

**Preliminary Information to Support Proposed Project Ideas for Addressing Water Quality and Habitat Protection and Restoration in the Cayuga Lake Watershed**

**PROPOSED PROJECT #26:** Septic Education and Maintenance Program, Western Cortland County

**Proposed Project Category:** can address more than one issue

1. Regulatory management

**Proposed Project Location:** *Please be as specific as possible.*

Areas of Fall and Virgil Creeks located in western Cortland County

**Landowner(s):** Multiple private landowners

**Does project relate to/advance any existing local, regional, watershed, or statewide plans?**

Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan

**Issue to be addressed:** Failing on-site septic systems are a source of pathogens which are impacting water quality - consumption and contact recreation.

**Proposed Project or Action:** The Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District will plan and conduct a series of homeowner workshops to promote understanding and acceptance of proper on-site septic maintenance practices, consequences of failing to maintain and conduct timely septic system repairs.

Participating homeowners will receive a \$100 voucher that can be used to offset the cost of a routine septic inspection and pump out service.

A separate fund will be set up to capitalize a septic repair incentive support program in the event that significant septic system repairs are identified through the inspection program.

**Is the proposed project or action based on standard practices typically employed for the issue at hand** *Yes/No. If no, what is the basis for recommending this project or action (ongoing research, successful pilot outside of watershed, etc.)*

**Current Project Readiness** *With funding, this project could begin immediately. Similar workshops have been conducted previously and could be updated and reused.*

**Approximate Project Timeframe** estimate if known

**Approximate Cost** *estimate if known:* approximately how many households in the target area X 100 plus construction fund; swcd staff time for workshops

**Potential Local Match Source:** possible cost share for construction

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