

**Economic Development, Planning, Education, Employment, Arts & Agriculture Committee
Regular Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: August 5, 2025 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION(S): Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston, NY
Livestreamed at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Sperry
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk & Tyron Rogers, Technical Support Specialist
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Litts & Stewart
MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislator Walls
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislator Nolan; Director Dennis Doyle & Senior Planner Burt Samuelson – Department of Planning; Director Lisa Berger – Department of Tourism; Deputy County Executive Amanda LaValle; Michael Schreiber, Vice President of Administration and Finance – SUNY Ulster County Community College; Executive Director Hillary Nichols – Ulster County Industrial Development Agency; Executive Director Jake Wedemeyer – Ulster County Soil & Water Conservation District; Executive Director Melanie Forstrom & Lauren Kruglinski – Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County and Heather Kase, Theresa Rusinck, Daniel Donahue & Jeremy Schuster – CCE Eastern NY Commercial Horticulture Program; Joyce & Peter Hamblin – Town of Shawangunk residents; Steve Ellman – Kingston Wire

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature’s YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Chair Sperry called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM and asked Legislator Litts to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair Sperry recognized Ulster County Industrial Development Agency Executive Director Hillary Nichols to give the members an update (appended to these minutes).

Chair Sperry recognized Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ulster County Executive Director Melanie Forstrom to make a presentation on the work of the organization and share their 2026 appropriation request (appended to these minutes).

Motion No. 1: **Motion to Approve the minutes of the July 1, 2025 Regular Meeting**

Motion Made By: Legislator Clinton
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Hewitt

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Litts, Sperry & Stewart
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 6
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Resolutions for the August 19, 2025 Legislative Session:

Resolution No. 327 – Adopting The Inclusion Of Additional Lands In Agricultural Districts Within Ulster County As Recommended By The Ulster County Agricultural And Farmland Protection Board – Department Of Planning

Resolution Summary – This Resolution adopts the recommendation of the Agricultural Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) as filed with the Clerk of the Legislature, which includes the placement of additional lands within existing agricultural districts in Ulster County totaling sixteen (16) parcels and approximately eight hundred two (802) acres.

Chair Sperry reminded the members that the Resolution was referred back to committee at Legislative Session. She recognized Joyce & Peter Hamblin – Town of Shawangunk residents & neighbors of a parcel recommended for inclusion who shared concerns with the members (appended to these minutes.)

Motion No. 2: **Motion to Amend Resolution No. 327 to exclude parcel section, block and lot number 98.2-1-17 located at 17 Kobbs Korner Road in the Town of Shawangunk, for inclusion in the agricultural districts in Ulster County**

Motion Made By: Legislator Stewart

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Litts, Sperry & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Amendment Adopted**

Motion No. 3: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 327 As Amended**

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Voting in Favor: Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Litts, Sperry & Stewart

Voting Against: None

Votes in Favor: 6

Votes Against: 0

Disposition: **Resolution Adopted As Amended**

Resolution No. 372 – Designating The Ulster County Department Of Tourism As The Official Tourism Promotion Agency Of Ulster County For Calendar Year 2026 – Department Of Tourism

Resolution Summary – This Resolution designates the Ulster County Department of Tourism as the official tourism promotion agency for Ulster County, thereby making it eligible to apply for and accept matching tourism promotion funds on behalf of Ulster County during calendar year 2026, and to represent Ulster County for the promotion of tourism.

Motion No. 4: **Motion to Adopt Resolution No. 372**

Motion Made By: Legislator Litts

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Clinton

Legislator Litts requested to be added as a sponsor of the Resolution.

Voting in Favor:	Legislators Clinton, Corcoran, Hewitt, Litts, Sperry & Stewart
Voting Against:	None
Votes in Favor:	6
Votes Against:	0
Disposition:	Resolution Adopted

New Business - Chair Sperry advised the members that the October meeting falls on the Jewish holiday of Sukkot requiring the meeting to be moved to October 14th. An Outlook invitation will be sent.

Old Business - None

Adjournment

Motion Made By:	Legislator Litts
Motion Seconded By:	Legislator Stewart
Votes in Favor:	7
Votes Against:	0

TIME:	7:20 PM
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Respectfully Submitted:	Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk
Adopted:	October 14, 2025

Complete content of the meeting can be accessed via the Ulster County Legislature's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@UlsterCountyLegislature/streams>

Economic Development, Planning,
Education, Employment,
Arts & Agriculture Committee

August 5, 2025

Ulster County IDA and Ulster County CRC

Legislative Update to the Economic Development, Planning,
Education, Employment, Arts and Agriculture Committee

August 5th 2025



Updates

March 2025- August 2025

Approved Projects

- Marlborough Resort Project- \$89m tourism projected to bring 125 jobs. 15-year PILOT with a local Benefit-to-Cost Ratio of 29:1, Approved - 4/2025
- Arizona Hudson Valley LLC \$36M tourism Project in the town of Hurley projected to bring 24 full-time jobs plus part-time and seasonal, with a local Benefit to Cost Ratio of 26:1- Approved 7/2025

Started Projects (have closed with the IDA and started Construction)

- New Paltz Way Hotel, construction started 4/2025 on \$12m tourism project set to bring 9 full-time plus additional part-time and seasonal jobs with a local Benefit-to-Cost ratio of 16:1

Project Updates Cont.

Pending Projects (submitted an application, in review process)

- Chestnut Square Group NY. \$4.1m mixed-use 15-unit housing project. Public hearing 8/4/2025.

UCCRC Updates

- Woodland Pond, increased request for bond amount from \$25m to \$33m. Supplemental Public Hearing held 8/4/25

Additional Updates

- UCIDA and UCCRC held an annual Community Engagement Event on June 5th at the Hudson House in West Park with over 100 attendees
- On the horizon, the UCIDA and UCCRC anticipate a few additional potential projects in Q4 of 2025. `
- Board Members' term update

Economic Development, Planning,
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Arts & Agriculture Committee

August 5, 2025

2026 CCEUC APPROPRIATION REQUEST



COUNTY LAW 224

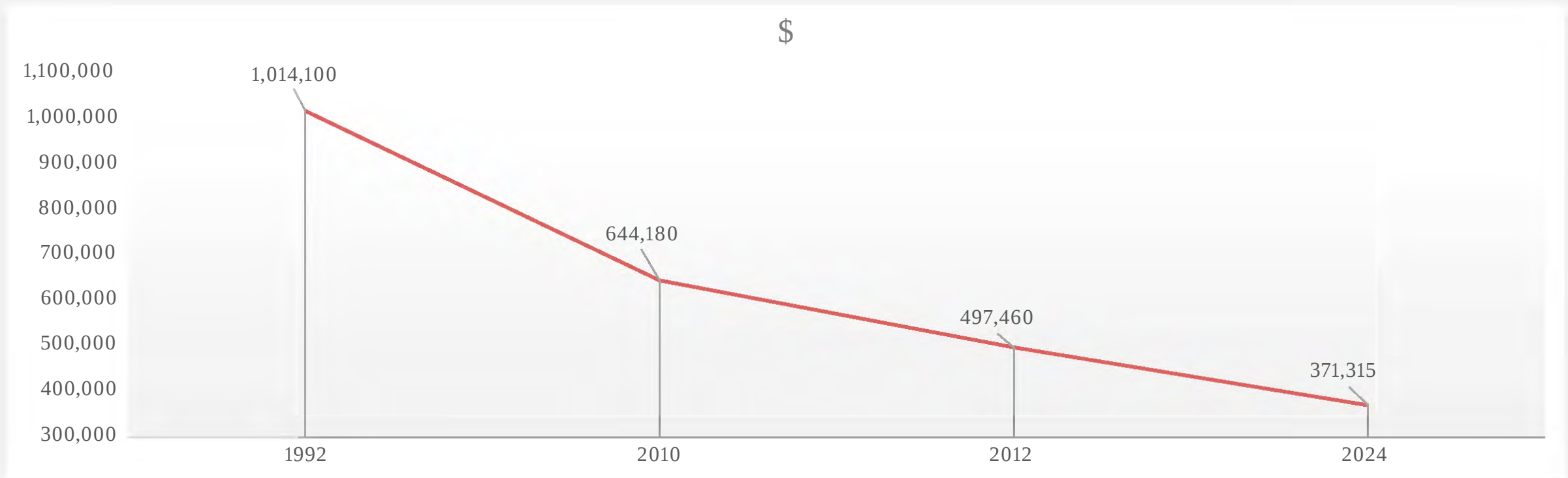


...Such appropriations and payments may be made for the following objects and purposes:

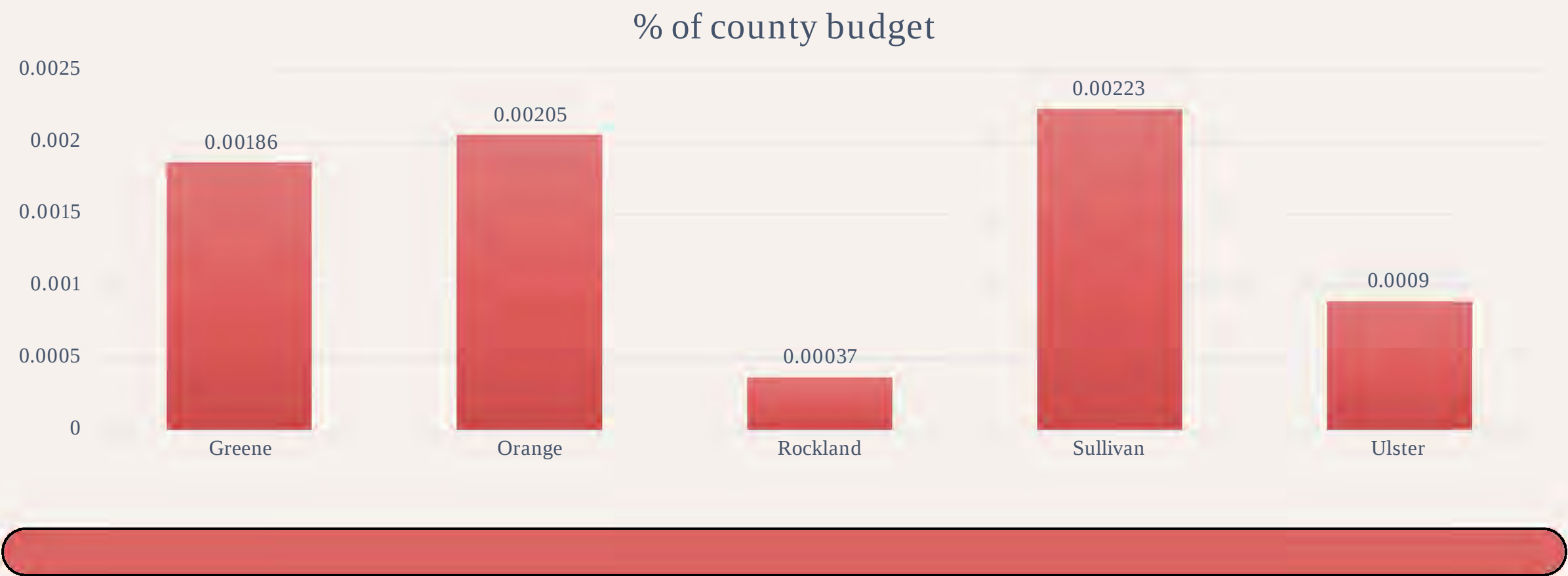
- o 8(b) County or regional extension service association and its work. In each county or region of two or more counties of the state which shall qualify under this subdivision to co-operate with Cornell University for extending to the people of the state of New York, not enrolled in said colleges, the educational programs of the NYS CALS and the NYS CHE at Cornell University and subjects relating thereto, in cooperation with the state, there shall be recognized and may be created a subordinate governmental agency consisting of an unincorporated organization of citizens of the respective counties interested in agriculture, community and economic vitality, environment and energy, nutrition and healthy families, and youth development under a form of organization and administration approved by Cornell University as agent for the state. It shall be known as a county or regional extension service association.



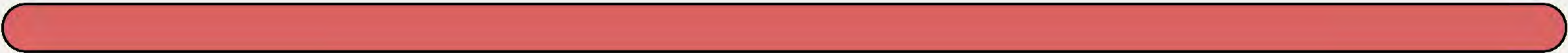
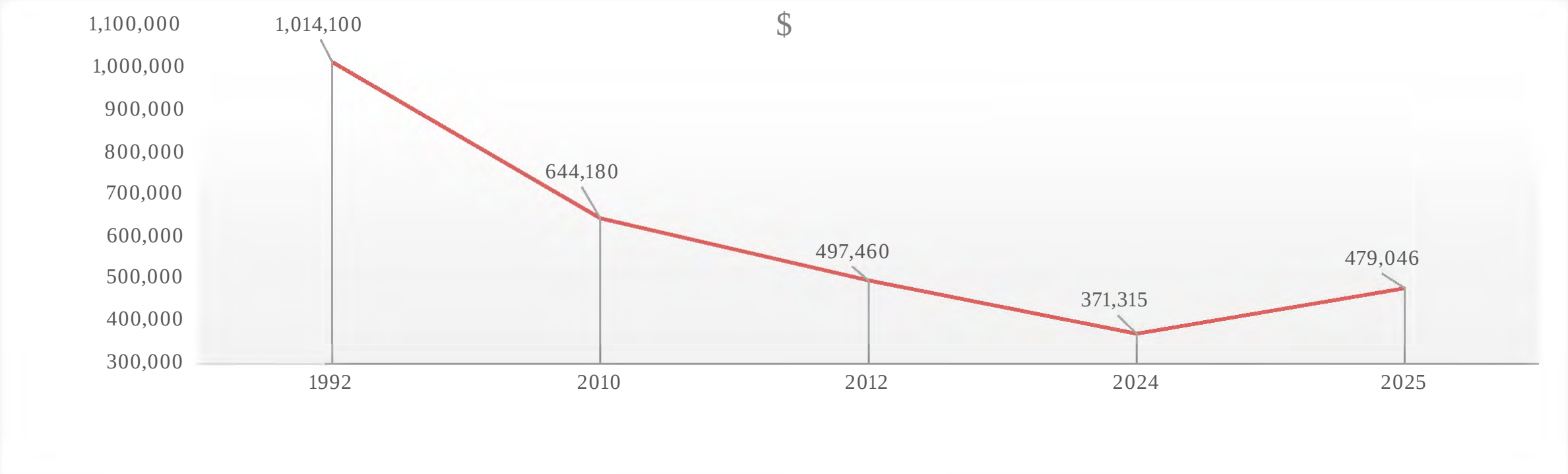
ULSTER COUNTY APPROPRIATION (30 YR TRENDLINE)



ALLOCATION AS % OF COUNTY BUDGET



ULSTER COUNTY APPROPRIATION (30 YR TRENDLINE W 2025)



SINCE THEN: AG AND WATERSHED TOURS



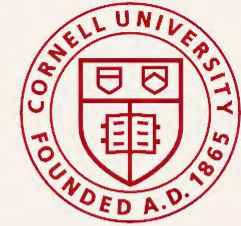
SINCE THEN: BENNETT EARTH DAY AND MARLBORO AG LIT



JEREMY SCHUSTER

Viticulture Extension Specialist

Specialist title



- Ulster County Research and Extension
 - Cabernet Franc Clone and Rootstock Trial (Highland)
 - Grapevine Cold Hardiness Monitor (Marlboro)
 - Glycine Betaine Spray Trial (Marlboro)
- Trapping for invasive species
- Train the Trainer – grapevine pruning workshop (Highland)
- New York State Spotted Lanternfly workshop (Marlboro)



EXCITED ABOUT: CUT FLOWERS, REGENERATIVE AG AND AGRITOURISM

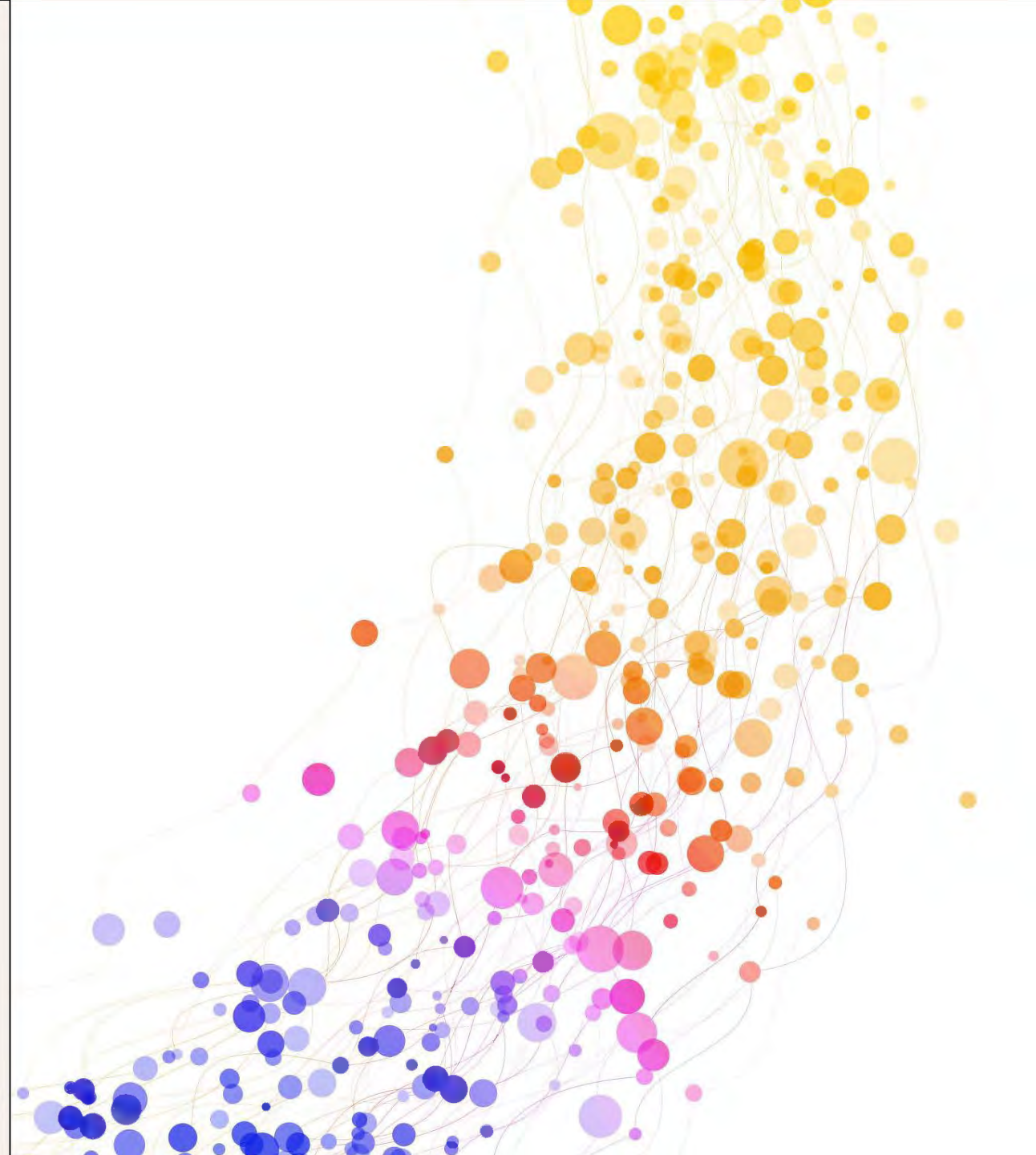


EXCITED ABOUT: FARM FRESH FRIDAYS



**EXCITED ABOUT:
CONNECTING THE
DOTS**

**FOOD SAFETY AND
PRESERVATION**



CURRENT PICTURE



o Cornell

oSNAP-Ed

oSea Grant

oHVRL

o Increased ENY Share



CURRENT PICTURE



	2024	2025
County Allocation	371,315	479,046
ENY Share paid by CCEUC	92,877	111,874

CURRENT PICTURE: SNAP-ED





2026 COUNTY ALLOCATION REQUEST:

\$493,417

Economic Development, Planning,
Education, Employment,
Arts & Agriculture Committee

August 5, 2025

List of concerns

These concerns/complaints are because they have 5-7 livestock fenced in on the residential property of 2.19 acres across from our property which is less than 10 feet from our property line. These livestock are fenced in a small area that is mostly wooded with a stream running through it causing them to stay in the cleared area by our house. This has caused the following problems We have been going to the town for almost a year and they have done nothing to correct these problems, as a residential property 98.1-1-17 of 2.19 acres cannot have this many livestock according to the zoning laws. This situation is destroying our quality of life. All we are asking is that the livestock be moved to the farm and not kept on this residential piece of property and that this parcel #98.2-1.17 is not added to the existing farm under the resolution ##327-25 or any other.

1: Odors

- Can't sit outside

- Can't open windows

2: Insects

- In our home

- Outside our home

- Inside and outside of vehicles

3: property value

- We fear will cause our property value to decrease due to the order and insects

- Fear the waste matter will contaminate our water (well)

4: noise

- Donkeys make a terrible noise all hours of day and night

- Horses' grain is in buckets approx. 15' from our house and when they are empty they bang them against the fence trying to get food – this occurs almost every night

5: traffic

- They service the livestock on ATV side by side 2-4 passenger vehicle and park them on the private road across from our home and at times there are multiple ones, causing our dogs to go crazy and bark that you can't even watch TV, be on the phone, or have a conversation inside our home

Ulster County legislator, Jen Metzger
244 Fair St
Kingston, NY 12401

PROTEST PETITION

Resolution #: 327-25 Owners: Darin & Yvonne Clagg

Location: 17 Kobbs Korner Rd & 24 Kobbs Korner Rd Pine Bush, NY Town of Shawangunk

TO THE Ulster County Council:

We, the undersigned property owner, stand in opposition to the above resolution request as we feel it will cause hardship and infringe on our quality of life and the neighboring properties. We are afraid that adding parcel #98.2-1.17 to the existing farm will cause a repeat of history that happened at 65 Red Barn Rd where the property became over run with Livestock causing hardship to the neighboring properties and town. Parcel #98.2-1.17 consist of 2.19 acres and is already fenced in and presently has 5-7 horses/donkeys on it even though the property is currently zoned residential, the fencing is approximately within 10 feet of our property line on front of our home and against our property line on the side of our home. We are already experiencing foul odors, and an abundance of insects on our property and inside our home, and we are concerned about the stream that runs through the said property will become contaminated with fecal matter and urination possibly causing damage to our wells and or the stream. The farm that is located at 24 Kobbs Korner Rd (98.2-1-18) that has requested Resolution #327-25 to include the property located at 17 Kobbs Korner Rd (98.2-1-17) is in wetlands and mixed with Livestock waste appears to be causing the insect infestation and odors that we are experiencing on our property and in our home. We are also concerned that the above issues will de-value our homes and property.

We were just informed by our local legislator, Craig Lopez, that there was a public hearing on June 17th that none of the neighboring land owners were informed of and we are requesting that our concerns be considered before passing this resolution.

CONTACT PERSON

Name (print): _____

Name (signature): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____