



Ag, Planning & Environmental Committee

60 Central Ave.
Cortland, NY 13045

<https://www.cortlandcountyny.gov>

Committee Meeting

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, September 11, 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
Mitchel Eccleston	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
Paul Heider	Cortland County	Committee Member	Present	
William McGovern	Cortland County	Committee Member	Late	10:12 AM
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	
Wendy Canfield	Cortland County	County Administrator Executive Assistant	Present	
Christopher Newell	Cortland County	Legislator	Present	
Ronald J. Van Dee	Cortland County	Legislator	Present	
Morgan Spaulding	Cortland County	Grants Administrator	Present	
Melissa Potter	Cortland County	Mobility Manager	Present	
Jessica Leet	Cortland County	Executive Administrative Assistant	Present	
Kelly Guy	Cornell Cooperative Extension	Executive Director	Present	
Amanda Barber	Soil & Water Conservation District	District Manager	Present	
Kim Cameron	Cortland	Resident	Present	
Nicole Compton	Cortland County	Executive Assistant	Remote	
Andrea Herzog	Cortland County	Director of Finance	Remote	
Lillian Jensen	Cortland County	Mobility Coordinator	Remote	

MINUTES

1. Ag/Planning/Environmental - Committee Meeting - Aug 14, 2025 10:00 AM

RESULT: APPROVED

RESOLUTIONS

MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Cornell Cooperative Extension Monthly Report

RESULT: COMPLETED

2. Soil & Water Conservation District Monthly Report

RESULT: COMPLETED

3. Planning Monthly Report

RESULT: COMPLETED

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 10:34 AM



Ag, Planning & Environmental Committee

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~ Minutes ~

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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

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 14, 2025 10:00 AM (MINUTES)

Cornell Cooperative Extension of Cortland County

Kelly Guy: Executive Director

Highlights:

- Meeting with many insurance agents and contractors for repairs and plans for 4-H Camp Owahta
- Cortland Breakfast Rotary Presentation

On the Horizon: Executive Leadership Conference at Cornell University, Camp Directors Meeting in Fabius NY, 4-H New York State Annual Conference, Conservation Field Days, Grange Wellness Day, She Rises Summit at Greek Peak.

South Central Dairy and Field Crop Program

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

Highlights:

- Youth workshops provide hands-on livestock skills training with Betsy Hicks
 - Providing youth opportunities to improve their livestock handling skills can be challenging, especially with young kids, or with skills like ear tagging and giving injections. Teaming up with our county associations' 4-H, Betsy has been able to work with youth this spring to provide hands-on trainings with the calf model.
 - Using the model is ideal, as kids can practice as many times as they want without the fear of the animal reacting to the injection, or hurting the animal if they do it incorrectly.
- Betsy offered Maternity Trainings for Native Spanish-Speaking Dairy Farm Employees.
 - Dystocia, or difficult calvings, are not an uncommon occurrence on dairy farms. However, their incidence is never known ahead of time, making it difficult for farm owners and managers to provide on-farm trainings with adequate time for the employee to learn without putting the health of the calf or cow in jeopardy. The finer details of the calving process and explaining potential mishaps during calving can be difficult for native English-speaking owners and managers to translate to a native Spanish-speaking workforce.
 - CCE dairy educators Betsy Hicks and Daniela Gonzalez teamed up a number of times this year to provide education around maternity care in Spanish, utilizing an interactive slide presentation and lots of discussion around the farm's protocols, and the "why" behind the action needed.
 - The maternity model known as "Birtha", provides hands-on learning, and challenges participants to correct a malpresentation of a calf to successfully

deliver the calf. Those watching can look inside Birtha to see how the calf is positioned and see how the “birther” is manipulating the calf to correct the position

- Janice Degni coordinated Statewide Collaborative Field Trials to Assess Risk from Early Season Crop Pests
 - The 2025 growing season marks the beginning of a 3-year collaborative project with the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, the NYS IPM program and ten CCE crop specialists. The project will assess risk by comparing early-season pest abundance and damage in neonicotinoid-treated and untreated seeds in field and vegetable crops in New York State
- Janice also coordinated on-farm research to help farmers better understand the POWER OF MANURE.
 - This study is collecting data to help us learn: ♠How much N can my soil provide? ♠How does past manure applications and management impact soil N supply? ♠Can microbial biomass predict soil N supply?
 - Nitrogen is our most important nutrient for increasing yield in grass plants, both hay crop and corn. It is also an expensive nutrient, with prices fluctuating with energy markets in addition to supply and demand. Soil N supply can be impacted by field management (manure, cover crops, rotation, etc.).
- 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: September pasture walks will address the challenges that horses present on pasture and their maintenance on September 10 in Whitney Point. 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 11. Fall farm tours are planned to highlight new technologies, farm-to-farm cooperation and management practices.

Camp Owahta

Kara McQuaid: Camp Director

Highlights:

- Week 5 and 6 of camp were fantastic. The weather was great, and campers enjoyed campouts in the woods, and a visit to the Binghamton Rumble Ponies Baseball Game. We also had a visit from nutritionists from the SNAP ED program who made yummy smoothies and used our garden to make mozzarella, basil and tomato snacks.
- The end of the summer did not go as planned, with the fire destroying the arts and crafts building. Luckily no campers were on sight and the local fire departments contained the fire to only one building.

On the Horizon: October 18th Fundraiser please consider joining us for this dinner and silent auction and BINGO fundraiser! Thank you!

Horticulture Team

Kayla Barry: Horticulture Educator

Highlights:

- Foodpreneur Forum at SUNY Morrisville on August 5. The forum showcased their new commercial kitchen (similar to our FMPP grant project) and provided a chance to connect with Madison and Broome CCE colleagues who also manage commercial kitchens.
- Master Gardeners met at Kathy Taylor's home on August 8. During the meeting, Chelsea shared that she will be moving into a new position, and I will now serve as the coordinator for the MGVS program.
- On August 13, the Syracuse Inner City Rotary Club visited EZ Acres for a tour and agricultural experience. The youth participants had a great time engaging with farm life.
- Represented CCE Cortland at the Cortland County Senior Services Fair on August 14, sharing program information and promoting upcoming fundraisers.
- 4-H exhibits to the NYS Fair: setup on August 19, horticulture evaluation on August 20–21 and August 29, and exhibit return on September 2.
- Set up Square payment processing for the 4-H Camp Owahta Brunch fundraiser at the fairgrounds on August 23.
- Met with Ashley Helmholdt, Extension Associate for the Cornell Garden-Based Learning Program, on August 26. She provided guidance and resources for organizing MGVS trainings, including outlines, online versions, and past recordings.
- Participated in the Cornell Garden-Based Learning Coffee Chats Zoom on August 28. I introduced myself to other MGVS Coordinators and learned about successful programs in the Southern Tier. They will be launching a multi-county MGVS training in September, and I plan to attend as many hands-on activity days as possible to gather ideas for our future trainings.

On the Horizon: Meeting with Kelly Campbell (Volunteer Engagement Specialist) on September 3, meeting with Martin Stark from Sherwin-Williams on September 5 to discuss marketing, Master Gardener monthly meeting on September 12, MGVS presence at Hollenbeck's opening weekend on September 20, Conservation Field Days on September 25–26, where Abby and I will teach 6th graders about pollinators.

4- H Team

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

Highlights:

August:

- State Fair:
 - For the 4-H exhibits in the 4-H building, our Cortland County 4-H youth did an incredible job-- they received primarily blue ribbons, and 3 purple rosettes for Outstanding Exhibits. You can view the exhibits on our Facebook page.
 - There were youth showing animals in: beef, dairy cattle, and poultry. Results we have so far:
 - Contest results:

Dairy Challenge:

- Juniors – Individual placings: Isabella 5th, Johnathan 8th, Giulietta 14th, Lillian 27th.
- Seniors – 1st place team – Adelyn 2nd, Jillian 4th, Everett 7th, Eli 14th. Adelyn and Jillian will be going on to the national contest in Harrisburg.

Dairy Judging –first round

- Junior -Individual placings – Johnathan 33rd, Sadie 34th, Luke 42nd, Giulietta 43rd, Kiernan 44th, Lillian 47th.
- Senior- 3rd place team –Maci 4th, Addison 8th, Everett 13th, Lexi 21st, Savannah 22nd, Gwen 31st, Kayla 33rd
- Oral reasons placement: Maci 3rd, Addison 9th, Everett 10th

Dairy Judging—final round

- Individual placings: Everett 11th, Lexi 17th, Savannah 18th. Everett will be going on to the national contest in Harrisburg.
- On August 13, hosted the Syracuse Inner City Rotary at EZ Acres for a farm tour, where 25 kids learned about the operations of a dairy farm.
- Developed three agriculture lesson plans for the upcoming school year to present to second graders in Homer schools, covering honey, maple syrup, and gardening.
- Supported youth participation at the State Fair by helping organize project entries, coaching a 4-H Dairy Challenge team (with two youth advancing to nationals), and

coaching a 4-H Dairy Judging team (with members moving on to the next level of competition).

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. Preparing to teach 500 sixth graders about pollination and the importance of bees during Conservation Field Days on September 25 and 26.

Update from International Dairy Competition Team!

The team of four from New York, including Elsie Donlick traveled to Scotland in July of this year to attend the International Dairy Judging Competition in Scotland. Elsie and her teammates placed Third in competition! The experience was vastly different than what she has ever experienced here in the United States but so rewarding and amazing! She loved the different look of cows there, the variety and languages she heard, and the translators used at each judging station, as well as the colors and sights at each station as they visited the farms and international food booths. She particularly liked the fresh "veg" offered at every meal and the breakfast tea. She wanted to thank the County Legislators again for supporting Cornell Cooperative Extension, and their help in guiding her through such a wonderful program that allowed her the life changing experience. She is back at SUNY Cobleskill for her Sophomore year and feels more confident and prepared to take on her future in an agriculture career now with her international Dairy experience.





**CCE Cortland's
Big Night Out!**

Dinner • Music • Bingo • Silent Auction

OCTOBER 18TH, 2025
5:30 PM – 8:00 PM
@COUNTRY MUSIC PARK

**OUR BIG NIGHT OUT
WITH A BIG MISSION:
REBUILD CAMP OWAHTA!**

ADULTS: \$23
YOUTH (6-13): \$15
UNDER 5: FREE
(TICKETS INCLUDE 1 FREE BINGO GAME!)

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT
4-H CAMP OWAHTA**

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Performance by local musician
Tink Bennett of TAILOR MADE! ✓
- Enjoy a hearty pasta buffet
and a cash bar at the event. ✓
- Place bids on exciting items
and play Bingo to win prizes! ✓

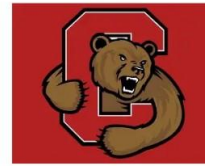
PAY FOR TICKETS HERE!



Cornell Cooperative Extension | Cortland County

Our Annual Meeting will take place from 5:30–6:00.
Learn more about our programming for 2026!
WEB SITE: www.cortland.cce.cornell.edu

Thank you to our first business sponsors of 4-H 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 - September

From: Amanda Barber, SWCD Manager

September 4, 2025

AGRICULTURE AND PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION

Agricultural Nonpoint Abatement and Control Program (AGNP) –Construction inspections and project oversight continues for the Ullrich, Bean, and Randall projects. Site visits can be coordinated for individuals interested in learning more about the projects.

The statewide announcement for Round 30 of the AGNP program will be held on September 29th at the VanPatten Farm in Preble. Invitations and details are forthcoming from the Department of Ag and Markets.

Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) – Construction inspections and oversight are ongoing for the Tuning heavy use area protection and waste storage project. Whey Street Dairy construction is imminent

Climate Resilient Farming – Design and coordination of several projects are underway - two silage leachate control and irrigation, two ponds and two tree planting projects are progressing. The one Round 8 project that was awarded federal funds which were cancelled has been funded with state funds instead, and contracting is underway. The Round 9 RFP is expected to be released soon.

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Enhanced Nutrient and Methane Management Program (CAFO ENMP) – Project coordination and engineering are underway.

Chesapeake Bay Watershed Ag Program – I attended the Chesapeake Bay Program Agriculture Advisory Committee meeting and continue to participate in the Agriculture Workgroup. With the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement, engagement with agricultural producers and landowners in the watershed has a renewed focus. There is still much work to be done to meet the water quality goals for the Bay.

Cover crop incentive funding is available in both the Chesapeake Bay watershed and Finger Lakes watershed. Producers should contact the office to sign up.

Wetlands enhancement and creation work was completed on three privately-owned properties in Cortland County. Two projects were in the Finger Lakes watershed and one in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Vernal pools and potholes were constructed to diversify and enhance habitat on these properties. The wetlands will also provide stormwater retention on the landscape and water quality benefits in the watershed.

Attachment: SWCD update 9 2025 (13255 : SWCD Monthly Report)

COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING

Little York Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (LYLPRD) – The sediment traps have been redeployed in the lake after some damage and subsequent design modifications.

Boat stewarding for aquatic invasive species spread prevention and education will be concluding soon.

Aquatic vegetation harvesting wrapped up on Little York Lake in August. We will be winterizing the harvester for storage and are looking forward to getting started again next June. Data and statistics are being tabulated for this year's efforts and we will be meeting with both Tully Lake and Little York Lake associations to review.

Upper Susquehanna and Chesapeake Bay Watershed –The Irish Hill Rd culvert replacement in Freetown is completed.

We have begun the Owego Creek watershed stream and culvert assessment work. A community meeting was held for landowners and we will soon begin walking streams doing the stream corridor assessment work. Road/stream crossing (culvert and bridge) assessment has already begun.

Finger Lakes Watershed – County Highway continues work on the new Grout Brook culvert near Grinnell Rd.

Field work for our Grout Brook watershed and stream assessment project is nearly complete. We will continue work on mapping, planning/design, and background data collection into the fall as we assess areas of erosion and stormwater capacity concerns for future projects.

Stormwater Management – Approximately 85% of annual report forms have been submitted for stormwater management facilities in the Town of Cortlandville. We will be collecting all but two when we perform field inspections. Field inspections are performed for one-third of the systems annually and will be completed by the end of this month.

Landfill Environmental Monitoring - Quarter 3 field work was completed, except for gas monitoring. Equipment issues prevented that work from being done when water quality samples were collected, but it will be completed before the end of the quarter.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

The NYS Fair Conservation District booth was staffed by Cortland personnel one day, in spite of the stormy weather! People seemed genuinely interested in learning about the work of conservation districts.

Conservation Field Days will be September 25-26, 2025. We are expecting over a dozen classes each day with over 400 sixth graders in total attending.

The **Annual River Cleanup** will be September 20th. Groups can sign up to clean their local waterbody, shoreline, streamside, etc. SWCD provides bags and gloves, as well as disposing of the refuse collected. Check out our website www.cortlandswcd.org or call the office at (607) 756-5991 for more information.

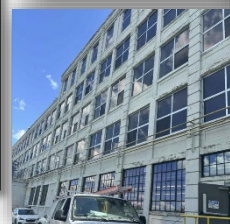
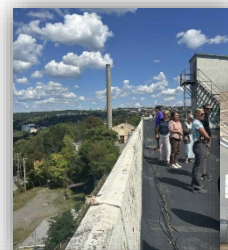
ACTIVITY REPORT



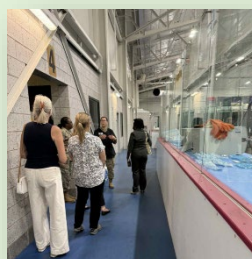
Planning Department
September 2025

Administration

Education & Outreach



Municipal Solar Law Template

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Grants & Initiatives

- DOS Brownfield Grant Opportunity
- County Infrastructure Grant Program
- ARC Partnerships for Opportunity & Workforce & Economic Revitalization (POWER)
- Marathon NY Forward – LPC Meetings

Regional Partnerships



- Clean Energy Programs
- Vacant Rental Properties (VRP)
- Broadband Project





- Sustainability Group
- CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy)
- Housing Initiatives
- LULA Workshop @ Greek Peak (45 participants from across the region)



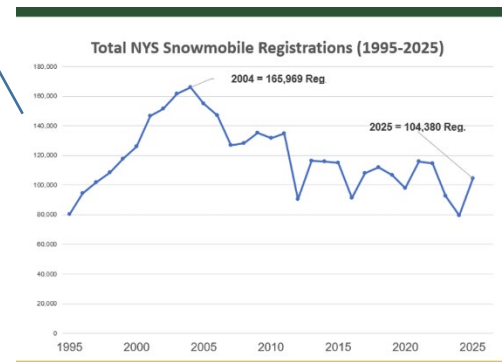
Snowmobile Grant



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

- ✓ 2025 – 2026 Phase 2 – Submitted
- Phase 3 – Ongoing review of monthly expenditures for the 2025–2026 season

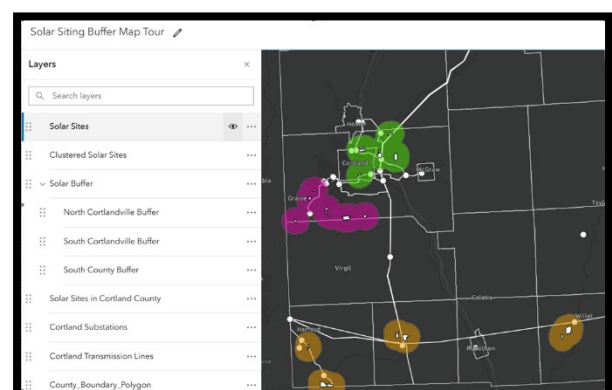
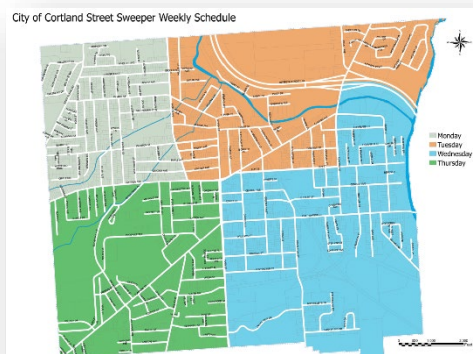
Historical
trends &
2025 rise



GIS

Cortland County's ArcGIS Applications	June Total views/usage	July Total views/usage	August Total views/usage
GIS Portal (Website Hub)	5213	5132	5731
Instant App (Parcel Viewer)	1146	1158	1210
Workspace (Parcel Viewer)	927	923	890
E-911 and Postal Addressing (Website Hub)	79	190	103
Solar Mapping (Siting buffer map tour, view shed)	171	27	6 – under construction
Abutter Map (Parcel Viewer Tool)	125	136	58
McGraw Recreational Opportunities (Web Map)	N/A	N/A	139

Featured Map Requests:



Cortland County Planning Board

GML 239 Reviews (June & July)

- 8 Returned for local determination
- 5 Staff Reports

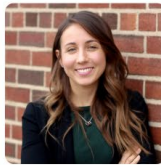
Mobility Management

- ❖ Centro Operations
 - Full, uninterrupted service
 - Moved into Grant Street – September 8th
 - First Veterans Event in August – Free Veterans Pass
- ❖ Travel Training
 - Facilitated travel training sessions with community members
 - Continue to advertise availability of training
- ❖ TAC - Connectivity Subcommittee
 - Coordination with Health Department – Walk Audits
 - Sidewalk Inventory and GIS Mapping – Mid September
- ❖ NADTC Grant Initiatives
 - Community Conversation Dinner Event – 20 Participants
 - Finalizing and closing out NADTC Grant
 - Finalizing the Cortland County Mobility and Accessibility Plan – 2026-2029
- ❖ Education & Outreach
 - Mobility Meet-ups Program
 - Completed 8 meet-ups and has 42 participants
 - Month of September – 8 Mobility Meet-Up Events
 - Homer Central Schools Open House Events – September 4th and September 11th
 - Office For Aging – Senior Newsletter

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
Planner



Scott Hourigan
GIS
Planner



Lillian Jensen
Mobility
Coordinator



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. 16