



ONEIDA COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD



Brymer Humphreys, Chair

Bill Tylutki ♦ Michael J. Cosgrove ♦ Roger Crary ♦ Daniele Harris ♦ Paul Snider
Pat van Lieshout ♦ Carol Watkins ♦ James J. Genovese II ♦ Kathy Pilbeam ♦ George Joseph

OC Farmland Protection Board
11:00 A.M. Monday, December 1, 2025 Minutes
Cornell Cooperative Extension Oneida County Office

I. Call to order

Humphreys called the meeting to order at 11:04 A.M.

II. Attendance

The following persons were present: Brymer Humphreys, Mike Cosgrove, Paul Snider, Roger Crary, Matt Pawlusik, George Joseph, and Pat van Lieshout

Guests: Mary Beth McEwen, Carol Watkins, Jennifer Reynolds, Madalyn De Carr and Amanda Vinci

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Motion by Cosgrove to approve July minutes as submitted. Second by Crary. Motion carried.

IV. Board Term Expiring- Bill Tylutki and Open Board Position

Tylutki's term will expire 12/31/2025. The board discussed looking for candidates with an emphasis on farmer representation in areas such as Remsen, Boonville and Forestport.

V. Introduction of new CCE staff

McEwen introduced Jennifer Reynolds as Ag Team Lead, Carol Watkins as AED Issue Lead and Amanda Vinci as Ag/AED Operations Coordinator. Vinci will assist the Board with duties, such as meeting minutes.

VI. Board Approval of Carol Watkins as CCE Board Representative

Motion by Crary to approve Carol Watkins to the Board. Second by van Lieshout. Motion carried. Pawlusik will have appointment letter sent to BOL for approval.

VII. Responsibilities of Farmland Protection Board Members

The Board provided an overview of responsibilities to new CCE staff. Board members are appointed by the Oneida County Legislature, and the Board advises the legislative body regarding Ag district creation and modification. Oneida County is made up of 7 districts, and each district is reviewed on an 8-year rotation. The Board also reviews and provides comments on topics within an Ag district, such as notices of intent, and construction of water/sewer facilities. Further, the Board can request NYS Ag & Markets to review regulations affecting agriculture activities. The Board clarified the difference between Ag assessment and Ag districts.

Oneida County Farmland Protection Board * C/O Cornell Cooperative Extension
121 Second Street * Oriskany, New York * 13424 * (315) 736-3394

VIII. Status on 2025 Open Enrollment and District 1 Applications

Notices will be sent to landowners in the last week of December for Open enrollment for all districts. District 1 applications are with Ag & Markets committee for approval.

IX. Upcoming Agriculture District 2 Review: Towns of Ava, Lee Rome and Western

Letters are going out the first two weeks of December.

X. Land Trusts

Pawlusik initiated Board discussion on working directly with land trusts. The Ag Strategic Plan actions include supporting land trust farmer outreach and promoting preservation of farmland through PDR and easements. Pawlusik proposed having a seat on the Board dedicated to land trust representation.

XI. NY-Sun NOI Submission- Stony Creek Solar in the Town of Vernon

The Board reviewed a Notice of Intent submitted to Ag & Markets for a solar project in Vernon. The project will utilize 40 acres of a 109 total acre plot, 42% prime soil. The Board has no objections to the project.

XII. Open Discussion

Notifications of Open Enrollment and District Reviews

Joseph asked how notices are made and what the outreach is to towns. Pawlusik noted town clerks and supervisors post the information in municipal buildings. For district reviews, letters are mailed to landowners. Two public hearings are held within the district under review.

Misconception of Protection vs Zoning/Code Laws

Pawlusik is continuing education on this topic, fielding calls and emails. Ag & Market trifold are provided in all letters mailed.

Producers vs. Processing

Joseph asked if Chobani can or has applied for Ag District classification. The Board discussed the difference between production vs processing facilities. No Ag exemption or Ag District available for processing facilities. Situational exemptions may apply in some instances, for example microbreweries or farm to table operations in that land/fields are Ag practice but no Ag building exemption.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Cosgrove. Second by Snider. Meeting adjourned at 12:18 P.M.

XIV. NEXT MEETING: TBA MARCH 2026

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