



Ag, Planning & Environmental Committee

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045

Committee Meeting

<https://www.cortlandcountyny.gov>

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, August 14, 2025

10:00 AM

Room 302

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Chair of the Legislature Kevin Fitch

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	Excused	
Kevin Fitch	Cortland County	Chair of the Legislature	Present	
Ashley Millard	Cortland County	Deputy Clerk of the Legislature	Present	
Melissa Potter	Cortland County	Mobility Manager	Present	
Jessica Leet	Cortland County	Executive Administrative Assistant	Present	
Amanda Barber	Soil & Water Conservation District	District Manager	Present	
Rebecca Ireland-Perry	Cornell Cooperative Extension	4-H Team Leader	Present	
Ronald J. Van Dee	Cortland County	Legislator	Present	

MINUTES

1. Ag/Planning/Environmental - Committee Meeting - Jun 12, 2025 10:00 AM

RESULT: APPROVED

RESOLUTIONS

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Planning Department Monthly Report

RESULT: COMPLETED

2. Cornell Cooperative Extension Monthly Report

RESULT: COMPLETED

3. Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Report

RESULT: COMPLETED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 10:30 AM



Ag, Planning & Environmental Committee

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Cortland, NY 13045

Committee Meeting

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~ Minutes ~

Thursday, June 12, 2025

10:00 AM

Room 302

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Committee Chair Beau Harbin

Attendee Name	Organization	Title	Status	Arrived	Departed
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	Excused		
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		
Ronald J. Van Dee	Cortland County	Legislator	Present		
Morgan Spaulding	Cortland County	Grants Administrator	Present		
Melanie Vilardi	Cortland County BDC	Executive Director	Present		
Christopher Newell	Cortland County	Legislator	Present		
Trisha Hiemstra	Cortland County	Planning Director	Present		
Melissa Potter	Cortland County	Mobility Manager	Present		
Wendy Canfield	Cortland County	County Administrator Executive Assistant	Present		
Kelly Guy	Cornell Cooperative Extension	Executive Director	Present		
Scott Hourigan	Cortland County	GIS Planner	Present		
Kim Cameron	Cortland	Resident	Present		
Carol Costell Corbin	Cortland	Resident	Present		
Nicole Compton	Cortland County	Executive Assistant	Remote		
Andrea Herzog	Cortland County	Director of Finance	Remote		
Amanda Barber	Cortland County Soil and Water District	Director of Soil and Water	Remote	10:05 AM	10:34 AM
Jessica Leet	Cortland County	Executive Administrative Assistant	Remote	10:07 AM	

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 12, 2025 10:00 AM (MINUTES)

MINUTES

1. Ag/Planning/Environmental - Committee Meeting - May 8, 2025 10:00 AM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED
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RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – Opposing Senate Bill S6530 to Prohibit Permits for New or Expanding Large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 6/26/2025 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Reed Cleland, Committee Vice-Chair
SECONDER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
AYES:	Eccleston, Heider, McGovern, Prentice, Cleland, Harbin
EXCUSED:	Sandra Price

ON MOTION OF HARBIN**RESOLUTION NO.**

Opposing Senate Bill S6530 to Prohibit Permits for New or Expanding Large Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations

WHEREAS, June is Dairy Month in Cortland County and across New York, and it is a time for us to reflect to the many contributions of our dairy farms to our health, our communities, our economies and our families; AND

WHEREAS, New York State has a rich and diverse agricultural sector which produced over \$3.3 billion dollars in gross domestic product in 2021, with milk production ranking as the fifth highest of its forty-nine peers in the United States, according to the Office of the State Comptroller; AND

WHEREAS, Upstate New York is on the receiving end of several new major industries and important economic entities which are centered on dairy production; AND

WHEREAS, the New York State Farm Bureau holds all farmers and farm workers to very high standards in matters of public health, workplace safety, and environmental contamination; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County boasts an agricultural economy wherein dairy farmers generate \$41.7 million dollars in sales per year, according to a 2019 agricultural survey, with at least fourteen individual multigenerational family farms milking over nine-hundred cows every year; AND

WHEREAS, since the 1990s, Cortland County dairy farms have received over \$16 million dollars in direct payments from New York State, according to statistics from the Environmental Working Group; AND

WHEREAS, as recently as June 2025, four of these family dairy farms collectively received \$1.2 million dollars in state investment as part of the Dairy Modernization Grant program; AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County has experienced devastating losses in the number of dairy farms operating within its borders as a result of rising national costs in fertilizers, feed, labor, regulations, and other pressures; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature joins with the New York State Farm Bureau and the Northeast Dairy Producers' Association in expressing its opposition to Senate Bill S6530, which would introduce an arbitrary statewide limit of seven-hundred cows per farm; AND BE IT FURTHER

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 12, 2025 10:00 AM (MINUTES)

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be and hereby is directed to forward copies of this resolution to Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senator Lea Webb, Assemblymember Anna Kelles, Assemblymember Jeff Gallahan, the New York State Association of Counties, the New York State Farm Bureau, and the Northeast Dairy Producers' Association, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – Appoint Members - Cortland County Planning Board

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

Next: 6/26/2025 6:00 PM

MOVER: William McGovern, Committee Member

SECONDER: Paul Heider, Committee Member

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

EXCUSED: Sandra Price

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

Appoint Members - Cortland County Planning Board

WHEREAS, the term of Planning Board members expires on June 30, 2025; AND

WHEREAS, Article III, Section 3, Terms of Office of the Cortland County Planning Board Bylaws states each voting member shall be appointed by the Legislature for a term of four (4) years; AND

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 4, Vacancies of the Cortland County Planning Board Bylaws states vacancies in membership on the Board shall be filled by appointment by the Legislature in accordance with Section I, Article III of these Bylaws; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the following is hereby appointed to the Cortland County Planning Board for the term as provided below:

Name	Address	Municipality	Term Expiration
Chuck Feiszli	27 N. Church Street, Cortland, NY 13045	City of Cortland	6/30/2029
Amy Bertini	6174 Little York Road, Preble, NY 13141	Preble	6/30/2029

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – Appoint Members to the Transportation Advisory Committee

RESULT: **APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]**

Next: 6/26/2025 6:00 PM

MOVER: William McGovern, Committee Member

SECONDER: Jason Prentice, Committee Member

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

EXCUSED: Sandra Price

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

Appoint Members to the Transportation Advisory Committee

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 289-19 authorized the formalization of the Transportation Advisory Committee as a Citizen's Advisory Committee; AND

WHEREAS, the Transportation Advisory Committee, as a formal subcommittee of the Agriculture, Planning, and Environmental Committee, will consist of a membership from a wide variety

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 12, 2025 10:00 AM (MINUTES)

of community service agencies and government agencies; AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature approved changes to the Bylaws of the Transportation Advisory Committee, which include staggering terms of members; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature be and hereby appoints the following community service and government agency representatives, or their designee, to the Transportation Advisory Committee for a term beginning July 1, 2025 as follows:

NAME	AGENCY/CAPACITY	TERM ENDING
Bren Diass	Public Transportation Provider - Centro	Term/Ex-Officio
Olivia Prioli	Office for Aging	12/31/2025

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – Authorization to Apply for Department of State Brownfield Opportunity Area Grant - Planning Department

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
	Next: 6/26/2025 6:00 PM
MOVER:	Reed Cleland, Committee Vice-Chair
SECONDER:	Paul Heider, Committee Member
AYES:	Eccleston, Heider, McGovern, Prentice, Cleland, Harbin
EXCUSED:	Sandra Price

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

Authorization to Apply for Department of State Brownfield Opportunity Area Grant - Planning Department

WHEREAS, Cortland County Department of Planning herein called the "Applicant", after thorough consideration, has hereby determined that certain work, as described in its application and attachments, herein called the "Project", is desirable; AND

WHEREAS, §970-r of the General Municipal Law authorizes State assistance to eligible parties for Brownfield Opportunity Areas Program grants by means of a State Assistance Contract (the contract); AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County deems it to be in the public interest and benefit to enter into a contract therewith; NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Director of Planning is the representative authorized to act in behalf of all applicants in all matters related to State assistance under §970-r of the General Municipal Law for the Project. The representative is also authorized to: sign and submit the application; execute the contract; request payment advances and reimbursements; redistribute contract reimbursements as appropriate; submit Project documentation; and otherwise act for all applicants in all matters related to the Project and to State assistance; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that Cortland County intends to complete a Pre-Planning: Area-wide Brownfield Identification and Preliminary Analysis within and throughout Cortland County to identify concentrations of known or suspected brownfields and underutilized properties for future specific planning efforts; AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, if awarded the Brownfield Opportunity Grant, the County commits to (i) using the Grant funds to complete a Brownfield Opportunity Area project, and (ii) meeting the applicant's share of the total project cost using in-kind services as the local match.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Jun 12, 2025 10:00 AM (MINUTES)

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Cornell Cooperative Extension Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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2. Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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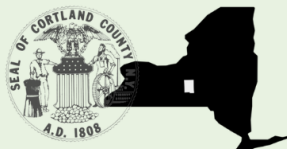
3. Planning Department Monthly Report

RESULT:	COMPLETED
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DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 10:58 AM



Planning Department August 2025

Administration

- Preparation & first draft of 2026 budget

Education & Outreach

- County-wide Task Force – Solar law Template
- DOS Brownfield Grant Opportunity
- County Infrastructure Grant Program
- Marathon NY Forward – LPC Meetings

Housing Study

- Collecting Data, organizing work group

Regional Partnerships

- CNY Regional Planning Board*
 -
- Southern Tier 8 Regional Planning Board*
 - Sustainability Group
 - Southern Tier LULA Workshop @ Greek Peak (45 participants from across the region)
 - CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy)
 - Housing

Snowmobile Grant

- 2025 – 2026 Phase 2 – Deadline September 1st

GIS

Cortland County's ArcGIS Applications	June Total views/usage	July Total views/usage
GIS Portal (Website Hub)	5213	5132
Instant App (Parcel Viewer)	1146	1158
Workspace (Parcel Viewer)	927	923
E-911 and Postal Addressing (Website Hub)	79	190
Solar Siting Buffer Map Tour	171	27
Abutter Map (Parcel Viewer Tool)	125	136
Formula Based Cortland Housing Condition Survey	38	

Data & Mapping Projects

- Online Parcel Viewer –
 - Update to 2025 Parcel information
 - Conservation Easement Layer now available
- Parcel Fabric – collaboration & training with the Real Property Department.
- County 2028 Legislature Map
- Office of Aging - County Road Map – Meals on Wheels
- City of Cortland Code Enforcement - Housing Condition Survey
- Health Department –
 - Recreational Opportunities: McGraw Map
 - "Beach Day" Vendor Map
- Town of Homer
 - Proposed Law for Billboard Siting Map
 - Zoning Map (Re-creation/Update)

Cortland County Planning Board

GML 239 Reviews (June & July)

- 14 Returned for local determination
- 11 Staff Reports:
 - City of Cortland
 - CNY Food Service – Site Plan Review & Area Variances
 - Centro of Cortland Inc. – Site Plan Review & Special Use Permit
 - CNY Food Service Group – Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit, Area Variances, & Bulk Variances
 - Chris Anderson – Area Variance & Bulk Variance
 - Peter Bennedy - Subdivision & Area Varaince
 - Town of Cortlandville
 - DG Riley Road, LLC – Conditional Permit, Aquifer Protection District Special Permit, & Site Plan Review
 - Crown City Solar 1,2 & 3 – Conditional Permit, Aquifer Protection District Special Permit, Developmental Permit & Site Plan Review
 - Town of Virgil
 - Michael Riksheim - Conditional Use Permit
 - Paul Smith - Conditional Permit
 - Village of Marathon – Valu-Auto LLC – Site Plan Review13 Return Letters for Local Determination
 - Village of Homer- Lauren Eadline - Site Plan Review

Mobility Management

Centro Operations

- Call-a-Bus rides are slowly increasing
- Veteran's Pass program is up and running
- Tentative September 8th Start Date at Grant

Travel Training

- Facilitated travel training sessions with community members

TAC - Connectivity Subcommittee

- Coordination with Health Department
- GIS Mapping, Walk Audits and Community Outreach

NADTC Grant Initiatives

- Hosted Free Community Conversations & Dinner **Flyer Attached**
- Presented at USAging 50th Annual Conference July 20th
- Drafting Mobility Accessibility Plan – 2026-2029
- August Presentation to NADTC in Chicago, IL – August 19-20th

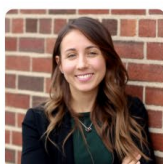
Education & Outreach

- NEW Way2Go Cortland Mobility Management Brochure **Attached**
- NEW Mobility Meet-ups Program **Flyer Attached**
 - July 16th, July 30th , & August 28th at Friendship House
 - August 14th (42 Church), August 25th (52 Port Watson), August 27th (Marathon) – Cortland Housing Authority
- Access to Independence ADA Event – July 26th
- National Night Out – August 5th
- Community Beach Party – August 7th
- Senior News Article

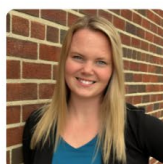
OUR TEAM:



Trisha Hiemstra, PE
Director
of Planning



Melissa Potter, MPH
Executive
Manager



Jessica Leet
Executive
Administrative Officer



Hank Day
Land Use
Planner



Chris Jankus
GIS
Planner



Scott Hourigan
GIS
Planner



Lillian
Mob
Coord

JOIN US FOR A Dinner & Community Conversation



Come explore the key transportation gaps and barriers identified in the Cortland County Mobility & Accessibility Plan and review the strategic priorities and solutions designed to improve access for all residents.

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Cortland Elks Lodge
9 Groton Ave, Cortland, NY 13045
August 26, 2025
5:00PM–7:00PM

Free dinner and gift card raffle!

TO REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT

Cortland County Mobility Management by Monday, August 18th
 mobility@cortlandcountyny.gov
 Melissa Potter (607)756-3416 or Lillian Jensen (607)756-5569
 RSVP Form – <https://forms.gle/3dK7bZfPpnh7ueiy8>



GO

CORTLAND



Office of Mobility Management Offers:

Travel Training

Trip Planning

Mobility
Meet Ups

Outreach &
Education

Transportation
Assistance Program

Mobility Hub

Attachment: Cortland County Planning Department Activity Report - August (13182 : Planning

**Visit our website
Discover your
transportation options
more**



Way2GoCortland.Org



**Melissa Potter -
Mobility Manager
(607) 756-3416**



**Lillian Jensen -
Mobility Coordinator
(607) 765-5569**

Attachment: Cortland County Planning Department Activity Report - August (13182 : Planning



Mobility@Cortlandcountyny.g



NOW OFFERS:

MOBILITY MEET UPS

See Schedule
Attached

Do you have Questions about Local Transportation options?

Join us for a brief transportation information
session & conversation

Topics Covered:

- Centro's Bus Routes & Maps
- Volunteer Driver Programs
- Age Well Center & Bus
- Centro's Call-A-Bus
- 1115 Waiver
- MAS Medicaid rides



Contact us
Mobility@cortlandcountyny.gov

Website
Way2gocortland.org



Packet Pg. 13

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County

Kelly Guy: Executive Director

Highlights:

- Meeting with Tom Dumas former CCE Director, to discuss ideas and future enhancements to 4-H Camp Owahta
- Attended the Economic Development Training to learn about statewide funding resources
- Met with Sherwin Williams Representative, Martin Stark to discuss Camp improvements including roof repair that will be donated by SW
- McGrath Contracting Services will be doing work on the mess hall roof as well as replacing doors and cutting down trees on the trails, as volunteered time.
- Met with Big Easy Stables owner Sara Potter to discuss horse programming for 4-H and Camp
- Met with Chauncy “Tink” Bennett to discuss program for 4-H shooting sports
- Trained Camp counselors on legal policies and child development and behavior management
- Partnership meeting for Farm to School Grant with state-wide representative
- Spent the week at Junior County Fair and met with many 4-H families and discussed changes/updates to 4-H programming including digital paperwork, communication, scheduling and volunteer opportunities
- While at the fair, I met with Senator Lea Webb, toured her around the Fairgrounds and spoke about funding and grant work
- Attended a Pasture Walk at Ironsides Grazing to learn about livestock movement and invasive weed management

On the Horizon: Camp Owahta Renaissance Week Day August 14th, Meet with Homer Superintendent to discuss Farm to School Grant Opportunities, Meet with CNY Community Fund to discuss special project, Grant to Department of Environment for Blocks in Bloom 3-year program funding for Horticulture

South Central Dairy and Field Crop Program

Janice Degni: Regional Field Crops Specialist, Betsy Hicks: Regional Dairy Specialist

Highlights:

- Summer intern, Evelyn Kermanc helped with dairy shows
- Display on Poisonous Plants in Pastures for the Broome County Fair
- A display explaining forage quality and hay sampling procedures for the Chemung County Fair
- Helping to connect agriculture to our food, we had hundreds of participants make butter from heavy cream at the Chemung and Tioga County fairs.

- We have planned a pasture walk in each of our counties this summer. We held a walk focused on beef cows and pasture management on the border of Cayuga and Cortland Counties on June 30th with farm host Jeanne White, manager and Phil Paradis, Manager at their Simme Valley Farm. Jeanne and Phil provided an overview of their farm, herd and pasture system. Participants walked through several paddocks. Adam Murray, Beef Specialist with the Cornell Pro-Livestock Team talked about maintaining grass production in pasture, vaccination protocols ahead of marketing calves
- Mike Quinlin in Cortland County hosted a pasture walk at the farm where he rents pasture and custom grazes a beef herd. Mike manages pasture to maximize the production of both the animals and pasture species. By managing the grazing of his herd through mob grazing, providing smaller paddocks to a mob of animals to eat down some less desirable pasture species, to larger swaths of ground to take advantage of abundant forage. He demonstrated how he manages the herd according to the conditions.
- A Tompkins County PW will feature a sheep flock at Laughing Goat Fiber Farm on August 14.
- The Broome County PW will address the challenges that horses present on pasture and its maintenance on September 11. Chemung County will feature a small beef herd grazing 17 acres and will include handling systems and an improved feeding pad for supplementation on September 10.
- We use pasture walks as an engaging way to teach principles of pasture management to optimize production from them. Pastures are known for providing low cost feeding models for hands-on activities, youth learn to care for dairy animals. Engaging youth in animal care and providing safe, hands-on learning is key to the dairy industry's future.

On the Horizon: Tompkins County PW will feature a sheep flock at Laughing Goat Fiber Farm on August 14. The Broome County PW will address the challenges that horses present on pasture and its maintenance on September 11. Chemung County will feature a small beef herd grazing 17 acres and will include handling systems and an improved feeding pad for supplementation on September 10.

Camp Owahta

Kara McQuaid: Camp Director

Highlights:

- We have completed 4 full weeks of camp including Klondike Gold Rush, Christmas in July, Camp Competition, and The Boys and The Girls. The highlight was definitely the last day of Camp Competition week where the green team swept the swimming relays!
- Pottery, Ceramics, and Campfire Songs was added to the schedule this summer once we got our kiln in working order! Campers love learning to do ceramics.

- SPLAT! Sumthin', Lee Miller (animal rehabilitator), and Lynn Koch (retired music teacher) joined us for fun activities at camp. Campers really enjoyed their presentations and learned a lot!

On the Horizon: We have three weeks of camp left- Survival Week, Renaissance Week, and Olympic Week. Follow us on Facebook if you don't already!

Agricultural Team

Chelsea Jones: Agricultural Team Leader, Kayla Barry: Horticulture, Direct Market Educator

Highlights:

- Approximately 150 youth participated in this year's fair.
- The 4-H Market Sale raised just under \$2,500 to support youth livestock programs. These funds help improve facilities and purchase educational equipment.
- Dairy cattle showmanship continues to be a high honor – this year's Master Showman was Christopher Slade; Reserve Master Showman was Kenzie Gilbert
- Senator Lea Webb attended the fair, delivering a short speech, engaging with youth, volunteers and farmers, and viewed 4-H projects
- Participated in Holiday in Homer, focusing on pollinator education
- A caterpillar microscope activity was a major hit with kids, and adults!
- Master Gardeners also provided gardening information and shared information about the Master Gardener program with the community
- 10 local beef and sheep producers participated in a pasture walk led by Mike Quinlan
- Key topics included pasture management and mob grazing strategies

On the Horizon: 4-H Youth are preparing entries for the New York State Fair, Master Gardener monthly meeting is August 8th, on August 13, the Syracuse Rotary will bring a student group to EZ Acres in Homer for a tour and agricultural experience. New York State Fair starts August 20th – keep an eye out for Cortland County 4-H Members and their projects!

4- H Team

Rebecca Ireland-Perry: 4-H Team Leader, Abby Thomas: 4-H/Agriculture Educator

Highlights:

- Outstanding Youth Participation: Over 150 4-H members participated in a wide variety of events and exhibits, including livestock shows, project exhibits, and creative arts. Each project displayed the dedication and personal growth that 4-H aims to instill in youth.

- **Animal Shows and Auctions:** The livestock shows were a major highlight, with strong turnout in categories including cattle, swine, sheep, goats, rabbits, and poultry. The Livestock Auction drew strong community support and raised significant funds for participating youth.
- **Exhibits and Projects:** Hundreds of exhibits were on display, from sewing and photography to woodworking and horticulture. Judging was conducted by local volunteers who provided helpful feedback and encouragement to all participants.
- **Volunteer and Community Engagement:** This year's fair would not have been possible without the efforts of numerous volunteers, including parents, club leaders, alumni, and local businesses. Their time and energy helped make the fair a safe, welcoming, and enriching experience for everyone involved.
- **Special Events and Fun Activities:** Highlights included the dairy cattle clipping contest, animal costume contest, Jr Iron Chef contest, Grand Master Showman contest, and many other special 4-H and FFA contests on Saturday. These events helped build camaraderie and created lasting memories for both youth and families.
- Numerous awards and ribbons were presented throughout the fair, recognizing excellence in project work, showmanship, citizenship, and leadership. A full list of winners will be available in our next Clover Dispatch and highlighted on our Facebook page.

On the Horizon: With this year's fair behind us, planning has already begun for 2026! We're excited to build on this year's success and continue offering opportunities for youth to Learn by Doing.



Holiday in Homer



Girls @ Camp Owahta



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 - August

From: Amanda Barber, SWCD Manager

August 6, 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, with construction underway for several more projects. The Ullrich, Bean, Randall and Ruschmann projects are under construction.

Round 30 of the AGNP program was ranked and three of our four applications will be funded. A press conference is being scheduled for the statewide announcement at one of our farms. Details are forthcoming.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) – Two projects that will be funded with AEM Base support are underway. The Tuning project has started construction while Whey St Dairy has held a preconstruction meeting and work is imminent.

Climate Resilient Farming – The Hunts Creek/Parker project is complete. Final site stabilization is underway. Next steps will be final survey and as-built documentation. Once complete we will close out the grant. Design and coordination of several other projects are underway - two silage leachate control and irrigation, two ponds and two tree planting projects are progressing. All contracts have been executed with the state, except for the one Round 8 project that was awarded federal funds which were cancelled. The state is trying to secure other state funds to replace the federal funds. The Round 9 RFP is expected to be released soon.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP) – We have executed contracts for both of these projects. Engineering is underway, but they will not be implemented until 2026.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Ag Program – I will be attending a Chesapeake Bay Program Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting on August 28th in Gettysburg.

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

Little York Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (LYLPRD) – The sediment traps have been installed in the lake. We are collaborating with David Barclay, SUNY Cortland, on the project.

Boat stewarding continues at Skaneateles, Tully and Little York Lakes. Please let us know if you are aware of a public event where a steward could table to educate about AIS spread prevention.

Attachment: SWCD update 8 2025 (13181 : SWCD Monthly Report)



Aquatic vegetation harvesting continues. After about two weeks on Little York Lake, we have been working on Tully Lake for the last few weeks. We will be moving back to Little York Lake again soon.

Upper Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay Watershed – Work on the culvert replacement and stream corridor stabilization projects continues. The emergency work in McGraw was completed last month and SWCD will use state special project funding to reimburse the Village for the materials. The Irish Hill Rd culvert replacement in Freetown is nearly complete. Due to the size of the structure and challenges with the site, a crane was used to set the pipe. This project involved the assistance of several communities and was a truly collaborative effort. The Fish Hill Rd project has been postponed until 2026 to allow for procurement of the large concrete box culvert. The Ferber Rd culvert replacement project design is complete and a date for implementation has not been set. We have begun Owego Creek watershed, stream and culvert assessment work.

Fingerlakes Watershed – County Highway has begun work on the new Grout Brook culvert near Grinnell Rd. This is a major project which will also involve crane placement of the concrete culvert sections. This project will close out our Skaneateles Lake watershed WQIP grant.

The Grout Brook watershed and stream assessment project is well underway. A public meeting was held at the Scott Methodist Church on July 9th with 10 attendees. We have assessed about 9 miles of stream for areas of erosion and stormwater capacity concerns to identify potential project locations for streambank stabilization and buffers. We are now working on mapping, watershed assessment, and background data collection.

Stormwater Management – Approximately 70% of annual report forms have been submitted for stormwater management facilities in the Town of Cortlandville. We are now scheduling inspections for roughly one-third of the systems.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

Conservation Field Days will be September 25-26, 2025. All local schools are welcome to attend with sixth grade students.

The 29th Annual River Cleanup will be September 20th. Groups should sign up to clean their local waterbody. SWCD provides bags and gloves, as well as disposing of the refuse collected.