



# ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

225 Dolson Avenue, Suite 103, Middletown, NY 10940

PHONE: (845) 343-1873

[kevin.sumner@ocsoil.org](mailto:kevin.sumner@ocsoil.org)

## AGENDA

May '26 BoD Meeting

Monday, May 18, 2026

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (EST)

Meeting link: [May '26 BoD Meeting | Microsoft Teams | Meetup-Join](#)

### CALL TO ORDER

- 1) Approval of **April MINUTES**
- 2) **ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**
  - a) The interest payment for the new grant closeout policy for AEM Round 18 was mailed to NYS Ag & Markets. This check totaled \$1,728.18.
  - b) A second BMP payment was issued to Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center, following Board approval via email, for their project in Ag NPS Rnd 27.
- 3) **CORRESPONDENCE**
  - a) Bank Statements
  - b) Collateral Agreements
  - c) Region 6 May '26 SWCC Report from Travis Ferry
  - d) NYACD Letter RE: CRF Program Fund Reallocation
  - e) OCLT & Jim Delaune Email
  - f) Letter from Executive Director of NYACD to Directors
  - g) National Conservation Foundation: 2025 Annual Report
  - h) The Empire State Granger: May/June 2026 Edition

Correspondence Outgoing From OCSWCD

- 4) **FINANCIAL REPORTS & BILL PAYMENT APPROVAL**
- 5) **CONTRACT STATUS REPORT**
- 6) **INTERAGENCY REPORTS**
  - a) CCE
  - b) FSA
  - c) NRCS
  - d) NYSS & WCC
- 7) **REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS**
- 9) **SWCD STAFF REPORTS**
- 10) **OLD BUSINESS**
  - a) Wallkill Flood Projects
  - b) Celery Avenue Ledge Lowering Project Update
  - c) AEM Round 19
  - d) Wallkill Maintenance Agreement
  - e) Roller Crimper Project Update
  - f) CRF Program Updates
  - g) Ag Nonpoint Source Program Updates
  - h) Miller Farm Easement Violations
  - i) O'Dell PDR Project
  - j) Skoufis Equipment Grant Update

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Wright  
329 Kings Highway  
Warwick, NY 10990

Paula DeBlock  
133 Whitford Road  
Westtown, NY 10998

Paul Ruskiewicz  
255 Main Street  
Goshen, NY 10924

Barry Cheney  
255 Main Street  
Goshen, NY 10924

George Constable  
35 Cranberry Hollow Road  
Westtown, NY 10998

11) **NEW BUSINESS**

12) **NEXT MEETING DATE**

13) **ADJOURNMENT**

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Region 6 Report – May 2026  
Submitted by: Travis Ferry – Region 6 Associate Environmental Analyst

**NYS SWCC News**

**AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2026:** NYSAGM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water, and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York's award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. The deadline for applications is **May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**.

**State Aid Part C/Performance Measures Check-In:** As we move towards the half-way mark of the calendar year, SWCDs are encouraged to review their progress toward achieving their State Aid to Districts (Part C) performance measure goals. With roughly 6 months to go, now is an ideal time for directors and staff to evaluate current progress, identify any areas requiring additional attention, and plan accordingly to ensure all applicable performance measures are completed by year's end. Part C has seen significant growth in recent years, and that growth could conceivably continue based upon current budget proposals. Proactive tracking and timely completion of these goals will help maximize each district's potential Part C award. Please feel free to reach out to your Regional AEA, if you have questions.

**EBM Pilot Stream Program:** Congratulations to the awardees of the EBM Stream Corridor Management Pilot Program! 26 projects were awarded in this pilot program to protect water quality and the long-term health of the State's waterways. Please see the press release below. More information about awards and plans for work will be forthcoming soon. In the meantime, questions can be directed towards Tim Sheldon ([timothy.sheldon@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:timothy.sheldon@agriculture.ny.gov)) or to your Regional AEA.

**May SWCC Meeting:** The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be on **Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> starting at 10:00 AM**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

**2026 NYS Envirothon - Volunteers Needed:** The New York State Envirothon Committee is pleased to announce that we will host the 2025 New York State Envirothon at SUNY Cortland, on **May 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2026**. Volunteers are the heart of this event, and it doesn't happen without assistance from SWCD Directors and staff. Please consider Volunteering! A description of the volunteer positions available as well as an online registration link are available here on the NYS Envirothon website, <https://nysenvirothon.org/contact>. Any questions can be directed to [nysenvirothon@gmail.com](mailto:nysenvirothon@gmail.com).

**Spring Managers Meetings – Save the Date:** The following dates have been set for regional manager's meetings this June! Meetings will be from 10am-2:30pm. Please participate in whichever date and location is most convenient but please be sure to **RSVP** to the appropriate Regional Coordinator by **May 25<sup>th</sup>** so we'll have accurate counts for lunch orders. As always Directors are invited to attend, as this meeting can count towards Performance Measures.

- Region 1: **June 2<sup>nd</sup>**, Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY – Vic DiGiacomo
- Region 2: **June 3<sup>rd</sup>**, Yates County SWCD - 417 Liberty St Penn Yan, NY – PJ Emerick
- Region 3: **June 1<sup>st</sup>**, Chenango County SWCD – 99 North Broad Street, Norwich, NY 13815 – Scott Fickbohm
- Region 4: **June 10<sup>th</sup>**, Croghan Fire Department – 6680 Fire Hall St., Croghan, NY 13327 – Ryan Cunningham
- Region 5: **June 11<sup>th</sup>**, NYS DEC Office – 232 Golf Course Rd., Warrensburg, NY 12885 – Ben Luskin
- Region 6: **June 9<sup>th</sup>**, Rockland County SWCD – 50 Sanatorium Rd., Bldg. A 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Pomona, NY 10970 - Travis Ferry

**Soil Science Watch Party Continues:** A group of SWCC Staff, district staff, and partners are working their way through 39 hours of Soil Science lectures from Cornell University's Jonathan Russell-Anelli. The group meets **virtually on Monday mornings at 9:00 am** to watch prerecorded lectures and answer discussion questions. CCA credits are available for each session. The group uses Webex to coordinate and the recurring meeting link is: <https://meetny-gov.webex.com/meetny-gov/j.php?MTID=m872f0a411cf3434a744799dc62f873fd> . Contact Tim Clark for more information.

**Ecological Restoration Species Selection Tool Finalized:** New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and NY Natural Heritage Program finalized a Species Selection Tool that provides a list of native trees, shrub, and herbaceous species suitable for a project site. This tool matches a clicked site location and conditions like soil, geology, and other

conditions to expected natural communities to narrow down the species list, and provides information on each species, including height, lifespan, shade tolerance, and climate adaptability. <https://nynhp.shinyapps.io/speciessselectiontool/>

**New Waste Storage Facility (313) Standard:** This standard has been updated and is posted on FOTG. NRCS NY received a variance on the standard to be able to continue using current design practices for concrete storages located in non-sensitive environmental settings. NRCS national has been advocating enhanced design standards for all concrete storages against opposition from many states. Other updates: updated rainfall maps, added operation and maintenance criteria for inspections to reduce damage to liners during agitation, added criteria requiring structural and visual components to all agitation and pumping locations, which may reduce the risk of accidental entry and damage to the liner during agitation.

### **Other Events**

**NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions Annual Meeting:** The NY Center of Excellence in Healthy Water Solutions is hosting its annual meeting at SUNY ESF in **Syracuse, NY, May 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>**. This meeting will bring researchers, partners and stakeholders together for in-depth discussions and networking as we look to find cooperative ways to address current and emerging water issues in New York. The event is free to attend. Please follow this link for more information and to register for the event: <https://healthywaters.org/annual-meeting/>. **This event qualifies for Performance Measure 1g – Participation at a State, Regional, and National meeting or function.**

**From Planning To Action - Municipal Training Series:** New York Sea Grant has announced educational opportunities for municipal leaders involved with land use management planning and implementation along New York's Great Lakes and connecting river channels. A two-part Coastal Community Development webinar series will feature information on coastal processes that impact the shorelines along Lake Erie, the Niagara River, Lake Ontario, and St. Lawrence River.

- **May 26, 2026, from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM,** Great Lake Coastal Processes for Municipal Leaders in NY - New York Sea Grant staff will provide information on how shorelines respond to the natural, dynamic and changing action of the waters along New York's Great Lakes and connecting river channel shorelines. <https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/8uA0bfuOSR-n15ZyJhWTcg#/registration>
- **June 9, 2026, from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM,** Keeping your Plan off the Shelf - a panel of local government representatives who have successfully developed and implemented land use planning goals will share tips for keeping an active process moving after completing a local plan to accomplish the desired objectives and benefits for the local community. [https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/-Ge8x470QFOtYB6ji\\_YviA#/registration](https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/-Ge8x470QFOtYB6ji_YviA#/registration)

**NACD Northeast Regional Meeting – Save the Date:** The 2026 Northeast Region Meeting, hosted by the Delaware Association of Conservation Districts, will be held on **August 24-27, 2026**, at the Chase Center on the Riverfront in Wilmington, DE. <https://dacdnet.org/2026NACDNE/>

### **Other Grant Opportunities**

**Resilient Watersheds Grant (RWG) Program Application Period is Now Open:** At least \$60 million of Environmental Bond Act funding is available for implementation of flood mitigation projects across New York State. Minimum grant amount: \$150,000; maximum grant amount: \$10,000,000. **Applications are due Friday June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 4:00 PM.** <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/water/water-quantity/resilient-ny>