land, he would need a long-term lease agreement, before we put in fencing. The fencing for 35 acres is roughly \$42,000. This has been going on for over a year. He left the landowner a message recently, stating if we don't get this lease agreement by the end of this month; we will have to reallocate the funds. Jake does not want to return the money back to the state, since the landowner is dragging his feet. Our deadline is approaching to spend the money, which is 12/31/2022. If we don't hear back by this landowner by June 1, 2023, Jake is requesting to reallocate funds for another AEM project for Irrigation.

J. Delaune made the Motion, seconded by S. VanNostrand to allow the reallocation of funds for AEM Round 17 Contract Project Change. All in favor.

m) NYS AEM Leopold Conservation Award – Tongore Farm (Brett Fox):

Jake said that we have done a lot of work for this farm. We have done a rotational grazing system, water line. It was part of the Climate Agricultural Farming Series. He donated beef for "Meat the Farmer." He is a great steward of the land. Jake and Brett have worked closely together. We originally developed a rotational grazing system for a 1-week rotation, because it works. Brett likes it so much that he is rotating every 1-3 days. He is very innovative. Travis wrote the application. This is the first time that we have submitted for this. The Aldo Leopold Award has been around for over 20 years. It is a state award. Application is due Saturday 5/27/2023. Jake is requesting a signature from Chairman L. Tantillo to submit the application. It's a great opportunity to show that we are advocating for farmers. It is great press for them. It costs us no money to submit the application. Travis added that if the farmer potentially wins, they will receive possibly \$10,000.

Chairman L. Tantillo signed application for submission for NYS AEM Leopold Conservation Award for Brett Fox of Tongore Farm.

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4. OLD BUSINESS

a) External District Audit:

Jake already signed the contract to advance the letter of engagement and to schedule the audit. This audit is solely for the district; like the one conducted back in 2018. They will be reviewing the money coming in and money going out, and our procedures. Justin B. Wood, CPA will be conducting the audit. It will cost no more than \$9,200 for the audit, per Page 6 of the Audit Contract Agreement from Nugent & Haeussler, P.C.

There will be two separate audits. One for UCSWCD, and the other will be for the NYC DEP contract. Justin B. Wood, CPA will be drafting another engagement letter for the NYC DEP to review the financials dating back to 2020.

L. Tantillo inquired if this audit for UCSWCD is the one that was requested by K. Nolan, Ulster County Legislator. Jake stated that K. Nolan, Ulster County Legislator requested the audit for the District as well as the NYC DEP and the Ulster County Legislature. Also, Jake stated that everyone will receive a copy of the auditor's findings.

Jake stated that \$40,000 will be added to the County allocation once this audit for UCSWCD is completed, per the Professional Services Agreement.

Jake stated that Delaware, Greene, and Orange are some of the other counties that do Annual Audits on an annual basis.

J. Delaune made the Motion, seconded by S. VanNostrand to enter into contract with Nugent & Haeussler, P.C. All in favor.

b) Insurance Update:

Margarete and Jake have been working on communicating with the new insurance carrier switch. They have completed many different forms. Jake was advised that the insurance company would get back to him on the equipment coverage. Jake has been putting pressure on the new insurance company, because if we don't provide our certificate of insurance, then we don't receive any money from the State or the City.

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Jake stated that all Districts Statewide use Sloan Melhuish Insurance Company. We have been getting great deals from them. Unfortunately, due to the claim for the fatality, we were just dropped. Jake had been discussing this with our agent; we are indemnified, but since there was a record of us being sued when this fatality happened, the insurance company just dropped the coverage. Jake said that we are in the process of working out the remaining details of the policy, including the equipment coverage.

c) M&T Administrator Change:

M. Wagner proposed a discussion for the Board to discuss taking Adam Doan off the M&T Credit Card, and to add Jake's name onto the M&T Credit Card.

S. VanNostrand made the Motion, seconded by J. Delaune to take Adam Doan off the M&T Credit Card, and to add Jake's name on the Credit Card. All in favor.

d) NYC DEP Contract Reconciliation/Personnel: Discussed in executive session.

e) 2023 Annual Tree and Shrub Sale and Fish Sale:

Programs were a Success Thanks to Margarete.

5. Financial Reports and Abstracts – March and April 2023

Motion by L. Tantillo, seconded by J. Delaune to approve the March/April 2023 financials and abstracts. All in favor.

(Review of M&T Office Supplies/Credit Card for April 2023 – F. Wilklow requested clarification - \$459.00 for Laptop, possible Cropware Purchase \$1,000)

6. Minutes Approval

Motion was made by J. Delaune, seconded by S. VanNostrand to approve the March/May 2023 minutes as presented. All in favor.

7. Next Meeting

Scheduled for June 28th 7 PM.

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8. Executive Session

Motion by L. Tantillo to begin Executive Session at 8:46 pm and Executive Session was concluded at 8:58pm.

- After the executive session, three members of the Board of Directors would like to meet with Adam Doan, AWSMP Project Manager, the week of 6/29/2023.
- The Board decided to start Jocelyn Witkowski at an annual salary of \$48,000 effective immediately.

9. Adjournment

J. Delaune made the Motion, seconded by S. VanNostrand to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margarete Wagner & Jocelyn Witkowski

Program Assistant/Program Assistant in Training

JLW Activities March 11 – May 16, 2023

AEM: AEM Tier 4 – Covered barnyard preliminary design completed, T/O Marbletown. AEM Outreach – presented at two farms for Climate Resilient Farming Educational Series; Manure Management and Rotational Grazing System. AEM Tier 3A – Cover crop plan assistance, T/O Saugerties. AEM Tier 4, Irrigation water management efficiency, T/O Marbletown. AEM Tier 5B – nutrient management recommendations assistance, T/O Marlborough. AEM Tier 5B – rotational grazing assistance site visit, T/O Rochester. AEM Tier 5B, conservation plan updates for on farm secondary containment facility, T/O Rochester. AEM Tier 4, sub-surface drainage surveying and layout, T/O Esopus. AEM Outreach – farm visit and planning scheduling, T/O Marlborough. AEM Tier 4 – Fence design mapping and specifications for rotational grazing system, T/O Rochester.

Inventory and Evaluations: Glen Street, City of Kingston – completed field assessment and preliminary design and recommendations. Mary Heyer, T/O New Paltz – Riparian buffer assessment with CCE of Ulster County. Erik Schellenberg, T/O Lloyd – ongoing assistance for drainage maintenance agreement with Scenic Hudson. Ulster County – assistance with Catskill Mountain Railroad herbicide permit. Katherine Chansky, T/O Hurley – pond site enhancement recommendations. Deb Tankard, T/O Woodstock – tillage recommendations for flower garden. Hudson Valley Fruit Lab, T/O Lloyd – soil mapping and acreage of disturbance for proposed solar panels in vineyard. Japanese Consulate, Ministry of Agriculture – organic no till farming recommendations. Edward Zukowitz, T/O Hardenburgh – stream bank stabilization and permitting assistance. Ivan Goodman, T/O Rochester – riparian buffer establishment assistance. Michelle London, T/O Lloyd – stream bank erosion site visit and recommendations. Seamus Glynn, T/O Shawangunk – wetlands mapping assistance for pasture system. NYS DEC – assistance with modeling for phosphorous, provided manure application rates and cropping systems in the Wallkill watershed. Carlo DeStefano, T/O Plattekill – subsurface drainage assistance for hayfield. T/O Hurley – assistance with erosion and sediment control measures. Linda Covello, T/O Rosendale – provided soil and water testing laboratories lists. Working with County with Lower Esopus SMP.

Part B Arbor Day Initiative: Field visit and planting plan for T/O Olive. Provided mulch for T/O Woodstock Arbor Day planting. Reviewed municipal applications for plantings with the UC Dept. of the Environment.

NYC DEP CAT 494: Completed Expense quarterly report with MRW. Completed annual staffing plan and budget with A. Doan. Reviewed, approved and paid invoices for Stantec and SLR for engineering services and Kingston Equipment Stony Clove Stream Restoration Project. Working with Allison with permits for Elk Bushkill stream restoration project that is scheduled for this summer, A. Doan with landowner agreements. Request for Funding for Capital funds for stream restoration projects and personnel. Reviewed scope of services from SLR for Hollow Tree Brook Stream Restoration Project scheduled for the summer of 2024. Assisted M. Tollefson with drone and software quotes and A. Lent with Civil 3D license renewal. CSBI supplies review and approval. Attended project stakeholder meeting in April.

Round 27: Preliminary project planning, worked with NRCS for additional cost share funding.

District Updates/Other Projects:

- Ivan Goodman is requesting cost share assistance for riparian buffer project, he is partnering with Scenic Hudson and the NRCS, the District can contribute \$1,400.00 to total 75% sponsor contribution and 25% LO contribution.
- Soils Group Worksheets: 1.
- Tree and Shrub Program was a success thanks to our team, especially Margarete.
- Coordinated fish sale for May and October 2023
- Working with CCE of Ulster County to do another “Meet the Farmer” event in October 2023.
- No-Till Program – Travis and I prepped the drill for rental, one farmer rented the drill to date.
- Travis, Mark and myself attended the Water Quality Symposium in March
- Candidate resume review and interviews for Program Assistant position.
- County Professional Services Agreement.
- Coordinated annual external audit for District and CAT 494 contract.
- Facilitated new insurance carrier.
- Travis and I are teaching the 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Course for NYC SWCD on May 22, 2023.

TRF Activities March 11, 2023 – May 16, 2023

AEM: Tier 3A – T/O Ulster – working on cover crop plan. Tier 3A – T/O Rochester – working on cover crop plan. Education – T/O Olive - Participated in climate resilient field day – biochar, manure storage, rotational grazing. Tier 3A – T/O Saugerties – working on cover crop plan. Tier 5B – T/O Plattekill – soil sampling map/nutrient management planning/recommendations. Tier 5B – T/O Ulster – discuss composting facility/CRF grant potential. Tier 5A – T/O Ulster – site visit to update tier 1 and complete tier 2 worksheets, interested in cover crop program this fall. Tier 1 & 2 – T/O New Paltz – site visit to complete tier 1 and 2, interested in cover crop program and no-till program. Tier 4 – T/O Rochester – go over drill calibration and operation with producer. Tier 4 – T/O Esopus – surveyed for farm drainage in a vegetable field.

Inventory and Evaluations: T/O Gardiner – Jimmy Yin – questions about drinking water/well testing. T/O New Paltz/Gardiner – Ryan Wiley – site visit, explain programs, beginning farmer looking to get pigs/sheep. T/O Shawangunk – Sebastian Mazo – farming and soils info for family property. T/O Woodstock – Mary Spinac – farm parcel soils evaluation/ag feasibility. John LoMonto – emailed ag assessment and ag district inclusion information. C/O Kingston – Glen St. – walked Glen St drainage with J. Wedemeyer, made maps after walkthrough, generated pdf of historic aerial images, T/O Lloyd – Michele London – site visit for streambank erosion, give recommendations, send follow-up email with information. Dan Maier – T/O Gardiner – provided soil sampling results and fertilizer recommendations via phone.

CRF Round 6: No activity.

NYC DEP CAT 494: Fill out time log for quarterly reporting. Attended Rondout Neversink Watershed Advisory Group meeting via zoom.

Round 27: No activity.

No-Till Program: Finalized no-till agreement. Coordinated payment and delivery of no-till drill to Fred's farm. Drill was delivered on 3/29/2023. First rental was in Kerhonkson on 5/5/23.

Misc: Finished up a few stray ag assessments. Attended Water Quality Symposium back in March. Obtained cropware.net license. Kept Facebook/Instagram pages updated with new posts. Tree and shrub sale. Checked on Part B 2022 Arbor Day trees at Town of Shawangunk and Verkeerderkill Park.

A. Doan – Stream Project Manager

- Administration
 - FY24 fiscal year documentation – drafts, edits and comms to JW and D. Burns
 - Annual Action Plan – review/edits and comments to LZ (multiple rounds and response to DEP RFI)
 - Multiple responses to DEP requests for information related to recon and requests for funding
 - Travel approval and memo for M. Tollefson to attend Rosgen Levels 1 & 2
 - Updated sub-tracking spreadsheet and sub tracking forms for Capital RFF
 - FY24 Q1 Capital request for fundings docs/edits and comms to JW and D. Burns
 - Drone justification review/edits and coordination w/ M. Tollefson, A. Lent and JW

- Stream Management Implementation Program support- SMIP
 - DOT letter of map revision review/comms w/ CCE, SLR and Shandaken
 - McKenely Hollow Shandaken SMIP application – coordination w/ SLR and landowners re: aerial and ground survey
 - BIMA application rejection letter review/edits to LZ
 - Plank Rd design review – UC DPW
 - Cornell Culver Model analysis review meeting w/ DEC, Cornell Water Resources Center, Stantec and AWSMP
 - Review of final landowner survey report

- Assessment & Monitoring
 - Review/response to AL re: BSH SFI letter
 - Broadstreet Hollow SFI service order review/comms to DEP
 - Call/comms w/ S. George re: site status for fisheries study
 - Coordination/comms w/ D. Davis re: response to BSH SFI letter
 - 2023 field schedule review/comms to A. Lent
 - Multiple site visits with University of Vermont researchers who are focusing a study within the Woodland Creek watershed.
 - Post-storm inspections at Woodland/PK SRP, SC Lane SRP, SC SRP above Jansen Rd
 - Weekly to daily check-ins with Mark and Allison

- Projects
 - Stony Clove SRP
 - Lessons learned meeting planning w/ SLR
 - Site visit w/ Baker Bros. re: seeding for 2023
 - Site visit – status of seeding/plantings in spring 2023
 - Warner Creek SRP
 - Panther Kill SRP
 - Seeding/plant mortality check in and follow up w/ contractor
 - Review of as-built and coordination w/ Stantec re: additional survey needs and revisions to as-built
 - Site visit w/ Control Point to capture additional as-built information

- Site visit w/ Hubbell re: seeding for 2023
 - Mink Hollow Bridge
 - Elk Bushkill
 - Completed 60% design review/coordinated comments from DEP and submitted review tracking log to Stantec
 - Permit review/coordination w/ A. Lent
 - Reviewed revised erosion and sediment control plan
 - Call w/ Stantec re: access and staggings
 - DEC/ACOE permit applications
 - DEP SWPPP permit application
 - Site visit w/ CCE education and outreach staff re: outreach strategy/needs assessment and familiarity with site and design
 - Hollow Tree Brook
 - Coordination w/ DEP re: HTB support memo
 - SLR scope of services review
- CSBI
 - Assisted B. Taylor with live staking at Burgher Rd. crossing
 - Review/edits/questions to B. Taylor re: purchase memo for Emerson CSBI signage
 - Weekly to daily check-ins with Bobby

Meetings/Site Visits

- Streamside Acquisition Program (SAP) meeting with Town of Olive
- Ramapo Munsee Lenape/Ramapo College meeting re: potential for collaboration
- Streamside Acquisition Program meeting with stream management program partners
- Call w/ DOT re: LOMR and request for information at Route 28 Bridge in Mt. Tremper
- SMIP grant review committee meeting
- Monthly Project Managers meeting with DEP, CCE (multiple over period)
- Meeting w/ SLR re: usefulness of bedload estimates for restoration design
- Ashokan Watershed SMP Stakeholder Council quarterly meeting
- Meeting w/ Brian Drumm (DEC) regarding landowner meeting with Pine Hill residents and LFA report
- Streamside Acquisition Program meeting w/ Ulster Co.
- Weekly check-in call w/ Jake (multiple over period)
- SMP Presentation to Woodstock Environmental Commission
- Field visit w/ Inter-Fluve to inform Lower Esopus stream management plan and outreach efforts
- Stream Management Program partners quarterly flood hazard mitigation meeting
- SAFARI meeting – Shandaken flood committee
- Meeting w/ Jeff Baker (Coalition of Watershed Towns council) re: SAP discussions
- Ulster Co. Department of Environment planner check-in meeting (multiple over period)
- Streamside Acquisition Program meeting – FAD regulators, DEC, DEP and SMP partners
- Post-flood intervention training development meetings – working on a 2023 training for Town highway, contractors, etc. that may be involved in post-storm recovery related to streams
- Site visit – D. Hayes Burnham Hollow Rd – updated agreement for EBK SRP and design review with homeowners

- Site visit – DEP at Stony Clove SRP re: placement of weather station
- Site visit – McKenley Hollow SMIP project with Shandaken highway and SLR
- Site visit – 85 Burnham Hollow Rd: EBK SRP update and design review with homeowners
- Site visits – Town of Olive highway problem road stream crossings
- Site visit – F. Waring SR214 – bank erosion and referral to CSBI
- Site visit – Burgher Rd. crossing – seeding/planting mortality and punch list w/ Town and SLR
- Site visit – C. Vilmar McKenely Hollow – status of Shandaken Highway SMIP project and property walk
- Site visit – G. Lennstrom Burnham Hollow Rd – EBK SRP design review
- Site visits – Town of Woodstock highway for obstructed culvert and large wood accumulation/flooding at Sickler Road.

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program

- Administration
 - Submitted Capital request for funds (RFF) to DEP
 - Responded to DEP request for additional info related to Capital and Expense RFF's
 - Met with towns of Woodstock, Shandaken and Olive regarding priority stream corridors for protection and potential expansion of Streamside Acquisition Program (SAP) to Ulster Co.
 - All staff participating in planning of AWSMP conference in late July
- Assessment & Monitoring
 - Prepared draft proposal for UAV (drone) purchase and explored options for licensing. Mark T. will be on-staff operator.
 - Field tour with researchers from University of Vermont who are developing a predictive model for suspended sediment
 - Field tour with Inter-fluve to inform work on Lower Esopus stream management plan
 - 2023 Field Schedule prepared – will have UCCC interns and CCE staff joining with some of the field work to familiarize new staff
 - 2023 field season will focus on the following:
 - Project monitoring
 - UCSWCD/USGS fisheries study
- Projects
 - Stony Clove SRP
 - Contactor returning to site to touch up seeding
 - Potted and live stake material appears to be doing well
 - Processing substantial completion pay application
 - SLR conducted stormwater inspections post storms
 - 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
 - Contractor returning to site to touch up seeding
 - Coordinating as-built and report for review from Stantec. Allison and Adam met with surveyor to identify installed in-stream BMPS
 - Retainage to be released once 80% coverage obtained
 - Mink Hollow Bridge
 - CCE has begun close out of project
 - CSBI landowner will continue to receive assistance from Bobby
 - Elk Bushkill
 - Received and reviewed 60% design submission

- Anticipate 90% design late May
 - Updated landowners on status and will follow up after 90% received
- CSBI
 - Finalized Spring planting sites and maintenance
 - Began prep work for Spring plantings
 - Installed live stakes at Burgher Road Culvert project
 - Bobby will be participating in AWSMP conference geared towards new landowners with emphasis on CSBI program opportunities

Meetings/Site Visits

- Field visit to site weather station at Stony Clove SRP above Lanesville
- SAFARI flood meeting – Town of Shandaken
- Multiple Streamside Acquisition Program meetings
- Quarterly Flood Hazard Mitigation meeting with SMP partners
- SMIP grant review committee meeting
- Site visit – McKenley Hollow landowners
- Project managers meeting – multiple
- Elk Bushkill landowner’s meetings – multiple
- AWSMP Stakeholder council meeting
- DoE, CCE and SWCD environmental planner meeting
- Site visits – Town of Olive highway problem road stream crossings
- Presented to Woodstock Environmental Commission re: Stream Program opportunities
- Site visit – Waring, Fred (Chichester) re: bank erosion
- Site visit – Burgher Rd culvert w/ SLR re: stormwater permit
- Site visit – Vilmar (Shandaken) re: proposed town project in McKenley Hollow
- Site visit – Langstorm (Shandaken) re: EBK SRP project
- Post-flood stream intervention training development meeting
- CCM calibration meeting with stakeholders and Stantec

From: [Velez-Juarbe, Oscar - FPAC-NRCS, NY](#)
To: [Wedemeyer, Jake - FPAC-NRCS, NY](#)
Subject: Work report
Date: Tuesday, May 16, 2023 4:21:02 PM

Hi Jake,

I've been working on preapprovals for my Team and another one. As to Ulster Co, we have 7 EQIP preapprovals and 2 for CSP.

Oscar Velez-Juarbe

District Conservationist, SE5

USDA-NRCS
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Highland, NY 12528

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

NYS SWCC News

SFY 2023-2024 Environmental Protection Fund: The Enacted SFY 2023-2024 Budget is now available at www.budget.ny.gov. In total, this year's approved EPF budget is yet another very strong showing of support for conservation programs. Overall appropriations for the FY 2023-2024 EPF were approved at level funding of \$400 million. Proposals of interest to SWCC/SWCDs in this budget include the following:

- \$19.5 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including \$2 million for Cornell IPM, \$500,000 for the CCE of Suffolk County and \$250,000 for Cornell's Pesticide Management Program
- \$16 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (**\$1.5 million increase over last year's levels**)
- \$15.25 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including \$500,000 to support Carbon Sequestration Projects and \$500,000 for the Cornell Soil Health Program
- \$22 million for Water Quality Improvement Program
- \$22.5 million for Oceans and Great Lakes (EBM Program funding)
- \$14.275 million for Waterfront Revitalization Program
- \$21 million for Farmland Protection

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>. All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Jennifer Clifford jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov by **June 5th, 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM August 7, 2023**.

Agricultural Non-Point Source Program Round 29: \$13.5 million is available to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the State. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Bethany Bzduch bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov by **May 22nd, 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM June 26, 2023**.

May SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on May 16th**. 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.

Spring Managers Meetings – Save the Date: The following dates have been set for regional manager's meetings this June! Meetings will be from 10am-2pm. Please participate in whichever date and location is most convenient but please RSVP to the AEA for that meeting. As always Directors are invited to attend as this meeting can count towards Performance Measures.

- **June 12th** - Region 3, Scott Fickbohm (scott.fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov), Eastern NY – Montgomery County Emergency Services, 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY
- **June 14th** – Region 2, PJ Emerick (patrickj.emerick@agriculture.ny.gov), Central NY – Cortland SWCD office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY
- **June 15th** – Region 5, Ben Luskin (ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov), Southeast NY – Dutchess SWCD office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY
- **June 16th** – Region 1, Victor DiGiacomo (victor.digiacom@agriculture.ny.gov), Western NY – Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY 14020
- **June 21st** - Region 4, Ryan Cunningham (ryan.cunningham@agriculture.ny.gov), Northern NY – Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2023: NYSAGM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. The deadline for applications is **May 27th, 2023**. More information for Districts can be found on the SWCC SharePoint site (<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/Home.aspx>, then Resources for Districts > Agricultural Environmental Management > AEM Leopold Conservation Award > 2023) and for the public, here (www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf).

Other Events

2023 Practical Pasture Management Training: This opportunity is advertised as a unique grazing training that will offer hands-on learning and strategies to help peers help farmers implement resilient grazing systems. Trainers will be addressing a multitude of pasture management topics in a light-hearted and hands-on manner. Hosted by the Bishopp Family Farm, Oneida and Madison SWCDs, convening on **May 18th, 10am to 3pm**, at 2809 Rt. 12-B, Deansboro, NY. To register for this training, email Troy Bishopp at troy-bishopp@verizon.net or contact Madison County SWCD at (315) 824-9849.

2023 Conservation Leadership Conference - Save the Date: NYSCDEA has announced that The 2023 Conservation Leadership Conference will commence from **July 18th – 21st**, at The Ranger School of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry located in Wanakena, New York. The program is open to all board members and staff of the sponsoring 4-way partnership and is geared towards: new managers or leaders, those with anticipated leadership responsibilities and those simply interested in personal development. Please save the date, more information will be available shortly.

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.

The Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool webinar took place last month and the recording is available at: [Webinar: Using the Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool - YouTube](#) The link to the NY Natural Heritage Program Riparian Opportunity Assessment tool is <https://www.nynhp.org/projects/statewide-riparian-assessment/> For questions and comments about using the tools in project and resiliency planning, or to participate in the needs assessment for updating the tool, please reach out to Emily Fell at Emily.fell@dec.ny.gov or Kristen Hychka at kch235@cornell.edu

Watershed Wednesdays: Greene County SWCD is excited to offer the Watershed Wednesdays Webinar Series as part of 2023's Schoharie Watershed Month! The webinars are free and open to all. Please find more information in the attached images. Registration pages can be accessed through the link below:

https://linktr.ee/gcswcd?utm_source=linktree_profile_share<sid=de894dd8-0c90-463a-ae46-cc719fb724a3

Other Funding

Federal Funding Available for Urban and Community Forestry: The USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program is a technical, financial, and educational assistance program assists State Forestry agencies and partner organizations in addressing and applying nature-based solutions to chronic and emergent economic, social, and environmental challenges in communities. **Approximately \$1 Billion** is expected to be awarded under this program nationally. All proposals must be received by **June 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EDT**. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://iraucfgrants.urbanandcommunityforests.org/>