

A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY  
CHAIRMAN MILLS

RE: Appointment to the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature established the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) on March 18, 1993 in accordance with New York State Agriculture and markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 302(a); and

WHEREAS, New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 302(b) states that the term of each member of the AFPB shall be four (4) years; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with New York State Agriculture and Markets Law, Article 25-AA, Section 302, members of the AFPB may be appointed by the Chairman of the County legislative body; and

WHEREAS, among the membership of the AFPB there shall be a member representing an organization dedicated to agricultural land preservation; and

WHEREAS, among the membership of the AFPB there shall be four (4) active farmers appointed to membership of this Board; and

WHEREAS, Nancy Smith of the Western New York Land Conservancy does not wish to be reappointed for another four (4) year term; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a vacant active farmer position on this Board; and

WHEREAS, the AFPB recommends that the Chair of the Legislature appoint Rachel Chrostowski and Leonard Janiga to the AFPB; and

WHEREAS, action is necessary to ensure Erie County Legislature representation on this important advisory body.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby appoints, in her capacity as representative of an organization dedicated to agricultural land preservation, Rachel Chrostowski of the Western New York Land Conservancy located at the Kenneglenn Nature Preserve in East Aurora with a mailing address of PO Box 471, East Aurora, New York 14052, to the Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this honorable body hereby appoints, in his capacity as a farmer, Leonard Janiga of Maelen Farms located at 11121 Jamison Road, East Aurora, New York 14052, to the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board; and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to Rachel Chrostowski and Leonard Janiga, at the above listed addresses, the County Executive, the Commissioner of NYS Department of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Department of Environment and Planning, and the Chair of the Erie County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board.

# RACHEL CHROSTOWSKI

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## PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

### *LEADERSHIP*

- Supervise coworkers and interns for special projects at Erie County Dept. of Environment and Planning (DEP)
- Oversee Erie County Cultural Funding Process, including 12 member volunteer board
- Serve on all-volunteer Board of Directors and hold office of Secretary for Genesee Chorale

### *MARKETING*

- Website content author and administrator for Western New York Land Conservancy, Erie County Department of Environment & Planning, Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District, and others
- Manage Social Media accounts for Western New York Land Conservancy, Erie County DEP, Genesee Chorale
- Author press releases, articles, and produce email newsletter for Western New York Land Conservancy
- Author articles, produce print newsletter for Land Conservancy and Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District
- Design and production of brochures and marketing materials for Land Conservancy, Erie County DEP, Genesee Chorale

### *COMMUNICATIONS*

- Leading informative nature hikes and volunteer activities for adults and children
- Presentations to local government officials and board members as required; topics include Smart Growth, the Framework for Regional Growth, Comprehensive Planning, etc.; groups sizes ranging from 10 to 130
- Communicating in writing, on the phone, and in person with landowners and farmers about agricultural districts, assessments, regulations
- Serve as liaison between Erie County and over 80 cultural funding organizations
- 3 years of exemplary customer service experience at Fisher-Price on multiple product lines

### *GRANTWRITING & FUNDRAISING*

- Grant writing for Erie County Tribute Garden Beautification and Enhancement Project - \$180,000 award
- Grant writing for Livingston County Weatherization Program - \$100,000 award
- Grant writing for Genesee Chorale – Awards: \$2500 (2014), \$1,250 (2015), \$3,385 (2016), \$4,000 (2017)
- Serve as grant administrator and evaluated applications for Erie County Cultural Funding
- Grant reporting and invoicing experience (Quality Communities Grant, Niagara River Greenway Grant, Genesee-Orleans Regional Arts Council Decentralization Regrant)
- Manage Annual Patron Advertisement Book Fundraising Campaign for Genesee Chorale
- Miscellaneous fundraising experience with Genesee Chorale and Festival Chorus

### *PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION*

- Developed and implemented Agricultural District Consolidation Plan
- Developed and implemented online County Cultural Funding Application

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS & ATTRIBUTES

- Strong beliefs in conservation and open space preservation
- Dependable, very organized, accurate, thorough, efficient, adaptable
- Cartography background and 12 years of GIS experience
- Event Planning experience, including determining topics, selecting speakers, arranging venue and technology needs, publication of marketing materials, and managing attendance
- Work well in both team and self-directed environments
- Exceptional interpersonal and writing skills
- Proficient with Microsoft Office Suite, various web browsers, Adobe Pro, Drupal, Wordpress

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **Western New York Land Conservancy, *Community Engagement Director*, April 2015 – Present**

- Using a hands-on approach, lead the Land Conservancy's citizen engagement efforts including volunteer activities, internships, hikes, events, citizen science, and stewardship of Land Conservancy properties.
- Enhance the Land Conservancy's marketing and communications efforts through press releases, website, social media, and presentations.
- Author articles and oversee preparation of the Land Conservancy's newsletter.
- Assist with implementation of the fundraising plan, including fundraising and grant writing to support engagement activities, and organizing the Land Conservancy's fundraising events.

### **Erie County Department of Environment and Planning, *Planner*, July 2008 – April 2015**

- Agricultural District Management
- Plan and present at local government training events
- Supervised coworkers and interns on various projects
- GIS Mapping technical assistance and support at County Emergency Operations Center
- Cultural Funding Management, Support, Liaison to Community
- County Capital Project Environmental Review and Coordination
- Conducted and Coordinated Municipal Planning Reviews pursuant to NYS General Municipal Law
- Project Management for various grant funded projects
- Managed County Lands Review Process, including completing environmental assessments, park protection reports, meeting materials, etc.
- Provided technical assistance with Municipal, Environmental, and Agricultural regulations
- Served as staff or represented Erie County at
  - Erie County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Board
  - Southtowns Planning and Development Group
  - Greater Buffalo Niagara Regional Transportation Council boards
  - One Region Forward Events
  - Working Boards for Town of Cheektowaga and Town of Evans

### **Livingston County Planning Department, *Planning Assistant*, September 2006 – July 2008**

- Provided zoning and agricultural assistance to municipalities, applicants, and citizens
- Conducted Agricultural District Reviews
- Composed departmental publications (Natural Resources Inventory, Fish Kill Contingency Plan)
- Created and updated municipal zoning maps, agricultural district maps, land use maps, etc.
- Provided technical assistance such as: statistical analysis, interpreting local laws, and creating maps and data for ad hoc requests, local planning, zoning, town and village boards, public and private agencies and organizations
- Served as staff or represented Livingston County at
  - County Planning Board
  - Environmental Management Council
  - Conesus Lake Watershed Council Technical Committee
  - Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM)
  - Southeast and Southwest Lake Ontario Watershed Basin
  - Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA)

**Wyoming County Soil & Water Conservation District, *GIS & Field Work Intern*, May – September 2005**

- Prepared grant-funded project plans, applications, expense reports, final reports.
- Created maps and data for Conservation Resource Enhancement Program, Agricultural District Reviews, and local drainage management.
- Maintained and updated District website
- Authored articles and produced Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District newsletter.
- Organized and maintained GIS database
- Digitized all current and historical contract records and implemented improved organization of all hardcopy files.

**SUNY Geneseo, *Physical Geography Teaching Assistant*, 2003 – 2004**

- Worked closely with faculty members as Geography Club President
- Taught physical geography labs to classes of 30 students
- Administered examinations. Corrected and graded labs
- Held weekly office hours to offer additional assistance and guidance

## EDUCATION

**SUNY Geneseo, BA Geography, Environmental Studies, May 2005**

Major GPA 3.7, Overall GPA 3.5, Gamma Theta Upsilon Geography Honor Society

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

**Genesee Chorale, *Secretary, Board of Directors, Singer*, 2010 – Present**

- Served on Board of Directors, including office of Secretary, for 60-70 member Non-Profit Organization
- Authored complete revision of bylaws to bring into compliance with NYS Non-Profit Revitalization Act
- Grant writing and reporting
- Managed Annual Patron Advertisement Book Fundraising Campaign
- Prepared board minutes and other documentation as Secretary to Board of Directors
- Managed all ticket sales/admissions and reporting

LEONARD JANIGA

I graduated from Eden Central School in 1968 where I took 4 years of Agriculture which included Agricultural Mechanics and Conservation. I have gone to many Extension training classes throughout my life and am always looking to increase my knowledge. I was also a member of the Eden Chapter of Future Farmers of America & Erie County 4-H. I've been farming for 50 years, growing cash crops and Angus cattle on our farm in Marilla New York. I served on the Erie County Extension board, also on the Erie County Farm Bureau Board where I served 2 six year terms as a director and also 2 years as the Vice President and 2 years as President. In town government I served 12 years on the Conservation Advisory Board 6 years as the chairman. where we worked on the Pace program and help protect a number of farm properties in the town with that program. Our farm has approximately 300 acres of protected farm land in the towns of Marilla and Elma. I am very committed to preserving our valuable agricultural land and hope I could bring my agricultural knowledge to the board. If you would need further information I would be glad to answer any questions you might have.

Thank You  
Leonard Janiga