ADAM J. BELLO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

Monroe County, New York

Board Appointees

Four Active Farmers; County Legislator; Agribusiness; Agricultural Land Preservation Organization; Chairperson, Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors; Director, Real Property Tax Service; County Cooperative Extension Agent; Director, Department of Planning & Development

Final

September 24, 2026

The Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) meeting was called to order at 7:12 PM and roll was taken by Pat Gooch, Board Secretary.

Present: Mark Greene, Legislator Jackie Smith, Rollin Pickering, Amy Grande, Jarmila Haseler, Pat Gooch, Hollie Johnson

Absent: Betsy Brightly, Chairman Robert Colby (Legislator), Lorna Wright

Others Present: Grace Sherburne

Public forum:

No one present for a public forum.

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Approval of the April 30, 2026 Meeting Minutes: Legislator Smith motioned to adopt the April 30, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. J. Haseler seconded the motion. The motion unanimously passed.

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Announcements and Communication:

P. Gooch shared that the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Update was approved at the July Legislature meeting on July 14th. A final closeout report and reimbursement request was submitted and received by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets. Monroe County and the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board will continue to work with County departments, municipalities, agricultural organizations, partner agencies, and the farming community to implement the recommendations identified in the Plan.

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Matters for preliminary and final approval:

Notice of Intent – North Wheatland Solar LLC in the Town of Wheatland

P. Gooch shared this is a statutory requirement from NYSERDA and recommend the board use the recently adopted Agricultural and Farmland Protection Plan Update to guide the response.

The Board reviewed and requested the following changes to the draft response:

- Emphasize the importance of prime soils and opposition of the construction of solar arrays on active agricultural land with soil types of prime and statewide importance consist with the AFPB's past responses (Classifications 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5).
- Enhance language recommending agrivoltaics practices be incorporated to the extent practicable.
- Revise language to support an inflation rate more in line with the inflation rate for the past 25 years.

A motion was made by P. Gooch to recommend the draft response to the notice of intent for North Wheatland Solar, LLC subject to the following modifications to (1) address inflation costs, (2) promote the use of agrivoltaics, (3) provide language stating that the Board opposes solar projects on prime farmland including soils classified 1-5, and (4) authorize Chairman Colby to sign and submit the response to New York State Agriculture and Markets. Seconded by R. Pickering, and adopted.

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Correspondence:

None

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Informational matters:

Agricultural District Review Methodology-Presentation to the Board for their education and comment.

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Other business:

None

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Next Scheduled Meeting:

Thursday, October 22, 2026 at 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

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A motion was made by P. Gooch, seconded by, Legislator Smith, and adopted to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 pm.

Final