



**CHENANGO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING
1:00 PM THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH, 2026
USDA CONFERENCE ROOM, 99 NORTH BROAD ST, NORWICH
AGENDA**

Call to Order.

Approval of the 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 | William Kelsey |
| • Environmental Management Council | |
| • Water Quality Coordinating Committee | |

Old Business.

New Business.

- Usherwood Contract Renewal
- Executive Session to discuss personnel

Correspondence.

Adjourn.

The next board meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026.

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

5/21/2026 1:00 PM

Board Members Present:

John Lawrence Legislative Rep & Board Chair
Joseph Henninge Member at Large
Raymond Wakefield Legislative Rep
James Jenne Grange Rep
Terry Ives Chenango Farm Bureau

Agency Staff & Partners Present:

Katy Kemmeren CCSWCD
Jennifer Kelly CCSWCD
William Kelsey CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza CCSWCD
Sue McIntyre Guest

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of April were approved as presented. — Terry moved to approve, and Ray seconded the motion. No further discussion. There were five votes in favor. Motion passed.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS:

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

Paul Romanako was absent, and no report was submitted.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE-Chenango)

Craig Brown was absent, and no report was submitted.

Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC)

Scott Fickbohm provided a written report. (Attachment A)

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

Brian Sheridan was absent, and no report was submitted.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Eric Fisher was absent, and no report was submitted.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jennifer submitted a written report (Attachment B).

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Jennifer reported that the next meeting will be on May 29, 2026.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Will reported that the next meeting will be in June.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

No updates to share.

Environmental Management Committee (EMC)

Sue reported that the clean-up days went well throughout Chenango County. Sue left at 1:30 pm.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

<i>2026 Community Grant Application Ranking Scores</i>	
Town of Plymouth – Reservoir Hill Rd	37/40
Town of Afton – Athletic Field <i>(John Lawrence abstained from scoring)</i>	37/40
Town of Oxford – Boname Park	36/40
Town of Lincklaen – Neal Road	35/40
Town of McDonough – Pike Rd <i>(Raymond Wakefield abstained from scoring)</i>	33/40
Town of Guilford – Hohreiter Rd <i>(Terry Ives abstained from scoring)</i>	2.5/40
Genegantslet Lake Association	0/40

Joe moved to fund the top 5 ranking applications, totaling \$134,351.30. Terry seconded the motion. 5 aye, 0-nay, 0-absent. No further discussion. Motion carried.

2026-2027 Health Insurance Renewal- Ray made the motion to renew the health insurance as presented. Jim seconded the motion. 5 aye, 0-nay, 0-absent. No further discussion. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee May 2026

NYS SWCC News

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2026: 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 15th, 2026**.

State Aid Part C/Performance Measures Check-In: As we move towards the half-way mark of the calendar year, SWCDs are encouraged to review their progress toward achieving their State Aid to Districts (Part C) performance measure goals. With roughly 6 months to go, now is an ideal time for directors and staff to evaluate current progress, identify any areas requiring additional attention, and plan accordingly to ensure all applicable performance measures are completed by year's end. Part C has seen significant growth in recent years, and that growth could conceivably continue based upon current budget proposals. Proactive tracking and timely completion of these goals will help maximize each district's potential Part C award. Please feel free to reach out to your Regional AEA, if you have questions.

EBM Pilot Stream Program: Congratulations to the awardees of the EBM Stream Corridor Management Pilot Program! 26 projects were awarded in this pilot program to protect water quality and the long-term health of the State's waterways. Please see the press release below. More information about awards and plans for work will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, questions can be directed towards Tim Sheldon (timothy.sheldon@agriculture.ny.gov) or to your Regional AEA.

May SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on **Tuesday, May 19th starting at 10:00 AM**. 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.

2026 NYS Envirothon - Volunteers Needed: The New York State Envirothon Committee is pleased to announce that we will host the 2025 New York State Envirothon at SUNY Cortland, on **May 27th-28th, 2026**. Volunteers are the heart of this event, and it doesn't happen without assistance from SWCD Directors and staff. Please consider Volunteering! A description of the volunteer positions available as well as an online registration link are available here on the NYS Envirothon website, <https://nysenvirothon.org/contact>. Any questions can be directed to nysenvirothon@gmail.com.

Spring Managers Meetings – Save the Date: The following dates have been set for regional manager's meetings this June! Meetings will be from 10am-2:30pm. Please participate in whichever date and location is most convenient but please be sure to **RSVP** to the appropriate Regional Coordinator by **May 25th** so we'll have accurate counts for lunch orders. As always Directors are invited to attend, as this meeting can count towards Performance Measures.

- Region 1: **June 2nd**, Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY – Vic DiGiacomo
- Region 2: **June 3rd**, Yates County SWCD - 417 Liberty St Penn Yan, NY – PJ Emerick
- Region 3: **June 1st**, Chenango County SWCD – 99 North Broad Street, Norwich, NY 13815 – Scott Fickbohm
- Region 4: **June 10th**, Croghan Fire Department – 6680 Fire Hall St., Croghan, NY 13327 – Ryan Cunningham
- Region 5: **June 11th**, NYS DEC Office – 232 Golf Course Rd., Warrensburg, NY 12885 – Ben Luskin
- Region 6: **June 9th**, Rockland County SWCD – 50 Sanatorium Rd., Bldg. A 6th Floor, Pomona, NY 10970 - Travis Ferry

Soil Science Watch Party Continues: A group of SWCC Staff, district staff, and partners are working their way through 39 hours of Soil Science lectures from Cornell University's Jonathan Russell-Anelli. The group meets **virtually on Monday mornings at 9:00 am** to watch prerecorded lectures and answer discussion questions. CCA credits are available for each session. The group uses Webex to coordinate and the recurring meeting link is: <https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m872f0a411cf3434a744799dc62f873fd>. Contact Tim Clark for more information.

Ecological Restoration Species Selection Tool Finalized: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and NY Natural Heritage Program finalized a Species Selection Tool that provides a list of native trees, shrub, and herbaceous species suitable for a project site. This tool matches a clicked site location and conditions like soil, geology, and other

conditions to expected natural communities to narrow down the species list, and provides information on each species, including height, lifespan, shade tolerance, and climate adaptability. <https://nynhp.shinyapps.io/speciesselectiontool/>

New Waste Storage Facility (313) Standard: This standard has been updated and is posted on FOTG. NRCS NY received a variance on the standard to be able to continue using current design practices for concrete storages located in non-sensitive environmental settings. NRCS national has been advocating enhanced design standards for all concrete storages against opposition from many states. Other updates: updated rainfall maps, added operation and maintenance criteria for inspections to reduce damage to liners during agitation, added criteria requiring structural and visual components to all agitation and pumping locations, which may reduce the risk of accidental entry and damage to the liner during agitation.

Other Events

NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions Annual Meeting: The NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions is hosting its annual meeting at SUNY ESF in **Syracuse, NY, May 19th-21st**. This meeting will bring researchers, partners and stakeholders together for in-depth discussions and networking as we look to find cooperative ways to address current and emerging water issues in New York. The event is free to attend. Please follow this link for more information and to register for the event: <https://healthywaters.org/annual-meeting/>. **This event qualifies for Performance Measure 1g – Participation at a State, Regional, and National meeting or function.**

From Planning To Action - Municipal Training Series: New York Sea Grant has announced educational opportunities for municipal leaders involved with land use management planning and implementation along New York's Great Lakes and connecting river channels. A two-part Coastal Community Development webinar series will feature information on coastal processes that impact the shorelines along Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, and St. Lawrence River.

- **May 26, 2026, from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM,** Great Lake Coastal Processes for Municipal Leaders in NY - New York Sea Grant staff will provide information on how shorelines respond to the natural, dynamic and changing action of the waters along New York's Great Lakes and connecting river channel shorelines. <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/8uA0bfuOSR-n15ZyJhWTcg#/registration>
- **June 9, 2026, from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM,** Keeping your Plan off the Shelf - a panel of local government representatives who have successfully developed and implemented land use planning goals will share tips for keeping an active process moving after completing a local plan to accomplish the desired objectives and benefits for the local community. https://cornell.zoom.us/j/-Ge8x470QFOtYB6ji_YvjA#/registration

NACD Northeast Regional Meeting – Save the Date: The 2026 Northeast Region Meeting, hosted by the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts, will be held on **August 24-27, 2026**, at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE. <https://dacdnet.org/2026NACDNE/>

Other Grant Opportunities

Resilient Watersheds Grant (RWG) Program Application Period is Now Open: At least \$60 million of Environmental Bond Act funding is available for implementation of flood mitigation projects across New York State. Minimum grant amount: \$150,000; maximum grant amount: \$10,000,000. **Applications are due Friday June 26th, 2026, at 4:00 PM.** <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/resilient-ny>



CHENANGO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

May 21, 2026

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- District staff assisted a landowner in the town of Oxford to successfully receive a stream disturbance permit and met with a contractor on site to go over work plans.
- District staff assisted the town of Lincklaen with submitting a permit application for a culvert replacement on Neal Road.
- District staff assisted the town of New Berlin by submitting a permit application for a culvert replacement on Cutoff Road.
- District staff met with a business and contractor in the town of Smyrna to provide technical assistance with erosion and flooding concerns on Pleasant Brook.
- District staff are assisting a landowner in the town of Bainbridge by submitting a permit application to address erosion concerns along Wilkins Brook.
- District staff met with a landowner and contractor to discuss submitting a future CRF application to address a severe erosion issue along a crop field on Great Brook in the town of New Berlin.
- District staff met with a farmer in the town of Sherburne to provide technical assistance with erosion concerns along the Chenango River.
- District staff provided technical assistance for 3 landowners in the towns of Sherburne, Plymouth and Norwich for pond development.
- District staff provided technical assistance for a landowner in the town of New Berlin with drainage concerns throughout their property.
- District staff assisted the town of New Berlin with hydroseeding Brooker Road.
- District staff met with a landowner in the Town of Guilford to discuss CREP, riparian buffers and invasive species. We will be proposing a project site to the landowner in the near future.

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

- The district just received the As-Builts for the manure storage in the Town of Oxford. District staff hydroseeded a new ditch along the access road to the storage to assist with the final as-built. We will process the necessary paperwork to issue payment for the project, *funded through the Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program, Round 29.*
- Construction on the Bunk Silo and Silage Leachate Collection System project is underway in Mt. Upton. Pictures are attached. *Funding is from the Agricultural Non-Point Source Pollution Abatement and Control Program, Round 30.*

FORESTRY/RIPARIAN FOREST BUFFERS

- The district was awarded the Establishing Large Forests (ELF) Grant through the DEC from 2024. Staff have been working with the landowner to finalize the planting area and begin planting plan development. The project is expected to be 25.5 acres with 12,750 trees protected by an 8-foot deer exclusion fence in the town of Sherburne.
- The district has been working with FSA to complete the planning and enrollment of 5 new and 1 re-enrollment CRP contracts. Work is expected to be completed this fall and next spring, consisting of 33.1 new enrollment acres and 15 re-enrollment acres. We are currently working on the CREP and AEM paperwork to get the projects contracted.
- District staff met with a representative from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and members of the USC to showcase two of our large-scale plantings in the town of Sherburne, which were partially funded by NFWF.
- The district successfully completed one contracted planting this spring in the town of Guilford. The planting consisted of 2,600 trees planted across 6.6 acres and was funded by the USC's Water Quality Program.
- The district completed 3 spring trees for tribs orders in the towns of McDonough, Afton and Preston. Staff provided technical assistance with planting to one landowner and a lake association.
- District staff conducted a forest walk with a landowner interested in forest management opportunities in the town of New Berlin.
- District staff met with a landowner to discuss implementing a large-scale tree planting on their property through a CRF grant that the district was previously awarded. The project would be approximately 25-30 acres.
- The district hired 2 forestry stewards for the summer, Roman and Kate, both of which started within the last two weeks. District staff have been going through training with them to perform buffer maintenance and monitoring.
- District staff attended a silvopasture field training hosted by the Trees for Graziers in Chemung County.

DISTRICT SALES & EARNED INCOME PROGRAMS

- The Fish and Tree Programs have concluded for the year. Over 100 customers for the tree sale, as well as numerous customers who came for the surplus stock sale.

OUTREACH and EDUCATION

- The CNY Regional Envirothon was held on April 30th at the Rogers Center in Sherburne. 14 Teams competed: 2 from Chenango County, 6 from Madison County, and 6 from Onondaga County. Teams from Greene, Oneida City, and Skaneateles will be competing next week at the NYS Envirothon at SUNY Cortland.

COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM UPDATES

- District Board members met on May 1, 2026, to rank applications. That meeting was suspended before all applications were fully ranked until the May monthly meeting.

AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- Edward Place- Village of Oxford
- George Holbert- Town of Oxford & Guilford

DISTRICT OPERATIONS

- The Chevrolet Equinox was delivered to the office last week.
- The district was awarded a skilled services contract with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to develop forest management plans, generate outreach and conduct outreach activities to local landowners, and participate in the USC Watershed Forestry programs.
- The district gave a report to the Chenango County Ag, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.
- The district participated in the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service Local Working Group meeting. This is a public meeting held to assist USDA NRCS NY with prioritizing best management practices and watersheds within the County. The group was in favor of prioritizing stream bank erosion projects on agricultural fields and manure storages for the next round of EQIP funding.
- The DEC issued guidance recently regarding the Wetland Regulations and the Albany County Supreme Court decision to rescind the wetland regulations that went into effect January 1, 2025. The guidance states that any project that received a positive jurisdictional determination from the DEC that referenced their site as "Previously Mapped Wetland" must proceed with a wetland permit. If the site referenced a wetland of "Unusual Importance," the requestor must undergo additional jurisdictional review from the DEC.



Photo left: Bunk Silo Project – Mount Upton – This is a 3,000-gallon precast pump tank for the low flow leachate. The low flow leachate will be pumped to the concrete manure storage across the road.



Photo (above): Excavation and site work at the bunk silo and silage leachate project site.



Photo: (Above): District hydroseed ditch at the Town of Oxford manure storage project site.



Photo (Above): Buffer Planting – Town of Bainbridge Along County Road 35