

MINUTES
ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5 PARK LANE
HIGHLAND, NY 12528
March 22, 2023

1. OPEN MEETING

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 9:05 AM. Directors Present, S.VanNostrand, F.Wilklow, J.Delaune, and Legislature K.Nolan, Associate Env. Analyst NYS Ag & Mkts. B.Luskin. District Staff in attendance: M. Wagner-Program Assistant, T. Ferry-District Technician and J. Wedemeyer, Exec. Director. NRCS: Present O.Velez-Juarbe. Absent: B.Davenport, and Legislature H.Litts.

2. WORK 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).

SWCD: J.Wedemeyer reported:

- AEM updates.
- Inventory and Evaluations
- NYC DEP CAT 494
- District Updates /Other Projects
 1. Part C Performance Measures Award.
 2. Assistance to UC Planning Board with the Farmland Protection Plan.
 3. Assisted CCE of Ulster County with candidate selection of their Livestock/ Natural resources Educator.
 4. Travis and Jake taught the 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Course for Greene County SWCD, \$1,2500.00 in District revenue generated.
 5. Margarete has been running the tree and shrub program.
 6. Working with Ulster County Department of the Environmental with the second year of the Arbor Day Initiative, utilizing Part B funds (\$6,000) to plant additional trees/assistance to municipalities.

NRCS: O.Velez-Juarbe reported:

- Hi Tunnels applications (deadline April 3rd)
- CSP & EQIP
- Working on project planning with Jake for additional cost share funding for Rnd 27 (SWCD).

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SWCD: T.Ferry

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

AWSMP: J.Wedemeyer reviewed AWSMP report:

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

3. NEW BUSINESS

a) Program Assistant Help

Jake is seeking Program Assistant Office Help. Tasks in the office is too much for one person to handle. Jake submitted an agreement from Norman Staffing for temp help.

Kathy felt that this was not the way to go. First need to check with the County's personnel department to see if this position is Civil Service and the position should be advertised and a salary to be set in place. B.Luskin was in agreement and suggested to advertise far and wide. Somebody should be working with Margarete two months before she retires. Jake said he will proceed with the County Personnel Department and do a position description after determining the Civil Service classification. Kathy suggested to think about two part-time positions, one for a Bookkeeper and one for Administrative. Fred suggested to look into one full time and one part time position. J.Delaune voice his opinion to bring someone in to help Margarete out right now. B.Luskin said the more you describe the position description the better it will be to solicit the right candidates. The board agreed to have Jake receive applications, do the first round of

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interviews and have the board do the final round of interviews with the top candidates.

b) Hepworth Part C Crop Reimbursement Overpayment

Jake explained the situation. B.Luskin gave a suggestion for Jake to deduct the 2023 cover crop reimbursement from the amount owed for the overpayment. Jake replied that he will be in touch with Amy Hepworth to discuss the matter.

c) Procurement Policy Review

K.Nolan made the Motion, seconded by S.VanNostrand to adopt the 2022 Procurement Policy Manual. All in favor.

d) Part C Performance Measure Funding

Reviewed in Jake's report: Part C Performance Measures Award – UC SWCD met the full performance measures requirements and claim for payment has been submitted.

e) Annual Tree and Shrub Sale and Fish Sale.

Reviewed in Jake's Report.

f) Cropware Software Purchase

K.Nolan made the Motion, seconded by F.Wilklow to approve the Cropware Software purchase. All ayes.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a) Annual District Audit Scheduling

Scheduled for March 30th – 8 am.

b) Insurance Update

Jake reviewed the status of the Insurance policies. Presently Slone-Melhuish Insurance is working on other carriers. Will keep the Board informed of the update.

c) No Till Drill Purchase and No-Till Program rental Agreement

Travis reviewed the No-Till Equipment Lease Agreement/Policy. Discussion was held. Updates will follow.

d) NYC DEP Contract Reconciliation

Jake reviewed report he submitted to Dave Burns, NYC DEP, dated March 10th referencing CAT-494 Reconciliation Progress Report. Discussion was held. Jake will keep the Board informed on the status of CAT-494 Reconciliation Report.

e) AWSMP Engineer Position

Update by Jake. Position is very hard to fill unable to fill the position at this time, will discuss with the NYC DEP and repost at a later time.

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5. Minutes Approval

Motion was made by F.Wilklow, seconded by S.VanNostrand to approve February minutes as presented. All in favor.

6. Financial Reports and Abstracts – January and February

Motion by K.Nolan, seconded by S.VanNostrand to approve the January/February financials and abstracts. All in favor.

7. Next Meeting

Scheduled for May 24th 7 PM.

8. Adjournment

Motion by K.Nolan, seconded by S.VanNostrand to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 AM. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margarete Wagner
Program Assistant

JLW Activities February 16-March 10, 2023

AEM: AEM Outreach, Rotational Grazing Presentation for Climate Resilient Farming Series and Coordination of Meat the Farmer event with CCE of Ulster County. AEM Tier 4, T/O Rochester – Reviewed rotational grazing system standard and specifications with farmer, plans to install fence in the fall. AEM Tier 4, T/O Marbletown – Obstruction removal complete for covered barnyard project. AEM Tier 5B, T/O Olive – nutrient management plan for hay and beef producer. AEM Tier 5A, T/O Rochester – farm update, discussed pasture and hay field seedings with no-till drill. AEM Tier 5B, T/O Saugerties – Pasture renovation with harrow and no-till drill recommendations. AEM Tier 4, T/O Marbletown – assistance with preliminary design and cost estimate for irrigation system improvement project.

Inventory and Evaluations: Catskill Animal Sanctuary, T/O Saugerties – Field visit to assess long term viability of pastures and soil conditions, follow up letter describing soil conditions and appropriate actions to take. Dan Tomasetti, T/O Plattekill- Office visit ag feasibility, 166 acre orchard. Mohammad Saleem, T/O Wawarsing- site visit, assistance with greenhouse irrigation pipeline, electric and pasture management site visit. Travis Hermance, T/O Esopus - ag feasibility and soil mapping. Dan Maier, T/O Gardiner – nutrient management recommendations.

NYC DEP CAT 494: Reconciled Capital and Expense accounts for old contract and current contract. Completed Capital quarterly report with MRW. Reviewed, approved and paid invoices for Stantec for engineering services and Summit Equipment for Bobcat attachments. Working with Allison, Elk Bushkill stream restoration project that is scheduled for this summer.

District Updates/Other Projects:

- Part C Performance Measures Award – UCSWCD meet full performance measure requirements and claim for payment has been submitted.
- Soils Group Worksheets: 2.
- Assistance to UC Planning Board with the Farmland Protection Plan.
- Assisted CCE of Ulster County with candidate selection of their Livestock/Natural Resources Educator.
- Travis and I taught the 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Course for Greene County SWCD, \$1,250.00 in District revenue generated.
- Margarete has been running the tree and shrub program.
- Working with the Ulster County Department of the Environment with the second year of the Arbor Day Initiative, utilizing Part B funds (\$6,000) to plant additional trees/assistance to municipalities.

TRF Activities February 15, 2023 – March 10, 2023

AEM: Tier 5B – Gardiner – Continued working with Lori Beach (NRCS) to generate irrigation cost estimate. Tier 5B – Marlborough – made some edits to orchard producer plan for mulching. Tier 4 – T/O Marbletown – looked at old irrigation plan set to determine mainline size, researched cost of 6” pipe. Tier 1 – T/O New Paltz – worked with producer to setup site visit for later in March. T/O – Gardiner/Plattekill – worked on nutrient recommendations for pumpkins for u-pick orchard.

Inventory and Evaluations: T/O Gardiner – Dan Maier – soil sampled 2 hay fields for nutrient recommendations, worked on recommendations for his fields. T/O – Wawarsing – Keith Duarte – soil sampling results, lime recommendations. T/O – New Paltz – Anne Rogers – looking for someone to farm her property, working with Glynnwood, recommended getting into Ag District, gave her info on how to go about that. T/O Saugerties – Catskill Animal Sanctuary – Jake & I met with Sanctuary to discuss pasture ground drainage issues. T/O Wawarsing – Mohammad Saleem/Ann – greenhouse water and electric recommendations. T/O Marbletown – Zachary Schymura – visited office for information, provided deer protection information, tree tubes.

CRF Round 6: No activity.

NYC DEP CAT 494: Listened to the DEP partners meeting. Reviewed some reconciliation numbers for Jake.

Round 27: No activity.

Ag Assessment: Finished up ag assessments. 19 ag assessment requests received and completed.

No-Till Program: Finalized no-till quotes and worked with Zimmerman Farm Services in PA to reserve our 7’ Esch drill. Worked on a draft no-till agreement and no-till advertisement flyer. Listened to a no-till roundtable webinar on equipment rental programs.

Misc: Listening to our climate resilience webinar series with Cornell.

Spent time working on getting Cropware software (nutrient management software) working on computer, free software is no longer supported/obsolete.

Updates March 2023

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program

- Administration
 - Submitted Expense request for funds (RFF) to DEP
 - Responded to DEP request for additional info related to Capital and Expense RFF
 - Successor contract kick off meeting completed and awaiting next meeting to review contract terms

- Assessment & Monitoring
 - Allison back part-time and working on 2023 field planning
 - Coordinating with DEP re: 2023 watershed interns
 - Assisting DEP with landowner contacts for Broadstreet Hollow SFI to be completed by SLR staff
 - 2023 field season will focus on the following:
 - Project monitoring
 - UCSWCD/USGS fisheries study
 - Support to AWSMP as needed

- Projects
 - Stony Clove SRP
 - Monitoring seeding/planting success heading into Spring
 - Anticipate receiving substantial completion pay application before end of March
 - Awaiting as-built and report for review from SLR

 - Warner Creek SRP
 - Post-construction monitoring to continue via DEP and UCSWCD efforts
 - SPDES permit closed after 80% coverage obtained

 - Panther Kill SRP
 - Monitoring seeding/planting success heading into Spring
 - Awaiting as-built and report for review from Stantec
 - Retainage to be released once 80% coverage obtained

 - Mink Hollow Bridge
 - UCSWCD will continue to monitor planting and instream work

 - Elk Bushkill
 - Received and reviewed 30% design submission
 - Anticipate 60% design late March/early April
 - Updated landowners on status

- CSBI
 - Working on 2023 Spring plans
 - Completed guide to willow staking w/ CCE
 - Planning bioengineering video w/ CCE educators
 - BT attended annual Riparian Buffer Working Group meeting

Continued on back

Meetings/Site Visits

- Highway Managers working group
- SAFARI flood meeting – Town of Shandaken
- USGS Stream Restoration Workshop w/ other SMP's
- Ashokan Watershed conference planning meetings
- Cornell Culverts Model SMIP project meeting
- Project Managers Meeting w/ CCE and DEP
- Town of Olive municipal site visits – visited problem road stream crossings w/ highway superintendent
- Town of Woodstock municipal site visits – visited high priority sites with highway superintendent and staff
- Elk Bushkill SRP 30% design review meeting
- DEP/UCSWCD contract meeting
- AWSMP staff meeting
- Technical assistance to Big Indian Mountain Association (BIMA) regarding SMIP application for funding
- 2023 Stream Assessment Working Group meeting
- Flood Hazard Mitigation working group meeting
- Priority Corridors meeting w/ AWSMP staff

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

NYS SWCC News

2023 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning for AEM: The AEM Partners are pleased to announce that the CNMP Training, a prerequisite class for AEM and NRCS Level II CNMP Planner Certifications, is scheduled for **April 4-6, 2023**, on the Cornell Campus in Ithaca, NY. The registration deadline is **March 10th, 2023**. To register please visit: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScTGa6JTacmdUSKOC1GzCW2sSL97NrFQsOIF2Zy9PPp8_CjMg/viewform For more information or questions, please reach out to me at ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov or (315) 314-0352.

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. New York's award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The deadline for applications is **May 27th, 2023**. More information can be found at <https://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf>

March SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on March 21st**. 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.

NCDEA Don Aron Scholarship Announcement: The NCDEA Scholarship was established in the memory of Don Aron for his foresight of a National Conservation District Employees Association. The scholarship application is open to any conservation district employee or their immediate family member along with a few other eligibility requirements; and applicants may request up to \$1,000 in assistance. The deadline to submit is **March 15th, 2023**. For more information, please visit <https://www.ncdea.us/dascholarship>. Questions can be sent to the NCDEA Executive Director at executivedirector@ncdea.org.

Other Events

Freedom of Information Law & Open Meetings Law Virtual Training: In recognition of Sunshine Week, the Committee on Open Government will be presenting a virtual Freedom of Information Law information session on **Tuesday, March 14th from 10AM – 11:30AM** and a virtual Open Meetings Law information session on **Tuesday, March 14th from 2PM – 3:30PM**. Each program will consist of a one-hour overview of the statute, followed by 30 minutes of Q & A. Pre-registration is required, FOIL registration at: <https://meetny.webex.com/weblink/register/r9f4c15a559c76aec5ad9b29988c4418a>. Open Meetings Law registration at: <https://meetny.webex.com/weblink/register/r3c711e07efc0c7269a0de6efe53f1d00>

2023 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: Save the Date. The 2023 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Niagara Falls on **April 25th and 26th**. To register, please visit: <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/registration.html>

Other Funding

Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program: The Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) Request for Proposals was recently announced, for projects that reduce nutrients and sediments entering the Great Lakes. This year's program will focus on helping nonfederal units of government, tribes, or incorporated nonprofit organizations reduce phosphorus contributions to waters within the Great Lakes basin. Applicants are invited to submit proposals for sediment and nutrient reduction activities associated with one of two project types: 1) agricultural non-point; and 2) shoreline or streambanks. The due date for applications is **5:00 p.m. Eastern on April 21st, 2023**. <https://www.glc.org/work/sediment/apply-2023>

NRCS Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) Funding: NRCS is announcing the availability of Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) State Program funding to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies. A total of up to \$500,000 is available for the New York CIG competition in FY 2023. Applicants must submit

their applications via Grants.gov by 11:59 pm Eastern Time on **April 23rd, 2023**. Please read the full announcement at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=New+york&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

NRCS Funding Opportunity for Resource Conservation Partners in New York: The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing the availability of funding for conservation work in New York. Awards will go to partners to provide direct technical services to address water quality, soil health, wildlife and plant health, as well as other key conservation objectives. All applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by **April 27th 2023**. Please read the full announcement at https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/search-grants.html?keywords=New+york&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

United States EPA: EPA National Wetland Program Development Grants- Deadline: March 27

[Wetland Program Development Grants and EPA Wetlands Grant Coordinators | US EPA](#)

WPDGs assist state, tribal, local government (S/T/LG) agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in building programs to protect, manage and restore wetlands. States, tribes, local governments, interstate associations, and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply for the Regional WPDG Request for Proposals (RFPs). Nonprofits, interstate associations and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply for the National WPDG RFPs.

National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: National Coastal Resilience Fund 2023 Request for Proposals

[National Coastal Resilience Fund 2023 Request for Proposals | NFWF](#)

Pre-Proposal Deadline: Wednesday, April 12, 2023 by 11:59 PM ET

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) is pleased to announce the 2023 National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF) with a goal to enhance protections for coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural coastal hazards and to improve habitats for fish and wildlife. NFWF will award approximately \$140 million in grants to create and restore natural systems to increase protection for communities from current and future coastal hazards and improve habitats for fish and wildlife species. The NCRF supports projects that will result in the creation and/or restoration of natural systems to increase the resilience of communities from coastal hazards and improve habitats for fish and wildlife species. All projects under this program must demonstrate dual benefits to both coastal communities and habitats.



Soil and Water Conservation District



Esch 5607 No-Till Drill for Rent

Planning on renovating your pasture or hay field? Want to plant cover crop this fall? Interested in trying no-till for the first time? Ulster Co. SWCD has a 7' **Esch No-Till Drill** for rent to Ulster County producers capable of doing all those things! If you're interested in renting our new no-till drill, **call our office at (845) 883-7162 ext. 3** or **email Travis Ferry at travis.ferry@ny.nacdnet.net** for a copy of the rental agreement and more information.

Rental Requirements:

- Be a landowner in Ulster County and use the drill on land in Ulster County.
- Have at minimum a 50 Horsepower tractor with 1 set of hydraulic remotes in the rear.
- Ability to provide a certificate of insurance listing the drill on your policy and the District as additional insured for the duration of the rental.
- Drill does not accept fertilizer; **NO FERTILIZER IS TO BE USED IN THE DRILL!**
- Rental Fees:
 - \$10/ac
 - No delivery charge if user is an AEM program participant.
 - \$100 cleaning fee if drill is left dirty or full of seed.

We ask all potential users to have flexibility built into their seeding schedule, as this will be a new program for the District unforeseen issues will likely occur, and weather/field conditions may vary.