

MINUTES
ULSTER COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
5 PARK LANE
HIGHLAND, NY 12528
July 24, 2024

1. **OPENING MEETING** - The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by Chairman L. Tantillo at 7:00 PM. Directors Present: J. Delaune, F. Wilklow, K. Nolan and S. VanNostrand. SWCD Staff in attendance: J. Wedemeyer - Exec. Director, T. Ferry - District Technician, Christine DeGroot - Program Assistant and Stuart Leigh.

2. **WORK REPORTS**

Written staff reports were mailed and emailed to Board Members and B. Luskin prior to the meeting for review (attached to the filed minutes).

a) **SWCD**

J. Wedemeyer - (see attached staff report)

AEM Round – Wedemeyer visited a farm in the Town of Rochester that requested a rotational grazing plan, did a farm visit in Hurley for composting pad recommendations and visited a farm in New Paltz for cover cropping and a riparian buffer establishment.

Inventory and Evaluations – (see attached report)

Wedemeyer mentioned that he is assisting the Town of Marletown with a water quality monitoring grant project. Wedemeyer introduced Stuart Leigh to the Board.

Leigh is a Catskill Mountains Trout Unlimited Board Member, he sits on the Ashokan Release Working Group with Nolan as the Marletown representative and is the Marletown representative on the Lower Esopus Creek Advisory Council. He relates to the Environmental Conservation Commission and the Parks, Recreation & Trails when needed and is interested in the Lower Esopus issues for the town. He is committed to coordinating and administering a NYS DEC beach reconstruction grant. He has identified that the beach is no longer swimmable at the Marletown Town Park and that Riverkeeper's data demonstrated that enterococcus and e-coli jumped dramatically in 2016. He said there is an opportunity to reconstruct the beach with the NYS DEC's beach reconstruction grant which involves sanitary surveys as Step 1. Marletown has agreed to apply for a sanitary survey and Tighe & Bond Engineering agreed to put together the application. Riverkeeper's Science Director, Dr. Shannon Roback, is advising on the sampling design and the microbial source tracking component. This will be a year long project with the grant application having to be submitted on Monday of next week. Wedemeyer/SWCD offered them in-kind assistance with the GIS/Land use mapping, water sample collection and administrative support. Leigh's understanding is the District will administer a new position to manage the Stream Management Plan in the future. Discussion followed.

NYS DEP CAT-494 – Wedemeyer held a staff meeting with AWSMP staff. He attended an CSAP meeting for riparian easements and completed a draft for the Broad Street Hollow RFP for engineering services. The Elk Bushkill project has been closed out. The 60% Hollow Tree Brook design is pending review. Wedemeyer approved a drone RTK base station for high resolution surveying. He is assisting Taylor with the Project Manager interim transition.

Wedemeyer worked with the videographer and the Ashokan crew on the "Who We Are and What We Do" video.

AG NPS Round 27 – Wedemeyer has been working with NRCS and a private engineer on agrichemical mixing facility design reviews and edits to the designs.

District Updates/Other Projects

Wedemeyer has been working with Economic Development on the ARPA funding and contract finalization for the \$200,000.00. He attended a Legislative meeting to support Economic Development.

Junior Technician – Wedemeyer held four in-person interviews and has been checking references. There are two final candidates.

Wedemeyer mentioned that he's working with NRCS trying to get engineering assistance. The Area Engineer had committed to helping the District with irrigation/other projects, then backed out.

Wedemeyer mentioned that Taylor is taking the NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Certification Course on August 14-16, 2024.

The District sold thirty bat boxes to a homeowner generating \$600.00.

Nolan asked if anyone at the District does soil and wetland mapping? Wedemeyer said we use the Army Corp. of Engineer's and NYS DEC wetlands maps to delineate what is on the sites.

C. DeGroot – (see attached staff report)

District's Annual Audit – The CAT-494 was on July 9, 2024.

The filing cabinets ordered from Hudson Valley Furniture Company arrived and are in use.

District's Insurance – Since the District's insurance increased to approximately \$28,000.00 for this year, an increase of approximately \$7,000.00, the District requested quotes from SIDLE Insurance. The quote received is significantly lower than the current company. Discussion followed. To be discussed under OLD BUSINESS.

T. Ferry – (see attached staff report)

AEM – Ferry continues to work on paperwork for the upcoming AEM projects.

CRF Round 8 – Ferry completed and submitted the CRF Round 8 application.

NYC DEP CAT-494 – Ferry assisted with documentation for the quarterly report.

Ferry installed the District's decals for the two trucks.

b) **AWSMP**

B. Taylor – Acting Stream Project Manager – (see attached report)

CSBI is on hold but Bonse and Taylor are monitoring and spraying for deer browse.

The panels for the kiosk at the Emerson buffer project have been installed. Discussion followed.

Taylor and Bonse have been looking at a new replacement vehicle and trailers.

Taylor obtained herbicide application permits to deal with Japanese Knotweed and Mugwort at the Stony Clove above Jansen Road site and the Woodland Valley site. Wedemeyer said the Mugwort was up to his neck at the Woodland Valley site in previous years. Nolan mentioned a

study on Knotweed control where she had success in irradiating Knotweed on two sites using the bend method over the course of three years. Discussion followed.

c) NRCS

O. Velez-Juarbe – Wedemeyer stated that Velez-Juarbe has been wrapping up a lot of contracts. Their NRCS Pathways intern’s last day is Friday.

d) SWCC Report - submitted by Ben Luskin and reported by Wedemeyer (see attached report)

3. NEW BUSINESS

a) Proposed Watershed Coordinator Position – Wedemeyer spoke with Dennis Doyle, UC Director of Planning. Doyle wants to house this position at the District office. Wedemeyer said that the employee cannot be housed here since the District shares office space with the USDA, and is allowed only a certain number of employees. It was mentioned housing the position at the Department of the Environment (but still be a District employee), but it would be difficult to train an employee housed in Kingston. Nolan said she heard it is a part-time position. Discussion followed on making the position half District Technician, half Watershed Coordinator position with the possibility of requesting a portion of their salary from the County.

b) MS4 Mapping Assistance with Ulster County Department of the Environment – The Board does not object to the District assisting the County but would like the District to request funding from the County for staff time.

c) Assisting Town of Marbletown with the Water Quality Study on the Lower Esopus. There was discussion on assisting the Town with the Water Quality Study on the Lower Esopus. The District would donate 120 hours of staff time (IK), approx. \$6,600.00 in-kind staff time. **2024-7-1 Nolan made the Motion, Delaune seconded to assist the Town of Marbletown with the Water Quality Study on the Lower Esopus by contributing 120 hours of staff time (\$6,600.00) for in-kind services. All in favor.**

d) Tuition Reimbursement for College Courses – There was discussion on reimbursing employees for a portion of the cost of college classes. **2024-7-2 Nolan made the Motion, VanNostrand seconded, to reimburse employees up to \$1,700.00 per year for successful completion of college classes, to be paid out of Part C funding. All in favor.**

4. OLD BUSINESS

a) **External District Audit Results** – The Annual Audit booklets were available for Director review. No action taken.

b) **Insurance Premiums** – Discussion followed regarding the current fees the District pays for insurance versus SIDLE’s proposal. **2024-7-3 Delaune made the Motion, seconded by Wilklow, to switch insurance companies and use SIDLE Insurance, effective immediately. All in favor.**

c) **2025 Proposed Budget** – There was discussion regarding the District’s proposed 2025 budget and salary table. Nolan stated that the Board is behind the staff with increasing salaries to the level comparable to other Districts. Wedemeyer mentioned that Ashokan staff are already maxed out with their salaries for this year. Nolan asked if Taylor submitted an application for the Stream Project Manager position. Wedemeyer said that he did not. Nolan suggested that at the first

opportunity, look at Part C money to help bump up salaries for employee retention. She would like this to be included on next year's budget.

2024-7-4 Delaune made the Motion, Noland seconded, to approve the 2025 draft budget which requests \$181,500.00 from the County. All in favor.

- d) **Junior Technician Position** – Wedemeyer interviewed four applicants at the office and narrowed it down to two candidates.

(S. Leigh left the Meeting at 8:20 PM)

Delaune, Wilklow and Tantillo were the Interview Committee that interviewed the two final candidates. Delaune said that one is an arborist now and is familiar with the GIS mapping that the District uses. Wedemeyer added that the second candidate is going back to school for Environmental Science. Both candidates are skilled and meet the job qualification requirements.

2024-7-5 Wilklow made the Motion, Nolan seconded to go into Executive Session at 8:26 PM to discuss one or more candidates for the Junior Technician position. All in favor.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:37 PM.

No Motions were adopted, passed, or agreed to in Executive Session.

The Board would like to set up a second interview early next week between both candidates and Directors Nolan, VanNostrand and Litts. The Directors requested that Wedemeyer email Directors both candidates' resumes.

5. **MINUTES APPROVAL – 2024-7-6 Delaune made the Motion, Nolan seconded, to approve the June 2024 Board Meeting Minutes. All in favor.**
6. **FINANCIAL REPORTS AND ABSTRACTS – 2024-7-7 Nolan made the Motion, Delaune seconded, to approve the Financial Report and June 2024 Abstract. All in favor.**
7. **NEXT MEETING** - The next Board Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 7 PM.
8. **ADJOURNMENT**

2024-7-8 A Motion was made by Nolan to Adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM, seconded by VanNostrand. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Christine DeGroot
Program Assistant

JLW Activities June 20 through July 16, 2024

AEM: AEM Tier 4 – farm visit for rotational grazing plan implementation, T/O Rochester. AEM Tier 4 – farm visit for composting pad recommendations, T/O Hurley. AEM Tier 5B – farm visit for cover cropping and riparian buffer establishment, T/O New Paltz. AEM Tier 5B – farm visit for milkweed control and conservation easement information, T/O New Paltz.

Inventory and Evaluations: Scott Goodinow, T/O Plattekill – Pasture establishment recommendations with T. Ferry. Jeffery Jean, T/O Lloyd – soils and wetlands mapping assistance. John Sczerba, T/O Lloyd – wetland permit assistance, correspondence with County Exec’s office. T/O Marlborough – Arbor day application and planting plan assistance. T/O Marlbletown – Water quality grant application assistance. Dom Sorbello, T/O Lloyd – Stream channel study proposal assistance.

NYC DEP CAT 494: Staff meeting with AWSMP staff. CSAP meeting for riparian easements. Review and approval of invoices for supplies and equipment. Reviewed SPM applications and answered emails garnering interest in the position. Draft for Broad Street Hollow RFP for engineering services. Worked with C. DeGroot with Capital quarterly report and expense quarterly report. Financial external audit for CAT 494 contract. Pay app approval to release retainage for Elk Busk Kill project. Hollow Tree Brook 60 percent design and cost opinion review, engineering services budget meeting with engineering firm. Travel pre-approval for training for B. Taylor for NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certification. Off boarding for A. Doan. Review and approval for drone RTK base station. Assisting B. Taylor with Project Manager interim transition. Worked with videographer and AWSMP staff with “Who We Are and What We Do” video.

Round 27: Working with NRCS and private engineer with design reviews and edits to designs.

District Updates/Other Projects:

- Working with Economic Development with ARPA funding and contract finalization for \$200,000. Attended Economic Development legislative meeting to support resolution.
- Providing assistance to Economic Development regarding ARPA funding and farm needs.
- Junior Technician –Four in person interviews, numerous phone interviews, checking references and working with the board for the final candidate selection.
- Reviewed and provided comments for the Lower Esopus Creek stream management plan.
- Reviewed and provided comments to the UC Farmland Protection Plan.
- Revised 2025 annual budget.
- County/Legislature would like to have a Watershed Administrator housed at the UC Dept of Environment office. We will assist the County with implementation and MS4 mapping once we have a full staff in Highland. Potential increase to County Appropriation. Discussion with Eric Stewart, UC Legislator.
- Working with NRCS for continued engineering assistance after receiving their commitment in writing to assist the District with various designs.
- Assistance to FSA with crop reporting.
- Assistance to C. DeGroot with providing insurance documentation for quotes from another insurance carrier that specifically works with Conservation Districts.
- Instructor for NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certification, August 14-16, 2024.
- Delivered 30 bat boxes, \$600 in District revenue.
- Assisted C. DeGroot with banking issues and rectified bank account.

Christine DeGroodt

Activities June 19, 2024 – July 17, 2024

NYS Retirement – I continue to do the monthly reporting.

CAT-494 Contracts – I completed the Capital Quarterly report and I am currently working on the Expense Quarterly report.

CAT-494 Audit – The CAT-494 audit was on July 9th.

District's Insurance – We received a quote from SIDLE Insurance. If we switch to them, it will save the District \$7,523.77/year. This covers: Commercial Auto, Property, Inland Marine, Crime (new addition), General Liability, Cyber Liability (new addition), Professional Liability, Contractors Pollution Liability, Umbrella, Management Liability, Management Liability, and Employment Practices Liability.

County Quarterly Report – The 2nd quarter 2024 report is complete and ready to be sent to the County once the June Abstract is approved by the Board.

AEM RD 18 – Contacted M&T Bank and opened a new bank account for the AEM grant round 18. And, since the bank closed our CRF Round 7 account due to inactivity, we had to open a new one.

My new federal laptop is up and running.

Set up our copy machine account to be able to pay the bill online.

I'm looking into switching the District credit cards over to Business Reward credit cards so we can earn points on purchases.

Quarterly income tax reports were submitted. A copy of the NYS quarterly income tax report (NYS-45) was sent to Ulster County Self Insurance Department.

Health Insurance - The District's health insurance rates have increased. Individual plans have increased from \$1,386.26/month to \$1,453.32/month. **A total of \$67.06/month**. Family plans have increased from \$3,950.84/month to \$4,141.96/month. **A total of \$191.12/month**.

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

TRF Activities – June 19, 2024 – July 17, 2024

AEM: Tier 5B – T/O Rochester – conducted a tier 5b bmp evaluation on rotational grazing project we completed last year. Tier 5A – T/O Rochester – updated Tier 1 & 2 with producer for cover crop grant application. Tier 3A – T/O Saugerties – worked on and finished Tier 3A plan for farm access road/bridge constriction issue, access road relocation. Tier 5B – T/O Marlboro – Tier 5B BMP evaluation for fuel storage project.

Part C Cover Crop Program: Outreaching to previous participants and sending out applications.

Inventory and Evaluations: Michael Gazal – T/O Rochester – hazelnut tree orchard recommendations. Participated in a Lower Esopus Stream Management Plan meeting. Scott Goodnow – T/O Plattekill – checked on his no-till seeding (twice). Rebecca Sutton – T/O Saugerties – District program information for beef producer.

CRF Round 6: No activity.

CRF Round 7: No activity.

CRF Round 8: Submitted our CRF8 application.

NYC DEP CAT 494: Compiled mileage, tolls, and hours for quarterly report.

Round 27: No activity.

No-Till Program: No activity.

Misc:

B. Taylor – Acting Stream Project Manager (Formally CSBI Coordinator)

- **Administration (ASPM)**
 - Getting acquainted with Acting Stream Project Manager position, 7/3/24 First Day
 - Completed orientation for SMIP (Stream Management Implementation Program)
 - Completed orientation for future CSAP (Collaborative Streamside Acquisition Program)
 - Completed orientation to SAFARI (Shandaken Area Flood Assessment & Remediation Initiative)
 - Organizational activities for switching to new laptop
 - File structure creation and organization for ACD file transfer
 - Assisted staff with purchases of office workstation equipment
 - Updated Kenco purchasing agreement for PPE field gear
 - UCSWCD's promotional video –UCSWCD's role in the AWSMP Program & CSBI Program
 - Working with G. Bonse on replacement vehicle purchase

- **Stream Management Implementation Program (SMIP) support**
 - Coordinated with Cornell Cooperative Extension to come up to speed on active projects
 - Participated in SMIP Grant Review Committee – Round 2-2024 – 1 application received
 - UC-DPW Engineering of UC Rail Embankment Stabilization – Total request \$120,000
 - In coordination with A. Lent Conducted site visit and remote sensed data analysis for historic channel alignment and site analysis of existing conditions
 - provided technical analysis on application from DPW application, landowner analysis, scored application, coordinating response with CCE for contingent funding
 - Phoenicia Additional Modeling LFA project – Phoenicia Main Street & Bridge Street Bridge
 - Reviewed documents and reports completed to date
 - Participated in LFA Meeting with T/O Shandaken and SLR Engineering Firm
 - Additional modeling is necessary to show flood elevations and velocities once recommendations implemented. Additional modeling requested for future flows.
 - Preliminary take away... there is no engineering solution to keep Phoenicia from flooding with any bridge street bridge replacement alternative presented.
 - Bostock Road – Shokan construction alternatives to reduce flooding
 - Participated in Flood Hazard Mitigation coordination meeting with Catskill Watershed Corporation to explore funding requirements & eligibility

- **Assessment and Monitoring**
 - Daily check in with Allison, Mark & Ulster County Community College Interns
 - Reviewed USGS Turbidity Report for Ashokan Watershed RE: Hollow Tree Brook

- **Stream Restoration Projects**
 - Stony Clove above Jensen Road
 - Received herbicide application permit, Knotweed treated on 7/18/2024
 - Woodland Creek SRP
 - Received herbicide application permit for tributary that enters project area, invasives treated on 7/18/2024

- **Stream restoration projects continued**
 - Woodland Creek SRP
 - DEP to determine eligibility of repairs to count toward FAD deliverable project
 - Elk Bushkill
 - Provided DEP with completed project photos for annual FAD Partners meeting
 - Review spec book & planting installation plans for deer herbivory warranty
 - Contract Retainage released by J. Wedemeyer in coordination with A. Lent.
 - Hollow Tree Brook – Anticipated 2025 construction
 - Participated in internal meeting with DEP, CCE, UCSWCD on project status
 - Participated in additional design cost meeting with DEP, UCSWCD Jake W.
 - SLR has exceeded budget for design, UCSWCD prepared to push back
 - Reviewed 30% Design & Report to come up to speed on project design
 - Began reviewing 60% design and Report
 - Comments to be collected and sent to SLR by August 1.
 - Warner Creek Site 5
 - DEP to determine eligibility of repairs to count toward FAD deliverable project
 - Broadstreet Hollow SRP – Anticipated 2026 construction
 - Jake provided RFP Outline, Reviewed by B. Taylor
 - RFP to be completed in draft end of August, to DEP for revisions
- **CSBI**
 - Coordinated panel install with Emerson & SWCD Staff
 - Assisted with purchase of hardware & backfill materials
 - Coordinated kiosk build with Emerson Staff - Completed
 - All signs and panels have been installed
 - Reviewed, approved, and sent final Pulse Design Invoice to J. Wedemeyer
 - Coordination and site visits with Herbicide Applicator for sites in treatment
 - 1 additional site showing for former CSBI project landowner in Warner Creek
 - Boiceville CSBI Flood Buyout parcels
 - Coordination with herbicide applicator for updated cost proposal
 - Coordination with UCSWCD AWSMP Staff for ongoing maintenance
 - Working with G. Bonse to advance Riparian Corridor Management Plans
 - Orienting G. Bonse to bobcat & other equipment
 - Working with G. Bonse on Trailer Purchases (1 equipment, 1 replacement cargo)
 - Formulating CSBI Vegetation Monitoring Plan with available staff
- **Technical Site Visits**
 - UCDPW RR Embankment Stabilization
 - Pierce Ed. CSBI Mink Hollow Site
 - Woodland Valley SRP, Ridge Road CSBI, Boiceville CSBI, Walker CSBI, Stony Clove SRP
- **Meetings**
 - Staff Check-in Meeting with Allison, Jake & Bobby for project status updates
 - CSAP Program Development
 - SAFARI – June & July Meetings
 - Phoenicia LFA Additional Modeling
 - Hollow Tree Brook Project Design and contracting with SLR
 - Participated in my first Project Managers Call – DEP, CCE, UCSWCD

Ashokan Watershed Stream Management Program

- **Administration**
 - In transition period while search for permanent Stream Project Manager is selected
 - Continued collaboration with CCE on FEMA FIRM Model discrepancies for Esopus
 - Continued participation in CSAP program development with watershed partners
 - DEP/CCE/UCSWCD coordination for development of Hollow Tree Brook SRP design
 - Participated in SAFARI Meetings for Phoenicia & Pine Hill
 - Future LFAs planned for Oliveria & Chichester
 - CCE's SMIP Program held 2nd 2024 grant round. 1 application received, UCDPW
 - UCSWCD Providing technical guidance at SAFARI meetings with Shandaken
 - Coordination with USGS for Salmonid Habitat Index Study on Restoration Projects
 - Participated in UCSWCD's promotional video

- **Assessment & Monitoring (A. Lent, M. Tollefson, UCCC Interns)**
 - Completed 3rd year post construction monitoring at Warner Creek Sites 1&2
 - Completed 2nd year post construction monitoring at Pantherkill SRP to measure geomorphic response to recent flooding
 - Completed geomorphic monitoring and habitat assessment at future restoration projects (Hollow Tree Brook) and accompanying control reach for fisheries study
 - Currently working on Yr. 1 post construction monitoring and habitat assessment for Elk Bushkill stream restoration project and control reach for UCGS Fisheries study.
 - Coordination with USGS biologists and watershed landowners to begin fish sampling at six study sites: Elk Bushkill, Hollow Tree Brook, Broadstreet Hollow
 - Drone Activity
 - Setting ground controls and planning planned flights at Broadstreet hollow and hollow tree brook.
 - Produced Digital Elevation Model from first flight and still learning software.

- **Stream Restoration Projects (SEE B. Taylor Work Report for Additional Details)**
 - Stony Clove SRP
 - Herbicide Treatment conducted
 - Warner Creek site 1 & @
 - See monitoring section above
 - Pantherkill SRP
 - Monitoring deer browse issue – ongoing.
 - Deer herbivory prevention spray applied 2x
 - Showcased in UCSWCD's promo video
 - Japanese knotweed treated at entering tributary
 - See additional monitoring details above
 - Elk Bushkill
 - Monitoring vegetation success
 - Deer browse seems to be an issue, applied deer herbivory spray 2x
 -

- Elk Bushkill (Continued)
 - Contract Retainage Released. Holding Hubble Inc. to 2 Yr warranty on plantings, some replacement of potted and live stake material necessary.
 - SPEDES Permit – Notice of Termination Sent
 - See monitoring section above
- Hollow Tree Brook (planned 2025 project)
 - 60% Design & Report received
 - Currently being reviewed by UCSWCD & NYCDEP
 - SLR has requested additional funds, UCSWCD/DEP is reviewing request
 - Landowner Permissions are proving to be a challenge.
- **CSBI (G. Bonse/B.Taylor) (see also B. Taylor work report for additional information)**
 - **Most CSBI activities placed on hold during transition period – CAT 494 Deliverables met**
 - Provided 2023/24 CSBI activities update to DEP for FAD Regulators
 - Boiceville Flood buyout properties being progressed as time allows
 - Invasive permits for ongoing CSBI projects received
 - Additional invasive treatment sites being evaluated
 - Emerson Brookside Wander Signs Installed, kiosk constructed
 - Ribbon cutting event being planned for Fall 2024
 - Showcased at UCSWCD's promotional video
 - Completed knotweed map for Pantherkill Creek
 - Replacement Trailer(s) being explored

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 5 Report – July 2024
Submitted by: Ben Luskin – Region 5 Associate Environmental Analyst

NYS SWCC News

(CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program: \$14 million has been made available for on-farm projects through Round 1 of the Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP), which will help farmers protect water quality and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The RFP and associated documents are now available on Sharepoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Jason Kokkinos Jason.Kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov by **September 5th, 2024**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **5PM, October 28th, 2024**.

SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee – Recording: A recording of the June 27th, 2024, SPAC meeting has been uploaded to Sharepoint. The next SPCC meeting will convene August 29th, 2024. Details to follow soon. <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/NYS%20SWCC%20State%20Programs%20Advisory%20Committee/June%2027,%202024?csf=1&web=1&e=qGdyqH>

July SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on **Tuesday, July 16th 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.

2024 NCF Envirothon Call for Volunteers: The NYS Envirothon Committee is pleased to host the 2024 NCF Envirothon. The 2024 annual competition will be held from **July 28 – August 3, 2024**, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York, and is putting out a call for all volunteers. Please let the Committee know if you are willing to volunteer by completing the online volunteer registration at, https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKIG9Hyzz_wlubce3MzPI0n-gFWG6jvMsa6H2tHjXu0MHVw/viewform

Other Events

Watershed Forestry Webinar Series: Phytoremediation for Healthy Watersheds, **July 11th, from 12–1 PM**. This July event will cover phytoremediation—the use of trees to clean contaminated soils and waters of pollutants. Register here, <https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/41f30bb8-92fd-4904-9381-f3f201ceedcb@ed5b36e7-01ee-4ebc-867e-e03cfa0d4697>

2024 NY Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Field Days: The NY Soil Health Alliance Group will convene a series of Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Day's throughout the State during 2024. Registration is now live for the **July 16th event at Moody Farms in Poestenkill, and the July 25th event at the Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls**. Visit, <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/fielddays/> for more information and to register.

2024 Annual CDEA Golf Tourney: The 23rd Annual NYS CDEA Golf Tournament is being held on **August 1st, 2024 @ Casolwood Golf Club**. Anyone that is interested in playing needs to submit their registration info by **JULY 22nd, 2024**.

2024 Empire Farm Days: August 1st-3rd, 2024 (<https://empirefarmdays.leetradeshows.com>). **CANCELED**

2024 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date: This year the conference will be held in Boston, MA at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel on **August 10-14, 2024**. Further details will be available shortly.

Funding Opportunities

New Grant for Restoring Wetland and Stream Habitats: WQIP is offering a new grant for restoring and enhancing wetlands and stream corridors as habitat for fish and wildlife. The maximum grant award is \$1 million. The application deadline for WQIP Habitat Restoration and Enhancement is **July 31st, at 4PM**. <https://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/cfa>