

**SOLID WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE**  
**POWERS, MCCARTY, KENNEDY, HINCHEY, BERLIANT**  
**April 16, 2026**  
**11:00 a.m.**

This meeting was streamed via YouTube.

Members: Representative Powers - present  
Representative McCarty - present  
Representative Kennedy – present  
Representative Hinchey - present  
Representative Berliant - present

Also present: Denise Hollis, County Attorney; Allan Barnes, Special Assistant to the County Administrator; Dayrelis Aydogan, Budget Analyst; and a staff member, from Casella

Committee Chair Powers requested approval of the March 12, 2026, meeting minutes. Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Berliant. Oral vote. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

**MOHAWK VALLEY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT (MVEDD) – SAMANTHA FRANCISCO, SUSTAINABILITY COORDINATOR, AMANDA WHALEN, CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM MANAGER, AND KAITLYN COLUCCIO, SUSTAINABILITY SPECIALIST, in Board Chambers**

Samantha Francisco gave a brief overview of the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District, Inc. (MVEDD), noting that it is one of seventeen revolving loan fund grantees of the US EDA, serving 6 county regions.

Samantha Francisco gave a brief overview about the Business Support, Regional Support and Program and Initiatives, that are offered through MVEDD.

Kaitlyn Coluccio gave a brief overview of the GHG inventory project, noting that the goal of this project is to assist Otsego County Communities in understanding their emissions and how they relate to other communities of similar demographics. Ms. Coluccio mentioned that they have completed 12 reports with Otsego County for the Towns of Middlefield, Hartwick, Butternuts, Otsego and Richfield.

Samantha Francisco gave a brief overview of the Climate Smart Communities (CSC), noting that CSC is a roadmap tool for local governments to enhance resiliency and sustainability.

Amanda Whalen gave a brief overview of the NYSERDA Clean Energy Communities, noting that this provides municipalities with the resources and funding to create a healthier and sustainable environment by reducing energy use and investing in clean energy solutions.

Amanda Whalen gave a brief overview of the GHG Inventories and CEC, noting that this creates the community GHG inventories, data from NYSERDA'S "Cleaner, Greener, Communities" Mohawk Valley regional GHG inventory was utilized.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE COOPERSTOWN AREA – TRACY ROBERTS, HEAD OF THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, ON BEHALF OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS, in Board Chambers**

Tracy Roberts briefly mentioned that she is involved with the League of Women Voters of the Cooperstown area and also involved with a group called, Beyond Plastics, noting that this an organization working to fight plastic pollution.

Tracy Roberts gave a brief overview of the Packaging Reduction and Recycling Infrastructure Act, noting that she is looking for Otsego County to sign a resolution urging the New York State Legislator and Governor Kathy Hochul to pass. Ms. Roberts mentioned that this is a critical bill and supported by the league at the state level as well as many other organizations looking at reducing toxic plastic pollution.

**DELTA ENGINEERS – CHRIS LYNCH, SENOR PROJECT MANAGER, STEVEN SANYSHYN, CIVIL ENGINEER, AND DAN WENZEL, PLUMBING ENGINEER, in Board Chambers**

Chris Lynch, Steven Sanyshyn and Dan Wenzel gave a presentation of the Southern Tier Station (STS) final design and cost estimate.

**SOLID WASTE – TAMMIE HARRIS, DIRECTOR, AND KEVIN MUSSER, SENIOR PLANNER, in Board Chambers**

Tammie Harris requested approval of the SEQR process for the STS final design and declare SWECC as Lead Agency. Representative McCarty moved for approval. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

Tammie Harris requested approval to declare as an unlisted action. Representative McCarty moved for approval. Seconded, Berliant. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

Tammie Harris requested approval to determine significance. Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Berliant. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

Tammie Harris requested approval to declare SWECC the lead agency and accept the environmental assessments forms as they're presented. Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Hinchey. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

Kevin Musser requested approval of the revise SEQR for Ag District 8-year review and 30- day open enrollment, noting there are 970.5 acres of additions added to the Ag district, for a total of 1,552.23 acres and will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts. Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Hinchey. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

Tammie Harris requested approval to modify the acreage in the agricultural district for the 8-year review. Representative Hinchey moved for approval. Seconded, Berliant. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

Tammie Harris gave the following MSW/C&D Report for the month of March 2026:

- **MSW/C&D:** collected 3,138.01 tons; generated a revenue of \$336,566.96; rebate from Casella of \$3,622.08; up 785.06 tons from 2025
- **Recycling:** collected 314.13 tons; cost to Casella \$30,740.76; 300.41 tons recorded at Apalachin, up 19.72 tons from 2025
- **Electronics:** 0 tons
- **Cardboard:** collected 2.92 tons; savings of \$4.17 per ton
- **Glass:** STS collected 3.87 tons, savings of \$38.02 per ton;
- **Food Waste:** collected \$9.00 in compost revenue
- **Mattresses:** collected 262 units; sent 8.74 tons to Triad; subsidy cost savings: \$1,310.00,
- **Books:** STS collected 0 tons, NTS collected 0 tons
- **Metal:** STS sent 8.15 tons, NTS sent 5.09 tons to Otsego Auto Crushers; received shared rebate of \$181.48.
- **Textiles:** collected \$38.43 in revenue
- **Tires:** 4.45 tons to BDS

## **SOIL & WATER – REPRESENTATIVE KENNEDY**

Representative Kennedy gave the Soil and Water District report including but not limited to the following: had a meeting on Monday, noting this week is the tree sale. Ms. Kennedy mentioned that they discussed the cell phone policy that the district employee should only be using their district phone while they're at work for work related purposes.

Representative Kennedy mentioned that they had a lengthy discussion about their district partners within NRCS who haven't been funded for most of the past calendar year and that has affected some of the billing for how they partner up on preparing the AG nonpoint source applications. Ms. Kennedy noted that they are working with them to put everything together for round 31, which is due on April 20, 2026.

Representative Kennedy mentioned they are working with Montgomery County on a project with the Mohawk Valley watershed, noting that they were given \$10,000.00 to spend within that watershed and working with Montgomery County to do a couple of projects.

Representative Kennedy mentioned they got (6) approvals for the current round.

Representative Kennedy mentioned they did sign a Stewardship contract with USC.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Kevin Musser requested approval of the Memorandum of Support, Senate Bill 1101 (Senator May) Assembly Bill 7551 (Assemblyman Stripe), noting that Otsego County is the trail sponsor for the New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Snowmobile Grant In-Aid Program. All snowmobile clubs within Otsego County have expressed that the Holiday Hunt has had a negative impact on snowmobiling. One land owner can essentially shut down an entire trail network, if they chose not to allow snowmobiling on their property during hunting season. Otsego County has 353 miles of snowmobile trails funded by the Snowmobile Grant In-Aid Program. In 2025, Otsego County snowmobile clubs ran into difficulty with opening trails at the end of December due to the Holiday Hunt impacting landowner decisions. Representative McCarty moved for approval. Seconded, Berliant. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Shelby MacLeish, Director, of the Otsego County Conservation Association (OCCA) gave a brief overview of the New York State Senate Bill S.4408 (May) and New York State Assembly Bill A.10483 (Lunsford).

Tammie Harris requested approval of drafting a resolution in support of protecting New York State forests and wildlife, and in opposition to New York State Senate Bills S.4408 (May) and New York State Assembly Bill A.10483 (Lunsford).

Representative McCarty moved for approval. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, Representative Hinchey moved to adjourn. Seconded, Berliant. Oral vote. Total: 38. Ayes: 38. Motion carried.