

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES
ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5 PARK LANE
HIGHLAND, NY 12528
October 22, 2025**

- 1. OPENING MEETING** - The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 8:59 AM. Directors Present: L. Tantillo, F. Wilklow, H. Litts and B. Davenport. SWCD Staff in attendance: J. Wedemeyer - Executive Director, C. DeGroot - Program Assistant, C. Hernsdorf – Jr. District Technician, M. Garfinkle - Ashokan Stream Project Manager, B. Taylor - CSBI Program Coordinator and T. Ferry – NYS SWCC.

The meeting started with **NEW BUSINESS**.

2. NEW BUSINESS

- a) **Part B Project Proposal – Wallkill River, Lower Esopus Creek, Rondout Creek and their Tributaries – Riparian Plantings – 2025-10-22-1** Litts made the Motion, Wilklow seconded, to approve the District's 2026 Conservation Project Financial Assistance Request for \$6,000.00 for the Project Titled: Riparian Corridor Improvement Along the Wallkill River, Lower Esopus Creek and Rondout Creek and their Tributaries. All in favor.
- b) **District Technician Applicants** – The District received many resumes for the vacant technician position, several of which really stood out. Wedemeyer and Hernsdorf will review the resumes and schedule zoom interviews. A hiring committee will review chosen applicants to interview in person. Litts requested that all resumes be submitted to K. Nolan.
- c) **Stream Technician Applicants** – Approximately 30 resumes were received. A brief discussion followed.
- d) **UC Code of Ethics – Future Employment and Restrictions** – Wedemeyer mentioned that the New York City Department of Investigation requested to see the District's Code of Ethics policy since there was concern that an employee working for the District resigned and accepted a job with an engineering company that the District does business with. The Ulster County SWCD is required to adhere to the Ulster County Code of Ethics. A hyperlink to the Code of Ethics can be found in the Ulster County SWCD Personnel Policy. The Ulster County attorney's office advised the SWCD of Section 44-9 of the Code of Ethics, which establishes a two-year post-employment restriction. Former County employees are prohibited from representing or providing services to any organization in connection with matters involving the exercise of discretion and billing for services before the agency for which they previously served. As a result, former County employees may not render services to or participate in, any matter involving the Ulster County SWCD for a period of two years following their employment, unless requested in writing by the County Executive or the Chair of the Ulster County Legislature. A memo was prepared for current and former District employees reminding them to comply fully with these ethical standards. A brief discussion followed. Litts suggested having all companies that we do business be cc'd on the bottom of this memo and have them acknowledge that they received it. **2025-10-22-2 Wilklow made the Motion, Davenport seconded, to approve the District's Code of Ethics policy. All in favor.**

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a) **Merit Table** – As requested at last month's meeting, the District's Merit table was revised to include a note stating that merit raises are contingent on annual employee evaluations that demonstrate that their work performance exceeds acceptable standards. The Merit Table will be incorporated into the District's Personnel Policy. **2025-10-22-3 Davenport made the Motion, Litts seconded, to accept the District's Merit Table as presented effective immediately. All in favor.**
- b) **Hollow Tree Brook Project Status** – Garfinkle said that this project has been in a holding pattern since last month. A cost proposal was developed for Stantec to develop an alternate approach forward for this site and to give us a comparative cost analysis so we can justify where we stand with SLR and why work was stopped. This will also help us reconsider a new approach with solid financial evidence to back up their decision.

(K. Nolan joined the Meeting at 9:12 AM)

Jillian Cole from Stantec is working on a proposal and hopefully we will have it soon.

4. WORK REPORTS

a) **SWCD**

J. Wedemeyer - (see attached staff report)

AEM – Wedemeyer has been working on coordinating the construction of three on-farm secondary containment facilities in the Towns of New Paltz and Rochester. Project photos were passed around showing the on-farm secondary containment facility construction inspection from October 15th in the Town of New Paltz (paid for out of AEM RD 18).

Photos were also passed out showing the Riparian Buffer Planting Project completed this Fall along the Wallkill River in the Town of New Paltz, on a local farm. This effort was undertaken through a partnership between the Ulster County SWCD, the Orange County Land Trust, and the Hudson River Estuary Trees for Tribes Program. During the summer, buckwheat was planted along a 2,300' x 14' wide strip to outcompete mugwort and other invasive plants. The crop was established and later terminated by mowing. Following this, a riparian buffer pollinator mix was planted in the same area using one of the District's no-till drills. This fall, a total of 330 trees and shrubs were planted by volunteers (in addition to 390 trees planted in May 2025). There was discussion on pollinator mixes and Nolan mentioned that Catskill Mountain Keeper (CMK) has funding to look at ecotypic pollinator seeds. There was a brief discussion. Garfinkle mentioned that the NYS Parks has a robust seed collection program. Nolan said CMK has a project they are working on which is to have Catskill specific riparian pollinator seeds being grown by farmers that grow their own crops but also have that additional seed available to sell locally. Taylor suggested that Nolan reach out to Brendan Wagner who works on the Rondout-Neversink Stream Program. They do a lot of seed collection in-house for their plant materials.

Wedemeyer has been assisting with a rotational grazing system in the Town of Marlborough.

C. DeGroodt – (see attached staff report)

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

C. Hernsdorf – (See attached staff report)

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

Hernsdorf attended the Conservation Skills Workshop in Auburn the week of October 5th.

b) AWSMP

M. Garfinkle – (See attached staff report)

Broadstreet Hollow Project – Expected to have 30% design drawings by October 31st. He will then set up meetings with each landowner to discuss any concerns they may have.

Stream Assessment and Monitoring – Garfinkle has been working with the field techs when able.

He has been receiving applications for the Stream Technical Specialist position. There are 1-2 standout candidates so far.

B. Taylor – (See attached staff report)

The Ulster County SWCD and AWSMP held a site visit tour on October 17th with the NYCDEP to view upcoming proposed CSBI projects.

Two invasive species management projects that were scheduled for this fall have now been rescheduled to spring due to frost.

Year 1 of invasive treatment on the Boiceville site occurred in 2025. The final treatment was on October 2nd. Nolan asked Taylor what the preferred treatment for knotweed is. Taylor responded that chemical spraying is the only thing he knows will work. Nolan said that she killed a plot of knotweed by using the stomping method (breaking the stem of the plant but not mowing it). If done a few times a week it will kill the knotweed.

The Town of Olive Boiceville Riparian Linear Park presentation created by Taylor was available for Board review. See attached presentation.

M. Tollefson (See attached staff report)

G. Bonse (See attached staff report)

c) SWCC

T. Ferry – B. Luskin had already emailed out the October report.

Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 9 Request for Proposals has been released. There is \$24M available in four tracks of funding. Applications are due by November 17th.

Ferry reminded the District that the 2026 Annual Plan of Work is due by November 1st.

2025 Part C Performance Measures are due soon. Districts should make sure that all of their obligations are fulfilled in order to receive the full funding amount.

5. MINUTES APPROVAL – 2025-10-22-4 Nolan made the Motion, Davenport seconded, to approve the September 24, 2025 Minutes and October 1, 2025 Special Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

6. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ABSTRACTS – 2025-10-22-5 Nolan made the Motion, Litts seconded, to approve the September 2025 Financial Reports and Abstracts. All in favor.

2025-10-22-6 Nolan made the Motion, Litts seconded, to approve Resolution 2025-3 authorizing participation by the Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District in the Round 9 Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program. All in favor.

Nolan told the Board that someone has been identified for the Watershed Coordinator position.

7. NEXT MEETING - The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 26, 2025 at 9:00 AM.

8. ADJOURNMENT

2025-10-22-7 A Motion was made by Litts to Adjourn the Meeting at 9:51 AM, seconded by Davenport. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine DeGroodt
Program Assistant

JLW Activities –September 18 through October 15, 2025

AEM: AEM Tier 4-Coordination of construction of 3 on farm secondary containment facilities, T/O New Paltz and Rochester. AEM Tier 4 – Coordination of rotational grazing system, reviewed quotes and approval to proceed, T/O Rochester. AEM Tier 4 – Assisted with barnyard design, T/O Gardiner. AEM Tier 4 – Assistance with in-kind hours documentation for rotational grazing system, T/O Marlborough. AEM Tier 5B – BMP monitoring/evaluation, T/O Marbletown. AEM Program Evaluation – Worked with UC Economic Development with budget to help farmers with in-kind costs for agricultural best management practices.

Inventory and Evaluations: Mary Heyer, T/O New Paltz – Assistance with advancing conservation easement with the Town. Shannon Springer, T/O Olive – Assistance with septic system leach field repair and contractor referrals. Cindy Reiter, T/O Esopus – Lime spreader, no till drill and soil sampling assistance. Sue Boice, T/O Saugerties – Soils Group Worksheet assistance. Donal Sutton, T/O Shawangunk – Soil sampling assistance. Ernie Fabiano, T/O Saugerties – Lime, fertilizer and no till hay planting recommendations. Brian Shapiro, T/O Woodstock – Base flood elevation assistance.

NYC DEP SWP-101: Assisting with SWP 101 quarterly financial reports and reconciliations. Project Managers monthly meetings. In-person check-in meetings with staff. CSBI RCMP review and site visits. Provided investigators with requested information. Worked with County Attorney with future employment and conflicts of interest. Finalized stream technician position description. Multiple requests to SLR to provide data from the Hollow Tree Brook stream restoration project.

Round 27: No responses to invitation to bid legal notice in Daily Freeman. Producers are soliciting bids from other contractors.

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. Assisting contractors with quotes.

CRF Round 8: Cover crops are soon to be certified.

District Updates/Other Projects:

- Presented at the UC Economic Development Legislative Committee October meeting.
- Assistance to Cooper and Travis for no-till drill rentals and scheduling.
- Bank statement reviews and reconciliations with Chris.
- Working with OCLT and Trees for Tribes on riparian planting project at Saunderville Farm, T/O Rochester.
- Assistance with cover crop program sign-ups.
- Ulster County Dept. of the Environment – Coordination of 4-hour erosion and sediment control course to be held in November.

Christine DeGroodt

Activities September 17, 2025 – October 14, 2025

NYS Retirement – I continue to do the monthly reporting.

SWP-101 Contracts – I have begun working on the two SWP-101 quarterly reports.

Lent's family health insurance plan was successfully terminated and the new family plan is under Taylor's name. Lent's Annual Leave payout was sent to her.

County Quarterly Report – I have begun compiling the financials for this past quarter. After the September Abstract is signed by the Chairman I will submit the report to the County and request our quarterly appropriation.

District Website – The website is updated as needed. The two vacant job announcements are listed on the home page. I have taken over the District's facebook page, jobs are posted there as well. The 4-Hour Erosion & Sediment Control course on 11/12/25 at UCCC was posted.

MISC. - Ferry's credit card, WEX account, vehicle insurance, etc. have all been terminated. I will be sending out Ferry's annual leave payout this week.

Ferry and I spent some time writing out step-by-step instructions for completing soil group worksheets. I used to complete them for Orange County, but was not familiar with this version of ArcGIS Pro. Now I will be able to assist with the agricultural assessments if necessary.

I posted the two job vacancies on Conservation Job Board.

The NYS and FIT/FICA quarterly payroll tax reports were filed online and a copy of the NYS-45 report was emailed to Ulster County Self Insurance.

After discussion with Jake, arrangements were made to collect on an overdue no-till bill.

New vehicle and trailer insurance cards were requested from our insurance company. Ashokan cards were emailed to them.

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

Cooper Activities September 17th, 2025 – October 14th, 2025

AEM: Tier 3A – Rochester: Met with producer to discuss conservation plan. Discussed options for livestock watering system and irrigation system. Tier 4 – Gardiner: Progressing covered barnyard project, researching specs for coverall structures. Tier 4 – Gardiner: Using cropware to make fertilizer and manure spreading recommendations for pastures. Technical assistance: Scheduling soil sampling for Fall 2025.

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

CRF Round 8: Delivering no-till drill to CRF participants.

NYC DEP SWP 101: Assisted BT with vegetation monitoring at CSBI sites.

Part C: Bookkeeping for the cover crop program. Nearly 1000 acres have been applied for.

No-Till Program: Both drills have been out nearly non-stop this Fall. 7' drill has just passed 500 acres on the acreage meter. 7' drill was used to seed a native grass seed mix intended for a pollinator habitat on a farm in New Paltz.

Misc: More soil worksheets coming in – particularly from Saugerties, Marlborough to follow suit with total review of all ag assessments and dated soil worksheets.

Attended ConSkills training in Auburn, NY week of Oct 5th.

Began learning to use Cropware software to assist with nutrient management plans.

Reviewed total station procedures and usage with TF and JW.

Assisting with Marbletown Water Quality Study as needed.

Max Garfinkle

Project Manager

October UCSWCD Board Meeting Work Report (9/18/25-10/15/25)

Stream Restoration Projects

- Broadstreet Hollow
 - Working with DEP to vet out reference reach data set for EPR to utilize as part of their design for the project.
 - Engaged all landowners involved in the BSH project reach and updated them on the status of the project design.
 - Expected to have 30% design Drawings by 10/31, will then set up meetings with each landowner to incorporate their concerns into the design comments.
- Hollowtree Brook
 - Drafted comparative cost proposal for Stantec to review and provide a quote for a redesign of the project reach.
 - They acknowledged and are willing to develop a cost proposal.
 - Waiting on Response from SLR to provide all digital files developed on HTB.
 - Looking to reengage SLR to discuss why redesign costs were so high.
 - Looking to follow up with UCSWCD Board on approach forward for meeting with DEP to discuss SLR contract.

Assessment and Monitoring

- Working with field techs when I can to assist in site surveying.
 - They are focusing on habitat and geomorphic data for Hollow Tree Brook and Warner Creek.
 - They will then focus on completing the birch creek SFI.
- Have begun to receive applications for the Stream Technical Specialist
 - Starting to review materials, there are 1 or 2 standout candidates thus far.
 - Distributing job posting to other potential interested agencies to help solicit more candidates.
- Working with Greene County SWCD to secure a 10-month SCA intern.
 - SCA has acknowledged and is beginning the process of enrolling our internship job description in their program.
 - Job would start at the end of January once candidate is selected

CSBI

- Reviewed multiple Riparian Corridor Management Plans before CSBI Coordinator sent to DEP for Concurrence.
- Conducted multiple landowner visits with CSBI coordinator to review upcoming fall projects.

Other

- Ashokan staff meeting was held on 10/6 and next meeting is scheduled for 10/20.

SWCD AWSMP Board Updates – CSBI Coordinator September 17 – October 22, 2025

Fall 2025 planned projects

UCSWCD/AWSMP has scheduled a site visit with NYCDEP to tour upcoming proposed CSBI projects. Tour to take place on 10/17/2025. We hope the tour will expedite review of proposed work and necessary approvals.

Wawrzyniak & VU, formerly Martynka at Fox Hollow – Riparian Corridor Management Plan (RCMP) Developed. Submitted to NYCDEP on 9/26/2025. Waiting on DEP Approval to proceed. Attempting to move forward with Invasive Management Phase 1 before killing frost. Have secured necessary landowner agreements including Martynka & downstream landowners Riely. Will be ready for Spring 2026 if necessary.

Walker & Miserlian - Warner Creek – Invasive management and buffer expansion on an existing CSBI project that was installed in 2020. RCMP developed, landowner agreements signed, RCMP submitted to DEP on 10/9/2025. Waiting on DEP Approval to proceed. Attempting to move forward with Invasive Management Phase before killing frost. Will be ready for Spring 2026 if necessary.

Thomas, Sandy – Pantherkill Tributary adjacent to Pantherkill Stream Project. RCMP & planting plans in development. Should be completed before board meeting and submitted J.W. & M.G. for internal review then onto DEP for approval. Landowner agreements signed. Once approved, securing native plant materials will begin and plan for installation.

Litton, Sam – Birch Creek. Landowner agreement signed. Project area mapped. GPS data processing difficulties with government shutdown will slow down planting plan development. RCMP draft in the old format complete, will transition to new format and create planting plan. Once approved internally, and then by DEP will begin securing plant materials and plan for installation.

Boiceville FBO/CSBI – Year 1 of invasive treatment has occurred in 2025. Final treatment occurred on 10/2/2025. Community presentation on CSBI role in project was postponed until November. Presentation was developed 10/9/25 and included in this board package.

Invasive Treatment Sites

CSBI

1. Boiceville FBO Site: 3rd knotweed treatment occurred on 10/2.
2. Ridge Road – Thomas CSBI site: No 3rd treatment necessary- moving onto re-planting phase.
3. Martynka Fox Hollow – Waiting on initial treatment until we have an approved RCMP.
4. Walker & Miserlian - Waiting on initial treatment until we have an approved RCMP.

STRPs

1. Woodland above Wilmont Way – 3rd mugwort treatment occurred on 10/1/25.
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. No word back from DEP on this project yet.

CSBI Project Monitoring

Project monitoring has been completed on 8 sites, 9 plots. Cooper and Gabe assisted in the effort. Project Monitoring still outstanding on 4 sites, 9 total plots. These plots are existing and can be done after leaf off if necessary.

Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) Support

Plank Road UC-DPW Culvert Enhancement – Project is nearing completion. SWCD has been technical lead for installation in coordination with DPW engineering. Grade control on downstream end placed, In-structure stream bed constructed. Culvert backfilled week ending on 10/10/25. Need to check back in to ensure culvert is meeting SMIP standards.

Mckenely Hollow Flood Mitigation Project – Project partners meeting scheduled for 11/7/25 to progress to 60% design.

Shokan/ West Shokan Local Flood Analysis – project partners meeting occurred on 9/25/2025 to debrief and collect thoughts from community meeting.

Mt Tremper LOMR / 11-mile stretch of Esopus Creek Flood Map Revisions – SLR has provided model guidance to FEMA, project on hold during gov't shutdown.

Phoenicia Additional Modeling – SMIP and Town of Shandaken are discussing how to utilize remaining funds in SLR contract to inform potential flood mitigation strategies. More to come on this as discussions progress.

Bonnie View Avenue Pine Hill LFA Implementation – BT to provide 30% review as time allows. DEP has provided their review. Meeting scheduled for 11/7/25 to discuss movement to 60% design.

Technical Site Visits:

Cold Spring Lodge – Land Use, Bank Erosion, Invasive Species.

Brian & Amber Reilly – CSBI project potential, Landowner agreements for Wawrzyniak/Vu invasive management, Floodplain Development Permitting

Stream Restoration Visits with Stantec Consulting. – Elk Bushkill & Pantherkill

Meetings:

- CSBI project Tour with Max Garfinkle
- Wawrzyniak & Vu site visit with Jake Wedemeyer & Max Garfinkle
- Shokan/West Shokan LFA Olive Flood Committee
- Re-occurring bi-weekly staff check-in meetings with AWSMP SWCD staff
- Shandaken SAFARI
- DEP/SWCD CSBI Proposed Sites Tour -Scheduled 10/17/25

Upcoming Trainings/Webinars

Invasive Species Grant Program Round 4 Webinar – NYSDEC 10/16/2025

Sediment and Erosion Control Certificate Continuing Education – North Country
Stormwater Trade Show 10/21/2025

Mark Tollefson – Watershed Technician

- **General Office Work**
 - General GIS data management and assistance within AWSMP
- **Training**
 - N/A
- **Assessment & Monitoring**
 - Completed Hollow Tree Brook Geomorphic and Habitat Survey
 - BANCS, long-pro, 4 cross-sections, bar sample, pebble counts, habitat forms
 - Walked site with Max G.
 - Compiled 5 years of photographs across the study reach by identifying matching photo points to document channel change over time, and created a map to match photo sets to aerial imagery
 - Started Warner Creek Control Geomorphic and Habitat Survey
 - Continued inputting and QA/QC of summer 2025 field work data
 - Uploaded 2025 Broad Street Hollow point cloud onto server, started first steps of processing
- **Meetings**
 - N/A

October 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 Hollow Tree Brook Habitat Assessment and stream monitoring

CSBI & Site Maintenance

- Managed invasive species on various CSBI sites through means of mowing, cutting, and removing.
- Sprayed herbivory deterrent on Elk Bushkill and Pantherkill project sites
- Conducted vegetation monitoring data collection

Misc

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

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

NYS SWCC News

Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 9: CRF Round 9 RFP is available on [SharePoint](#) and on the [AGM website](#). There is \$24M available in four tracks of funding. Applications are due by **5pm on November 17th** via SharePoint. Please submit questions by **October 17th** to Jennifer Clifford at jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov.

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# SCMP25**. 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. **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) 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 **October 21st, 2025**. In person location options will include Albany and Syracuse. Further details and an agenda will be available soon. **Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

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
- **2025 Part B Conservation Projects** – The end of year is fast approaching and so is the deadline to complete your 2025 Part B project. If your approved Part B project needs to be revised and/or changed for some reason, here are the steps to seek approval for a new Part B project.
 - a. Seek approval from your SWCD Board (via resolution) to revise the scope of your 2025 Part B project.
 - b. Re-submit by email an updated 2025 Conservation Project Financial Assistance Request form to bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov
 - c. Approved projects need to be completed by 12/31/2025 and documented in the 2025 Conservation Project Financial Assistance Final Report and filed with the SWCC by 2/15/2026.
- **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 questions.
- **State Aid to Districts Forum Recording Available** - The recording of the State Aid to Districts Forum is now available. The recording has been uploaded to Sharepoint, but can also be accessed directly by here: [State Aid to Districts Forum-20250925 1401-1 - State of NY Enterprise Webex](#).

NYACD Division Representatives: NYACD is looking to bolster its ranks and is looking for Division Representatives to fill current vacancies. NYACD meets one evening each a month. As a Division Representative, you would need to reach out to the counties within your division to see what they have been doing and report back to the NYACD Board during the monthly meeting. There may be other duties throughout the year, but nothing too onerous. If interested, please contact Blanche Hurlbutt, nyacd6316@gmail.com. Representation is being sought in the following divisions:

- **Division III:** Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida, Madison, Herkimer & St. Lawrence

- **Division V:** Hamilton, Franklin, Clinton, Essex, & Warren
- **Division VII:** Greene, Sullivan, Ulster, Orange, Dutchess, & Columbia
- **Division VIII:** Suffolk, Nassau, Rockland, Putnam, Westchester, & NYC

National Conservation Foundations - Next Generation Leadership Institute: This is a year-long training program for District Officials currently serving a conservation district who have exhibited strong leadership and would like to carry that leadership further into service of conservation districts. Applications for the program are being accepted through **October 31, 2025**. To learn more visit <https://www.nationalconservationfoundation.org/ngli/> or contact NYACD Executive Director Blanche Hurlbutt or NYACD President Sam Casella.

Other Events

Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub-Basin Work Group Meetings - Save the Dates: DEC Great Lakes program staff are excited to announce the next round of Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA) Sub-Basin Work Group meetings will be held this fall to provide opportunities to learn updates from NYSDEC Great Lakes Program and partners. To register for in person events, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/fall-2025-gl原因-sub-basin-workgroup-meetings-4637763?utm-source=cp&utm-term=odclsxcollection&utm-campaign=social&utm-medium=discovery&utm-content=creatorshare>

- **Virtual GLAA Work Group Kickoff Meeting, October 15th from 3:00pm-4:30pm.** [Register for Virtual Meeting](#)
- **Lake Erie: October 27th, 1 – 3PM, Reservoir State Park**
- **Northeast Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River (LOSLR): October 28th, 1-3PM, Sackets Harbor Union Hotel**
- **Southeast (SE) Lake Ontario: October 29th, 1 – 3PM, Montezuma Wildlife Center**
- **Southwest (SW) Lake Ontario: November 3rd, 1 – 3PM, Letchworth State Park**

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>

2025 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference: Including the Basic Training track for those preparing to take the CCA exams as well as the Advanced Training track for current CCAs. An in-person track will commence at the **Embassy Suites 311 Hiawatha Blvd W, Syracuse, NY 13204**, on **December 9th and 10th** followed by a virtual track will commence on December 16th and 17th, when additional programming will be offered. Look for full agenda and registration details in the coming weeks.