



CATSKILL
WATERSHED
CORPORATION



ANNUAL

REPORT

2023

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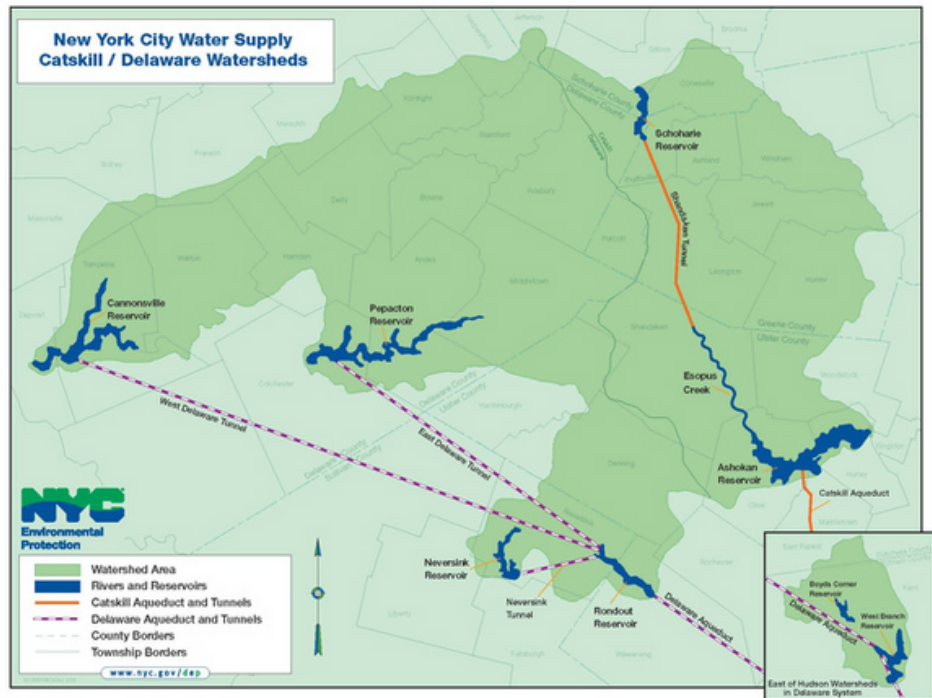
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Acknowledgements

INTRODUCTION

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC)'s primary purpose is to administer protection and partnership programs necessary to maintain and enhance the water quality throughout the NYC Catskill-Delaware Watershed Region and to preserve and support Watershed communities by strengthening the region's economy. Our environmental protection, economic development and education programs are administered in 41 towns that lie wholly or partially within the NYC Catskill-Delaware Watershed region which supplies water to 9.5 million people in New York City and communities in upstate counties.



WELCOME MESSAGE

The Catskill Watershed Corporation has continued to be successful in meeting the goals of the watershed and supporting the communities we serve. In 2023 CWC staff planned and implemented projects in all areas of programming, including the Septic Program, Stormwater, Flood Hazard Mitigation, Education and Economic Development. The staff efforts resulted in more than 470 resolutions for our board to consider, each representing a project or program deliverable in support of both water quality and economic sustainability. Additionally, staff members participated in multiple community programs including roadside and stream clean up days, the annual septic seminar and many local fairs and festivals across the region. The success of these programs goes beyond supporting watershed management, the programs represent a sustainable future in the watershed with private homeowners, businesses and communities all benefiting from the success of CWC.



Tina Molé
CWC President

This past year the CWC board continued to support efforts to advance and improve programs that support water quality while encouraging projects that make community health and sustainability a top priority. CWC has actively reviewed and participated in the process as NYC DEP has applied for a new Water Withdrawal Permit that includes language in support of a reduced Land Acquisition Program (LAP) in lieu of a more robust Streamside Acquisition Program (SAP). Through a board resolution CWC encouraged the watershed stakeholders to conduct a SEQR review on the new permit application, taking land acquisition and its lasting impacts into account as the programs are reviewed. CWC staff has continued to participate in the ongoing negotiations with the stakeholders to develop a SAP program that is more flexible and better serves buffer protection in the watershed, taking the position stewardship is a key component of this protection. These negotiations will continue into 2024 and CWC will remain diligent in putting our community's best interest forward as we look at stream buffers for watershed protection, flood resiliency and as an economic driver.

The success of CWC is directly linked to the leadership. Jason has proven to have a clear vision for CWC that supports the mission of the board and the communities we represent. Jason's drive and commitment comes through his dedication and unending support of that mission. The outcome is a professional staff that strives for excellence in all aspects of watershed management, including the continued support of community growth and sustainability in the West of Hudson. Jason has been the driving force behind the development of a project to evaluate the long-term impacts of watershed programming in the West of Hudson and his efforts will result in the selection of a consultant in 2024 to complete a study of those impacts. This study is imperative to understanding the long-term needs of the watershed communities and will help support existing CWC programs and identify new programs that may be needed to address impacts. It is important to see this project to completion so that it can be used as a tool to inform the development of the next Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD), due in 2025.

The CWC's support of local programs continues to bolster the local economy, support clean water, and provide for our local communities in a way that will enhance our future. Each year we look to continue our mission to protect the quality of the water which sustains 9 million residents of New York City and its suburbs, while at the same time preserving and strengthening the rural communities within the five counties of the Catskill and Delaware Watershed. This is not an easy balance and requires the commitment and dedication of all our board members as well as the efforts of our highly talented staff to accomplish our goals. I look forward to 2024 and the new challenges we will inevitably face as well as the continued success of our programs in supporting our long-term goals and objectives.



Timothy Cox
Corporate Counsel



Lindsay Ballard
Administrative Assistant



Sonia Martinez
Administrative
Specialist

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) was created to help local communities throughout the West of Hudson Watershed. Our programs provide millions of dollars of funding to Watershed communities to ensure long term sustainability and growth. In addition to supporting our local communities, our programs provide the dual benefit of protecting the unfiltered water supply for half New York State's population.



Jason Merwin

Executive Director

CWC prides ourselves on the efficiency and effectiveness of our programs. In 2023, CWC managed a variety of programs promoting community sustainability and growth. Over \$20 million dollars were provided throughout Watershed communities supporting residents, businesses, nonprofits, and municipalities.

In 2023 our Septic Rehabilitation and Replacement Program provided grants to over 300 property owners throughout the Watershed. Over \$11 million was granted this past year assisting property owners with repair costs for their onsite septic system. These repairs have multiple benefits. Not only are the new septic systems protective of water quality, but they ensure safe living conditions and alleviate the financial burdens and stresses associated with costly repairs required under the Watershed Regulations.

Those CWC Septic grant dollars supplied to property owners are also a form of financial relief and economic growth. The funds granted by CWC to homeowners are used to pay local contractors who complete the work. Contractors pay their employees and purchase materials and equipment from local suppliers. Those suppliers then hire more local employees. The funding provided by CWC stimulates growth organically through the nature of the programs.

But we do more than that. CWC funded several community development related projects in 2023. Numerous approvals were provided in an effort to mitigate the impacts of inevitable future floods. The construction of a new firehouse for the Olive Fire Company in Ulster County continued throughout 2023. CWC contributed significant funds to assist the nonprofit fire district with their relocation efforts, providing for a secure facility outside of the floodplain.

Additional funding was provided for a variety of measures for the relocation of the Village of Hunter's fire department in Greene County. The Town of Prattsville has also been approved for design and construction costs for the elevation of their Town Hall out of the path of future floods. The new Ambulance Facility in Windham was awarded funding for design and construction costs of stormwater measures. The Town of Jewett received funding as well to study and address stormwater concerns at their highway garage. These projects are among many that CWC has supported, which are all critical to long term sustainability of our local communities.

Community wastewater projects are also key to community vitality. CWC has provided grant funding totaling nearly \$20 million for two wastewater projects to the Town of Middletown to assist residents in the hamlets of New Kingston and Halcottsville. These projects will provide these communities with long term wastewater solutions and allow for future growth. Design continued on the Shokan Wastewater Project, in Ulster County. Roughly 500 properties in Shokan will be part of what is expected to be the largest Wastewater Plant in the Watershed when completed.

Communities cannot be sustainable without looking at future generations. CWC funded a number of projects for local schools. Flood mitigation and stormwater control projects for Andes School, Walton School, and Delaware Academy are among other capital projects funded by CWC in 2023. We also provided grant funding to address design and construction of stormwater measures at the Catskill Mountain Little League's new complex in the Town of Harpersfield.

CWC continues to support internship opportunities and trainings for professional development. These learning opportunities assist with professional development in the Watershed. Keeping young professionals in the area is essential, not just for CWC programs but the Watershed communities as a whole.

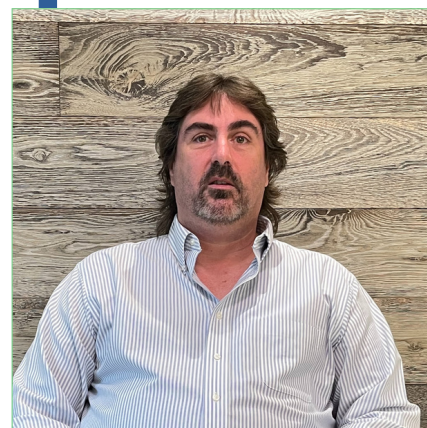
Whether it is individual properties up high on the mountain tops, or community centers down in the valleys, CWC programs are designed to help all in the Watershed. CWC's efforts are not only critical to ensuring communities can remain sustainable, but to grow and improve. It is at the heart of what we do. CWC is currently working with a range of Watershed stakeholders on an evaluation to the current status of Community Vitality in the Watershed. This evaluation will help determine some of the strengths and weaknesses in the Watershed communities and explore efforts to improve the overall vitality of this important region.

As we enter our 28th year in operation, we continue to provide much needed support throughout the Watershed. We are proud of what we have accomplished so far and we look forward to the years ahead.

FINANCIAL REPORT

CATSKILL WATERSHED CORPORATION STATEMENTS OF NET POSITION

As of December 31	2023	Restated 2022
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 119,606,162	\$ 128,312,342
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Restricted	2,487,698	2,597,698
Short-Term Investments (Note V)	11,184,395	3,724,881
Accrued Interest Receivable (Note III)	175,577	161,552
Loan Receivable - Current Portion (Note III)	3,249,712	2,303,287
Prepaid Expenses	155,232	176,309
Total Current Assets	136,858,776	137,276,069
Non-Current Assets:		
Capital Assets, Net of Accumulated Depreciation (Note IV)	17,160,687	17,721,408
Loan Receivable - Net of Current Portion (Note III)	21,810,477	19,626,978
Long-Term Investments (Note V)	9,352,934	19,303,573
Lease Receivable (Note XIII)	74,655	84,697
Other Long-Term Assets (Note XIV)	-	324,123
Total Non-Current Assets	48,398,753	57,060,779
TOTAL ASSETS	185,257,529	194,336,848
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	2,319,618	3,658,499
Total Current Liabilities	2,319,618	3,658,499
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,319,618	3,658,499
DEFERRED INFLOWS OF RESOURCES		
Deferred Grant Revenue (Note VIII)	171,550,933	181,923,642
Other Deferrals	57,670	30,801
TOTAL DEFERRED INFLOWS	171,608,603	181,954,443
NET POSITION		
Net Investment in Capital Assets	17,160,687	17,721,408
Unrestricted	(5,831,379)	(8,997,502)
TOTAL NET POSITION	\$ 11,329,308	\$ 8,723,906



James Martin
Finance Director/Business
Manager



Donald Brown
Deputy Finance Director



Skylie Roberts
Bookkeeper



Jessica Fiedler
Administrative Assistant

FINANCIAL REPORT

CATSKILL WATERSHED CORPORATION STATEMENTS OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET POSITION

For the Years Ended December 31	2023	Restated 2022
Operating Revenues:		
Grants	\$ 27,171,179	\$ 24,346,373
Total Operating Revenues	<u>27,171,179</u>	<u>24,346,373</u>
Operating Expenses:		
Payroll	1,674,646	1,344,392
Meetings and Conferences	2,133	2,179
Professional Services	379,638	299,696
Advertising	13,431	10,473
Dues and Subscriptions	8,237	11,589
Travel	23,410	32,270
Insurance	104,345	113,354
Miscellaneous	3,158	379
Office Expense	13,647	13,270
Occupancy	540,187	420,714
Communications	21,122	19,581
Repairs and Maintenance	22,176	28,829
Licenses	2,193	813
Fringe Benefits	792,634	735,739
Program Expense	25,772,128	21,695,562
Grants	163,082	126,034
Depreciation Expense	592,848	643,794
Total Operating Expenses	<u>30,129,015</u>	<u>25,498,668</u>
Operating (Loss)	<u>(2,957,836)</u>	<u>(1,152,295)</u>
Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses):		
Investment Income	5,563,238	407,664
Loss on Disposal of Assets	-	(748,667)
Net Non-Operating Revenue/(Expense)	<u>5,563,238</u>	<u>(341,003)</u>
Change in Net Position	<u>2,605,402</u>	<u>(1,493,298)</u>
Net Position - Beginning	<u>8,723,906</u>	<u>10,217,204</u>
Net Position - Ending	<u>\$ 11,329,308</u>	<u>\$ 8,723,906</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The CWC Board of Directors consists of 15 members. Twelve are elected officials representing West-of-Hudson Watershed municipalities. Members are elected to the Board by Supervisors from the 39 Towns in the Watershed.

Board representation is proportional to population within the Watershed. The Board includes six members from Delaware County, two from Ulster County, two from Greene County and one each from Sullivan and Schoharie Counties. In addition, the Board includes a representative of New York City, appointed by the Mayor, and two representatives appointed by the Governor of New York. One of the Governor's appointments is a representative of the environmental community. The CWC Board meets monthly at the CWC headquarters building in Arkville, Delaware County, NY.



Standing left to right: Dave Warne, Mark Tuthill, Thomas Hoyt, Arthur Merrill, Joseph Cetta, Jeff Senterman, James Sofranko

Sitting left to right: Christopher Mathews, Innes Kasanof, Alicia Terry, Tina Molé, Richard Parete, James Eisel

Absent: Allen Hinkley, Thomas Snow, Jr.

CWC STAFF

CWC staff plans and implements projects in multiple areas of programming and administration, which include Septic, Stormwater, Flood Hazard Mitigation, Economic Development, Finance, Administration, and Maintenance. The value of our employees can be measured in water quality protection, community sustainability, and in CWC's support of local programs that continue to bolster the local economy, support clean water, and provide for our local communities in ways that will enhance our future. Our employees bring professionalism and expertise to each program and work hard to provide high level projects that protect water quality as well as help local residents and businesses meet the high standards required in the New York City watershed.



ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE

Jason Merwin, Executive Director
James Martin, Finance Director, Business Manager
Timothy Cox, Corporate Counsel
Samantha Costa, Communication/ Education Manager
Skylie Roberts, Bookkeeper
Jessica Fiedler, Administrative Assistant
Donald Brown, Deputy Finance Director
Sonia Martinez, Administrative Specialist
Lindsay Ballard, Administrative Assistant

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Barbara Puglisi, Economic Development Director
Lynn Kavanagh, Economic Development Specialist

TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

John Mathiesen, Environmental Engineering Specialist
Mitchell Hull, Septic Program Manager
Todd Henderson, Septic Program Specialist
John Jacobson, Septic Program Specialist
Kyle Faraci, Septic Program Specialist
Eric Lane, Septic Maintenance Program Manager
Racheal Burger, Stormwater Program Manager

BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE

Charles Bush, Building Maintenance Manager
Matthew Hubbard, General Maintenance Manager
Martha Cruz De Martinez, General Maintenance
Marie Ferraro, General Maintenance

ARRIVALS



Matthew Hubbard
General Maintenance Manager

RETIREMENTS



James Eisel
Board Member: Town of
Harpersfield
1997-2023



Charles Schafer
Staff: Program Specialist
2008-2023

INTERNSHIPS

CWC's internships are hands-on experiences designed to provide students with a comprehensive learning environment working with staff on program initiatives. Our interns are provided the opportunity to work directly with program applicants, project contractors, engineers, watershed partners and regulators throughout the Watershed.



Christiana Mones
College: Seton Hall
Major: Law School



Jonathan Pickett
College: SUNY Delhi
Major: Mechatronics



Elsbeth Wendel
College: University of Mass.
*Major: Sustainable
Community Development*



Septic Repair and Replacement



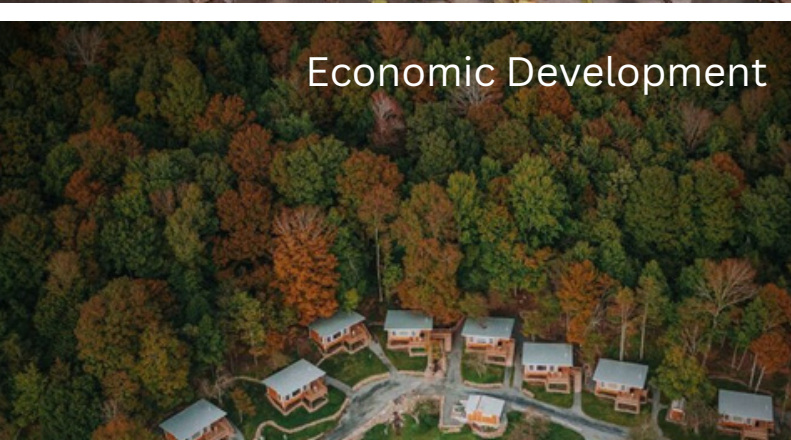
Stormwater Management



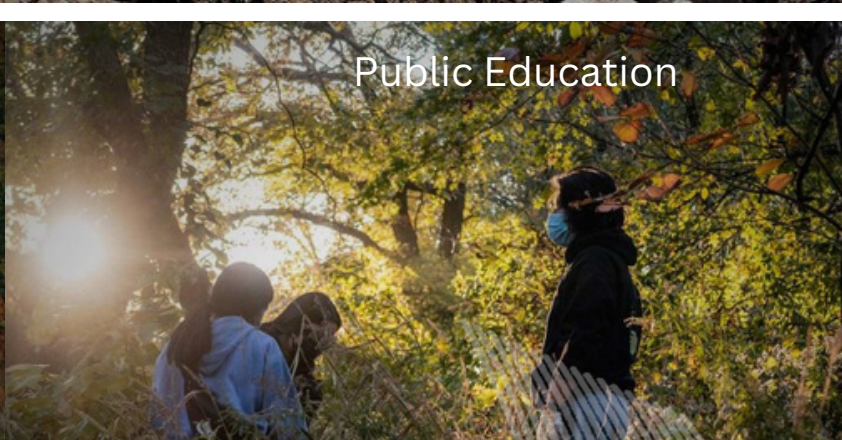
Community Wastewater



Flood Hazard Mitigation



Economic Development



Public Education

PROGRAM OVERVIEWS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The CWC's Economic Development Programs are intended to support environmentally responsible businesses and to create and retain jobs in the Catskills Region. They are intended to help offset impacts of New York City Watershed regulations and the City's acquisition of thousands of acres of land which will remain permanently off limits to development.



Barbara Puglisi
Economic Development
Director

CATSKILL FUND FOR THE FUTURE

The Catskill Fund for the Future has been investing in the Catskills since 1997.

The cornerstone of the CWC's efforts in the West-of-Hudson (WOH) Watershed is the Catskill Fund for the Future (CFF). The revolving fund was initially capitalized in 1997 by a \$59.7 million appropriation by New York City. This fund is invested and wholly managed by the CWC. An economic development study, prepared in 1998 for the CWC by consultants Hamilton, Rabinovitz and Alschuler (HR&A) served as a guidance document for establishment of loan, grant and tourism promotion programs funded through the CFF.



Lynn Kavanagh
Economic Development
Specialist

\$105,699,063

LOANED TO LOCAL BUSINESSES TO DATE

11 LOANS TOTALING \$5,417,194.00



In February 2023 we hit a milestone, settling over \$100,000,000.00 in loan disbursements

CFF LOANS



43270 NY-28 LLC Arkville, NY

A new addition to the hamlet of Arkville. Mornings café is open 7 days a week from 7-3. The menu features high quality coffee, matcha as well as pastries from Sweet Pea Supply Co. located in Halcottsville. The espresso-based drinks focus on quality and value pricing, Mornings also serves a light lunch fare; limited to soups, sandwiches and specializing in grilled cheese. High tea service is also offered, the only one in the area. High tea is offered Saturday and Sunday only and has 2 price points.

KMG Center Street LLC, Ellenville, NY

Purchased new equipment and hardscaped their side patio to include lighting and a covering to allow for outdoor dining at Cohen's Bakery. KMG Center Street took over ownership of Cohen's Bakery in 2016 with a loan from CWC and have made many structural upgrades to the building, enclosed the side patio to allow for additional year-round indoor seating and expanded the menu and hours of operation.

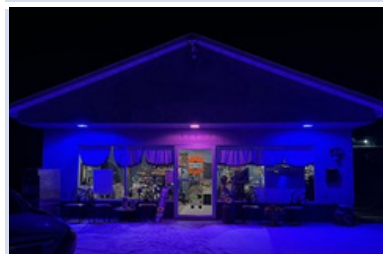


Auction Facility One, LLC, Sidney, NY

Purchased 171 Delaware Avenue, Sidney, NY and obtained financing from CWC and NBT Bank to renovate the building to suit their needs and to upgrade the mechanicals for their auction business.

Maneates Enterprises, LLC, Delhi, NY

Maneates Enterprises, LLC, Delhi, NY, returned to CWC for additional funding to determine if they must comply with NYS Office of Addiction and Substance Abuse (OASAS) Certification guidelines. OASAS requires additional staff and working capital. Maneates Enterprises, LLC will be home to Rippling Waters Men's Recovery Center that addresses addiction, trauma, grief, numerous emotional and inadequacy issues and will focus on causes of these behaviors.



Retirement Rentals LLC, Arkville, NY

Refinanced a private mortgage with a loan from CWC. The building located at 42822 State Highway 28 in Arkville, NY is a commercial mixed-use building. The building is home to Homestead Boutique – Perfectly Imperfect which sells handcrafted goods, coffee, and baked goods.

Liberty Thrive LLC, Liberty, NY

Purchased 85 N. Main Street, Liberty. The existing fitness center and gym opened in 2002 with the assistance of a loan secured through CWC. The new owners will continue to operate the business as a gym and will offer commercial office space once renovations are complete.



Jay Gould Mem. Reformed Church, Roxbury, NY

A bridge loan recipient having been awarded a NYS EPF Grant to repair the historic church in Roxbury, NY. Repairs to the historic structure include repairs to the tower, restoration anchors for stabilization and new mortar for the stonework.



Catskill Mountain Foundation, Inc., Tannersville, NY

A bridge loan recipient having been awarded a Downtown Revitalization Grant through the Village of Tannersville as well as a Carbon Neutral Community Economic Development Grant through NYSERDA. The funds will be used for technical upgrades as well as building enhancements.



784 Main Street LLC, Margaretville, NY

Purchased the building that they have leased for the last nine years as Home Goods of Margaretville. The business operates selling kitchen equipment and home giftable items and has expanded into an essential business, due to the pandemic, adding grocery items, such as local milk, cheese, fresh fruits and vegetables, local meats and prepared foods, as well as food staples and baked goods. They have plans to rebrand as the Kitchen Cheetah.



5399 Windham Holdings LLC, Windham, NY

Purchased property on Main Street, Windham to open a much-needed retail business selling casual name-brand clothing and apparel along with locally made gift items and accessories. It will include name-brand clothing like jeans, shirts, sweatshirts, socks, boots, sneakers, daypacks etc., along with locally made craft and gift items like cutting boards, woven baskets, honey, maple syrup, and preserves. They also plan to carry a selection of branded shirts and sweatshirts. The owner has two other thriving businesses in Windham and is fulfilling the need for this type of business in the area.



MID-HUDSON SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The CWC supports the Mid-Hudson Small Business Development Center (SBDC) which provides business counseling to loan seekers and those considering starting a business, or moving one to the Watershed region, as well as ongoing technical support for existing businesses.

In 2023 the SBDC provided over 1,400 hours of counseling to 109 Watershed clients. Fifty-Eight were new clients. This resulted in a total of \$3,523,500.00 investment in the region and created or retained 26 jobs.

Since the partnership of the CWC and the Mid-Hudson SBDC began, SBDC counselors have cumulatively counseled 1,950 small business owners and entrepreneurs in the Watershed with approximately 23,500 hours of combined service. These clients have in turn created/saved 2,400 jobs and contributed over \$128 million of capital into the local economy.



Sam Kandel

Regional Director
Mid-Hudson
Small Business
Development
Center

NYC DEP RESERVOIR BOATING PROGRAM

The CFF has supported the Reservoir Boating Program since the initial pilot program began in 2009 on the Cannonsville Reservoir. The program expanded beyond a pilot in 2012 to include the Neversink, Pepacton, and Schoharie Reservoirs.



Steam cleaning and boat rental vendors benefit from the program as well as the local residents and visitors who take advantage of this opportunity. During the 2023 boating season boat rental vendors rented a total of 498 boats to 747 boaters. The NYC DEP reported that 1,233 boat tags were issued in 2023.

To date, the CWC has invested \$424,842.67 in this program.



PUBLIC EDUCATION

The CWC, in partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP), awards an annual round of Watershed Education Grants to schools, libraries, museums, vocational institutions and non-profit organizations in the West-of-Hudson (WOH) Watershed and in the five boroughs of New York City. The Public Education Program has been providing grants since 1997.



Samantha Costa

Communication/Education
Manager

\$3,998,970

Awarded for Education Grants to Date

The grants are targeted to school age students and their teachers. Grants are also available in any given year for organizations providing programs for adult and mixed-age audiences in the WOH Watershed. Applicants are advised to consult with CWC to determine guidelines and eligibility for both programs, and for information on grant opportunities provided by other agencies and organizations.

The purpose of the grant program is to support projects that emphasize the importance of the City's water supply, the role of Watershed residents as stewards of that resource, the ecology of the WOH Watershed, the diversity of its aquatic and terrestrial life and habitat, and the unique cultural heritage of the Catskills. The importance and means of preserving water quality in the Watershed, the history of the development of the City's vast water system, and the importance of enhancing communication and understanding among residents throughout the NYC Water Supply System are also emphasized.



GRANTS AWARDED

Thirty-one grants totaling \$200,000 were awarded by the CWC to schools and non-profit organizations throughout the West-of-Hudson Watershed, and the five Boroughs of New York City. Funding provided brought lessons in water quality, the New York City Water System and the Watershed to more than 28,000 students and teachers. Five thousand additional people participated in programs and projects geared toward public and adult audiences.

Grants funded a range of projects, from watershed education initiatives to water quality testing, Trout in the Classroom, and multiple field trips to environmental institutions. Each project emphasized the importance of clean water, as well as connections between New York City and the Catskill-Delaware Region where most of the City's water originates.

Watershed region recipients included: Delaware County Historical Association in Delhi, Time and the Valleys Museum in Grahamsville, Onteora/Bennett Elementary School in Boiceville, Hanford Mills Museum in East Meredith, Woodstock Day School, Catskill Water Discovery Center in Arkville, Michael Kudish Natural History Preserve in Stamford, John Burroughs' Woodchuck Lodge in Roxbury, Catskill Center for Conservation and Development's Visitor Center in Mount Tremper, Prattsville Art Project, and Catskill Mountain Club in Margaretville.

New York City recipients included Columbia Secondary School for Math, Science and Technology, Pace High School, P.S. 56 Lewis H. Latimer, PS 19 East Village Community School, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, Brooklyn Urban Garden Charter School, City Parks Foundation, NYC H2O, Inc., The Horticultural Society of New York, South Street Seaport Museum, The Brooklyn New School/PS 146, The Earth School, P.S. 84 Jose De Diego, Queens Museum, MS 371 SEED: Harlem and Public School 250.

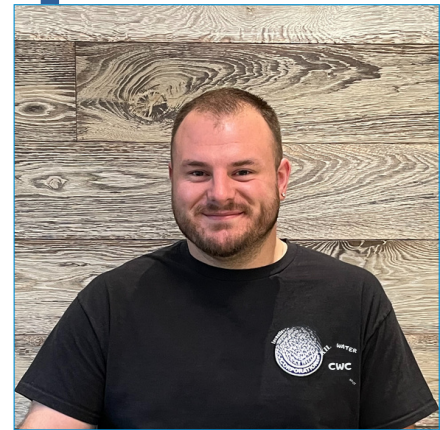
Four new applicants were approved for funding in this year's grant round. These included Pace High School, P.S. 56 Lewis H. Latimer, P.S. 84 Jose De Diego, and Public School 250. These new applicants applied for funding to implement Trout in the Classroom with their classes.

CWC education grants are provided annually in partnership with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.



SEPTIC REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

The Septic Rehabilitation and Replacement Programs reimburse homeowners, small businesses, not-for-profit corporations and government entities for repairs or replacements of failing or likely to fail septic systems in the West of Hudson Watershed.



Mitchell Hull
Septic Program Manager



John Jacobson
Program Specialist



Todd Henderson
Program Specialist



Kyle Faraci
Program Specialist



Eric Lane
Septic Maintenance
Manager

Septic Programs provided funding assistance for 312 septic system repairs or replacements to homeowners, small businesses, not-for-profit corporations and governmental entities in the WOH Watershed during 2023. Septic system projects provided water quality protection for the New York City drinking water supply, benefited property owners and gave substantial economic support to local communities. Payments were made to 98 contractors and pumpers and 24 engineers for work completed on these projects.



A KEY ROLE

CWC Septic Programs have provided funding for 6,784 septic systems since 1997. These systems play a key role in protecting the New York City drinking water supply. Assuming an average design flow of 330 gallons per day, septic systems funded by the CWC have the capacity to treat over two million gallons of wastewater every day.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

<h3>256</h3> <p>Homeowners completed septic system repairs and replacements with funding from the Residential Program.</p>	<h3>27</h3> <p>Homeowners completed projects to repair or replace failing septic systems paid for more than ten years ago by CWC.</p>	<h3>21</h3> <p>Businesses, not-for-profit corporations and government entities received funding from the Expanded Septic Program.</p>	<h3>8</h3> <p>Homeowners in proposed Sewer Districts received funding for managed repairs to assist in proper wastewater treatment until a larger community system is built.</p>
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EXPANDED SEPTIC PROGRAM

Businesses, not-for-profit corporations and government entities received funding from the Expanded Septic Program for 21 septic system repairs or replacements. Some projects funded include:

- Best Hot Tubs
- Brothers Halal Meat Packing, LLC
- Buena Vista Motel
- Catskill Fungi
- Chichester Property Owners Association
- Country Meadows Trailer Park (Lots # 17, 18, 19 & 20)
- Cold Spring Lodge
- Delaware Bulldozing Corp.



"The project connecting the Septic system of Buena Vista Motel to the Village of Delhi NY has been completed. The Management and customers of Buena Vista Motel sincerely thank CWC for bearing the costs for this project!"
James M Fernandez
Managing Partner
Buena Vista Inn by OYO Hotels



Septic Program staff work hard daily to make these programs operate seamlessly. Staff made 681 site visits in 2023 to discuss programs with interested property owners, inspect septic tank pump-outs, conduct dye tests and document construction. While 2023's projects were being completed, 301 more property owners with failing or likely to fail septic systems began engaging septic pumpers, engineers, and contractors to complete septic system repairs or replacements in 2024.

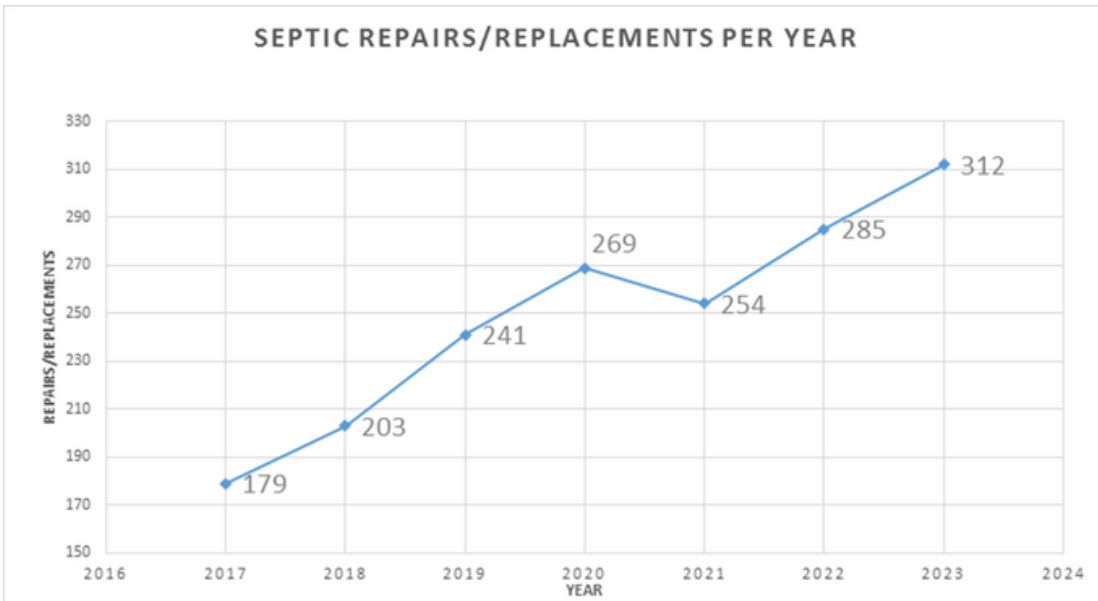
NEW TECHNOLOGIES

CWC is a leader in implementing innovative technologies in septic repairs and replacements. Multiple installations of aerobic units, Eljen systems, peat filters and Presby systems have been funded through the Septic Programs. CWC hosted training sessions for engineers and contractors on Fuji Clean USA aerobic units, Anua Puraflo peat filters and Presby Enviro-Septic systems in 2023.

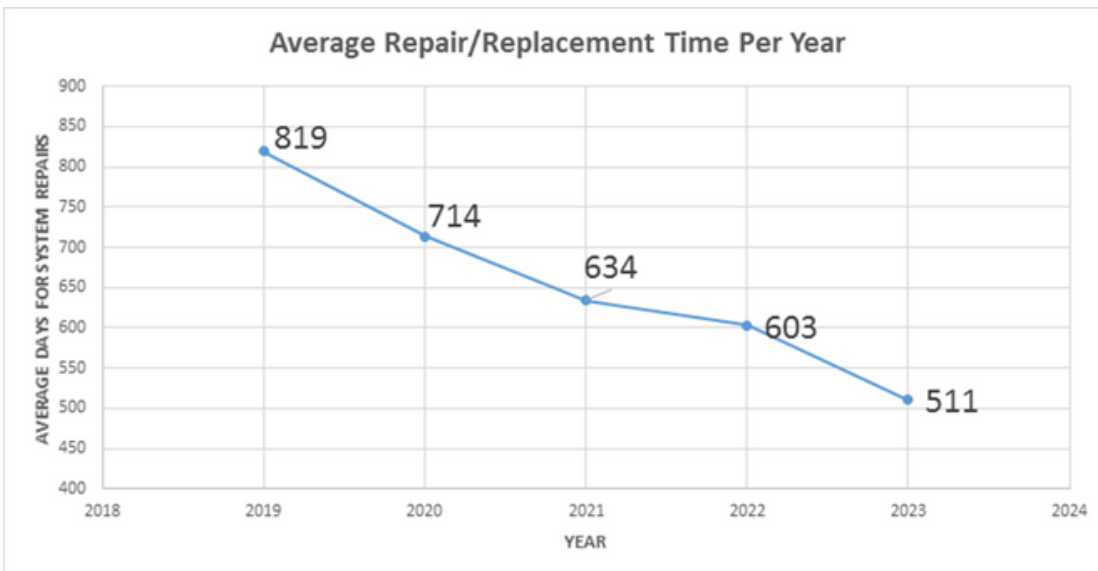


EFFICIENCY

Program staff continued efforts to improve efficiency. Despite a declining number of available engineers in the region, the number of projects completed per year through the CWC Septic Programs has steadily increased. In 2017 CWC funded 179 projects. In 2023 CWC funded 312 projects.

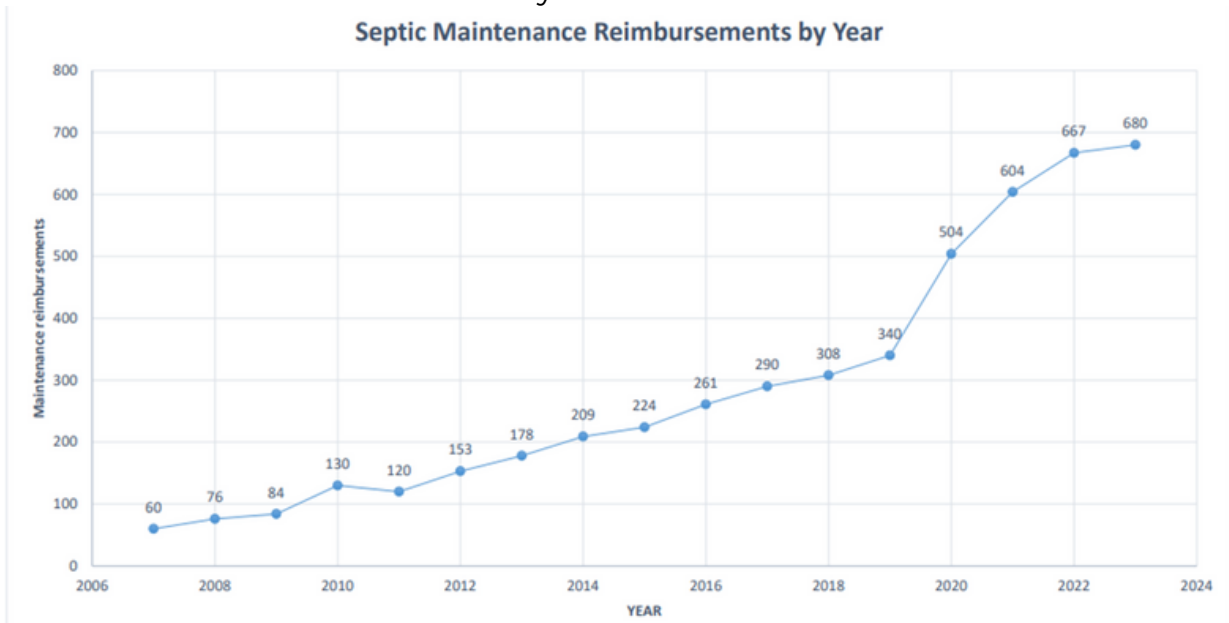


The average number of days from sign-up to project completion has also steadily decreased from 819 days in 2019 to 511 days in 2023.



SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

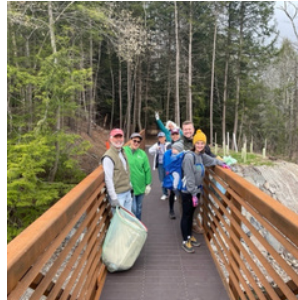
The Septic Maintenance Program reimburses homeowners, small businesses, not-for-profit corporations and government entities 50% of costs for routine maintenance including septic tank pump outs. Regular maintenance encouraged by this program protects CWC investments by ensuring longevity of septic systems. The program has grown steadily since inception. 2023 was another record year. The program reimbursed 680 property owners for maintenance costs, exceeding the previous record established in 2022 by 13.



SPRING CLEAN-UP

CWC supports local engagement and efforts at keeping the Watershed clean. CWC coordinates and provides cleanup supplies to individuals and entities as part of our spring clean-up program. People from all over the Watershed volunteered to help clean our roadsides and streambanks.

 10 groups
245 volunteers



STORMWATER

In 2023 the CWC Board of Directors approved \$1,487,989 of funding from the Future Stormwater and MOA-145 Programs for costs of NYCDEP required stormwater control measures throughout the WOH Watershed. The approved stormwater projects focus on capturing and treating stormwater runoff from new impervious surfaces. Eligible projects span from new construction activities for individual residences, small businesses, to multi-acre subdivisions, and large-scale commercial developments.



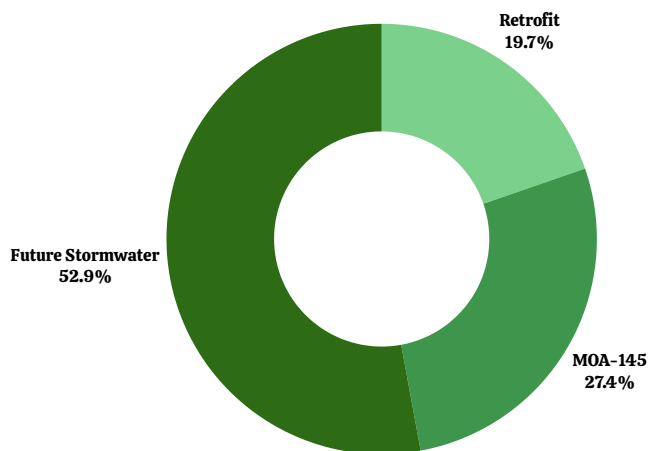
Racheal Burger

Environmental Engineering Specialist

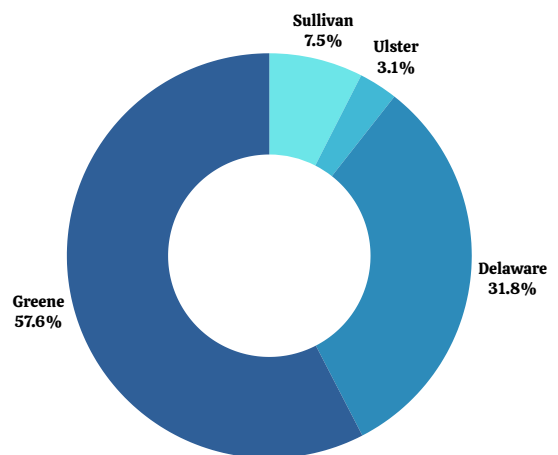
The CWC Board of Directors also approved \$365,100 of funding from the Stormwater Retrofit program for stormwater best management practices (BMP's) and operation and maintenance that addresses existing runoff in concentrated areas of impervious surfaces.

\$1,853,089 2023 STORMWATER FUNDING APPROVED

Program Allocation



County Allocation



DELAWARE COUNTY \$589,288

- The Catskill Mountain Little League’s new baseball diamonds, bullpen, batting cage, concessions stand, announcer’s booth and parking lot in the Town of Harpersfield. Stormwater components include culverts, rip-rap, forebays, rock dams, infiltration basins, stabilized channels, french drains, level spreaders, and erosion & sediment controls for the complex.
- Stormwater components for a private residence in Andes, NY that include erosion and sediment controls, rain gardens, rock outlet protection, catch basins, and swales. The project consisted of demolishing an existing residence and construction of a new two-bedroom residence and garage.
- Stormwater components for a private residence in South Kortright, NY that included level spreaders and filter strips for the construction of a garage and grading of a driveway.
- Stormwater best management practices for a new solar project in the Town of Harpersfield. Stormwater controls include rip-rap-lined and grass swales, a micropool extended detention basin with rip-rap pilot channel and sediment forebay, outlet control structure, rip-rap apron, level spreader, grass filter strips, and erosion and sediment controls.
- Stormwater controls for a new subdivision in Bovina that consists of erosion and sediment controls, rain gardens, and filter strips



Sediment Forebay and Infiltration Basin at Catskill Mountain Little League Field

GREENE COUNTY \$1,067,476

- Operation and maintenance of stormwater controls for a newly constructed wedding venue at Windham Manor in Windham, NY. Funding for stormwater includes maintaining grass swales, level spreaders, pre-treatment basins, bio-retention basins, rain gardens, vegetated buffers, plunge pools, and maintenance of a stormwater pond.
- Erosion and sediment controls for newly constructed homes in a six-lot residential subdivision in Windham, NY.
- Operation and maintenance for a gas station in Windham, NY which includes maintenance of Bay-Filters, catch basins, manholes, and the splitter and attenuation structures.
- Operation and Maintenance for a car wash in Windham, NY which includes maintenance of a plunge pool, diversion swale, and rain gardens.
- Stormwater controls for the new Windham Ambulance Facility in Windham, NY, including erosion and sediment controls, catch basins, diversion swales, rip rap outlet weirs, pea stone diaphragms, and two large retention basins.
- Stormwater controls for the construction of 95 residential units at Cortina Mountain in Hunter, NY. Stormwater management includes open stormwater conveyance systems consisting of roadside ditches, grass lined swales, rip-rap lined swales, and culvert crossings. In addition to the conveyance systems there will also be, micropool extended detention ponds, extended detention shallow wetlands, plunge pools, and rain gardens. Lastly, a conservation easement will preserve approximately 86 acres from future development.



Stabilized Construction Entrance and Check Dams



Private Residential Rain Garden

GREENE COUNTY CONTINUED

- Post-development stormwater management for a subdivision in Windham, NY that includes erosion and sediment controls for three single-family residential homes, gravel access driveway and wastewater disposal systems.
- Stormwater controls for a 12 lot subdivision with single-family homes on each lot in Windham, NY. Stormwater controls include erosion and sediment controls, two bioretention basins, four attenuation basins, rain gardens, and 19 level spreaders to vegetated filter strips.
- Stormwater controls for a private residence in Windham, NY that included rain gardens and associated plantings, filter strips, and flow spreaders.
- Additional funding to the Onteora Club for a 57.84 acre subdivision in Hunter, NY. Stormwater measures include rain gardens for individual lots as well as two bio-retention areas, two stormwater management ponds, a rain garden to treat runoff from the access road, and rain gardens for individual lots.
- Erosion and sediment controls for a seven-lot subdivision in Jewett, NY.
- Funding to design a bioretention basin for the Haines Falls Fire District's new garage.
- Stormwater measures for a new subdivision in Windham, NY that include erosion and sediment controls, diversion swales, drainage ditches lining an entire access road, multiple culverts, large flow diffuser, pre-treatment basin with an outlet structure, and infiltration basin with a retaining wall.



Inlet Culvert pipe to Flow Diffuser

SULLIVAN COUNTY

\$138,453

- Stormwater controls for a new ice cream stand and associated outdoor eating and parking areas in the Town of Neversink. Stormwater components include a forebay and permanent rip-rap check dams, bioretention basin and associated plantings, stone distribution channel, outlet structures and rock outlet protection, and an overflow swale.
- Maintenance funding for a gas station/convenience store in the Town of Neversink that includes multiple inspections per year and removing silt and oil from the oil/water separator, gutters and catch basins.



Forebay and bioretention basin in Neversink

ULSTER COUNTY

\$57,870

- Additional funding for the installation of catch basins and rip-rap drainage outlets for an existing hotel and restaurant in Woodstock, NY.
- Operation and maintenance funding for a private residence in Woodstock, NY which included rain gardens, vegetated swales, plunge pools for velocity reduction, inlet and outlet drainage repairs, and a stormwater pond.



Rip Rap Drainage Outlets



Residential Rain Garden

STORMWATER RETROFIT

\$193,958

- The operation and maintenance of Delaware Academy's installed stormwater controls. The project routes the naturally cleaner upland stormwater directly to the West Branch of the Delaware. It also reroutes the campus stormwater system, redirecting impervious surface runoff to a pond that removes pollutants using 12 hour lag time and increases plant-based filtering in the pond before discharging cleaner water into the West Branch of the Delaware. Maintenance requirements include the routine inspection and clean out of catch basins, storm inlets, conveyance stormwater pipes, discharge points, stormwater pollutant separator treatment systems, detention pond, access roads, and vegetation management.
- The Village of Margaretville Main Street retrofit project. Stormwater controls are expected to include the installation of new stormwater treatment practices and outfall in the Village Park such as bioretention basins or Contech filterra units; replacement of damaged catch basins, associated piping and installation of additional catch basins and piping along Main Street and as needed along Walnut Street; installation of an underground stormwater practice under the Village Parking Lot; regrading and repaving Main Street and Walnut Street to provide positive drainage to stormwater controls.
- The Olive Free Library Association to conduct a feasibility study to address stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces and treating localized water quality issues of pollutants, sediment, and petroleum from the impervious surface of the parking lot.



Outlet Drainage Structure to Sediment
Fore-bay

COMMUNITY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The Community Wastewater Management Program funds the planning, design and construction of community septic systems, wastewater treatment plants and/or the creation of septic maintenance districts in hamlets identified in the 1997 NYC Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Wastewater projects are funded in hamlets where on-site septic systems are insufficient due to lot sizes, soils, and distances to watercourses. CWC has completed 13 projects to date, with two currently under construction and a final project in the hamlet of Shokan nearing design completion.

In the hamlet of Halcottsville in the Town of Middletown, Delaware County over four miles of new infrastructure, including force main, pump stations, manholes, precast units and lateral stubs were installed in 2023. The project is preparing for testing the collection system. Upon passing all testing, 53 properties will be connected to the new lines bringing wastewater to the existing City owned wastewater treatment plant in the Town of Middletown.



In the hamlet of New Kingston, also in the Town of Middletown, Delaware County, the collection system and community leach field for the Community Septic System was constructed throughout 2023. The system is prepared for testing. Upon passing all testing, installation and connection of onsite septic tanks for 28 properties will take place.

Both the Halcottsville and New Kingston projects are expected to be completed in 2024.



John Mathiesen

Environmental Engineering
Specialist



The hamlet of Shokan, Town of Olive, Ulster County, design progressed throughout 2023. When completed, the Shokan wastewater project will be the largest wastewater system in the WOH Watershed with an estimated flow of 166,000 gallons per day. Once design is complete, the Town of Olive will decide whether to put the project out to bid for construction. In 2023 CWC requested an updated cost estimate of the project considering the current block grant amount of \$48.7 million was determined pre-COVID. Current estimates show a likely increase of total project costs to over \$70 million. CWC and NYCDEP are working on an agreement to increase the block grant to ensure the project can move forward without delay.

Community	CWC Block Grant	Type of System	Total Connections
Bovina Center	\$825,000.00	Community Septic	75
Delancey	\$2,220,000.00	Septic Maintenance District	59
Claryville (Denning)	\$3,760,000.00	Septic Maintenance District	130
Claryville (Neversink)	\$4,895,000.00	Septic Maintenance District	
South Kortright	\$4,900,000.00	Connection to Hobart WWTP	48
Hamden	\$5,857,054.00	Community Septic	84
Trout Creek	\$6,500,000.00	Community Septic	44
Shandaken	\$6,770,000.00	Septic Maintenance District	60
Bloomville	\$7,021,000.00	Community Septic	84
Ashland	\$7,700,000.00	Small Diameter WWTP	90
New Kingston	\$7,700,000.00	Community Septic	28
West Conesville	\$8,411,000.00	Community Septic	54
Lexington	\$9,100,000.00	Community Septic	52
Halcottsville	\$11,454,000.00	Connection to Margaretville WWTP	53
Boiceville	\$12,278,000.00	WWTP	119
Shokan	\$48,715,000.00	WWTP	475
Totals	\$148,106,054.00		1455

FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM



John Mathiesen

Environmental Engineering Specialist

The Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation Program began in 2014 in response to devastation to Watershed communities from Tropical Storm Irene. The program continues to evolve and provides much needed funding to communities throughout the Watershed to be better prepared for future flood events.

2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CWC and NYCDEP agreed to a \$15 million renewal contract for additional flood mitigations projects over the next five years.

TANK ANCHORS

CWC provided funding for securing and anchoring 11 propane tanks and two oil tanks located within the 100-year flood plain.



CONSTRUCTION

Completion of the new Olive Fire Department relocation project





Final site work at the Breakey Motors property in Walton was completed in 2023.

Work progressed on the Andes School streambank project. Anticipated completion in 2024.



Work continued on the Railroad Avenue streambank stabilization project in the Village of Tannersville. Anticipated completion in 2024.

Ann Jones and PHM Properties are small businesses in Walton that are nearing completion of their flood protection measures, funded mostly through CWC, to raise both structures above the floodplain.



PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES: DESIGNS

CWC approved two applications for design work required for recommended property protection measures. One is a commercial property in Windham, the other is a residence in Ulster County.

PROPERTY PROTECTION MEASURES: FEASIBILITY STUDIES

- CWC approved 12 feasibility studies in 2023. These studies will provide guidance to property owners to determine recommended measures to mitigate future flooding concerns from relocating utilities, floodproofing, to elevating the structure.
- 3 grants awarded to municipalities for public infrastructure.
- 4 grants to homeowners for residential buildings.
- 5 grants to property owners for commercial or mixed-use facilities.

DESIGN OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS:

- Design work was completed for the Brownell Creek County Route 1 Culvert in the Town of Halcott.
- Design work progressed for upsizing the Third Brook Culvert and Bridge in Walton.

RELOCATIONS:

- CWC provided funding to the Town of Shandaken to evaluate potential relocation parcels for their Town Hall complex.
- CWC provided funding for a feasibility study to the Village of Hunter to evaluate potential relocation parcels for their Firehouse.
- CWC approved funding to purchase the relocation property for the Village of Hunter's Firehouse. CWC also provided design funding for work required as part of the relocation project.

DEMOLITIONS:

CWC completed three demolition projects as part of the City Flood Buyout Program. Each Buyout was first approved by the municipality where located.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS

Thank you to our dedicated cleaning and maintenance crew for keeping the building and grounds clean and safe for all. You play a key role in keeping this building operating on a day to day basis.



Charlie Bush
Building Maintenance
Manager



Rory Smith
General Maintenance
Manager



Matthew Hubbard
General Maintenance
Manager



Martha Cruz De Martinez
General Maintenance



Marie Ferraro
General Maintenance



2023

OUTREACH

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CWC frequently attends community events to engage with local citizens regarding CWC funded projects, questions about our programs, and to spread awareness about CWC's missions and goals.

Catskill Outdoor Expo



Staff attended the Catskills Great Outdoor Expo to provide information on our programs to community members.

Delaware County Fair



Representatives from CWC attended the 136th Annual Delaware County Fair connecting with attendees and providing education about our water protection program offerings.

Olive Day



Staff attended Olive Day and was available to answer questions about our programs, and projects that are in the works. A representative from Lamont Engineers was there to answer questions.

Shandaken Housing Event



CWC staff attended Shandaken's first Housing Fair at the Pine Hill Community Center with resources for first-time home buyers, people who need affordable rental housing, and people who need help with home repairs or reducing heating/cooling costs.

Cauliflower Festival



Representatives from CWC attended the 19th Annual Cauliflower Festival at the Village Park in Margaretville to connect with festival attendees and to educate about our programs.

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

CWC hosts and attends several seminars, trainings and other educational opportunities for contractors, engineers, educators, and professionals throughout the West of Hudson Watershed. Visit our website or follow us on social media to find out what we have upcoming.

Anua Septic Seminar



Representatives from Anua gave an overview of Puraflow Septic Systems on January 25, 2023, talking about new and updated design and installation criteria to about 45 engineers and contractors.

Presby Septic Seminar



Representatives from Presby Environmental gave an overview of advanced Enviro-Septic treatment systems on February 9, 2023 to about 70 engineers and contractors.

FujiClean USA Septic Seminar



Representatives from FujiClean USA gave an overview of design and installation on March 14, 2023 to about 60 engineers and contractors. A tank was onsite for demonstration.

FHMIP Conference



CWC Staff attended a Flood Hazard Mitigation Implementation conference and did a presentation to describe how our programs work.

Frost Valley YMCA



CWC staff attended an educational conference with Columbia University at Frost Valley YMCA on CWC's mission and gave an overview of our programs to give the students a sense of what happens in the West of Hudson Watershed.

SEPTIC



STORMWATER



COMMUNITY WASTEWATER



PUBLIC EDUCATION



Municipalities in the West of Hudson Watershed

MUNICIPALITIES

DELAWARE COUNTY

Town of Andes
Town of Bovina
Town of Colchester
Town of Delhi
Village of Delhi
Town of Deposit
Village of Flesichmanns
Town of Franklin
Town of Hamden
Town of Harpersfield
Village of Hobart
Town of Kortright
Village of Margaretville
Town of Masonville
Town of Meredith
Town of Middletown
Town of Roxbury
Town of Sidney
Town of Stamford
Village of Stamford
Town of Tompkins
Town of Walton
Village of Walton

GREENE COUNTY

Town of Ashland
Town of Halcott
Town of Hunter
Village of Hunter
Town of Jewett
Town of Lexington
Village of Tannersville
Town of Prattsville
Town of Windham

SCHOHARIE COUNTY

Town of Broome
Town of Conesville
Town of Gilboa
Town of Jefferson

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Town of Fallsburgh
Town of Liberty
Town of Neversink

ULSTER COUNTY

Town of Denning
Town of Hardenburgh
Town of Hurley
Town of Kingston
Town of Marletown
Town of Olive
Town of Rochester
Town of Shandaken
Town of Wawarsing
Town of Woodstock

5 COUNTIES

41 TOWNS

8 VILLAGES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Catskill Center for Conservation and Development
M-ARK Project
Western Catskills Community Revitalization Council

COUNTY AGENCIES

Soil & Water Conservation Districts: Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster Counties
Cornell Cooperative Extension: Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster Counties
County Planning Departments: Delaware, Greene, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster Counties
Delaware County Department of Watershed Affairs
Greene County Watershed Assistance Program
Public Works Departments of Delaware, Greene and Ulster Counties
Ulster County Department of the Environment

FEDERAL, STATE AND REGIONAL

United States Environmental Protection Agency
New York City Department of Environmental Protection
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
New York State Department of State
New York State Department of Health
New York State Energy Research & Development Agency
New York State Office for Small Cities
Appalachian Regional Commission
Watershed Protection & Partnership Council
Watershed Agricultural Council
National Association of Development Organizations

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Bank of Greene County
Catskill Hudson Bank
Community Bank
Delaware County Economic Development
Delaware County Industrial Development Agency
Delaware National Bank of Delhi
Empire State Development Corp.
Key Bank
NBT Bank

New York Business Development Corp.
Rondout Savings Bank
Small Business Development Centers
Sullivan County Partnership
Ulster County Industrial Development Agency
Ulster County Economic Development
Ulster Savings Bank
Walden Savings Bank
Wayne Bank



669 County Highway 38, Suite 1
Arkville, NY 12406

www.cwconline.org

www.watershededucators.org

Protecting water quality and
preserving communities in the West-
of-Hudson NYC Watershed since 1997



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