



DIVISION OF PLANNING, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

ACTIVITY REPORT

November 2024

CONTENTS

- I. Planning
- II. Sustainable Energy
- III. Parks, Recreation & Beautification
- IV. Grants
- V. Agriculture & Farmland Protection

I. PLANNING ACTIVITY

Land Use Planning & Technical Assistance:

- **GML-239 Referrals**

GML - 239 Referrals					
Date Received	Date Requested	Project Name	Action Type	Referral ID #	Legislator
11/18/24	12/3/24	Wise Equities Warehouse (resubmission)	Site Plan Review	THO24-14	Ward
11/19/24	12/13/24	Proposed Local Law #1 of 2024	Adoption/Amendment of Zoning Map	BET24-03	M/McPhillips
11/26/24	12/11/24	240 Chestnut St.	Special Use Permit	LIV24-12	Alvarez
11/26/24	12/2/24	McMorrow 2-lot Subdivision	Subdivision Review	BET24-04	M. McPhillips

- Updated exemption agreements were sent to municipalities for renewal. To date, fifteen municipalities have signed and returned them, and two are due later this month.
- Working with NYS DEC and the Sullivan County Partnership on a training to update our communities on changes to wetland regulations.
- Planning staff has been attending municipal planning board meetings to foster better coordination and more helpful reviews. The Town of Neversink and the Village of Monticello's meetings were attended in November.
- Working with NYS DEC and the Sullivan County Partnership on a training to update our communities on changes to wetland regulations.

- Planning staff has been attending municipal planning board meetings to foster better coordination and more helpful reviews. The Towns of Liberty, Bethel and Forestburgh's meetings were attended in October.

Land Use, Strategic and Comprehensive Planning

- **Water Resources and Infrastructure**
 - Planning consultant Delaware Engineering is making progress on the the Countywide Infrastructure Assessment. Delaware created the framework to collect data on existing conditions and make recommendations for areas for infrastructure expansion based on current and anticipated growth. Outreach to all municipalities to collect the data is underway
 - Planning and Delaware Engineering met with the US Water Alliance to collaborate on developing a peer learning based training that will dovetail with the assessment. Training is in development and expected to be completed in early 2025.
 - A separate scope of work is being developed to obtain hydrogeologic expertise in relation to subsurface conditions throughout the County to assess the County's water resources. We are actively searching for funding sources that could potentially fund this study. Assessment of available funding sources and development of the scope of work are ongoing.
 - Continued facilitation of technical assistance to Wurtsboro and Fallsburg from the Water Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

Recreation, Quality of Life & Tourism-based Economic Development

- **Sullivan O&W Rail Trail**
 - The County, Town of Fallsburg, and Alta met with NYS DOT to go over the remaining items for the Neversink Crossing project advanced design review. The current schedule anticipates a bid will be issued by the end of January 2025.
 - The use and occupancy agreement between NYS DOT and the Town of Liberty for the Parkville extension is tied with the acquisition process for multiple parcels related to the rerouting of Route 17. The engineering has started, but final scoping of the needed surveying needs to be assessed. Planning, DPW, DOT, the Town and the consultant, Alta met and it was determined the survey and SEQR needs to be extended to include the whole parcel.
 - The Town of Rockland and their engineers completed the first design draft for the Livingston Manor to Dahlia section of the trail.
 - Staff continue to participate in monthly meetings of the O&W Rail Trail Alliance as well as regular meetings with the engineering firm and partner municipalities.
 - Planning worked with the Sullivan Public Library Alliance and area schools to organize a daypack lending project to encourage people to use the trail. Packs were funded through Sullivan 180, and are currently being distributed.

- The 2025 multi day hike (ROAM) will take place on June 6-8 in Mamakating. Partners include Sullivan Catskills Visitors Association, Sullivan 180, Parks and Trails New York, Trout Unlimited, and Open Space Institute.

Community Development & Revitalization

- **Housing Fund**
 - Planning staff continue to work with our consultant, Pattern for Progress, to create a program design for a local funding source/trust to support the development of affordable housing units in Sullivan County.
 - A final draft of the program will be presented to the Legislature for review and deliberation.
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian Infrastructure Master Plan**
 - A contract with Metropolitan Urban Design Workshop (MUDW) is in process.
 - An official project kick-off meeting with the Advisory Board is expected for February 2025.
 - The plan will focus on connecting residents and visitors in and around community centers (villages, hamlets) with safe pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.
- **RESTORE NY Round 7**
 - Actively working with NYS Empire State Development and RUPCO to implement the RESTORE NY Round 7 award received for rehabilitation of the Strong Building and Key Bank Building on Broadway, Monticello.
 - The County is working with RUPCO and the Sullivan County Land Bank to navigate a significant increase in the cost of construction based on the latest cost estimates. RUPCO is waiting for determinations on several grant applications that have been filed for this project.

Economic Development

- **Emerald Corporate Center Economic Development Corporation (ECCEDC)**
 - We continue to work with the Town of Thompson to transfer Emerald Springs Water Company (ESWC) and all assets to the Town of Thompson, based on discussions with counsel having experience with the process.

Administration

- Met with representatives from the Upper Delaware Council and National Parks Service to establish lines of communication and an understanding of each entity's programs and initiatives. Both Planning and UDC/NP have had significant staff turnover during the past 2 years.
- Continue to participate in regular meetings with County Manager, ITS, Grants, and NYS Empire State Development with regard to Municipal Infrastructure Grant.
- Participated in monthly O&W Rail Trail Alliance meeting
- Attended the NYSEG Electric Capacity Summit to hear updates about grid capacity in the utility's territory.

II. OFFICE OF SUSTAINABLE ENERGY (OSE)

- Staff attended a webinar hosted by the Municipal Electric and Gas Alliance (MEGA) to hear about new programs to control energy costs. One program of interest was Demand-Response, which involves curtailing usage during periods of peak demand.
- Staff continue to work toward updating and compiling information for recertification as a Climate Smart Community
- The Sullivan County Department of Public Works has completed the replacement of the oil-fired boilers and chill water system at the Sullivan County District Attorney's Office with cold climate air source heat pumps. This building is now heated and cooled solely by electricity and will qualify the building to be recognized by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority as a Clean Heating and Cooling Demonstration. Additionally, once this meter is added to the queue for either the hydro or solar projects it will qualify as Sullivan County's first net-zero energy building (all building energy comes from either on-site renewable resources or all building energy is sourced from a net-metered renewable energy resource).
- The Lake Goodyear small hydro facility continues to be offline due technical problems. Gravity Renewables, the operator of the plant, is troubleshooting with NYSEG to resolve the issue. There is no cost to the County for repairs.
- OSE staff have continued to review monthly utility statements, and to work with NYSEG and DPW staff to resolve ongoing issues with meter readings and monthly billings.
- OSE continues to document the County's progress toward reducing energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions while also identifying future clean energy project opportunities.

III. PARKS, RECREATION & BEAUTIFICATION

- We have received confirmation from the NYS Parks Department Snowmobile Unit, that grant funding has once again been approved for 14 of the 39 miles of trail, that is maintained by the Sullivan County Snowmobile Trail Association, in northern Sullivan County.
- The 2024 County-wide Roadside and Hiking Trail Litter Pluck Event that ran from April 1st through October 31st was a success. 720 bags, 149 tires, and 2 Ton of Loose material were plucked from the roads and trails throughout Sullivan County.
- Weston and Sampson are continuing work on the Park and Recreation Master Plan.
- The department is hosting a Sullivan County Parks Photo Exhibition. Photographs must be taken at one of the departments facilities. Winning photos will be on exhibit from March 1-April 30, 2025, at the Government Center, Monticello and the Sullivan County Cultural Center & Museum, Hurleyville.
- The department teamed up with The Delaware Company to offer a Ghost Walk at the Minisink Battleground Park on October 26th. The event was a great success with approximately 75 people attending.
- Park maintenance staff are closing the parks for the winter months. Staff are also removing dangerous trees at several of the parks and facilities.
- Attended the Sullivan O&W Rail Trail - Emergency Management Roundtable Discussion meeting.
- The department is working on a presentation series for 2025 at the D&H Canal Interpretive Center to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the D&H Canal.

IV. GRANTS ADMINISTRATION

- **Activity/Technical Assistance**

- Assistance has been provided to departments requiring support with the grant process.
Of note:

- *Community Resources*: DGA staff met with Community Resources/Center for Workforce Development staff to participate in a debrief related to the 2024 WORC grant. Future funding needs and potential projects were discussed. DGA staff routed information about potential additional funding resources and is on standby to offer additional assistance as needed.
- *ITS*: The County was awarded \$29.9 M for the NYS ConnectALL Municipal Infrastructure Program for the installation of 253 miles of fiber and one new communication tower, extending broadband service to unserved and underserved locations. DGA staff was honored to be part of the team who worked in collaboration to submit a successful and historic application; DGA staff reviewed NY Connect All BEAD (Broadband Equity Access and Deployment Program) funding opportunities in order to assess eligibility for future broadband infrastructure projects.
- *Planning*: NYS Department of State final Countywide Resiliency Grant award final disbursement payment in the amount of \$68,900 was issued to the County.
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- *Public Safety*:
 - V-FIRE Success – Four Sullivan County fire companies awarded a total of \$271,301:
 - Beaverkill Valley - \$98,850 for equipment
 - Jeffersonville – \$8,000 for equipment
 - Highland Lake - \$46,201 for equipment
 - Youngsville - \$118,250 for facilities
 - *DGA had presented a V-FIRE Information session on February 5, 2024 at the EOC. We congratulate the respective fire companies/districts on their success!
 - The 2024 FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grants (AFG) Program is currently accepting applications until December 20. Information was routed to local departments via John Hauschild; DGA staff will attend webinar and is on standby as a reference source for any fire departments/districts with technical questions related to the application process.
 - 2024 DHSES Grants Regional Workshop on Thursday, October 24th with members of OMB and Public Safety staff. The conference included helpful information related to procurement procedures, future applications, Uniform Guidance updates, and proper submission of reports.
- *Public Works*: Funding for Compost Facilities - Information related to the 2024 MWRR Program 24 for capital projects was routed to the Department of Solid

Waste as a potential funding source for the County’s composting facilities. DGA staff is on standby to provide support as needed.

- **In-County Grant Readiness**

- Grants Best Practices Training was provided to 5 members of Management and Budget staff on November 12, 2024. Public Works is scheduled for December 5th.
- Compliance: DGA staff participated in a webinar discussing the updates to the Uniform Guidance; summary information was routed to Audit, OMB, Treasurer’s Office, and Purchasing. Tools related to establish grant-related internal controls have been located and were routed to the Compliance Office for review prior to distribution during future grant trainings.

- **Summary of 2024 Grant Activity (Awards, Pending, and Declinations): Summary of 2024 Grant Activity (Awards, Pending, and Declinations):**

The Department of Grants Administration tracks discretionary grants and allocations requiring execution. The following table represents only programs in process in 2024. It is not an exhaustive list of all grant programs currently monitored from previous years. DGA staff provides varying levels of support to Divisions/Departments. At any given time, DGA staff may be immersed in project planning, application preparation, and management technical assistance, simply tracking programs, or somewhere along a continuum of support. The role DGA plays is largely contingent upon the nature of the grant program and the capacity and/or experience of program managers. Please contact DGA staff related to information about any of the following programs.

Year	Div./Dept.	Program	Type	Amount	Status
2024	BOE	CTCL Election Infrastructure	Discretionary	\$50,000.00	Awarded
2024	Co. Clerk	LGRMIF	Discretionary	\$66,820.00	Awarded
2024	CR /CWD	WORCS	Discretionary	\$1,500,000.00	Declined
2024	CR/OFA	NY Connects	Allocation	\$307,611.00	Pending
2024-2028	CR/OFA	Americorps RSVP	Allocation	\$409,200.00	Pending
2023	DPW	Bridge NY	Discretionary	\$3,581,000.00	Awarded
2023	DPW	Bridge NY	Discretionary	2,990,00	Awarded
2024	DPW	NBRC Timber for Transit	Discretionary	\$524,800.00	Pending
2024	DPW/SCIA	FAA AIP EA Safety Area	Discretionary	\$115,867.00	Declined
2024	DPW/SCIA	FAA AIP EA Ob. Removal	Discretionary	\$148,485.00	Pending
2023	DPW/SW	MWRR	Discretionary	\$51,367.11	Awarded
2024	DPW/SW	MWRR	Discretionary	TBD	Pending
2022 - 2023	DWP /SW	HHW	Discretionary	\$11,088.00	Awarded
2023-2024	DWP /SW	HHW	Discretionary	\$20,190.42	Pending
2024	HHS/DSS	MDT-CAC	Allocation	\$49,999.00	Awarded
2025	HHS/DSS	MDT-CAC	Allocation	\$49,999.00	Pending
2024	HHS/DSS	DASNY/CREST	Discretionary	\$125,000.00	Pending
2024	HHS/PH	GTSC Child Pass. Seat	Discretionary	\$15,000.00	Awarded
2023-2024	HHS/PH	NYS RHN Food is Med.	Allocation	\$9,869.00	Awarded

2024	HHS/PH	NACCHO MRC OR	Discretionary	\$5,000.00	Awarded
2023-2024	HHS/PH	HRI MRC	Allocation	\$12,100.00	Awarded
2023-2024	HHS/PH	PHEPP	Allocation	\$77,711.00	Awarded
2025	HHS/PH	NACCHO MRC OR	Allocation	\$5,000.00	Pending
2025-2030	HHS/PH	NYS DOH RHNDP	Discretionary	\$750,000.00	Pending
2024-2025	HHS/PH	PHEPP	Allocation	\$77,711.00	Pending
2024	ITS	MIP	Discretionary	\$29,900,000.00	Awarded
2024	Parks	Snowmobile	Discretionary	\$4,858.00	Awarded
2024	Parks	NY SWIMS	Discretionary	\$25,000.00	Pending
	Parks	DASNY	Discretionary	\$125,000.00	Pending
2023	Planning	CFA /LWRP	Discretionary	\$150,000.00	Declined
2024	Planning	RAISE	Discretionary	\$3,155,000.00	Declined
2024	Planning	ATIIP	Discretionary	\$1,680,000	Pending
2024	Planning	FUDR	Discretionary	\$100,000.00	Pending
2024	Planning	FEMA/NYS DHSES HMG	Discretionary	\$112,500.00	Pending
2024	PS / E911	PSAP	Allocation	TBD	Pending
2024	PS / E911 EMS	CEMSSG	Discretionary	\$500,000.00	Pending
2024	PS / OEM	EMPG	Allocation	\$32,678.00	Pending
2023	PS / OEM	DTPGP	Allocation	\$172,413.00	Pending
2024	PS / OEM E911 Interop.	SICFBGP	Allocation	TBD	Pending
2024	PS / Sheriff	HSGP – SHSP/SLETPP	Allocation	\$179,249.00	Awarded
	PS/EMS	DASNY	Discretionary	\$425,000.00	Pending
	PS/Fire Bureau	DASNY	Discretionary	\$250,000.00	Pending
2024-2025	PS/Prob.	NYS DCJS ATI	Allocation	\$28,510.00	Awarded
2023-2024	PS/Prob.	NYS DCJS ATI	Allocation	\$25,510.00	Awarded
2025	Sheriff	GTSC PTS	Discretionary	\$4,960.00	Awarded
2024	Sheriff	BPV	Discretionary	\$5,199.00	Awarded
			ALL TOTAL	\$43,159,694.53	
			Pending Awards	-\$4,160,587.42	
			Declined Awards	-\$4,920,867.00	
			TOTAL AWARDED	\$34,078,240.11	

V. AGRICULTURE & FARMLAND PROTECTION

- CCE October 2024 Ag report attached