



CHENANGO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
1:00 PM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH, 2025
USDA CONFERENCE ROOM, 99 NORTH BROAD ST, NORWICH
AGENDA

Call to Order.

Approval of Minutes.

Payment and Approval of Bills.

Report on Cooperating Agencies.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| • Cornell Cooperative Extension | Craig Brown |
| • Farm Service Agency | Brian Sheridan |
| • Natural Resources Conservation Service | Eric Fisher |
| • Soil and Water Conservation Committee | Scott Fickbohm |
| • Soil and Water Conservation District | Jennifer Kelly |
| • Upper Susquehanna Coalition | Jennifer Kelly |
| • Fish & Wildlife Management Board | Jacob Welsh |
| • Department of Environmental Conservation | Paul Romanenko |
| • Water Quality Coordinating Committee | |

Old Business.

New Business.

- *Resolution 1-25 – Authorizing participation by the Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District in the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program created according to section 11-b of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation District Law.*

Correspondence.

Adjourn.

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 20TH, 1PM USDA CONFERENCE ROOM

Contact Katy at 607-334-8634 ex 7101 to be put on the agenda and/or for details to attend the meeting.



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting

1/16/2025

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chair
Sue McIntyre	Member
Jim Jenne	Member

Agency Staff Present:

Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Jim moved to approve the minutes. Sue seconds. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passed.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: Jim moved to approve the payment of bills. Sue seconds. There was a discussion on the hydrant check and the crop ware software reimbursement. Sue seconds. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passed.

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

No report was provided, and no one was present.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE-Chenango)

No report was provided, and no one was present.

Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC)

Scott sent the monthly SWCC report. Attachment A.

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

No report was provided, and no one was present.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

No report was provided, and no one was present.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jennifer provided a written report. Attachment B.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Jennifer provided a written report. Attachment C.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Nothing to report.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

District Credit Card- Katy met with a bank representative and discussed the Credit Card Application. The motion that was made during the December meeting was that the credit limit was to be set at \$1,500. However, the minimum credit limit that the bank has is \$2,000. Sue moved to accept the change to the previous motion to change the credit limit from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Jim seconded the motion. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The meeting ended at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer

ATTACHMENT A

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee January 2025

NYS SWCC News

2024 State Aid to Districts – DUE 2/15: All 2024 annual reporting documents (State Aid, Treasurers Report, Annual Report, etc.) are now available on the SWCC SharePoint <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>, under Resources for Districts – State Aid to Districts. All reports are due to the State Committee by February 15, 2025. Please contact ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA with any questions. If you have questions on the Treasurer's Report, it is suggested to contact OSC representative directly. This link (<http://www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/contact.htm>) will provide regional contact information.

SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee (SPAC) Meeting: The next SWCC SPAC meeting will take place Wednesday, **January 8th, 2025, from 9:30AM to 12:00PM**. Virtual and in-person (NYS Fairgrounds and SWCC Albany Office) attendance options are available. Agenda topics include NYS Soil Health Benchmarks; AEM 19 Program Development and; CRF Round 9 Updates. To join via Webex, please visit: <https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m21d74ba61af885baca8819112ea2dbe0>

AEM Strategy 2026-2030 Regional Meetings: REMINDER to register for your chosen meeting location by January 7th, 2025! Please sign-up utilizing this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTQ1uihwQPwhMNIxnWmpDZ0PWArbrpZel8oQme_tDdig54yg/viewform?usp=sharing.

- **Region 1 - Jan 13th:** WNY, Genesee County Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 2 - Jan 14th:** Central NY, Cortland SWCD Office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 3 - Jan 15th:** Eastern NY, Montgomery County Emergency Services 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 4 - Jan 16th:** Northern NY, Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY – 10AM-2PM
- **Region 5 - Jan 17th:** Southeast NY, Dutchess SWCD Office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY – 10AM-2PM

Claim for Payment Black Out Period Approaching: We are approaching the “Blackout Period” for Fiscal Year 2024-2025. The “Blackout Period” is the time of year (starting April 1st, 2025, lasting until June/July 2025) when payments for programs supported by the Environmental Protection Fund (AGNPS, CRF, EBM, AEM) cannot be processed due to end of the year reporting/accounting. We encourage Districts to consider what projects may be implemented in 2025 and what projects are eligible for advances or reimbursements. If you will need to request a 25% Advance, 65% BMP Implementation Payment, Subsequent/Interim Payment, or Final Payment prior to the start of the black out period, please email the CFP packet to the appropriate State Committee program manager, regional coordinator and Maureen Irish by **Friday, February 21st, 2025**. **Please remember to only submit claims for payment for contracts that have been fully executed.** Questions can be directed to your Regional Coordinator or appropriate Program Manager.

Round 30 Agricultural Non-Point Source Program: The SWCC has made a total of \$25 million available for Round 30 competitive projects through the State Fiscal Year 2023-2024 budget. \$14 million will be sourced from the Environmental Protection Fund and \$11 million will be sourced from the Clean Water, Clean Air, Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act. The RFP and associated documents are now available on the SWCC SharePoint and are available on the Department of Ag and Markets website, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfp-0323-agricultural-nonpoint-source-pollution-abatement-and-control-program>. An AgNPS R30 RFP webinar for Districts has been scheduled for December 19th, 1:00 – 2:30PM. Questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to jason.kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov by **January 10th, 2024**. Applications must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM February 24, 2025**.

January SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting will take place Tuesday, January 21st, at 10AM. Further details and an agenda for the January meeting will be sent out shortly. Each meeting agenda provides an opportunity for Conservation Districts to provide reports, updates, or feedback to the SWCC. **Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

CRF Round 8 Plans of Work: Please submit plans of work for projects awarded through Round 8 to your Regional AEA for review and approval when they are ready. Submitting this information as soon as possible can help to expedite the contracting process.

Other Events

NACD 2025 Annual Meeting: Registration for The National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 79th Annual Meeting is now open! The 2025 Annual Meeting will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, from **February 8th – 12th, 2025**. To learn more and to register, please visit: <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>

2025 Water Quality Symposium: The New York State Conservation District Employees' Association and Soil and Water Conservation Committee are thrilled to announce the 2025 Water Quality Symposium in Rochester, NY. **March 11th – 14th, 2025**. Please save the dates. Registration information will be available from CDEA shortly.

Other Funding

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Program 2025 Request for Proposals: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and partners are requesting proposals for the 2025. This program seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources by providing financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support. Full proposals are **due by January 22nd, 2025**. To learn more about the grant program and the application guidelines, please go here, <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters>.

DEC Announces \$15 Million in New Grant Funding for Community Reforestation: NYS DEC has made \$15 million available through the new Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant Program to expand, restore, and create urban forested natural areas. Eligible CoRe projects include planting trees, preparing sites, and removing competing or invasive vegetation interfering with tree seedling growth, and/or protecting new plantings from deer browse. Grant applications will be accepted until **2 p.m. on March 12, 2025**. Applications must be submitted through the SFS Grants Management System (SFS). DEC will host a webinar on **Thursday, January 9th, 2025, from 10AM to 12PM**. Link to register for the webinar can be found here: <https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/urban-and-community-forestry/urban-and-community-forestry-grants>



CHENANGO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

January 15, 2025

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- The bids for Cook Park went out and will be opened next Tuesday, 1/21/2025.
- Met with a landowner in the town of Sherburne to discuss interest in upland afforestation program opportunities.

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

- EQIP/AEM project(s): The district received comments from Jerry Lewis, NRCS Engineer functional review. Edits to the design were made in cooperation with Don Lynch. Our next step is to seek final approval from NRCS so we can bid the covered barnyard/manure storage out this month. Town of Oxford.
- Sent out soil samples and began AEM Tier 3a plan development for a beef farm in the town of Columbus to address water quality concerns.
- Completed AEM Tier 1 & 2 for a beef farm in the town of Coventry for their NYS Grown & Certified application. Tier 3a plan development also began to address water quality concerns.
- Completed AEM Tier 1 & 2 for a lavender farm in the town of Plymouth for their NYS Grown & Certified application.
- Two applications for USC's Water Quality Program have been completed to obtain funds for two plantings this spring. Contractor estimate requests are due Friday.

DISTRICT FUNDING AND OPERATIONS

- The district submitted a grant proposal to the DEC's Establishing Large Forests grant program. If funded, approximately 27 acres of trees will be planted and about 7,000ft of deer fencing will be installed. Town of Sherburne.
- A webinar was held on January 9th to give an overview of the DEC's new Community Reforestation (CoRe) Grant that is intended for municipalities to expand, restore, and create forested natural areas

that serve urban populations on public land. Norwich/Sidney are the only eligible areas in Chenango.

- Attended a State Committee Program Advisory Committee meeting to discuss the next Round of AEM and other state programs.
 - The next Round of AEM will transition to a 3-year contract instead of a 2-year contract.
 - The next round will provide up to \$300,000 in implementation funding for ag practices.
 - Prevailing Wage will not be a requirement as part of the Bond Act Funding included in the most current Round of AgNPSPA&CP.
- Round 30 of the Ag-Non-Point Source Pollution and Abatement Control Program has been released. The district plans to apply for funding to supplement grazing infrastructure on a newly planned CREP and possibly a silage leachate treatment/bunk silo relocation project.
- District staff attended the first AEM Strategic Plan update session with the SWCC. We will be looking at our current plan and making updates to it. We will schedule a few sessions soon to get feedback from partnering agencies.
- 2024 Year End Reports are due on February 15, 2025. District staff have been working on compiling information to complete the reports to send to the SWCC.
- The district is now using a different timesheet and PTO tracking system online called Built for Teams. Thank you to Craig from Cornell for helping us out with that tool.
- The County Auditors are scheduled for the week of January 27-31, 2025. They will do their usual random testing, Treasurer's Report review, and overall review of district business.
- The New York Conservation District Employees Association will be represented at the New York State Farm Show February 20-22 in the Horticulture Building at the State Fairgrounds.
- Registrations for the Annual Water Quality Symposium are open until January 31st. This year the Employees Association gave each county a \$2,500 voucher for registration fees. Directors are welcome to register, if interested. The training will be held March 11-14 in Rochester.

DISTRICT SALES & PROGRAMS

- The Tree & Shrub Program Sale is accepting orders.
- CNY Envirothon is May 1st in Sherburne
- NYS Envirothon is May 28th & 29th in Cortland

AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- Phil Richmond- Town of Guilford

- Leroy Miller- Town of Guilford
- Grant Phillips- Town of Greene
- Mike Elghouass- Town of Pitcher
- Glenn Degear- Town of Norwich
- Eric Bryce- Town of Greene
- Nancy Wiley- Town of South New Berlin

ATTACHMENT C

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA COALITION

Report to Chenango Co. SWCD Board of Directors

January 16, 2025

Presented by Jennifer Kelly

USC General:

- Next Bi-Monthly meeting will be on January 24, 2025.
- Next USC Riparian Forest Buffer Task Force Meeting is March 6, 2025
- The USC Annual Retreat is scheduled for March 25 and 26 at Tioga Downs Casino.

Buffer/Tree Planting Team:

- **NYSSWCC Afforestation Proposal:** The USC Submitted a proposal to the NYS SWCC, Climate Resilient Farming Program, to develop a statewide tree planting planning protocol, monitoring protocol, develop and hold statewide trainings and demonstrations. With the USC's experience in planting trees, the SWCC is looking to the USC for assistance and standardization with scaling tree planting out statewide.
- **CREP Contribution Agreement:** The District receives TA funding from NRCS via the USC's contribution agreement with NRCS to implement CRP. After about 8 months of awaiting reimbursements last year, we have received reimbursement for outstanding invoices.
- **TNC Pilot Program:** Chenango has at least one project to be funded through this program. We are still waiting for TNC to provide the contract they want the landowners to sign.

Stream Team:

- **NFWF 2025 Streams:** Funding will be available to work on streambank restoration. The USC hasn't received a contract yet. Chenango will be keeping an eye on this funding. Program details are unknown at this point.

Ag-Team:

- **RCPP – Round 2 Funding** for Farmstead practices are awaiting NRCS to enter in their system to complete rankings. Chenango had 1 application move to the ranking round.
- **DEC Cover Crop** – all reports were received and reimbursement request was made to DEC. 12 Counties received funding, USC paid out a total of \$681,186.00 \$71/new acre and \$25/continued acres. Chenango County received \$47,100.00 from this contract.
- **Nutrient Management** – Funding is available for farms to develop "core" nutrient management plans. \$10/acre and funding for soil samples. The USC is behind in their acreage deliverables.