



April 28, 2026

Board Meeting Minutes

Board Members present: Ariel, Shane, Shawn, Kate, Steve, Judy, Gerry.

Nonmembers present: Nancy

Board Members absent: Peter, Betty, Ken, John

6:15 Call to Order (Steve)

Approval/edits to agenda

Privilege to the floor (3 minutes per public comment)

Secretary (Shawn): Minutes from March Board meeting (separate attachment)

Motion to approve March minutes Steve

Second Judy

Votes All

6:20 Facilities update (Nancy)

AB Insulation will be here the last weekend of May for the insulation work over the copier room and bathrooms. Need to discuss stronger sealing around baseboards to prevent rats; current pest control company traps and poisons only. Minor issues with exterior paint. A sample patch (1000 square feet) of meadow species from Meadow Lab will be planted in one of the low, wet areas near Hydesville Road; this will support increased water infiltration and pollinator species. Soil and water has seed that we will look into for next time.

Discussion about facilities management position.

6:30 Treasurer

Reliant Credit Union signers updated to Shelby and Nancy following executive committee meeting (below).

Motion to approve January financials Steve

Second Shawn

Votes All

Discussion about possibility of getting financials to board sooner, or at least a draft version for information.

Motion to move \$15000 from Excellus Equity Innovation Grant, which was put into building designated funds at 2025 year end, in a deferred revenue account for 2026, to be used for salary and expenses related to Stay Strong Stay Healthy programming. Steve

Second Shane

Votes All

Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities

Diversity and Inclusion are a part of Cornell University's heritage. We are a recognized employer and educator valuing AA/EEO, Protected Veterans, and Individuals with Disabilities.

CDs renewed. Account 217623455 with \$77,510.13 – 6 month term 10-11-26, interest rate 3.537%, APR 3.6%. Account 217623463 with \$77,812.51 – 6 month term 10-10-26, interest rate 3.537, APR 3.6%.

Executive committee met March 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm on zoom (John, Ariel, Shawn, Katie and Nancy attended). 2025 end of year financial statements were examined and approved. (motion by Shawn, second by Ariel, all in favor). 2026 revised budget was approved (motion by John, second by Ariel, all in favor). We recommended to update the Reliant Credit Union Account with current staff (Nancy and Shelby) as users on the account (motion by Shawn, second by John, all in favor). Meeting was adjourned at 6:25 pm.

6:45 People and Programs

Grant submitted to Greater Rochester Health Foundation (GRHF) for a bilingual Nature and Garden educator (\$270K over 3 years). CCE Monroe submitted grant to GRHF for primary support (\$43K each) of 4 nutrition educators, including one here at CCE Wayne. Letter of Interest submitted to Mother Cabrini Foundation for partial support of nutrition staff and for related nutrition and health program expenses. Submitted request for \$20K from Fidelis to support FVrX program (Fruit and Vegetable Prescription). Workforce development grant submitted today to support young adult training for farmwork.

6:50 Staff Program Reports (Nancy, notes below)

6:55 ED Report (Nancy)

7:00 Board President (John) –

7:05 New business

7:10 Adjourn – Motion – Steve. 2nd – Shawn. Votes - All

Program reports

Master Gardeners

Master Gardener Annual Plant Sale - Saturday, May 9th 8:30-11:00am.

CCE Wayne Master Gardener's Native Plants, Pollinators and Beneficial Insects Project – Saturday, June 13th from 9 am to 12:30 pm (may run just a bit over). This class is for people who want to learn about pollinators and other beneficial insects and how to support them with native plant habitats. We expect to have native plants available and have some great speakers lined up for this event! Watch for registration details in future newsletters. Class size will be limited.

Great Gardens of Wayne County Tour – Wednesday, July 15th from 4 pm to 8 pm. Our 2026 tour will feature gardens in the Macedon area.

Agriculture

Summary: Our department fielded a few calls in the past two months from beginning farmers looking for resources to a farm stand wanting to start their own learning garden. Most of our department's energy was spent preparing for the Pesticide Safety and Test Prep class we taught at the end of March, as well as hosting a GAP certification course and special permit training for pesticide application. Josh is working on getting a soil health

certification through Cornell which will help him give better nutrient management advice across all commodities. We hosted an environmental science class as a field trip location and did a soil and food systems program for the students. We are also preparing to host a homeschool coop for another field trip program at the end of April. Lastly, we are working on boosting our social media presence by putting up educational videos on our FB of activities we are doing in the learning garden.

Agriculture continued - Community Interaction:

- Meeting with prospective vineyard owner in Newark
- Meeting with Animal Sanctuary and Healing owner
- Meeting with landowner on NRCS application
- Learning garden set-up and operation
- Reforestation inquiry
- Environmental Science class field trip
- Homeschool Coop field trip

Notable Events:

- Pesticide applicators course Orleans and Wayne
- GAP courses
- Cornell Soil Health Certification Course
- Special Permit training
- Wrapping up Ag registration

4-H Activities and Events

Public Presentations: We have 15 youth representing Wayne County at the District Public Presentations on April 11, 2026.

Program updates: Kailey started this month and has hit the ground running. A school reached out to have us teach a hatching lesson so we are developing that as something new we can offer to other districts as well. We are also meeting with a few schools who are interested in getting more agricultural programs in their school (ag in the classroom, 4-H afterschool program for teens, etc.)

Teen Exchange Program: The Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for May 9th. We have 11 youth and 2 chaperons going to Texas from July 21-28, 2026. We still have a few fundraisers going on to help the kids meet their goals!

Leadership Programs: We took 3 youth to Albany for the Rural Resource Fair where they got to share their experiences about being Camp Counselors and meet some of their representatives. We are utilizing Tractor Supply Paper Clover funds to send 4 teens to Capital Days in Albany and 3 teens to Career Exploration in Ithaca. It has been a while since we have sent these many teens consistently to leadership opportunities, so we are excited we have the funds for these kids to attend as well as have them interested.

May 1st- Camp Registration opens

May 9th – Teen Exchange Pancake Breakfast

Nutrition and Health

SNAP-Ed NY had been advocating at the state level for funding for nutrition education and programming to be added to their bill. The Assembly and Senate released their one-house bills, and upon review, there was nothing in there for SNAP-Ed/nutrition education. SNAP-Ed is planning to continue somehow with advocacy and conversations for nutrition education.

FVRx vouchers coming in from our last FVRx classes that happened in December are starting to slow down. As expiration dates on vouchers are closing in, \$7,145 in vouchers were given out. So far, \$4,329 has been used, giving us a 61% redemption rate for December. URM is looking to continue programming and is looking into grant opportunities to cover voucher costs for a possible multi-county continuation for FVRx till Sept 30th.

Programming for March/ April, we have reached 249 participants and 41 classes, and have used curricula like Body Connect, Stay Strong Stay Healthy, Food SMARTs, Rethink Your Drink, Cooking Matters, and Eat Health Be Active. A couple of the educators got to go into schools to read to the students for Ag Literacy Week.

ED Report

One of the aspects of this job that I love most is how each day is different. Country roads, writing, conversations, learning obscure agricultural facts, meeting people, animal and plant encounters, celebrating work well done, moving tables and chairs...the possibilities in each day are wide-ranging and honestly make for very balanced weeks. Each evening I look ahead at my calendar for the next day to learn whether I am in office or traveling, talking, listening, writing, thinking and/or doing.

Along with all this good variety come the ensuing surprises. On the lovely side, a group using our activity room might leave behind some tasty treats for staff. One day last year a lovely little milk snake was slithering around the floor – just outside my office. On the less lovely side, one day in March Laurie found a dead young rat next to a file cabinet, a week after Camille found that several boxes of 4-H supplies had been partially eaten...with the resulting digestive result scattered nearby. For much of my first year, I kept finding new spaces – generally filled with *stuff* - tucked in various nooks and crannies and attics of the building – including a cabinet full of old pesticides in our garage, which has to be disposed of as hazardous waste. The old printing press in the maintenance space near the bathrooms: I'm still not sure if it would be easier to take the printing press apart or open the wall of the building to get it out. Every week includes a certain amount of triage. What's urgent? What can wait? Who do I need to ask for help? One of my goals is to surprise the board as rarely as possible, and to include you all in the decisions whenever possible.

We just celebrated Volunteer Appreciation week, and we have paid special attention to our Master Gardeners and 4-H Volunteers. That week is also about all of you, and how you show up to think with me and advise me, to root for CCE Wayne and the work of each of our staff. I'm grateful for your support – your time and talent and treasure, your questions and concerns and affirmations.

Over the next weeks, several of our major annual events occur: plant sale, pancake breakfast, the beginning of garden season. Before long, we'll have camps and fair, events which are "all hands on deck" for staff. We hope to see board members at these events, so you can see our staff in action and feel the amazing energy of how well CCE Wayne folks work as a team. We hope you'll bring friends and introduce them to our staff and our

services, plant some plants in your garden and harvest their fruits (and vegetables!), and come see the exhibits at county and state fair.

Most of all, I hope you'll enjoy being part of the work we do – you're an essential part of making all this good happen!