



Schuyler County SWCD 2020 Annual Report

Water Quality Improvement Facility



Inside this issue:

Community	2
Municipal Assistance	3
Agriculture	12
Flood Retention	14
Stream Stabilization	15



The Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was able to construct a new building at the Soil and Water Conservation complex on Meads Hill Road to continue and expand the work throughout the County on water quality improvement projects. The conservation district was also able to add two new excavators to its list of equipment to utilize to perform these construction projects. The equipment owned by the conservation district is utilized to implement over 50 conservation projects in just six months time each year. These projects conserve tens of thousands of tons of sediment, and tens of thousands of pounds of nutrients from entering our surface water bodies each year, as well as protecting millions of dollars of public and private infrastructure.

This work wouldn't be possible without the SWCD's equipment operators Jim Barrett, and Michael Manwaring. Jim came to the District ten years ago now and is truly responsible for an exponential growth in the conservation district during that time. His dedication, over 40 years experience, patience and personality has been a true asset for our community. Michael has added his over 30 years experience, drive, and dedication to create a well balanced team. Michael and Jim's ability to work independently or in a team environment provides the flexibility needed for the greatly varying workload. We cant thank them enough for all they give and bring to our conservation district and our community.



Community Programs

Annual Tree and Shrub Sale

We were able to once again hold our annual tree and shrub seedling sale. Although presented with the challenges of COVID –19 and some snow the day of the event we were able to still sell over 10,000 seedlings at the well attended annual event.



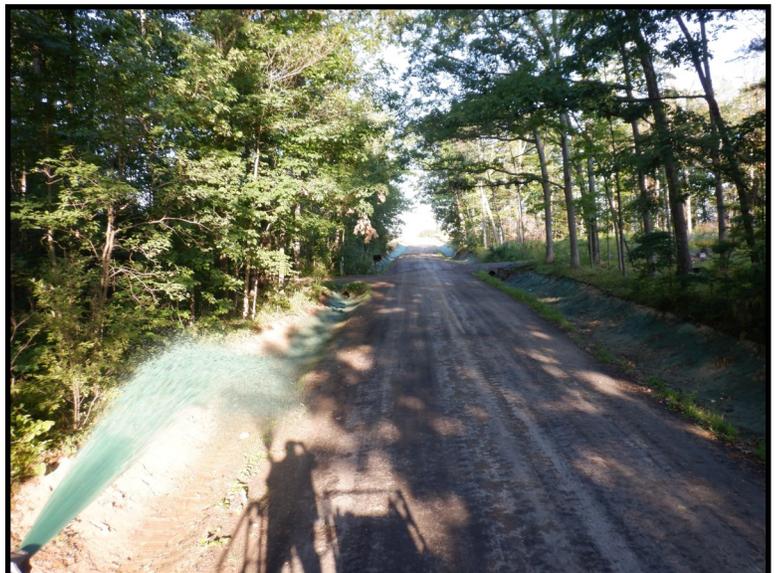
Agricultural Pesticide Plastics Collection

The Schuyler and Chemung County Soil and Water Conservation Districts once again had a very successful free of charge collection of agricultural pesticide plastics from Schuyler and Chemung Counties. This plastic will be recycled and used for drain tile.



Hydro-seeding

The Soil and Water Conservation District continued its efforts of critical area seeding with the use of its hydro-seeding program. Over 117 acres were hydro-seeded to help prevent erosion of road ditches and conservation/municipal projects. This program saved over 300 tons of sediment from entering surface water bodies this year alone.



Municipal Assistance

County Road 23A—Tyrone

We were able to stabilize 300' of road ditch on County Road 23A that was causing flooding to a residence on the road. This project conserved over 133 tons of sediment annually.



Village of Burdett

We were able to stabilize an undermined concrete weir causing bank failure and threatening the former Village of Burdett Fire Department Building.



Municipal Assistance

Burlingame Road—Cayuta

We were able to stabilize over 300' of road ditch and upsize both a cross culvert and driveway culvert to help with flooding issues on Burlingame Road. This project saved 111 tons of sediment annually.



Varney Hill Road—Cayuta

We assisted with a beaver dam removal. The beaver dam was causing flooding of Varney Hill Road and threatened State Route 224.



County Road 1—Hector

We stabilized an outlet collapse of a large cross culvert on County Road 1.



Municipal Assistance

County Road 4—Hector

We lined an existing waterway that was causing erosion to County Road 4 and flooding of an adjacent home..



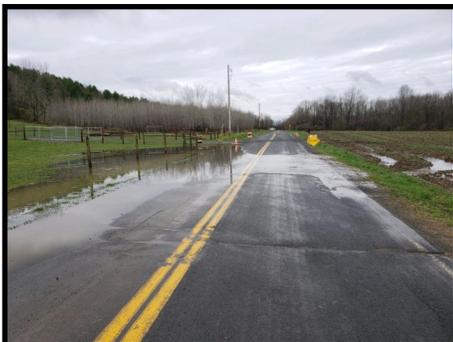
County Road 6—Mecklenburg

We replaced a failed cross culvert and stabilized an eroded inlet and outlet of that cross culvert.



County Road 6—Hector

We installed a cross culvert and dry well where the road had been flooding on a regular basis.



Municipal Assistance

County Road 18—Dix

We excavated over 1,200' of waterway that was causing significant flooding impacts to County Road 18.



Cross Road—Reading

We replaced a cross culvert pipe and stabilized the inlet and outlet of the pipe.



Crystal Springs Road—Tyrone

We stabilized the inlet and outlet of a cross culvert on Crystal Springs Road that was causing the road to fail.



Municipal Assistance

Depew Wildlife Dam—Hector

Beavers have caused a continual issue with the primary spillway on the Depew Wildlife Dam causing a threat to the dike of the 33 acre impoundment and flooding on NY State Route 228. Our own Jim Barrett on his personal time came up with a method to allow for the water pass through and not be blocked by the beavers. He utilized perforated pvc. This innovative approach has worked very well for almost a year now.



Glenn Road—Tyrone

We excavated over 1,000' of water way that hadn't been maintained and was causing flooding of the road.



Lovers Lane—Reading

We stabilized several hundred feet of the shoulder of Lovers Lane, this was an immense safety concern for potential road failure.



Municipal Assistance

North L'Hommedieu Street—Village of Montour Falls

This extensive project allowed for the replacement of a failed cross culvert, installation of a drop inlet, and stabilization of nearly 200' of waterway. This project was a difficult site with multiple gas, water, and sewer lines that had to be crossed.



Meads Hill Road—Dix

2,150' of road ditch was stabilized on Meads Hill Road. This project conserved 1,592 tons of soil annually.



Municipal Assistance

County Sheriff - Village of Watkins Glen

We assisted the buildings and grounds department to prepare for a memorial at the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office.



Peach Orchard—Hector

Water found a preferential flow path through an abandoned cross culvert. We went in and closed that path off to alleviate flooding concerns of the residents down stream.



Pertl Road—Catharine

We stabilized and lowered several hundred feet of road ditch on Pertl Road that was causing flooding issues.

Municipal Assistance

Six Corners Road—Tyrone

We excavated and lined several hundred feet of waterway that was causing flooding and erosion impacts to Six Corners Road.



Stone Schoolhouse Road—Tyrone

We stabilized over 2,100' of eroded road ditch and conserved over 777 tons of sediment annually.



Altay Road—Tyrone

We removed a beaver dam that posed a serious flooding threat for Altay Road in the Town of Tyrone.



Municipal Assistance

Updyke Road—Hector

We upsized and replaced two cross culverts and stabilized over 1,000' of stream and road ditch on Updyke Road in the Town of Hector that flooded and caused a road closure in May of this year.. This project saved over 709 tons of sediment annually.



Wollock Road—Tyrone

We stabilized over 1,300' of road ditch on Wollock Road and conserved over 480 tons of sediment annually. .

Agriculture

Buffer/Grazing

A rotational grazing project was completed on the Willett Farm creating over 8 acres of riparian buffer. An alternative watering system was installed to provide water for cattle and to keep them removed from surface water.



Buffer/Grazing

A rotational grazing project was completed on Hilliker Farm creating over 6 acres of riparian buffer. An alternative watering system was installed to provide water for cattle and to keep them removed from surface water.



Equine Conference

John Wickham spoke at the Equine Conference held by Painted Bar Stable. John discussed rotational grazing management, and the programs and practices offered by the Soil and Water Conservation District



Agriculture

Vineyard Mower

Our vineyard mower was utilized on over 250 acres of vineyard land this year. This unique under the vine mower allows vineyards to maintain cover between the row and under the vine without needing herbicide control to prevent competition with the vines.



Cover Crops

We once again put forth a significant joint effort with Chemung County Soil and Water to implement cover crops throughout the two county area. We own a high-boy interseeder which allows for an expanded time period to implement cover crops. Cover Crops as a best management practice is the most cost effective conservation. Reducing erosion, reducing sediment and nutrient loading of surface water bodies, while improving soil health, increasing permeability, reducing water runoff and flooding impacts, while providing nutrients for the following years crops. Over 3,400 acres of cover crops were implemented in the two county area through this program this year alone. Conserving more than 8,000 tons of soil. We look forward to maintaining and growing this valued program for years to come.



Flood Retention

Retention Ponds

Retention ponds help to capture storm water and to then release that runoff water slowly after the storm has occurred. This allows for us to reduce the peak flow during the high intensity short duration storms we seem to be having on a regular basis. We do this by having outlet control structures that allow for a permanent freeboard for storm water in the pond itself. We focus the implementation of these retention ponds in upper reaches of a particular sub watershed we are trying to protect from flooding impacts. We built two retention ponds this past year. One on a vineyard owned by Dr. Frank's and the second on farmland in the Town of Tyrone. While installing these projects we also stabilized over 1,000' of waterway, and upsized a failed culvert crossing.



Stream Stabilization

Beardsley Hollow Road—Catharine

Several eroded concrete weirs that were put in for grade control in the 90's were causing a significant head cut of the stream and complete failure of Beardsley Hollow Road. Utilizing nearly 700 tons of rip rap we were able to repair two of the weirs, remove a third and stabilize the toe of the slope by the road. This project helped to stabilize over 400' of stream and conserved over 300 tons of sediment annually.



Burlingame Road

We replaced a cross culvert and stabilized several hundred feet of stream on the inlet, as well as stabilizing the severely eroded outlet.



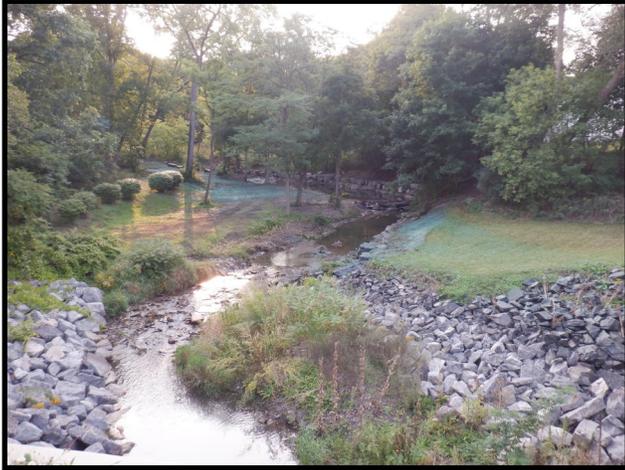
Willamee Road—Hector

We utilized over 800 tons of rip rap and erosion control fabric to stabilize several hundred feet of Spring Brook in the Town of Hector. This project conserved over 1,400 tons of sediment annually.

Stream Stabilization

Catlin Mill Creek—Village of Odessa

We were able to utilize several engineered rock riffles and several hundred feet of toe wall stabilization to stop a significant head cut causing bank failure behind many of the businesses and homes on main street in the Village of Odessa. The project conserved 270 tons of sediment annually.



State Route 13—Cayuta

We stabilized a significant bank failure on NY State Route 13 that was threatening the road itself. Tow rock stabilization was utilized to repair over 200' of stream.



Stream Stabilization

Swan Hill Road—Town of Catharine

We were able to stabilize several areas on Swan Hill Road that were severely impacting the road. Nearly 200' of stabilization was completed



Templar Road—Dix

We replaced a cross culvert on Templar Road and stabilized both the inlet and outlet areas of the culvert. In total 200 tons of rip rap were utilized to stabilize 261' of stream and conserved 290 tons of sediment annually.



Board of Directors

Anthony J. Specchio, Chair
James Howell Vice Chair, Legislator
Rick Reisinger, Treasurer
Gary Gray, Legislator
Gary Gaige, Member

SWCD Staff

Jerry Verrigni, District Manager
Jim Barrett, Equipment Operator
Michael Manwaring, Equipment Operator

Contractual Staff

John Wickham, USC Grazing Specialist
Jackie Wickham, AEM Planner
Elaine Dalrymple, Education Specialist
Karen Tillotson, Asst. Secretary

<p>David L. Sidle Agency 219 S. Catherine Street Montour Falls, NY 14865 607-535-6501</p>	 <p>Cotton-Hanlon Inc. Timberland Management Exclusive Hunting Leases Standing Timber For Sale P.O. Box 65 Cayuta, NY 14824 http://cottonhanlon.com/index.html</p>	<p>Watkins Glen Fire Department</p> 
 <p>Watkins Glen Elks Lodge #1546 300 N. Madison Ave Watkins Glen, NY 607-535-2859</p>	 <p>Moose International Family Center 426 2096 State Rte 14 Montour Falls, NY 607-535-4741</p>	 <p>INTEGRITY ENGINEERING PLLC 2106 College Ave. Elmira Heights, NY 14903 607-426-5684</p>
<p>Seneca Lodge 3600 Walnut Road Watkins Glen, NY 14891 607-535-2014</p>	<p>Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association www.senecalake.org</p>	<p>Reisinger's Apple County 2750 Apple Lane (Off Ellison Road) 607-535-7493</p>

*THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR 2020
ENVIROTHON DONORS*

This Newsletter is made possible through funding from the Finger Lakes– Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA).

All programs and services of the Schuyler County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status or handicap.



**SCHUYLER COUNTY SWCD
PO BOX 326
MONTOUR FALLS, NY 14865**

