



CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED  
IMPROVEMENT COALITION OF NEW YORK  
CLINTON | ESSEX | FRANKLIN | WARREN | WASHINGTON | COUNTIES

## 2013 Annual Report

CWICNY Inc. is a 501-C(3) Not-for-Profit group originally formed in 2001 with the goal of “Providing a Coordinated Effort to Improve Water Quality and Other Natural Resources Within the Lake Champlain Counties Through Project Implementation.” This coalition is a grass-roots approach that recognizes the importance of local participation and cooperation in addressing the many sources of pollutants into Lake Champlain.

CWICNY is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors that includes representatives from each of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts and each of the Water Quality Coordinating Committees from Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Warren and Washington Counties, and a representative from the Lake Champlain – Lake George Regional Planning Board. Advisors to the group include the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and The Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council.

394 Schroon River Road  
Warrensburg NY 12885  
(p) 518.962.8225  
(f) 518.962.4002  
[www.cwicny.org](http://www.cwicny.org)

Dave Reckahn, President  
Nate Grue, Vice President





# Projects and Programs

## *Rural Roads Active Management Program (RRAMP)*

Utilizing funding provided by the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP), CWICNY, the County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and municipal/County DPW's throughout the watershed are finalizing a new roadside protection program that will provide guidance and assistance to municipalities when facing challenges with secondary roads. This program, named the *Rural Roads Active Management Program*, or RRAMP, encourages the use of best management practices to increase resiliency of infrastructure, reduce erosion, protect natural resources, and save time and money. This is being achieved through a multi-faceted effort, which includes the initial planning for a system that would allow local municipalities and private landowners to obtain funding for projects, much like the Vermont Better Back Roads Program, and also through the creation and production of two educational guides for local municipalities, the Rural Roads Best Management Practices Manual and the Rural Roads Active Management Program Field Guide. These documents outline the proper methods for stabilizing and restructuring roadside ditches, and provide references for policy creation and municipal planning for roadside efforts.

An additional part of the program was to implement four pilot projects within Essex and Washington Counties to showcase the use of several roadside Best Management Practices. Each of the four sites, located in Keen Valley, Wadhams and the Town of Hartford, was experiencing instability due to steep road grades and displayed signs of significant erosion. Best Management Practices implemented include rock lining ditches, installing check dams and cross culverts to reduce water velocity, hydroseeding, and utilizing ditch slurry. These methods will reduce sediment transport into local waterbodies, while reducing the constant need for repair, added personnel time, and increases in maintenance costs.

For additional information, please go to our website at [www.cwicny.org](http://www.cwicny.org).



## *Harvesting Rainwater For Irrigation*

In 2013, CWICNY implemented a grant from the LCBP to reduce non point source pollutants entering into Lake George through the installation of an *on-site rainwater harvesting-irrigation system demonstration project*, located behind the Historical Warren County Courthouse building in the Village of Lake George. Installation of this large cistern was completed by CWICNY staff and the Town of Lake George Buildings and Grounds personnel.

The cistern collects rainwater from a portion of the Courthouse roof and stores it for use in the Town's irrigation system on the Courthouse grounds. The project included the installation of additional gutter systems on the building to direct rainwater into the cistern, and the burying of lines and a pump to direct the water to the front of the building. To create an educational component to the project, the cistern was painted by students from the Lake George High School Art Program.

The Town of Lake George is excited to showcase and demonstrate the system to visitors and community members and is currently looking for additional opportunities for placement of similar systems.



## *Regional Alternative De-Icing Forums*

Also utilizing funding provided by the LCBP, two *Municipal De-Icing Best Management Practices Forums* were held in Lake George and Plattsburgh in April and November, respectively. These programs were aimed at educating local and county Highway Superintendents and their crews on new Best Management Practices (BMPs) for de-icing operations and how municipalities can more effectively utilize de-icing materials to reduce environmental impacts and budget overages. Combined, over 150 individuals were in attendance for the two sessions that included speakers from Darrin Freshwater Institute, NYS DOT, Massachusetts DOT and the Cornell Local Roads Program. BMPs that were encouraged include the purchase and utilization of updated equipment, adoption of Winter Roads Maintenance Policies, and continued education for spreader crews, management, and elected officials.

In 2014, many of these BMPS will be addressed, again utilizing LCBP funding. For more information on these efforts, please contact the Lake Champlain - Lake George Regional Planning Board.





## *Around the Basin: Completed Water Quality Improvement Projects*

**Clinton County** farmers have always practiced sustainable conservation efforts on their land, the most popular being tile drainage. With the high cost of seed, fertilizer, and fuel, farmers are constantly working to improve their crop yields while keeping their costs down, and it has been shown within the basin that in most cases, tile drainage improves crop production while creating the potential to reduce nutrient runoff into nearby surface waters. This is not only beneficial to the environment, but also sustains the health of the soils on Clinton County's crop fields. A current example of pattern style tile drains in the County can be found on Rusty Creek Farm, a medium CAFO along Corbeau Creek, a tributary to the Great Chazy River. If you would like more information on tile drainage in Clinton County, please contact the local SWCD.



As part of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Grant Round 15, the **Essex County** Conservation District funded the installation of an alternate water system that will be utilized to provide fresh drinking water to the herd and eliminate their entrance into the Boquet River for use as a watering source. The installation of the system included drilling a well and fitting it with a solar pump in addition to two batteries that can be used as backups for 5 days if there is not enough solar energy to run the pump. The pump fills a 1,500 gallon storage tank that is connected to gravity fed pipes, which transport the water into tanks that are located 300 feet below the paddocks. The water is setup to include three paddocks, which provides the farmer with the ability to rotate his herd among the different paddocks, resulting in better forage sustainability. By implementing projects like this, the District is helping to alleviate unnecessary amounts of phosphorous running into Lake Champlain from tributaries.



**Franklin County** has continued to identify roadside erosion sites throughout the Lake Champlain Basin that are in need of repair, particularly in the towns of Franklin, Brighton and Harrietstown. In 2011, the District conducted a preliminary survey with CWICNY and since then, has continued to work towards the protection of our high quality streams and economically significant fisheries throughout the watershed. The process identified areas with the highest erodibility, and that information has been used in working with local highway departments to remediate the sites. The District is continuing to improve these habitats by submitting grant applications to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation for funding through the Water Quality Incentives Program (WQIP) for hydroseeding and supplies. The District hopes to complete 10 acres of road side ditch stabilization in each of the towns in the 2014 summer season utilizing grant funding and assistance from the town and county highway departments.



This past fall in **Warren County**, the Lake George Association (LGA) partnered with the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the Towns of Bolton and Queensbury Highway Departments and the Warren County DPW on several stormwater retrofit projects aimed at protecting Lake George's water quality. In the Town of Queensbury, the County SWCD provided a retrofit design and the LGA funded a project which involved installing two 8 foot diameter dry wells to capture runoff from a small 3,200 square foot watershed and allow it to infiltrate into the ground. In the Town of Bolton, dry wells were installed in three different areas; the old Town of Bolton highway garage and transfer station, Mohican Avenue, and Horicon Avenue. In total nine (9) dry wells were installed throughout the Town. For these projects, the LGA committed \$11,800 in funding and SWCD provided oversight and design.



For almost 20 years, the **Washington County** SWCD has developed contracts and coordinated engineering and construction efforts for farmers throughout the County. 2013, however, was the first time farmers hit the ground running and made significant progress on projects before any of the state funds were available. Three farms in particular, Twin Brooks Farm and Swezey View Farm in the Town of Hartford and Red Top Farm in Granville, were pro-active in their efforts, which included the installation of heavy-use area protection for feed (silage) storage at Twin Brooks Farm and Red Top Farm, in addition to the complete relocation of a storage area on Red Top Farm to protect vulnerable surface water resources directly downstream from the former feed storage complex (see photo). Swezey View Farm's project included an improved access lane for existing barnyard feed bunks and will eventually include a covered (roof) barnyard area to exclude precipitation from the barnyard, preventing pollution runoff toward nearby streams.



## *The 9th Annual North Country Stormwater Tradeshow: Another Success!*

The 9th annual North Country Stormwater Tradeshow was held in Lake George on October 20, 2013. Over 75 local engineers, landscape architects, and municipal officials and employees attended to learn about green infrastructure planning and implementation throughout New York State. Amanda LaValle, Environmental Program Coordinator for Ulster County, presented on the EPA funded Ulster County Green Infrastructure Plan that was recently concluded in conjunction with the NYS DEC.

The remainder of the morning session consisted of presentations from three members of the Onondaga County Save the Rain Program, which accomplished 50 green infrastructure projects in 2011 utilizing public/private partnerships. The afternoon sessions included presentations and walking tours of the Beach Road Pervious Pavement Project, presented by Tom Baird, PE of Barton and Loguidice, and the West Brook Conservation Initiative, presented by Jere Tatich, LA, Principle at Elan Planning.

We will begin planning on the 10th annual tradeshow and look forward to your participation! If you have any suggestions for subjects or presenters please contact us. Feel free to check our website for further information.



Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of New York

394 Schroon River Road

Warrensburg, NY

12885

Visit [www.cwicny.org](http://www.cwicny.org) for more information