



CHENANGO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
1:00 PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 16TH, 2024
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
- Farm Service Agency
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Soil and Water Conservation Committee
- Soil and Water Conservation District
- Upper Susquehanna Coalition
- Fish & Wildlife Management Board
- Department of Environmental Conservation
- Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Craig Brown
Brian Sheridan
Eric Fisher
Scott Fickbohm
Jennifer Kelly
Jennifer Kelly
Jacob Welsh
Paul Romanenko

Old Business.

- District Credit Card

New Business.

Correspondence.

Adjourn.

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



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting

12/19/2024

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chair
Sue McIntyre	Member
Jim Jenne	Member
Joe Henninge	Member
Josh Lathrop	Member

Agency Staff Present:

Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD
Brian Sheridan	USDA-FSA
Eric Fisher	USDA-NRCS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Sue moved to approve the minutes. Josh seconds. 5-aye, 0-nay, 0-absent. Motion passed.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: Sue moved to approve the bills as presented. Joe seconded. There was a discussion about a payment for mowing since it is not mowing season. The bill was received after the job was done and it was found that the service was not billed for. Staff inquired to the vendor for a bill which was paid when received. 5-aye, 0-nay, 0-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)

Brian provided a written report. Attachment B. Staff wise in the local FSA office, Alisha Cook has taken a position in the Madison County FSA office. There is also no new farm bill, the continuing resolution had a one-year extension which failed. Hopefully, a resolution will be made soon so the office can continue assisting producers.

Brian departed after giving his report at 1:18 pm

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Eric provided a written report. Attachment C.

Eric departed after giving his report at 1:23 pm.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jennifer provided a written report. Attachment D.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Nothing to report.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Jacob provided a written report. Attachment E.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jennifer presented New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee District Law training to all staff and directors in attendance.

Josh Lathrop left at 3:40 pm.

District Credit Cards: Joe moves to complete the Credit Card Application for a \$1,500 max credit limit and 1 authorized user. 4-aye, 0-nay, 1-absent (Lathrop). Motion passes.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The meeting ended at 4:03 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer

ATTACHMENT A

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
December 2024

NYS SWCC News

Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas! The holiday season is here again, a time for remembering our family and friends. Wishing you and all those close to you, a joyous holiday season and a new year of happiness! Travel safe and party smart

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>. 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**.

December SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on Tuesday, **December 17th starting at 10:00 AM**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out in advance of the meeting. All Districts are encouraged to attend and participate in the meeting. 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.**

State Aid to Districts and Annual Reports: Many of this year's reports will be in a new format due to the discontinuance of the previously used program. However, the content of the forms will generally be the same. The annual report and performance measures report will be Google Docs; this will require each District to have a Google account. You should be able to use your regular district email and not have to create a Gmail account. If you have issues creating an account, contact Tyler Knapp Tyler.Knapp@agriculture.ny.gov or Chastity Miller Chastity.Miller@agriculture.ny.gov. Currently the hourly rates report, and the Treasurer's Report are available on SharePoint. The remaining reports will be released throughout the month of December and posted. All reports must be submitted by **February 15, 2025**.

2024 Part C Performance Measures: The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and you should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling its Performance Measure goals. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions. Any performance measures special requests need to be received and approved by **December 31st, 2024**.

2024 Part B Projects: Any revised requests need to be submitted and approved by **December 31st, 2024**.

NYS Grown & Certified: A few New York State Grown & Certified opportunities have been posted recently, and some producers have been inquiring! The most up to date information and funding opportunities can be found here, <https://certified.ny.gov/>. Every three years, participating producers or a majority of producers are required to participate/renew in the Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) program update, with the completion of a Tier 2 or higher. An alternative option is to have an active CAFO permit. On our SWCC Sharepoint site, under "Resources for Districts" and "NYS Grown and Certified," you will find many forms relevant to Grown & Certified, along with information that should help with most questions received from farmers. If you need help accessing or gaining access to Sharepoint, please contact Tim Clark (tim.clark@agriculture.ny.gov). This is a great opportunity to introduce new producers into AEM or reconnect with some familiar faces as they seek recertification. Questions about NYS Grown and Certified can be directed to NYSGrownandCertified@agriculture.ny.gov, as well as Chasity Miller, or your regional AEA.

CREP Annual Progress Report: It's that time of year again when New York State reports to USDA on outreach, success stories, challenges and provides suggestions related to the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Please send anything you would like to share or any questions to Scott.Fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov by **12/16/24**.

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/>

Other Funding

Establishing Large Forests (ELF) Grant Program: DEC announced that \$4.5 Million is available for private landowners to establish new forests. Applications will be accepted until **3 p.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2025**. Applications must be submitted through the SFS Grants Management System (SFS). Those wishing to apply need to establish an account in SFS. Once registered, search SFS for “Establishing Large Forests” or “ELF.” <https://dec.ny.gov/news/press-releases/2024/10/dec-announces-45-million-in-new-grant-funding-to-establish-large-forests>

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>.

\$7 Million to Support Environmental Education Centers and Disadvantaged Communities: NYSDEC has made \$7 million in competitive grant funding available for community-based, not-for-profit, and tribal organizations to support the construction, or renovation of existing facilities, to create community environmental education centers, which will offer classes and programs on environmental awareness. The centers must be located within or serve a disadvantaged community or an environmental justice community. Funding is provided from the State’s EPF and is available to support capital costs of new construction or renovation proposals. Grants ranging from \$250,000 to \$3 million will be awarded. The deadline for all applications is **3 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22nd, 2025**. The request for applications (RFA) is only available online through The Statewide Financial System of New York (www.sfs.ny.gov)

Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Program



Overview

The MASC program, administered by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) using Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds, provides eligible specialty crop producers with marketing assistance payments to help them engage in activities that aid in expanding domestic specialty crop markets or in developing new markets for their specialty crops in 2025.

Who is Eligible

To be eligible for payments, persons or legal entities must:

- ◆ Be in the business of producing a specialty crop at the time of application and be entitled to an ownership share and share in the risk of producing a specialty crop that will be sold in calendar year 2025;
- ◆ Be a U.S. citizen, resident alien, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or other organizational structure organized under State law, Indian Tribe or Tribal Organization, or a foreign person or foreign entity who meets certain eligibility requirements;
- ◆ Comply with the provisions of the "Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation" regulations, often called the conservation compliance provisions;
- ◆ Not have a controlled substance violation;
- ◆ Submit a complete MASC application form (FSA-1140) and provide all required documentation as specified in the documents section below.

To be eligible for payments, a person or legal entity must have an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of less than \$900,000 for tax years 2021, 2022, and 2023, unless the person or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI.

Eligible Crops

MASC covers the following commercially marketed specialty crops:

SPECIALTY CROPS	
Fruits (fresh, dried)	Nursery crops, Christmas trees, and floriculture
Vegetables (including dry edible beans and peas, mushrooms, and vegetable seed)	Culinary and medicinal herbs and spices
Tree nuts	Honey, hops, maple sap, tea, turfgrass, and grass seed.

Common examples of specialty crops can be found [online](#).

Ineligible Crops

The following are examples of ineligible crops:

FIELD AND GRAIN CROPS	
OILSEED CROPS	
FORAGE, HAY, AND COVER CROPS	
OTHER SPECIFIC CROPS	
◆ Cotton ◆ Cottonseed ◆ Forage crops ◆ Grain crops ◆ Hemp ◆ Kochia (prostrata) ◆ Lespedeza ◆ Milkweed ◆ Oilseeds ◆ Peanuts	◆ Primrose ◆ Seed of ineligible crops (other than grass seed) ◆ Sugar beets ◆ Sugarcane ◆ Tobacco ◆ Crops with an intended use of fallow, forage, grazing, green manure, or left standing
OTHER PRODUCTS	
◆ Aquatic animal species (such as fish and shellfish) ◆ Dairy products	◆ Eggs ◆ Livestock products ◆ Tofu

How to Apply

Eligible producers can apply by completing the FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application, and submitting it to any FSA county office by **January 8, 2025**.

A complete application includes all of the following:

FSA-1140, Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops (MASC) Application

- ◆ Producers must complete and sign the MASC application and submit it to any Farm Service Agency county office nationwide. The producer must certify to their specialty crop sales for calendar year 2023 or 2024, or for New Producers only, 2025 expected sales (See New Producer definition and requirements below) on the FSA-1141.

FSA-1141, Marketing Assistance For Specialty Crops (MASC) New Producer Expected Sales Worksheet (New producers only)

- ◆ New producers must complete and sign the new producer expected sales worksheet and provide along with their FSA-1140 to any Farm Service Agency county office nationwide.

AD-2047, Customer Data Worksheet

- ♦ This form will be filled out for all individuals and legal entities (including entity members) who have not previously provided their personal information to USDA that positively identifies the customer.

CCC-902, Farm Operating Plan

- ♦ Individual and legal entities will fill out the CCC-902 to facilitate the administration of the payment limitation and eligibility requirements, including providing members' names and taxpayer identification numbers.

CCC-941, Average Adjusted Gross Income (AGI)**Certification and Consent to Disclosure of Tax Information**

- ♦ This form is required for the 2025 program year for the person or legal entity, including the legal entity's members, partners, shareholders, heirs or beneficiaries, if not already on file.

FSA-942, Certification of Income from Farming, Ranching and Forestry Operations, if applicable, for the producer and members of entities

- ♦ This form may be used by persons or legal entities that exceed the average AGI \$900,000 threshold. Persons or legal entities may otherwise meet AGI requirements if the person or legal entity's average adjusted gross farm income is at least 75 percent of their average AGI.

AD-1026, Highly Erodible Land Conservation (HELC) and Wetland Conservation (WC) Certification

- ♦ All applicants, and their affiliates, must complete the AD-1026. The form must be completed in its entirety.

Specialty Crop Sales

Eligible specialty crop sales only include sales of commercially marketed raw specialty crops grown in the United States by the producer. The portion of sales derived from adding value to a specialty crop (such as sorting, processing, or packaging) is not included ineligible sales. To be considered a specialty crop sale, the producer must have received payment for the specialty crop during the applicable calendar year.



Federal crop insurance indemnities and NAP payments for the 2023 or 2024 crop year will be included as eligible specialty crop sales for the applicable crop year, regardless of when they were received by the producer.

Other Documentation

If requested by FSA, producers must provide documentation to support their reported specialty crop sales. Examples of documentation to support reported sales includes, but is not limited to:

- ♦ sales receipts;
- ♦ sales records;
- ♦ ledgers of income;
- ♦ contract or sales agreements;
- ♦ income statements of deposit slips;
- ♦ register tapes with supporting documentation acceptable to FSA;
- ♦ purchase orders;
- ♦ third party processor or distributor statements;
- ♦ contemporaneous diaries that are determined acceptable by USDA;
- ♦ other sales documents indicating the crop was sold; and
- ♦ IRS Schedule F accompanied by documentation to support that the reported amounts are from sales of specialty crops.

Note: New producers reporting expected 2025 sales must provide FSA-1141 and supporting documentation by the application deadline.

New Producers

You may be considered a new producer if you:

- ♦ Began producing specialty crops in 2023 or 2024 but did not have sales due to the immaturity of the crop;
- ♦ Began producing specialty crops in 2024 but did not have a complete year of sales; or
- ♦ Are beginning to grow specialty crops in 2025.

Payments for new producers will be based on their expected 2025 calendar year specialty crop sales. New producers must submit FSA-1141 and documentation to substantiate expected specialty crop sales and their ability to grow, harvest, and market the expected yield or inventory in 2025 by the MASC application deadline of **January 8, 2025**.

Examples of expected production inventory, yield, and unit price includes, but is not limited to:

- ♦ sales contracts;
- ♦ settlement sheets;
- ♦ purchase agreements;
- ♦ local market prices;
- ♦ market agreements;
- ♦ FCIC yields and prices;

Examples of expected production inventory, yield, and unit price includes, but is not limited to (*continued*):

- ♦ FSA National Crop Table data;
- ♦ Appraisals;
- ♦ Cooperative Extension Service and university data;
- ♦ financial institution documentation;
- ♦ National Agriculture Statistics Services data;
- ♦ Federal crop insurance documents;
- ♦ historical yield data;
- ♦ sales receipts;
- ♦ invoices;
- ♦ copies of signed written lease;
- ♦ copies of legal documents showing land ownership or control of rented land;
- ♦ rental agreements with landowner or landlord;
- ♦ input records; and
- ♦ financial documents, such as a business plans or cash flow statement, that demonstrate an expected level of sales.

Payment Limitation and Attribution

- ♦ Payments are subject to a payment limitation of \$125,000. FSA will issue MASC payments after the end of the application period.
- ♦ Direct attribution provisions apply to MASC. Under direct attribution, any payment to a legal entity will also be considered for payment limitation purposes to be a payment to persons or legal entities with an interest in the legal entity or in a sub-entity.

Payment Calculation

MASC payments will be calculated based on the producer's total specialty crop sales for the calendar year elected by the producer. The total specialty crop sales reported by the producer will be separated into sale ranges (tiers) shown in Table 1. After the end of the application period, a payment factor will be determined and applied to each tier. If demand for MASC payments exceeds available funding, either MASC payments may be prorated, the payment limitation may be lowered, or both. If proration or a reduction of the payment limitation is necessary, the reduction or lowered payment limitation will apply equally to all MASC participants.

Table 1—Sales Ranges

Sales Range	Percent Payment Factor (to be determined after application period ends)
Up to \$49,999	<i>a</i>
\$50,000 - \$99,999	<i>b</i>
\$100,000 - \$499,999	<i>c</i>
\$500,000 - \$999,999	<i>d</i>
All sales over \$1 million	<i>e</i>

To calculate a MASC payment, the following steps will be taken:

1. Multiply the amount of sales in each range in Table 1 by the determined percent payment factor for that range; and
 2. Calculate the sum of the results for each sales range. For example, if a producer reported \$450,000 of total specialty crop sales, the calculated payment would equal to the sum of the following:
 - \$49,999 (the amount of sales in the first range) multiplied by the determined percent payment factor *a*;
 - \$50,000 (the amount of sales in the second range) multiplied by percent payment factor *b*; and
 - \$350,001 (the amount of sales in the third range) multiplied by percent payment factor *c*.
- Final payments are subject to demand and available funding.

Application Deadline: January 8, 2025

Where to Apply

The MASC application and associated forms are available online at fsa.usda.gov/marketing-assistance-specialty-crops. FSA staff at your local USDA Service Center will work with you to file your applications. Applications may be submitted by mail, fax, hand delivery, or via electronic means.

For More Information

This fact sheet is for informational purposes only; other restrictions may apply. For more information on MASC or assistance with applications, contact your local FSA office or visit the FSA website at fsa.usda.gov. To find your local office, go to farmers.gov/service-center-locator.

USDA may prorate final payments, reduce the payment limitation, or both if total calculated payments exceed the total funding allocated for MASC.

[Click here](#) for more information on Notice of Funds Availability (NOFA); Marketing Assistance for Specialty Crops.



Broome County
1163 Upper Front Street
Binghamton, NY 13905
Phone: 607-723-1384 ext. 3

SE2 - USDA Service Center Locations

Waverly County
109 Chemung Street
Waverly, NY 14892
Phone: 607-565-3454

Chenango County
99 N Broad Street
Norwich, NY 13815-1387
Phone: 607-334-3231

ATTACHMENT C

NRCS SE 2 Team: Chenango Board Report

Eric Fisher (Soil Conservationist), Juliaana Fitts (Soil Conservationist), Emma Beavers (Soil Conservationist), Theresa Flynn-Belles (Soil Conservationist), Stacy Pickering (Program assistant), Gavin Moy (Pathways Intern)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Fiscal Year 2024 Contracts received to date: Closing date for applications was November 1, 2024

- Chenango County about 15 Applications that will need to be planned and ranked by February 2025.
- ~~Currently the total amount of contract funding is \$505,157~~ incorrect

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Annual Payments for 2025 fiscal year:

- Have yet been released.

2025 CSP Contracts or Applications

- 2 CSP Applications

Further Information

- We welcome our new Program Assistant: Stacy Pickering.
- We also welcome our 2 new Soil Conservationist Emma Beavers who started in the Binghamton Field Office, and Theresa Flynn-Belles in the Waverly Field Office.
- We are expecting a new Soil Conservationist in the Norwich Field Office.
- As of right now we do not have any applicants for the Binghamton Field Office District Conservationist. We will be running the position again.





CHENANGO COUNTY
SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

December 19, 2024

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- ❖ Met with a landowner in the Town of Sherburne to discuss the Establishing Large Forests (ELF) program. This landowner is interested in applying for funds with the help of the district. The district will provide the planting plan and will be the applicant for the funding. This landowner will be replanting a minimum of 20 acres. The application is due January 7, 2025.
- ❖ The district revised the bid sheet for the Cook Park Bathhouse. Sean Hamilton sent the bids out and held a site showing yesterday with the hope of getting a lower price for construction.
- ❖ A few months ago, the district applied to the 2024 Stream and Watershed Enhancement Grant program to help the County remove garbage in areas around the Chenango River. We were notified yesterday that our application was funded, and we hope to expand the effort.
- ❖ Met with two landowners to discuss interest in TNC "Reforestation the Future" carbon-based tree planting program.

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

- ❖ The district continues to work with NRCS to implement 4 existing EQIP contracts. These contracts also have state funding associated with them, all manure storages.
 - Town of Oxford farmer- Still Awaiting design functional review from NRCS.
 - Town of Coventry farmer – Limbo
 - Town of Oxford farmer – Awaiting design functional review from NRCS.
 - Town of Afton- set to break ground in spring 2025
- ❖ The district completed the cover crop certifications, 2,594 acres were certified and \$71,509.50 was paid to the participants.
- ❖ Sent two planting projects out to bid for Spring 2025. These two projects contain approximately 10 acres of upland and 10.1 acres of riparian plantings funded through the USC Water Quality Program.

DISTRICT FUNDING AND OPERATIONS

- ❖ The civil service exams for the district technician and district field manager position were held on December 7. We were told the results of the exams would not be available for 4-6 months.
- ❖ Attended a state-wide manager's meeting with the Soil and Water Conservation Committee at Greek Peak. Points of discussion:
 - Prevailing Wage – Bond Act funds, per statute, require prevailing wage rates. However, most of the funding was designed to be spent on public land while districts work with private landowners. The SWCC is awaiting a decision from their legal counsel to decide if prevailing wages must be spent if the project is on private property and when an individual must also provide a cost share for the practice.
 - Districts will have to update their 5-year AEM strategic plan. We hope to attend meetings with SWCC on how to incorporate climate change as a natural resource concern into our agricultural strategy.
- ❖ 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 new planned CREP.
- ❖ Currently, the CREP program is not funded by the federal government because the extension to the 2018 Farm Bill expired September 30, 2024. We are awaiting another extension or another Farm Bill to be passed to begin implementing the program again.
- ❖ We are currently working with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to engage in a partnership with the Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability to implement more soil health practices within the watershed. The Atkinson Center has partnerships and experience with engaging with corporations interested in financially investing in soil health practices and “regenerative agriculture.”
- ❖ Riley was selected to become the USC Forest Buffer team leader at the last Riparian Forest Buffer Task Force meeting. Congrats to Riley for this leadership role!

DISTRICT SALES & PROGRAMS

- ❖ The Tree & Shrub Program Sale order form is complete. We will be sending out an email with a fillable order form, to cut down on mailing costs.
- ❖ The CNY Regional Envirothon will be held May 1st at Friends of Rogers in Sherburne.

AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- ❖ Reuben Eicher – Town of Norwich
- ❖ John Lathrop – Town of Sherburne
- ❖ Robert & Vicki Ives – Town of Guilford
- ❖ James Holler - Town of New Berlin
- ❖ American Castanea PDC – Town of Greene
- ❖ John Kemmeren – Town of Bainbridge
- ❖ Eric Paquette – Town of Greene

N.Y.S. Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

December 12, 2024

ATTACHMENT E

Natural Resources:

Wetland Webinar – January 15th, 2025

Micron wetland impact (Clay)

- Now in mitigation, which involves creating new wetlands to replace impacted ones.
 - Depending on the impacted wetland – wetlands may be replaced up to a 3:1 rate

Lands and Forests

- Filled Two vacant forester positions in the Sherburne office.
 - responsible for the management of territories in Chenango County, covering approximately 36,000 acres in the towns of McDonough, Smithville, Pharsalia, Pitcher and German.
- Major changes to the Forest Tax Law Program regulations have been proposed.

Fisheries:

Sea Lamprey Wounding Rate:

- Chinook salmon has returned to “normal” in 2024.
- elevated wounding rates peaked in 2022 from missed treatments during the covid pandemic.

New Kiosk Panels for The Salmon River DEC Parking Areas.

- New panels include a map, popular fishing holes, parking, launching, and fish identification.

2025 Brown Trout Stockings

- First year that all the fish statewide will be the wild X (Romiskany) hatchery crossed trout.
- The goal is to increase survival of stocked brown trout through enhanced wariness and adaptation to wild conditions.

2025 Genegantslet Creek Projects

- Projects on state land and public fishing rights property to address old structural stabilization that is now failing
- Projects will remove old, deteriorating projects and replace them with natural rock, wood structures

Wildlife:

New Staff Position

- Hired a Program Specialist: Outreach and Education Coordinator.
 - Will work directly with municipalities and communities to provide information and technical guidance on best management practices for avoiding wildlife conflicts.

2024 Deer Take

- Preliminary statistics show deer take up 13% in the southern zone
- Not a complete evaluation - haven't accounted for numbers from butchers/taxidermists

Archery Ranges

- Looking at possible WMAs for archery ranges
- Town of Nelson put one on town property with grant from NYS DEC

Pheasant Stocking

- Increase in stocking rates, in hopes to increase pheasant hunter recruitment.

ENCON:

Safe Hunting Season

- Only 1 hunting related shooting incident in Region 7

2024 Academy

- Graduation will be this Friday 12/20

There was conversation on changing the meeting to daytime – Questionnaire will be sent with minutes.

The idea is that it will increase participation in general, along with in person participation.