

Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District



Presentation to the Warren County Environmental
Concerns & Real Property Tax Services Committee
February 28, 2025



Background

- New York State established the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee, and created County Soil and Water Conservation Districts on April 23, 1940. Soil and Water Conservation District Law (Book 52B). There are 58 SWCD's in New York. Warren County Board of Supervisors approved creation of the WCSWCD on January 9, **1956**.
- SWCD Board is made up of 7 members – 2 are legislators from the Warren County Board of Supervisors (yearly appointments), 1 is an ag rep, remainder are “at large” (3 year terms). All are appointed by the WC Board of Supervisors and meet 1:00 PM every fourth Monday of the month at the SWCD office.
- Formed for: preservation and conservation of the soil and water resources, improvement of water quality, control and prevention of soil erosion, prevention of floodwater and sediment damages, furthering conservation, preserve natural resources, control and abate nonpoint sources of water pollution, assist in the control of floods, drainage and irrigation of cultural lands, prevent impairment of dams and reservoirs, assist in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, preserve wildlife, **protect public lands and the tax base, promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state, utilize resources to enhance the quality of life, promoting additional tourism and employment opportunities**, enhancing the quality of life of persons to obtain access to agricultural land for recreational uses.

Local Agencies

Lake George Land Conservancy, Lake George Association, Lake Champlain/Lake George Regional Planning Board, Adirondack Association of Towns and Villages, Hague Fire Department, Chestertown Fire Department, Bolton Fire Department, All Highway Departments in Warren County.

Warren County Agencies

Administrator, Planning, DPW, OES, Self Insurance, Purchasing, Information Technology, County Attorney, Bldgs. and Grounds, Parks and Rec, Cornell Cooperative Extension, WC Fish Hatchery, Up Yonda Farm

State Agencies & Organizations

NYSDEC, NYSDHSES, NYSDOT – Warrensburg Sub Office, Adirondack Park Agency, Lake George Park Commission, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, Capital Region PRISM, Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York, Lake Champlain Basin Program, Upper Hudson River Watershed Association

Federal Agencies: USACOE, USDA-NRCS, USFWS

Community Associations

Schroon Lake Association, East Shore Schroon Lake Association, Glen Lake, Loon Lake, Brant Lake, Protective Association of Lake Sunnyside, Lake Luzerne Association, Lake Luzerne Historical Society, Adirondack Lake Alliance, Friends Lake Property Owners Association, Crandall Park Beatification Committee

Educational Entities

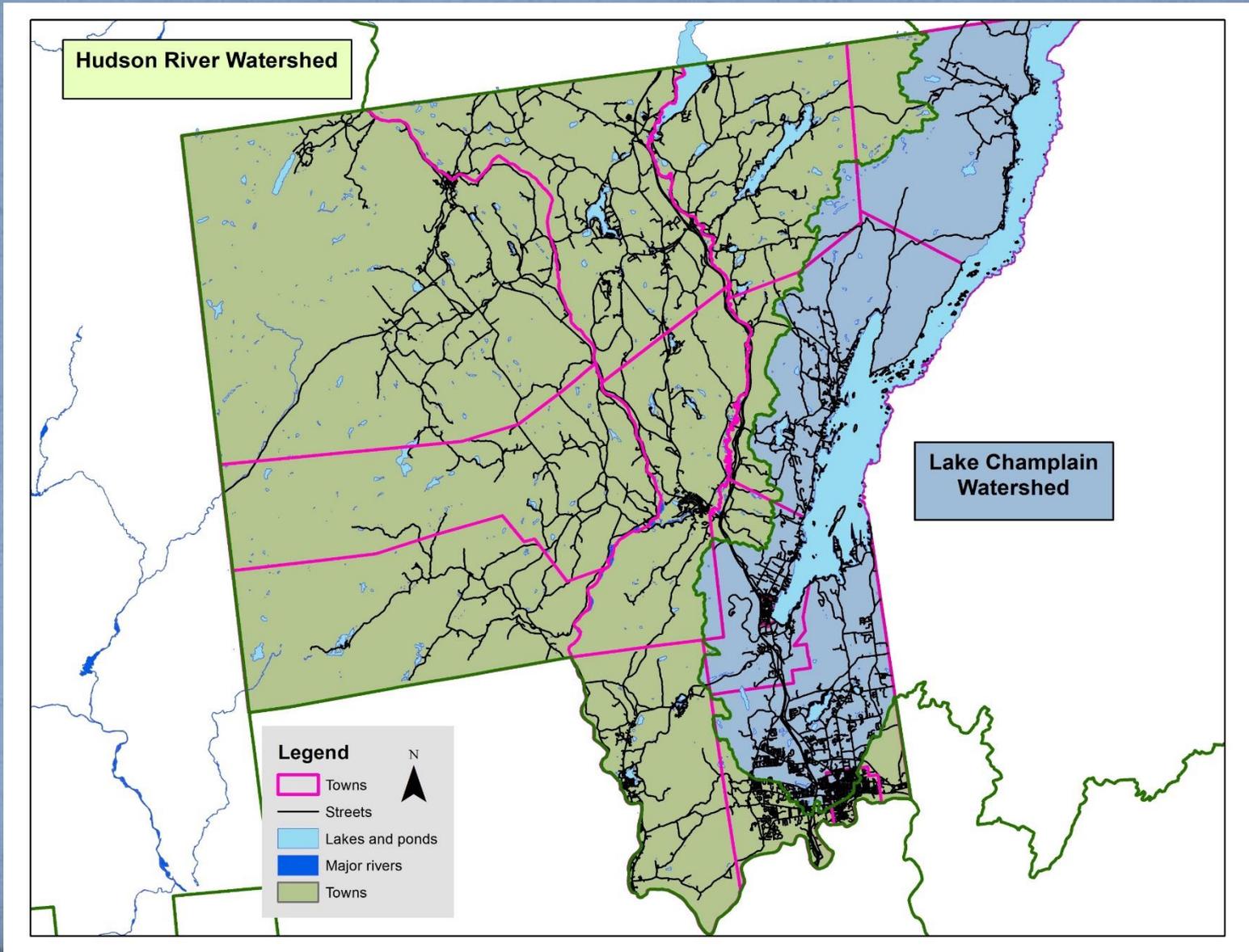
All County School Districts, Warren-Washington BOCES, SUNY Adirondack, SUNY ESF (Pack Forest), Stony Creek Library, Richards Library, Crandall Public Library, Warrensburg Historical Society

Outside the County

Essex County SWCD, Washington County SWCD, Saratoga County SWCD, Fulton County SWCD, Rensselaer County SWCD, Hamilton County SWCD, Franklin County SWCD, Clinton County SWCD

Numerous landowners, loggers, foresters, engineers.....

Champlain and Upper Hudson River Watersheds



Agriculture Environmental Management



- Administer AEM program: Technical planning and assistance, education and outreach provided.
- Implementation projects for producers



Aquatic Wildlife Passage and Stream Crossing Restoration

- New Hague Road perched culvert replacement
- Wood Wells Rd Chester 48" round culvert to 7' squash



Erosion, Sediment and Stormwater Management



Hazard Mitigation



Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System Program

Warren County and the Town of Queensbury
Act as program coordinator for Warren County, make recommendations, assist with plan implementation with the county, develop and submit annual report to NYSDEC.

Village and Town of Lake George
Assist with specific goals and education efforts. Will likely be adding additional work due to new permit requirements.

City of Glens Falls
Contracted to conduct dry weather outfall reconnaissance on 12 city owned stormwater outfalls and take grab samples for chemical and bacterial evaluation.



Landowner and Community Forest Management



Community Conservation Program

Funding for “boots on the ground” conservation in 2024 include:

- (1) LGA Salt watch program received funding, allowing the community to be involved in the monitoring of salt levels in tributaries to Lake George.
- (2) Richards Library started a seed library and held a seed starting workshop.
- (3) Crandall Public Library seed library and held a number of gardening workshops for all ages.
- (4) Crandall Park Beautification Committee purchased three advertisements in the Chronicle to advertise volunteer opportunities for invasive species removal during Invasive Species Awareness Week in Crandall Park. (60 participants and over 120 hours)
- (5) WC Fish Hatchery used funding to upgrade their riparian garden plants and signage and for advertising, fishing, and educational materials for Spring Zing.
- (6) Chestertown Rotary used funding for their Operation Pollination project in which they provided community members with Milkweed and Wildflower seed packets and had kiosks with educational materials regarding pollinator importance and seed starting instructions.
- (7) The Chester Challenge volunteers conducted trail rehab and tree planting along the logged areas near the Caroline Fish Trails in Chester.
- (8) LGA completed a project in which they built a prototype water quality sensor from scratch parts and deployed it on the lake.
- (9) Cornell Cooperative Extension of Warren County installed a learning garden with native plants in their outdoor classroom.

Other

- Provide municipal, landowner, school and NGO assistance every year, including site visits, reports and permits. In 2024, 3300 hours were utilized ~ 20-25% of District time.
- Tree and shrub seedling sale, and the Spring and Fall Pond Stocking program.
- Provide assistance for milfoil programs on Brant, Schroon, Sunnyside, Luzerne and Loon Lakes.
- West Brook Stormwater Conservation Initiative: SWCD is the inspector and maintenance manager for south parcel.
- We were on 4 podcasts in 2024 – LGA (3), NY Outdoor News
- Pledge a Plot for Pollinators Program– 94 participants, 1 acre of ground.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid – member of the LG hemlock Coalition and coordinated and hosted October workshop, 42 attendees from across the state.
- Chair and host of the Warren County Water Quality Strategy Committee: Ad hoc public committee that meets 4 times per year to discuss water quality issues in the county.
- Currently three staff are Certified Professionals in Erosion and Sediment Control, two are certified divers, three are chainsaw certified and one is certified to instruct the NYSDEC Post Flood Emergency Stream Intervention program.
- The SWCD annually preforms over 45 education and training events each year (including on Saturdays and Sundays and after standard work hours) for Rotary, library, Municipal, Ms4, Erosion and Sediment Control, Stream, Hazard Mitigation, School events, Scouts...



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