



Ag, Planning & Environmental Committee

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045

<https://www.cortlandcountyny.gov>

Committee Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, April 10, 2025

10:00 AM

Room 302

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 AM by Committee Chair Beau Harbin

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Mitchel Eccleston	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Paul Heider	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
William McGovern	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Jason Prentice	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Sandra Price	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Reed Cleland	Cortland County	Committee Vice-Chair	Present	
Beau Harbin	Cortland County	Committee Chair	Present	
Ashley Millard	Cortland County	Deputy Clerk of the Legislature	Present	
Rob Corpora	Cortland County	County Administrator	Present	
Morgan Spaulding	Cortland County	Grants Administrator	Present	
Christopher Newell	Cortland County	Legislator	Present	
Kelly Guy	Cornell Cooperative Extension	Executive Director	Present	
Melissa Potter	Cortland County	Mobility Manager	Present	
Trisha Hiemstra	Cortland County	Planning Director	Present	
Melanie Vilardi	Cortland County	Deputy County Administrator	Present	
Andrea Herzog	Cortland County	Director of Finance	Present	
Savannah Hempstead	Cortland County	Clerk of the Legislature	Late	10:30 AM
Shawn Murphy	Soil & Water	Natural Resource Conservationist	Present	
Kim Cameron	Cortland	Resident	Present	
Kevin Fitch	Cortland County	Chair of the Legislature	Remote	
Nicole Compton	Cortland County	Executive Assistant	Remote	
Don Chu	Cortland	Resident	Remote	
Jessica Leet	Cortland County	Executive Assistant	Remote	

MINUTES

1. Ag/Planning/Environmental - Committee Meeting - Mar 13, 2025 10:00 AM

RESULT: APPROVED

RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – Demanding an Independent Audit of New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and National Grid Billing Practices

It was MOVED by Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Heider, and unanimously approved by voice vote of members present, to amend the resolution to include National Grid.

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

Next: 4/24/2025 4:00 PM

MOVER: Reed Cleland, Committee Vice-Chair

SECONDER: Jason Prentice, Committee Member

AYES: Eccleston, Heider, McGovern, Prentice, Price, Cleland, Harbin

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

Demanding an Independent Audit of New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and National Grid Billing Practices

WHEREAS, New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and National Grid provide electric and gas services to residents of Cortland County and surrounding areas; AND

WHEREAS, numerous complaints have been raised by residents and businesses regarding inaccurate billing, sudden rake spikes, delayed or estimated meter readings, and lack of transparency in NYSEG's and National Grid's billing practices; AND

WHEREAS, these billing issues have caused financial hardship for many residents and businesses in Cortland County, raising concerns about fairness, accountability, and proper regulatory oversight; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) and other state regulatory agencies have an obligation to ensure that utility companies operate transparently and in the best interest of consumers; AND

WHEREAS, a comprehensive, independent audit of NYSEG's and National Grid's billing practices would provide much needed clarity regarding the accuracy of billing procedures, the effectiveness of customer service responses, and compliance with state regulations; AND

WHEREAS, other municipalities and consumer advocacy groups across New York State have also called for increased scrutiny and oversight of NYSEG and National Grid due to similar concerns; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature formally requests that the New York State Public Services Commission (PSC), the New York State Attorney General's Office and the New York State Comptroller's Office conduct an independent audit of NYSEG's and National Grid's billing practices to determine the extent of errors, inconsistencies, and potential overcharges; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that this audit should include, but not be limited to, an examination of meter reading accuracy, estimated billing practices, customer service response times, and adherence to state-mandates billing regulations; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the findings of the audit be made publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Public Services Commission, New York State Attorney General Letita James, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, New York Association of Counties (NYSAC), New York State Senator Lea Webb, New York State Assemblypersons Anna Kelles and Jeff Gallahan, NYSEG leadership and National Grid leadership.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – Recommend Members for Appointment to Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) Board

It was MOVED by Mr. Cleland, seconded by Mr. Heider, and unanimously approved by voice vote of members present, to enter into an executive session to discuss the appointment of a particular person with Savannah Hempstead, Ashley Millard, Melanie Vilardi, Melissa Potter and Trisha Hiemstra permitted to stay in the room. MOTION CARRIED.

An executive session was held from 10:58 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., at which time on motion of Mr. Heider, seconded by Mr. Prentice, it was unanimously approved by voice vote to exit executive session.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 4/24/2025 6:00 PM
MOVER:	William McGovern, Committee Member
SECONDER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
AYES:	Eccleston, Heider, McGovern, Prentice, Price, Cleland, Harbin

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

Recommend Members for Appointment to Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) Board

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Authorities Law Section 1328, the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority was created by the State of New York; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to said law, the Cortland County Legislature is required to submit two names for recommendation for appointment by the Governor of the State of New York, with advice and consent of the Senate, where such list must recommend two individuals for each appointment to said authority; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature be and hereby recommends the following individuals for appointment to the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority:

Jennifer Hillman
Greg Richards

; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Cortland County Legislature is directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the Governor of New York State and to the Secretary of the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority.

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Cornell Cooperative Extension Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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2. Soil & Water Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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3. Planning Department Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 11:17 AM



Ag, Planning & Environmental Committee

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045

Committee Meeting

<https://www.cortlandcountyny.gov>

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, March 13, 2025

10:00 AM

Room 302

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Committee Chair Beau Harbin

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived
Mitchel Eccleston	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Paul Heider	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
William McGovern	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Jason Prentice	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Sandra Price	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Reed Cleland	Cortland County	Committee Vice-Chair	Excused	
Beau Harbin	Cortland County	Committee Chair	Present	
Kevin Fitch	Cortland County	Chair of the Legislature	Late	10:34 AM
Savannah Hempstead	Cortland County	Clerk of the Legislature	Present	
Rob Corpora	Cortland County	County Administrator	Present	
Christopher Newell	Cortland County	Legislator	Present	
David Rutherford	Cortland County	Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension	Present	
Cathy Bischoff	Cortland County	Legislator	Late	10:34 AM
Ronald J. Van Dee	Cortland County	Legislator	Late	10:34 AM
Trisha Hiemstra	Cortland County	Planning Director	Remote	
Amanda Barber	Soil & Water Conservation District	Director	Remote	
Nicole Compton	Cortland County	Executive Assistant	Remote	
Ashley Millard	Cortland County	Deputy Clerk of the Legislature	Remote	
Jason DeRaiche	Cortland County	Safety Director	Remote	

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Mar 13, 2025 10:00 AM (MINUTES)

MINUTES

1. Ag/Planning/Environmental - Committee Meeting - Feb 13, 2025 10:00 AM

RESULT:	APPROVED
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MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Planning Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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2. SWCD Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – Authorization to Apply for Empire State Development (ESD) County Infrastructure Grant – Cortlandville Water Infrastructure Project – Planning Department

Mr. Heider MADE A MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES to consider a resolution not previously on the agenda, Ms. Price SECONDED THE MOTION, and unanimous voice vote of members present; MOTION CARRIED.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 3/27/2025 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Sandra Price, Committee Member
SECONDER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
AYES:	Eccleston, Heider, McGovern, Prentice, Price, Harbin
EXCUSED:	Reed Cleland

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

**Authorization to Apply for Empire State Development (ESD) County Infrastructure Grant –
Cortlandville Water Infrastructure Project – Planning Department**

WHEREAS, Empire State Development (ESD) is offering a County Infrastructure Grant Program which provides funding to support infrastructure improvements that promote economic development, housing, and community well-being; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County recognizes the importance of investing in critical infrastructure to support economic growth, housing, and public health; AND

WHEREAS, Empire State Development requires that the County apply for said grant funding directly or on behalf of any other municipalities within the County; AND

WHEREAS, the Town of Cortlandville has identified the need to develop a new groundwater supply well to enhance its water system's capacity; AND

WHEREAS, the Town of Cortlandville has agreed to contribute all local match associated with the grant; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County seeks to apply for \$1,000,000 in funding through Empire State Development County Infrastructure Grant Program on the Town of Cortlandville's behalf to assist in financing the development of the proposed water infrastructure project; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Chair of the Legislature, County Administrator and/or appropriate Department Head is hereby authorized and directed to file an application for the County Infrastructure Grant Program from Empire State Development.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – Amend 2025 Budget/Accept New York State Operating Assistance (STOA) SFY 2024-25 Additional “Clean Up”

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 3/27/2025 6:00 PM
MOVER:	William McGovern, Committee Member
SECONDER:	Jason Prentice, Committee Member
AYES:	Eccleston, Heider, McGovern, Prentice, Price, Harbin
EXCUSED:	Reed Cleland

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

Amend 2025 Budget/Accept New York State Operating Assistance (STOA) SFY 2024-25 Additional “Clean Up”

WHEREAS, the Public Transportation Bureau has sent vouchers to the New York State Comptroller that distributes the SFY 2024-2025 State Wide Mass Transportation Operating Assistance (STOA) “Clean Up” payments to the upstate formula bus systems; AND

WHEREAS, these payments distribute the remaining 2024-2025 STOA appropriation balances for the upstate formula bus systems; AND

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 245-24 authorized Cortland County to amend the 2024 budget to fund an agreement with First Transit, Inc., dba Transdev, to provide public transportation services during the County’s transition to Centro; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County has received SFY 2024-2025 STOA “Clean-Up” funds in the amount of \$302,042.50 from the New York State Department of Transportation under the State Wide Mass Transportation Operating Assistance, which will go back into the fund balance; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the 2025 budget be amended as follows:

Increase:

A563044-43589	MISC STATE TRANSPORTATION	\$302,042.50
A390900	FUND BALANCE	\$302,042.50

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – Recommend Members for Appointment to Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) Board

It was MOVED by Mr. Prentice, Seconded by Ms. Price, and unanimously approved by voice vote of members present, to enter into an executive session to discuss matters leading to the appointment of a particular person, with Savannah Hempstead, Melanie Vilardi, Rob Corpora, and with legislators, with the exception of Legislator Beau Harbin, permitted to stay in the room; MOTION CARRIED.

An executive session was held from 10:50 a.m. to 11:13 a.m., at which time on motion of Ms. Price, seconded by Mr. Prentice, it was unanimously approved by voice vote to exit executive session.

RESULT: POSTPONED [5 TO 1]

Next: 4/10/2025 10:00 AM

MOVER: Paul Heider, Committee Member

SECONDER: Jason Prentice, Committee Member

AYES: Eccleston, Heider, Prentice, Price, Harbin

NAYS: William McGovern

EXCUSED: Reed Cleland

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

Recommend Members for Appointment to Central New York Regional Transportation Authority (CENTRO) Board

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Authorities Law Section 1328, the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority was created by the State of New York; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to said law, the Cortland County Legislature is required to submit two names for recommendation for appointment by the Governor of the State of New York, with advice and consent of the Senate, where such list must recommend two individuals for each appointment to said authority; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature be and hereby recommends the following individuals for appointment to the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority:

; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Cortland County Legislature is directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the Governor of New York State and to the Secretary of the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board Appointment

RESULT: COMPLETED

2. Empire State Development - County Infrastructure Grant Application

RESULT: COMPLETED

3. Cornell Cooperative Extension New Executive Director Press Release

RESULT: COMPLETED

4. Agri-Economic Development Summit

RESULT: COMPLETED

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 11:15 AM

ON MOTION OF BEAU HARBIN, COMMITTEE CHAIR**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1****Demanding an Independent Audit of New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and National Grid Billing Practices**

WHEREAS, New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG) and National Grid provide electric and gas services to residents of Cortland County and surrounding areas; AND

WHEREAS, numerous complaints have been raised by residents and businesses regarding inaccurate billing, sudden rate spikes, delayed or estimated meter readings, and lack of transparency in NYSEG's and National Grid's billing practices; AND

WHEREAS, these billing issues have caused financial hardship for many residents and businesses in Cortland County, raising concerns about fairness, accountability, and proper regulatory oversight; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) and other state regulatory agencies have an obligation to ensure that utility companies operate transparently and in the best interest of consumers; AND

WHEREAS, a comprehensive, independent audit of NYSEG's and National Grid's billing practices would provide much needed clarity regarding the accuracy of billing procedures, the effectiveness of customer service responses, and compliance with state regulations; AND

WHEREAS, other municipalities and consumer advocacy groups across New York State have also called for increased scrutiny and oversight of NYSEG and National Grid due to similar concerns; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature formally requests that the New York State Public Services Commission (PSC), the New York State Attorney General's Office and the New York State Comptroller's Office conduct an independent audit of NYSEG's and National Grid's billing practices to determine the extent of errors, inconsistencies, and potential overcharges; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that this audit should include, but not be limited to, an examination of meter reading accuracy, estimated billing practices, customer service response times, and adherence to state-mandated billing regulations; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the findings of the audit be made publicly available to ensure transparency and accountability; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature is hereby directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Public Services Commission, New York State Attorney General Letita James, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, New York Association of Counties (NYSAC), New York State Senator Lea Webb, New York State Assemblypersons Anna Kelles and Jeff Gallahan, NYSEG leadership and National Grid leadership.

ON MOTION OF BEAU HARBIN, COMMITTEE CHAIR**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2****Recommend Members for Appointment to Central New York Regional Transportation Authority
(CENTRO) Board**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Public Authorities Law Section 1328, the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority was created by the State of New York; AND

WHEREAS, pursuant to said law, the Cortland County Legislature is required to submit two names for recommendation for appointment by the Governor of the State of New York, with advice and consent of the Senate, where such list must recommend two individuals for each appointment to said authority; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature be and hereby recommends the following individuals for appointment to the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority:

Jennifer Hillman
Greg Richards

; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Cortland County Legislature is directed to cause a certified copy of this resolution to be transmitted to the Governor of New York State and to the Secretary of the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority.

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County

Kelly Guy: Executive Director

Highlights:

- On-boarding training

Various training including topics on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, Internet Safety and New York State Labor Laws.

- Website Design and Development

A 2-day training course on Cornell Campus with the CCE team to implement and design a new website. Tentative go-live date of August 2025.

- Staff Meetings

Meet individually with each staff member to discuss professional goals and program goals for 2025.

- Community Outreach

Collaborate with Soil and Water for Water Festival planning, Cornell 4H Camp Directors meeting, SNAP-Ed meeting as well as Tompkins Bank and Trust meeting.

On the Horizon:

CCE Skills Training: Grant Writing and Fundamentals of Board Meetings, Local Environment judging, Meet with Cornell CCE team for additional on-board training.

South Central Dairy and Field Crop Program

Janice Degni: Regional Field Crops Specialist

Betsy Hicks: Regional Dairy Specialist

Highlights:

- 30 meetings and/or workshops with a total of 687 attendees.

Sessions varied from intensive hands-on training for farmers and employees to conferences addressing current topics in crops and dairy production and workshops.

[List of past events](#)

- Manure Trucking and Handling Safety Workshop.

Each year we collaborate with Dairy Support Services Corporation which is based in Cortland County and serves Central NY farms and beyond, to hold a Manure Trucking and Handling Safety Workshop. This March 150 farm owners and employees attended to earn their CAFO certificate and hear best practices for being safe around enclosed spaces and manure gases.

- To Keep or Not to Keep: Dairy Welfare and Profitability Considerations.

We had a 7-week virtual workshop entitled, *To Keep or Not to Keep: Dairy Welfare and Profitability Considerations*, with 50 participants at each session with 350 contact hours. Two podcasts: The Cornell Cow Convos with 147 listeners and a special session with NYS Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Episode 21 with 54 listeners. These episodes can be found on Soundcloud. You can listen here:

[Cornell Cow Convos](#)

On the Horizon:

Field visits, School programs, Applied Research on-farm.

Camp Owahta

Kara McQuaid: Camp Director

Highlights:

- 178 registrations for campers (2024 YTD was 192).
- 450 campers expected this summer (2024 Total 465).
- 15 current staff members hired.

Current employment opportunities:

- 1 male counselor over 18 (looking internationally).
- 1 camp cook.
- 1 lifeguard (certified and over 21).

On the Horizon:

Bake Sale, May 17th 11-2 pm. We are currently accepting donations of board games, sports equipment, health supplies, costumes, and outdoor activity materials. This information is posted on our Facebook page, as well as a link to an Amazon wish list. Link: [Amazon Wish List](#)

Agricultural Team

Chelsea Jones: Agricultural Team Leader

Highlights:

- Ag Literacy Week, March 17-24th.

Cincinnatus, Homer, McGraw and Marathon schools participated. 523 Cortland County Students, grades 2-6, each FFA chapter read this year's book, "The Pie that Molly Grew" and assisted students in the "Plant a Pumpkin Seed" activity.

- 9th Annual Cortland County Agriculture Celebration Banquet, March 20th.

The Potter Family was chosen as the 2025 Cortland County Farm. Seven Valleys Health Coalition was chosen as the 2025 Cortland County Farm Bureau's Geraldine Young Friend of Agriculture Award Recipient.

- Master Gardener Volunteers.

Annual Plant Sale orders, pick-up will be Tuesday, May 14th at the Cortland County Fairgrounds. Perennial Plant Sale will be held in June, at the Cortland County Fairgrounds. The group hosted a well-attended houseplant workshop on February 22nd at Experience Cortland on Main Street.

- Presentation at the Cortland Community Service Club, Monday, March 24th.

Provided the presentation "CCE Cortland: Fostering Community Connections with Agriculture". This presentation gave an overview of CCE Cortland programmatic efforts, focusing on Ag and 4-H Livestock Programs. This club provides community grants for youth programs in the county. Cortland County 4-H Member, Reese Mills, attended the meeting and gave a speech about what 4-H projects she does and the impact the 4-H Program has had on her.

- 4-H Dairy Program Committee met to plan for Cortland County Junior Fair March 6th.
- CCE Cortland Ag Advisory Committee met March 10th.
- Attended Cortland Chamber of Commerce's Legislator Breakfast on March 14th.

On the Horizon:

- Ag-Stravaganza – Held at the Cortland County Fairgrounds June 4 & 5th.
- EZ Acres Dairy Farm Tour – Held at McMahon's EZ Acres June 11 & 12th.
- Interviewing for 4-H/Ag Educator Position.
- Master Gardeners April meeting is April 11th at 11am.
- Attending the Harold D. Craft Leadership Program, April 28 – May 2.

- HDCLP focuses on individuals as leaders, individual effectiveness, the power of dialogue and communication, personal mastery, & leadership within the Cornell culture (official description).

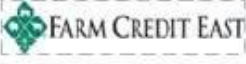


You are cordially invited to attend the
9th Annual
Cortland County Agriculture Celebration Banquet
*Bringing together agriculture, community and business to celebrate our
agricultural heritage and accomplishments*
Thursday, March 20, 2025

Hathaway House 6:30 p.m. ~ Cocktail Hour
Route 41, Solon 7:00 p.m. ~ Dinner ~ buffet
\$25 per person (by mail)

Featuring:
Annual Geraldine Young "Friend of Agriculture" Award and
Cortland County Farm Family Award

Presented by:
Cortland County Business Development Corporation
In partnership with:
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County
Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District
Cortland County Chamber of Commerce
USDA- Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Services Agency
Cortland County Farm Bureau



Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District

100 Grange Place, Room 202, Cortland, NY 13045

Phone: (607) 756-5991 Fax: (607) 756-0029

www.cortlandswcd.org

SWCD...established to promote the conservation and wise use of our county's natural resources

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT MONTHLY REPORT - April

From: Amanda Barber, SWCD Manager

April 3, 2025

AGRICULTURE AND PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION

Agricultural Nonpoint Abatement and Control Program (AGNP) –We continue engineering design work for numerous projects funded in Round 28 and 29. Quotes are being reviewed for four projects. These will be beginning construction early summer. We are scheduling another site showing for two more projects. The new wetlands regulations have created some confusion and potential delays with projects underway. We are working to navigate the new process. Federal funding for impacted projects has been restored or confirmed.

We are still waiting for announcement of Round 30 of the AGNP program.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) – We submitted a modification for our AEM Base Tier 4 program which was approved by the state. All three projects will be implemented this year.

Climate Resilient Farming – We continue to work on one Round 7 project design. It is a stream corridor stabilization project and expected to be installed this year. We have applied for the NYSDEC permit and continue the plans. One Round 8 forestry project is proposing an amendment. There has been no word from the state yet on how the USDA Climate Smart Commodities grant used to supplement state funds will impact our one soil health project funded from this round.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP) - We submitted the Plan of Work for both funded projects and are waiting for contracts. It's likely these projects will not be implemented until 2026.

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

Little York Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (LYLPRD) – We have received twenty responses to the survey. Weed harvesting is planned to start in early June. We will be collaborating with SUNY Cortland on a sediment study looking at inputs from Green Lake. We await the release of the WQIP grant RFP which may be a source of funding for some sediment removal.

Eastern Finger Lakes Watershed – We continue regular meetings of the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition. State funding is secure for year one of both capacity and implementation contracts, but until contracts are signed we are waiting on any activity.

We are working with County Highway to install live edge blades on plows used in the Finger Lakes watershed. We are waiting to get the revised drawings back from the culvert manufacturer.

Upper Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay Watershed –The culvert replacement and stream corridor stabilization projects at Fish Hill Rd and Irish Hill Rd continue. Fish Hill culvert sizing has been determined and once we have a draft design we will be able to apply for the permit. We have the permit for Irish Hill and will be meeting with highway personnel and landowners to schedule the project. We made a site visit to Ferber Road for a culvert washout. That project is on our list now for restoration in 2026.

The Trees for Tributaries Program provides free plants, materials, and technical support to aid in reforesting our streams. We have planned 6.4 acres of new buffers. We will be providing 1100 seedlings for planting at 13 sites in 2025.

We will continue boat stewarding at Tully and Little York Lakes this year and are in the process of hiring. We will also be doing education at Song Lake and Melody Lake.

Dry Hydrant – We are providing assistance to the McGraw Fire Department to obtain a permit for a dry hydrant in the town of Solon.

Stormwater Management and Erosion Control – We performed inspections for the City at the solar site off Huntington Street over the past several months. Now that the snow has melted we can see that the natural vegetation is still protecting much of the site and disturbance was minimal. Final seeding and permanent stabilization measures are expected to be installed in the next few weeks as the project is completed.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

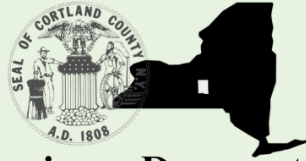
The Cortland County Envirothon will be May 6th. We currently have 8 teams registered from three schools. The State Envirothon will be May 28 and 29 at SUNY Cortland. They are looking for local volunteers for a variety of activities. If you have some time to help with a great event, contact SWCD for information.

Our 2025 Spring Planting Program is drawing to a close. Low-cost bare-root tree and shrub seedlings are available for purchase along with associated items such as flags, fertilizer tablets, stakes and protective tubes, and bird and bat habitat boxes.

The pond stocking program is ongoing. Rainbow trout, brook trout, largemouth bass, channel catfish, black crappie, hybrid bluegill/sunfish, sterile grass carp, fathead minnows, fish food and other pond supplies can now be ordered for private pond stocking. Visit our online store for trees, fish and other related conservation supplies. <https://cortlandsoilandwaterconservationdistrict.myshopify.com/>

ADMINISTRATION

We have a new Conservation Assistant starting June 2nd.



Planning Department April 2025

Administration

Education & Outreach

- Department of State Training for Local Officials – April 17th (Flyer attached)
- AWARDED – ARC CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT
- DOS Brownfield Grant Opportunity
- County Infrastructure Grant Program
- Major Website Updates: GML Guide Book, NYS Pro-Housing Information, E-911 Address's
- Presenter – Seven Valleys Health Coalition Annual Cortland Counts Community Forum
- Leadership Cortland Participation

Housing Study

- SUMMITTED - Cornell Design Connect Program – Grant Application
- Collaborating with BDC/IDA on internship with a Binghamton University student

Regional Partnerships

- *CNY Regional Planning Board*
 - Broadband update
- *Southern Tier 8 Regional Planning Board*
 - Sustainability Group
 - CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy)
 - Opportunity Zone Collaboration
 - ARC Grant Opportunity – Info Session (Flyer attached)

Snowmobile Grant

- 2024-2025 Phase 3 Submission deadline: May 31, 2025

GIS

Data & Mapping Projects

- Parcel Fabric – Designed and set up the 2024 parcel fabric in collaboration with the Real Property Department.
- Developers & Economic Growth Tool – Developed zoning district maps with associated allowable uses to support planning and development initiatives.
- Solar Project Mapping – Conducting research into effective methods for mapping and tracking solar projects across the county.
- Town of Cortlandville Comprehensive Plan Implementation – Provided GIS support to the Implementation Committee, including mapping for proposed Conservation Residential Zoning.
- City of Cortland & Village of Marathon Zoning Map amendments

Cortland County's ArcGIS Applications	Total views/usage
GIS Portal (Website Hub)	3731
Instant App (Parcel Viewer)	957
Workspace (Parcel Viewer)	730
The Role of Housing as a Key Focus Area (Story Map)	85
E-911 and Postal Addressing (Website Hub)	84
GML Tracking (Dashboard)	38
Potential Brownfield Sites (Dashboard)	35

Cortland County Planning Board

GML 239 Reviews:

- Staff Reports:
 - City of Cortland – Mountain Village LLC – Site Plan Review, Area Variance, & Special Use Permit to construct ancillary parking area.
 - City of Cortland – Patrick Omara – Special Use Permit to continue to use his two unit owner occupied residential structure as a short-term rental.
 - Village of Homer – Family Health Network of CNY - Bulk Variance to install building signage, & directional signage.
 - Town of Cortlandville – Endure Industries – Site Plan Review & Aquifer Protection District Special Permit to construct a warehouse to store medical products
 - Town of Cortlandville – Byrne Cortlandville LLC – Site Plan Review & Aquifer Protection District Special Permit to construct a 100,650 s.f production and warehouse space
- Return Letters for Local Determination:
 - 5 Return Letters sent to Municipalities

Mobility Management

Centro Operations – **LAUNCH DATE AND RIBBON CUTTING MARCH 31!!**

- Full, uninterrupted service across the county!
- Feedback so far

Travel Training

- Facilitated travel training sessions with community members
- Delivered an informational overview for county legislators to increase awareness and support
- Continue to advertise availability of training

Section 5311 Program

- Coordination with NYSDOT on prior funding allocations.
- Summited - 5311 Annual Report
- Submitted – 5311 Application

NADTC Grant Initiatives

- Hosted Community Conversations Events to gather feedback and discuss mobility needs
 - April 1st at Access to Independence
 - April 22nd at Village of Marathon's Civic Center
- Continued outreach efforts for NADTC Survey responses

Education & Outreach

- Presenter - USAging 50th Annual Conference
- Presenter – Seven Valleys Health Coalition Annual Cortland Counts Community Forum
- Several additional grant opportunities being pursued

OUR TEAM:



Trisha Hiemstra, PE
Director
of Planning



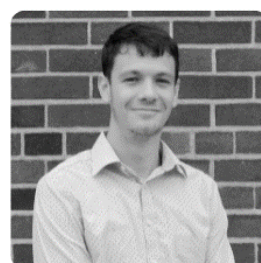
Melissa Potter, MPH
Mobility
Manager



Jessica Leet
Executive
Administrative Officer



Hank Day
Land Use
Planner



Chris Jankus
GIS
Specialist



Training for Local Officials - Thursday, April 17, 2025

Who should attend: Cortland Members of Planning Boards, Zoning Boards of Appeals, Elected Officials, Municipal Attorneys, Code/Zoning Enforcement Officers, and others are invited to attend these training sessions.

Training Credit: These sessions count towards the 4.0 mandatory NYS training hours for members of local planning boards and zoning boards of appeals (zba).

Location: Cortland County Office Building, 60 Central Avenue, Cortland – Auditorium
(Food and beverages will be provided)

SEQR: The Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) - 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM

1.5 Training Hours

The State Environmental Quality Review process is one about which there are wide misconceptions. To help clarify the role of SEQR for local review boards, this course takes a hypothetical site plan for a relatively small project through Parts 2 and 3 of the Short Environmental Assessment Form. A variety of scenarios that could result in a different outcome for the SEQR process will be discussed in the context of mitigating the potential impact of the project to the environment.

****15 minute refreshment break****

Comprehensive Planning - 6:45 PM – 8:15 PM

1.5 Training Hours

This session will include a discussion of the practical and legal benefits of adopting a comprehensive plan. Included are the importance of involving the public in the development of the plan—early on; strategies for compiling essential data to set the direction of the plan; plan contents; and steps leading to the adoption of a comprehensive plan. There will be a review of the comprehensive plan statutes as well.

Revising Zoning - 8:15 PM – 9:15 PM

1 Training Hours

This course asks when it is appropriate to update a municipality's zoning regulations, and what you should be looking at when you review them; the importance of the comprehensive plan; and procedures for the amendment of zoning laws and ordinances, including referral to the county planning board, public hearings, and filing requirements.

SPONSOR



Planning Department

Please Pre-Register:

Registration Link

<https://forms.gle/RrLhTGgWGCLdQ2kJ9>

Contact Cortland County at (607) 753-5043, or by email at planning@cortlandcountyny.gov





Turn your **economic development plan** into action! The Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Area Development Grant pre-application portal is now open—offering funding opportunities for **non-profits, educational institutions, economic development agencies and municipalities to strengthen communities, expand workforce capacity & plan your reconstruction projects**. Don't miss your chance to apply!

DEADLINE FOR PRE-APPLICATION: April 28, 2025 at 3pm

Southern Tier 8 Regional Board will be hosting **Appalachian Regional Commission Area Development Grant Opportunity Information Session** on **Friday, April 4th at 10am**. To explore investment opportunities through ARC, begin your pre-application, and sign-up for scheduled info sessions [REGISTER HERE](#).