



# AG/Planning/Environmental

## Committee Meeting

60 Central Ave.  
Cortland, NY 13045  
<http://www.cortland-co.org>

~ Minutes ~

Thursday, October 12, 2023

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 |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Douglas Bentley    | Cortland County, NY                                | Committee Vice Chair                              | Present |         |          |
| Beau Harbin        | Cortland County, NY                                | Committee Chair                                   | Present |         |          |
| Ronald J. Van Dee  | Cortland County, NY                                | Committee Member                                  | Present |         |          |
| Paul Heider        | Cortland County, NY                                | Committee Member                                  | Present |         |          |
| Cathy Bischoff     | Cortland County, NY                                | Committee Member                                  | Present |         |          |
| Susan Wilson       | Cortland County, NY                                | Committee Member                                  | Present |         | 11:02 AM |
| Mitchel Eccleston  | Cortland County, NY                                | Committee Member                                  | Present |         |          |
| Kevin Fitch        | Cortland County, NY                                | Chair of the Legislature                          | Present |         |          |
| Savannah Hempstead | Cortland County, NY                                | Clerk of the Legislature                          | Present |         |          |
| Sandra Price       | Cortland County, NY                                | Board Member                                      | Present |         |          |
| Kim Cameron        | Cortland County, NY                                | Planning Board Member                             | Present |         |          |
| Amanda Barber      | Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District | Executive Director                                | Present |         |          |
| Trisha Hiemstra    | Cortland County, NY                                | Director of Planning                              | Remote  |         |          |
| David Rutherford   | Cortland County, NY                                | Executive Director, Cornell Cooperative Extension | Remote  |         |          |
| Margaret Mellott   | Cortland Standard                                  | Reporter                                          | Remote  |         |          |
| Andrea Herzog      | Cortland County, NY                                | Director of Finance                               | Remote  |         |          |
| Eddie Velazquez    | Cortland Voice                                     | Reporter                                          | Remote  |         |          |
| Kimberly Biglardi  | Cortland County, NY                                | Deputy Clerk of the Legislature                   | Remote  |         |          |

## MINUTES

1. Ag/Planning/Environmental - Committee Meeting - Aug 8, 2023 11:00 AM

|                  |                                                               |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                                   |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Douglas Bentley, Committee Vice Chair                         |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Mitchel Eccleston, Committee Member                           |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson, Eccleston |

## MONTHLY REPORTS

1. Planning Department- Activity Report - October 2023

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

2. October 2023 Monthly Report - Soil and Water

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Southern Tier 8 Regional Broadband Conference Invitation

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

2. Committee Discussion and Review of Departmental Budgets for 2024

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

1. Committee Recommendation to Finance and Administration Committee for Soil & Water Reallocation of ARP Funding

|                  |                                                       |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [6 TO 0]</b>                              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Paul Heider, Committee Member                         |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Cathy Bischoff, Committee Member                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Eccleston |
| <b>AWAY:</b>     | Susan Wilson                                          |

## RESOLUTIONS

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – Amend Tentative 2024 Budget - Cooperative Extension

|                  |                                                       |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [6 TO 0]</b>                              |
|                  | <b>Next: 10/17/2023 10:00 AM</b>                      |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Paul Heider, Committee Member                         |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Ronald J. Van Dee, Committee Member                   |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Eccleston |
| <b>AWAY:</b>     | Susan Wilson                                          |

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

### Amend Tentative 2024 Budget - Cooperative Extension

WHEREAS, the County Administrator (Budget Officer) presented the 2024 Tentative County Budget to the Cortland County Legislature on September 28, 2023, AND

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on October 26, 2023 at 6 p.m. in the Legislative Chambers, AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature's Agriculture, Planning and Environment Committee approved an amendment to the 2024 Tentative County Budget in the amount of \$25,000 in Account A87505.54815 for Cooperative Extension from Account No. A19905.91000 - Appropriated Fund Balance, AND

WHEREAS, the Legislature's Finance and Administration Committee has reviewed said budget and has recommended the amendment, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby amends the 2024 Tentative County Budget to add \$25,000 in Account A87505.54815 for Cooperative Extension from Account No. A19905.91000 - Appropriated Fund Balance.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was closed at 11:25 AM



# AG/Planning/Environmental

## Committee Meeting

60 Central Ave.  
Cortland, NY 13045  
<http://www.cortland-co.org>

~ Minutes ~

Tuesday, August 8, 2023

11:00 AM

Room 302

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by Committee Chair Beau Harbin

| Attendee Name      | Organization                   | Title                           | Status  | Arrived | Departed |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------|---------|----------|
| Douglas Bentley    | Cortland County, NY            | Committee Vice Chair            | Present |         | 12:06 PM |
| Beau Harbin        | Cortland County, NY            | Committee Chair                 | Present |         |          |
| Ronald J. Van Dee  | Cortland County, NY            | Committee Member                | Present |         | 12:25 PM |
| Paul Heider        | Cortland County, NY            | Committee Member                | Present |         |          |
| Cathy Bischoff     | Cortland County, NY            | Committee Member                | Present |         |          |
| Susan Wilson       | Cortland County, NY            | Committee Member                | Present |         |          |
| Mitchel Eccleston  | Cortland County, NY            | Committee Member                | Excused |         |          |
| Kevin Fitch        | Cortland County, NY            | Chair of the Legislature        | Present |         | 11:15 AM |
| Rob Corpora        | Cortland County, NY            | County Administrator            | Present |         |          |
| Savannah Hempstead | Cortland County, NY            | Clerk of the Legislature        | Present |         |          |
| Melanie Vilardi    | Cortland County, NY            | Deputy County Administrator     | Present |         |          |
| Andrea Herzog      | Cortland County, NY            | Director of Finance             | Present |         |          |
| Melissa Potter     | Cortland County, NY            | Mobility Manager                | Present |         |          |
| Trisha Hiemstra    | Cortland County, NY            | Director of Planning            | Present |         |          |
| Kimberly Biglardi  | Cortland County, NY            | Deputy Clerk of the Legislature | Present |         |          |
| Sandra Price       | Cortland County, NY            | Board Member                    | Present |         |          |
| Charles Sudbrink   | Cortland County, NY            | Superintendent of Highways      | Present |         |          |
| Christopher Newell | Cortland County, NY            | Board Member                    | Present |         |          |
| Amanda Barber      | Cortland County Soil and Water | Director                        | Present |         |          |
| Margaret Mellott   | Cortland Standard              | Reporter                        | Remote  |         |          |
| Laura Herling      | Cortland County, NY            | GIS Planner                     | Present |         |          |
| Eddie Velazquez    | Cortland Voice                 | Reporter                        | Remote  |         |          |

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 8, 2023 11:00 AM (MINUTES)

**MINUTES**

## 1. Ag/Planning/Environmental - Committee Meeting - Jun 8, 2023 10:00 AM

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                        |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Douglas Bentley, Committee Vice Chair              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Susan Wilson, Committee Member                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson |

**RESOLUTIONS**

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 – Authorize Grant Application with New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for 2023-2024 Cortland County Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Grant - Planning Department

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                        |
|                  | <b>Next: 8/24/2023 6:00 PM</b>                     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Cathy Bischoff, Committee Member                   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Paul Heider, Committee Member                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson |

**ON MOTION OF HARBIN****RESOLUTION NO.**

**Authorize Grant Application with New York State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for 2023-2024 Cortland County Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance Grant - Planning Department**

WHEREAS, Article 27 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law establishes a mechanism for allocating funds to local governmental sponsors for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails designated as part of the State Snowmobile Trail System, AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County is designated as the Local Sponsor under Section 27.17 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law for the purpose of preparing a grant application for Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, AND

WHEREAS, the County will retain an administration fee up to ten percent (10%) of the grant award to offset the actual cost for administration expenses incurred as the local grant sponsor for the period of April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval of the County Attorney or designee, is hereby authorized to sign the Local Sponsor Signature Form with documentation to support Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Transportation, Landowner and other State, or Federal Land Permissions for each Cortland County club to become part of the New York State Snowmobile Trail System, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval of the County Attorney or designee is hereby authorized to electronically sign all materials as it pertains to the Phase III approval of permissible expenses for Snowmobile Trail development and maintenance Grant for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 – Approve Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact Under State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for Cortland County Snowmobile Trails - Planning Department

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 8, 2023 11:00 AM (MINUTES)

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                        |
|                  | <b>Next: 8/24/2023 6:00 PM</b>                     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Ronald J. Van Dee, Committee Member                |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Paul Heider, Committee Member                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson |

**ON MOTION OF HARBIN****RESOLUTION NO.**

**Approve Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact Under State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) for Cortland County Snowmobile Trails - Planning Department**

WHEREAS, Article 27 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law establishes a mechanism for allocating funds to local governmental sponsors for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails designated as part of the State Snowmobile Trail System, AND

WHEREAS, having reviewed the criteria contained in 6NYCRR, Section 617.7, Cortland County finds that there will be no significant adverse environmental impact resulting from the development and use of snowmobile trails throughout Cortland County, AND

WHEREAS, it is the County's intent to support the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails as an important economic and recreational resource for Cortland County, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, be and hereby is authorized to sign a Negative Declaration of Environmental Impact statement under the New York State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR), Article 8 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law, stating that there will be no significant adverse environmental impact resulting from the development and use of snowmobile trails throughout Cortland County.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – Authorize Agreements Various Snowmobile Clubs for Annual Snowmobile Trail Maintenance - Grant Funding Years 2023-2024 - Planning Department**

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                        |
|                  | <b>Next: 9/14/2023 10:00 AM</b>                    |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Paul Heider, Committee Member                      |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Cathy Bischoff, Committee Member                   |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson |

**ON MOTION OF HARBIN****RESOLUTION NO.**

**Authorize Agreements Various Snowmobile Clubs for Annual Snowmobile Trail Maintenance - Grant Funding Years 2023-2024 - Planning Department**

WHEREAS, Article 27 of the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law establishes a mechanism for allocating funds to local governmental sponsors for the development and maintenance of snowmobile trails designated as part of the State Snowmobile Trail System, AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County under Section 27.17 of the State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law will apply for Snowmobile Trail Development and Maintenance grant funding for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County enters into agreements with certain Snowmobile Clubs to ensure that the clubs perform trail maintenance and grooming of existing trails throughout Cortland County, AND

WHEREAS, the County serves as the local sponsor for the grant application and as the grant recipient, AND

WHEREAS, the County will retain an administration fee of up to ten percent (10%) of the grant award to offset the actual cost of administering the grant for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, the Cortland County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Administrator, upon review and approval by the County Attorney or designee, to sign agreements with the following snowmobile clubs: Truxton Snowmobile Club, Inc., Trailblazers of Onondaga & Cortland County (Tully Trailblazers), Trail Hounds, Inc., Seven Valley Snow Goers, Inc., Ridge Rider's Snowmobile Club, Inc., Marathon Snowdusters, Inc., LaFayette Trailriders, and Dryden Caroline Drifters Snowmobile Club for the purposes as previously stated for the period April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – Appoint Member Central New York Regional Market Authority

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                        |
|                  | <b>Next: 8/24/2023 6:00 PM</b>                     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Douglas Bentley, Committee Vice Chair              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Susan Wilson, Committee Member                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson |

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

#### Appoint Member Central New York Regional Market Authority

WHEREAS, Section 827 of the Public Authority Law of the State of New York provides that each County Legislature of the Central New York Regional Market District shall name directors to the Central New York Regional Market Authority, AND

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy due to a resignation, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that Paul Heider be and hereby is appointed to represent Cortland County on said Board, effective immediately for a term to expire December 31, 2026.

#### AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 – Authorize Agreement for Consulting Services to Create a Cortland County Strategic Development Plan - Planning Department

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                        |
|                  | <b>Next: 8/24/2023 6:00 PM</b>                     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Cathy Bischoff, Committee Member                   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Paul Heider, Committee Member                      |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson |

ON MOTION OF HARBIN

RESOLUTION NO.

#### Authorize Agreement for Consulting Services to Create a Cortland County Strategic Development Plan - Planning Department

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Planning Department advertised for proposals for Consulting Services to create a Cortland County Strategic Development Plan, AND

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 174-22 approved monies awarded from Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Empire State Development (ESD) in the amount of \$190,000 with a County

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 8, 2023 11:00 AM (MINUTES)

match of \$10,000 for the cost of services to create a Cortland County Strategic Development Plan, AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Planning Department received proposals from the following consultants:

MRB Group D.P.C. - \$200,000  
220 Salina Meadows Parkway #180  
Syracuse, NY 13212

C&S Engineers, Inc. - \$200,000  
499 Col Eileen Collins Blvd  
Syracuse, NY 13212

, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the recommendations of involved parties, the County Legislature hereby awards the contract for consulting services to create a Cortland County strategic development plan to MRB Group, D.P.C., AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the County Administrator, upon review and approval as to form by the County Attorney or designee, is hereby authorized to execute the necessary agreements for said contract, AND BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, that all costs associated with the consulting services to create a Cortland County strategic development plan shall be paid from account #A80205.54055.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6 – Adopt Cortland County Charter Service Permission and Reporting Policy – Planning Department

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                        |
|                  | <b>Next: 8/24/2023 6:00 PM</b>                     |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Douglas Bentley, Committee Vice Chair              |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Susan Wilson, Committee Member                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson |

**ON MOTION OF HARBIN**

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**Adopt Cortland County Charter Service Permission and Reporting Policy – Planning Department**

WHEREAS, Cortland County would like to establish a policy for using Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funded vehicles to follow FTA Charter Bus Service Regulations and request New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) permission prior to accepting any charter trip, AND

WHEREAS, NYSDOT requires all transit systems who would like to offer charter services with federally funded equipment to request approval to provide a charter service, AND

WHEREAS, Cortland County will follow the Charter Service Permission and Reporting Policy prior to accepting any charter trips with Cortland County transit buses, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby adopts the attached Cortland County Charter Service Permission and Reporting Policy, outlining the guidelines and procedures for accepting any charter trips utilizing County owned, federally funded vehicles.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Aug 8, 2023 11:00 AM (MINUTES)



## ACTION ITEMS

1. Letter of Support for IRT Construction Project - Highway Truck Garage

|                  |                                                    |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>                        |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Beau Harbin, Committee Chair                       |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Susan Wilson, Committee Member                     |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Bentley, Harbin, Van Dee, Heider, Bischoff, Wilson |

## MONTHLY REPORTS

1. August 2023 Planning Department Activity Report

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

## DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Cortland County Planning Board Appointments

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

2. Review & Discuss 2024 Budget Requests and Initiatives

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

3. Soil and Water Monthly Report & Proposed 2024 Budget

|                |                  |
|----------------|------------------|
| <b>RESULT:</b> | <b>COMPLETED</b> |
|----------------|------------------|

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 12:29 PM

# Cortland County Planning Department

## Activity Report – October 2023

### Administration

**Strategic Development Plan – Project Planning Phase**  
**IRT – Application submitted**

#### **CNY Regional Planning Board**

- NYSERDA's proposal to US DOT – EV Charging Stations/Fleet Analysis
- Clean Energy Communities/Climate Smart Communities
- Continued conversation about ConnectALL opportunities

#### **Southern Tier 8**

- CEDS
- Opportunity Zone Collaboration
- Work on Planning Committee Regional Strategies

### Mobility

#### **5311 Grant Funding Awarded!!**

Begin moving forward on RFP's

Staffing - Mobility Coordinator

### **Cortland County Planning Board Meeting – September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

#### **GML 239 Review's: (10 Returns for Local Determination)**

- **City of Cortland – Davis Hill Solar – GML No. 86.83-01-01.000 – Site Plan Review, Special Use Permit, Floodplain Development Permit** – to install a new community solar PV system on the former Rosen's Landfill Superfund site
- **City of Cortland – Dr. Mervat Eid – GML No. 86.28-01-02.110 – Site Plan Review** – to construct a new 5 unit two story building townhouse dwelling attached to the existing 3 apartment building and new 5-space carport
- **City of Cortland – Matthew Tilden, Dewberry Engineers on behalf of DSK Realty, LLC – GML No. 86.44-03-04.000 – Site Plan Review** – to install 8 Tesla Electrical Vehicle charging stations with associated utilities and lighting
- **City of Cortland – Brendan Byrnes – GML No. 87.46-02-04.200 – Area Variances** – to install a new driveway with a pervious surface
- **Village of Homer –Family Health Network – GML No. 76.32-01-06.000- Subdivision** - subdivide the existing 23.169 +/- acre parcel into four parcels
- **Town of Scott – Zoning Text Amendment for the Regulation of Solar Energy Systems** – Adoption of a Local Law #2 – 2023 A Local Law to Regulate Solar Energy Systems.



## 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

From: Amanda Barber, SWCD Manager

October 4, 2023

#### **AGRICULTURE AND PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION**

**Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)** – SWCD was notified that four applications submitted to Round 29 of the Agricultural NPS Control and Abatement Program (AGNP) were selected for funding. **We will receive over \$2,338,000 to perform work with four farms for conservation activities that are estimated to cost nearly \$4.2 million.** Projects include barnyard runoff management, manure storage, silage leachate collection and treatment, heavy use area protection, and milkhouse wastewater management. Design work continues for previously funded projects. Two projects are in various stages of procurement and contracting. Construction is underway on a third project, and all are expected to be completed this fall.

**Nutrient Management Planning** – We are experimenting with software developed in Vermont for nutrient management documentation and planning. goCrop is an app and online software that can be used by SWCD and farms to develop basic nutrient management plans, perform record keeping, and prepare reports for farms and SWCD to document and report stewardship activities.

**Cover crops** – Staff are working with local farms to document cover crops planted this fall. Reimbursement will be provided on a per acre basis for all cover crops planted, once certified.

#### **COMMUNITY NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AND PLANNING**

**Little York Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District** – Aquatic vegetation control on the lake has been completed for this season. We received two quotes for the lake management plan audit which were both higher than anticipated. We are interviewing respondents and reviewing the intended scope compared to the proposed projects to determine if a new RFQ with revisions could result in a more reasonable cost. Next steps will be discussed at the SWCD Board meeting on October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention** - The boat cleaning station at Little York has been closed for the season. Several RFPs have been released by NYSDEC for various AIS education/outreach/implementation activities and we are working with several lake associations to submit proposals.

**Skaneateles Lake Watershed and Skaneateles Lake 9E Plan** – No new updates.

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization** – Interviews are still being held for a new Watershed Coordinator. They are discussing a resolution of concern over the potential sale of the Cargill salt mine, the use of Environmental Bond Act funds, and by-laws changes to limit the Chair to a 3-year term.

**Stream Restoration and Culvert Rehabilitation** – The project on Gee Hill Rd was completed with the county and the Curtis Road project with the Town of Virgil was completed. The Brackel project permit is supposed to be issued this week according to DEC personnel. We have been waiting for months.

**Forestry** – Trees are here and we are coordinating fall plantings at the City Waterworks, Dwyer Park, and the DOT property behind Wendy's. Private land plantings have been completed by six landowners. We have requested funding through a US Forest Service grant to support technical forestry staff to increase forest management and landowner enrollment in emerging private markets.

### CONSERVATION EDUCATION AND PROGRAMS

Staff had a display and presented about soil at the Marathon Ag Fair on September 29th.

**Conservation Field Days** were held on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Cortland, Homer, McGraw, Cincinnatus and DeRuyter schools attended this year with 23 classes, over 320 sixth grade students, and more than 40 teachers/school personnel participating. Natural resource professionals gave demonstrations and presentations to students about a wide variety of environmental topics including boating safety and firearm safety by the Sheriff's Department, hazardous waste and water quality by the Health Department, and aquatic invasive species by SWCD.

**River Cleanup** was September 30<sup>th</sup>. We had 6 teams with over 60 volunteers participate. Contento's donated the dumpster, recycling appropriate materials and disposing of waste from the 1500 pounds collected.

### ADMINISTRATION

You should have received a copy of the Annual Report for 2022 in your mail. Our 2024 Annual Work Plan is being developed. The State has requested our Part B special project application – possible activities are tree planting or tire collection. The Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum is scheduled for October 18<sup>th</sup> – see below. The board is sending a representative to the New York Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Some staff will be attending an SWCD Administrative Conference on November 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.



**SAVE THE DATE**

*Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum*

*This event is sponsored by:*

**BINGHAMTON UNIVERSITY**  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

 Choose Clean Water

**SOUTHERN TIER 8**  
REGIONAL BOARD

 **USC**  
Upper Susquehanna Coalition

*October 18, 2023*  
at Binghamton University

Join us for a day of learning and sharing about Community Engagement in the Upper Susquehanna River Watershed, and ongoing efforts to improve water quality.

For more information visit:  
[www.u-s-c.org/uscforum](http://www.u-s-c.org/uscforum)



# SOUTHERN TIER 8

R E G I O N A L B O A R D



## REGISTER TODAY!

## 2ND ANNUAL UPSTATE RURAL BROADBAND CONFERENCE

*Connecting Communities: Bridging the Equity Gap*



NOVEMBER 15, 2023  
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM



BINGHAMTON, NY  
DOUBLETREE HOTEL

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

## NEW YORK'S LEADING BROADBAND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE IS BACK!

GAIN VALUABLE INSIGHTS ON FUNDING, POLICY, TECHNOLOGY, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND ADVOCACY

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS:

- 

Hear from **Josh Breitbart, Senior Vice President of New York State's ConnectALL** office at Empire State Development, about the state's support and funding for broadband in affordable housing, municipal infrastructure, and rural communities as well as plans for New York's BEAD allocation.
- 

Get updates on ConnectALL's **Digital Equity Planning, Process and Progress**.
- 

Learn about efforts to improve BEAD Letter of Credit requirements by the **American Association for Public Broadband (AAPB)** to benefit broadband projects, ISPs, and local government in the Southern Tier and across the nation.
- 

Attend **informative panels** on topics including:

  - Successful Fiber Deployments
  - The Role of Municipally-Owned Utilities
  - Digital Equity in Action
  - and more...
- 

**Network** with local government officials, community leaders, industry insiders and colleagues.



Photo from 2022 conference

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO BECOME AN EXHIBITOR,  
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**Amend Resolution No. 328-21 - Authorize Reallocation of American Rescue Plan Funding  
for Soil and Water Conservation District**

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 328-21 allocated \$300,000 of the water, sewer and broadband infrastructure federal aid revenue to the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District to purchase material for a stream corridor management program, AND

WHEREAS, the Cortland County Legislature's Finance and Administration Committee, upon recommendation of the Agriculture, Planning and Environment Committee, recommends reallocating \$22,000 per year of said funding to Account No. A87105.54815 for calendar years 2024, 2025 and 2026 to be used towards salary for an engineer in the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District office, NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Cortland County Legislature hereby amends Resolution No. 328-21 and authorizes the reallocation of \$22,000 per year for calendar years 2024, 2025 and 2026 from the \$300,000 previously allocated to the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District to purchase material for a stream corridor management program from the American Rescue Plan funding, to be used towards salary for an engineer in the Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District office.