



Fall 2022 Local Gov't Workshop Session Descriptions

*Thursday November 3rd,
Del Lago Resort, Waterloo NY*

Planning for the Future of Farmland – *Ethan Winter & Linda Garrett, American Farmland Trust*

Since 1994, New York has invested over \$157 million in public funds to protect nearly 100,000 acres of valuable farmland. Despite state funding and local efforts to support farmland protection policies and programs, farmland continues to be lost at an alarming rate. We are at a critical time as farms and farmers are being impacted by supply chain disruptions, impacts from global conflicts, climate change/severe weather patterns, exodus from cities exacerbated by the pandemic that further impact land and housing affordability, and an exponential increase in solar development. Learn how American Farmland Trust is working in NYS and the Genesee Valley on solutions to these issues including: protecting agricultural land, promoting environmentally sound farming practices, and keeping farmers on the land.

Brownfields Basics – *Cailyn Bruno, PC, L SRP, New Jersey Institute of Technology; Brian Pincelli, Wayne County*

Build your community's capacity to clean up and redevelop brownfield sites. Join the New Jersey Institute of Technology Technical Assistance to Brownfield Communities (NJIT TAB) and Wayne County in an interactive opportunity for participants to learn the basics of brownfields and gain more in-depth knowledge as we take a deeper dive into making your site attractive for development. The brownfields basics will include the definition of brownfields; a discussion of why there are so many brownfield sites; a brief overview of the brownfield assessment and remediation processes; how to market your site for development; examples of brownfields that have been successfully redeveloped; and information on the free assistance that the TAB Program can provide to support brownfield-impacted communities.

An Overview of the New York State Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act – *Phillip Rumsey, NYS Office of Cannabis Management*

On March 31st, 2021, New York State passed the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA). MRTA sets out a framework that will regulate cannabis in New York State in a manner that will protect public health and safety,

while promoting social equity and economic development. The Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) will license cultivators, processors, distributors, and dispensaries to grow and sell cannabis. Attend this workshop to gain a comprehensive understanding of the MRTA, OCM and the underlining principles governing the new cannabis industry of New York State.

Drinking Water Source Protection – NYS DEC and DOH

In 2021, DEC and DOH announced the new Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2). The goal of the program is for municipalities to create community-specific drinking water protection plans in a way that strengthens relationships, fosters collaboration, and engages stakeholders so that public drinking water sources are protected now and in the future. The state is seeking communities to work with a technical assistance provider, free of charge, to develop and initiate implementation of their drinking water source protection program. This presentation will go over the free technical assistance available, where to apply, resources available, and highlight previous communities that have gone through this process.

Climate Smart Communities – Rachel Scudder & Rob Richardson, GFLRPC

Does your municipality have any interest in pursuing climate action?! The NYS Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program puts the power of climate action into the community's hands!! This presentation will outline the core facets of the CSC program and offer real-world examples of how other municipalities have had success. This presentation will also give insight into how to become involved and make such a large program more manageable, even for smaller municipalities with limited staff. With the hundreds of action items within the CSC program, municipalities can take the core values of their community and make the CSC program work for them.

Managing and Protecting our Watersheds Track – Mary Austerman, NY Sea Grant and additional subject matter experts

A) Watershed and Floodplain 101

B) Local Issues and Planning Tools (covered in two sessions)

C) Interactive Watershed Game

CDBG Funding: Financing and Resources for Municipalities – Charlie Phillion, Office of Community Development

Let's talk about planning for Community Development. This session will review the steps to consider when planning for community development needs, the

speaker will also discuss pre-application homework, funding source requirements, as well as reporting requirements.

New CDBG program areas will also be discussed. If you want to learn the A to Z of applying for Community Development Block Grants, this is the session for you!

The following sessions will be presented by the NYS DOS Division of Local Gov't Training

Joint Boards: Options for Consolidating Review Boards

Some local governments across the state have been challenged to find citizens able to serve on their planning boards and zoning boards of appeals. One option is to reduce the number of board members; another is for villages and towns to form joint village-town planning boards and sometimes village-town zoning boards of appeals. This course discusses these and other innovative approaches to maintaining planning boards and zoning boards of appeals when there isn't a waiting list of applicants for those posts.

Sign Regulation

The regulation of signs isn't just a zoning issue— when regulating signage, municipalities must be careful not to violate free speech. This course reveals what municipalities may and may not regulate in commercial or non-commercial signage and explores how signage can be regulated for community aesthetics. The session also addresses the drafting of a sign control law; the content of local sign control regulations; regulating billboards and other off-premises signs; and eliminating nonconforming or undesirable signs.

State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) Basics

This introduction to the State Environmental Quality Review Act includes an overview of the environmental assessment form (EAF), Type I, Type II, and Unlisted actions and the sequence of making a positive or negative declaration on a project's potential to have an adverse impact on the environment. The relationship between the administration of local regulations and SEQRA will also be discussed.