

**CCE Schoharie & Otsego Counties  
Funds Development Committee Meeting Minutes  
March 5, 2025**

**Present:** Andrew Marietta, Shelby MacLeish, Mahla Zare, Lesley Judd and Liz Callahan

Updates on Funding Cultivation for 123 Lake St Rehabilitation

- Congressionally Directed Spending apps due 3/31 – applying for Coop building rehab
- Will focus all attention/cultivate all connections with the REDC process in the summer
- Will use both applications to leverage matching support (e.g. revisit Scriven funding)
- Pursuing funding for energy efficiency improvements (Sustainable Westchester RAN)

Donation to Schoharie County 4-H from Howes Cave Animal Hospital

Follow-up with Senator Oberacker regarding stalled NYS Funding

### **NOISE Analysis Brainstorming**

#### **Strengths**

- Staff expertise/knowledge
- established programs
- buildings
- CCE/Cornell
  - Strong network, resources
  - Unique role of CCE helping farmers and the community
  - Youth Development: 4-H/4-H ASP, nutrition, support, service, opportunities for youth

#### **Needs**

- Funding/capacity: Resources (compensation) to retain/attract staff with the expertise we need
- Facility needs: if we could improve the facilities it would better support our goals
- Expand our connections to attract a more representative pool of Board/PAC members
- Improve Program Advisory Committee engagement (update model, energize)

#### **Opportunities**

- Gardens (in Coop/Cobleskill) continue to be opportunities, have a lot of support
- Potential to build-on collaborations between ag community and SUNY
  - Student engagement, cases studies in classroom/student support ag community
  - using college resources to engage local 4H'ers with College
- Tie to Cornell, CCE system/other extensions, are strengths
  - E.g.: syrup production do more to connect producers with CCE/Farmers' Museum

- Connection to TFM/better developing maple industry by help leverage scriven (sugaring off is well established)
- Use the garden space to raise our visibility
- Cornell/CCE Resources
  - How many dairy farms are using our CNYDLFC Team in each county?
  - Is there a different ag industry that we should be looking at?
  - What can CCESO do to help the industry (what are other CCEs doing?)
  - Forestry Program: Ots Co contracts with a forester, are there ways that Cornell can support this/support forestry plan? Relevant services that make a case for sustained funding
  - Inventory of the services that Cornell/CCE has
  - Things are changing from an agricultural standpoint in Otsego Co
  - Discussion of Revenue Opportunities for our Extension
    - E.g.: MGVs/seed swap,
    - Maple Production Starter kit?
    - Interest in lowering the barriers to entry and saving money
    - Seed to Supper /container gardening – getting people started in a modest way that give people confidence to do more
    - Buying a calf/pig is a greater investment than boiling maple sap, very specialized
- Collaboration
  - Work with MG, developing gardening networking between two counties,
  - Branching out/brining in new stakeholders committed to food security, hunger
    - Seed to Supper pilot and growth
  - Ag Networking gatherings – replicate in Ots Co.
  - Figure out how to create partnerships, collaborations, relevancy and more connections with each County's leadership
    - The stronger that connection is the less likely we will be cut/the more successful we will be in leveraging more support
  - Business owners – platform to share their success stories/best practices/ ID mentors to inspire others/young people – network

## **Improvements**

- Need to better communicate what we do
  - Committee members are not aware of all we are doing
  - There is more we can do to get the word out, tell our stories better
- Continuing to do things like the legislative gatherings at events like the Co Fairs
  - Connect with them somewhere, ideally tied to what we are doing, cultivation and relationship building, fine-tune engagement

- Having a large, spread-out staff – ways to improve staff interactions, productivity/sustainability, continuing to connect staff b/c we are physically disconnected

## **Exceptions**

- Two County challenges
  - Improvement, too; Weakness, too; and a Need
    - Budgetary system is a challenge (two county accounting)
    - If one county pulls out the whole system will collapse – so another reason to keep the reporting very separate, can defend that each county's allocation is staying in the county
- Need partnerships/collab connections b/t 2 counties
  - Relevant conversations between reps from each county?
  - Where is the tension? Why?
  - Build a better connection between the counties/has to help
- Cornell is a strength but the systems creates challenges (bureaucratic/not agile)
  - Cornell will ask CCEs to pay more for fewer services
  - Centralization of teams, relevance in counties