



County Resources Committee

Committee Meeting

411 Main Street
Catskill, N.Y. 12414

<http://greenegovernment.com/>

~Minutes~

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

6:00 PM

Board Room

County Resources Members: Chairperson Bulich; Legislators Thorington, True, Lucas, Hobart

PLEASE NOTE: No person shall be entitled to the privilege of the floor during any session of this Legislature unless a request therefore has been submitted prior to commencement of the meeting to a duly elected member of this body who represents the district in which the person making such request is a bonafide resident.

Call to Order

Lisa Gallina, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension - Columbia & Greene Counties

Stella Yoon - CREATE Executive Director
Greene County Library Association

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Thank you, Tanya. I recommend County Resources to order at 6:03 p.m. That was a short one, Patty, we actually have a short one too here with no agenda items, but we do have some people here to speak on behalf of Cornell Cooperative Extension, our library association, and also Stella with CREATE. So first up will be Lisa with Cornell Cooperative Extension."

Update By Lisa Gallina, Executive Director of Cornell Cooperative Extension - Columbia & Greene Counties

Ms. Gallina stated, "Hey, everyone. I know that you may have received it electronically, but I'll share that with you. Thank you for having us tonight and it may or may not have been intentional that I'm fully dressed in green, but I didn't expect to be wearing a vest today either, so. So, here we are and thank you so much for having us. We're here to talk about a request that we've made to you in writing a few months ago for an increase to our appropriation. So, we'll go ahead a slide -. (Chairman Linger stated, "Did you hit the big button on your mic on the bottom?") No one has ever asked me to talk louder; hello are we better, thank you so much. So, thank you all for having us here tonight we have submitted a letter a few months ago asking for an increase in this year's appropriation, and I wanted to just kind of talk about the value that Cooperative Extension has towards its many programs and services in Greene County. So, with the appropriation that you currently provide to us, which is \$244,090, it is broken up in the below manner, which it's serving the three main areas all throughout the year: 4-H, community horticulture, agriculture, some 18 percent goes to admin, and then there, the funds that are 9,000 that's what costs us to produce what we do for the Greene County Youth Fair. We are requesting an increase to \$309,900. We bring in money to the county that supports the county in a lot of ways, to the tune of almost

a million dollars, in grants and contracts, SARE helps our agricultural community, the Taste Store helps our community, with both jobs, as well as buying from our producers and getting exposure to the region. We do a lot with our Master Forest Owner Program, EELS, Watershed Ag Council. So, there's a lot of ways that so, we're bringing in this million dollars and then here it is in full color, just because some people like a visual and that gives you the breakdown of what we bring into the county. So, we leverage the base appropriation funds for these programs. Next, I'm going to talk a little bit about what we do in our program areas that you fund, that was on the third slide. So, 4-H has 1,000 youth who've been exposed to our programs last year. Our last year would go through the end of June last year through this July 1st. We have 25 dedicated 4-H volunteers, and participation is throughout a variety of ways, such as independent memberships. Clubs are not as big as they were previously because people have a hard time being a club leader, but we have a lot of independent members, which means they can come to all the programs that we do in schools, the community, our rabbit clinics, poultry clinics, and all the other types of maker spaces, tractor safety. So even though a person may not be a member, and we also did come to each school and each school district and provide different educational programs, such as Ag. in the Classroom, which is a free program to the community, Community Horticulture, Master Gardeners. Many of you have shared that you've come to our programs or you've dialed our hotline, last year we answered 91 questions from the community. We do pH tests; we have 25 active Master Gardeners who live and reside in this county who help us out and last year they put in 258 hours of volunteers for eight new people. So, we just gained eight new ones, which is super exciting. The Master Gardeners held 15 educational programs for Greene County alone, writing evidence-based research. They also did some fun stuff, they went to the Philadelphia Flower Show, we had the Holiday Reef workshop. On the left, you see our seedling sale, which is in the hoop house that we re-did last year and so it's an ongoing education, and then here you'll see Alex was at the Greene County Youth Fair doing a wheel of flower fortune, which was a big hit for everybody. You got, you won a sticker if you knew what the plant was. In agriculture, the data that we use for how we determine our agricultural information is we're using the 2022 Census data as our source material on this. So, from that document, there are 201 farms, and I know that that's not completely accurate, and we're always trying to get towards more accuracy, but that's what's in that resource. There were, at that point, identified 30,210 acres of dedicated crops and the commodity value of agriculture was \$25,040,000, which directly obviously impacts the county and as you know, we give some of our appropriation, about \$26,000, to Eastern New York commercial horticulture. They're out in farms doing research on site, helping them. Right now, they're at Stories Farm using a light projection, which is asymmetrical, which tricks birds from coming into the crops. So that's how the research is happening right here in the county. Our Ag. educator, Ashley Schoenborn, is from this county. She went to Cobleskill, she's phenomenal, she did 4-H, showed at the Greene County Youth Fair. She did 13 farm visits in this county, and then she had 15 programs. Programs ranged from how do you grow ginseng, new and beginning farmer series, air-pruned raised beds, silvopasture, all of these things, backyard poultry. They also add to the vibrancy of the community and keeping agricultural vibrancy and growing in Greene County. As you know, very sadly we lost Eric Rasmussen earlier this year, who donated this Siuslaw Model Forest to us, and this year it's touched 450 Greene County residents through our programs. That model forest provides an opportunity for landowners to learn different ways to manage

their forest so they have sustainability, they can make money in a manner that's long-term and learn all those cool things like chainsaw safety. Our Master Forest Owner Program, that's where we come out and visit. We have 22 who are trained who live in Greene County. This year they did 24 forest visits, and they covered 847 acres and it's a really amazing program because those practices also help keep the land forested, which for Greene County is a huge benefit in using, looking at agrotourism, tourism, and just longevity of our forests and health. We participate in citizen science of the EEL Project, which is through DEC, and that's at the, oh my gosh blanking on the name of the creek, Hannacroix. I've done it in the Passaic, I've done it in the Fallkills, Hannacroix and that's an amazing program for we have school children, Girl Scout groups, college kids, retired folks, rotary clubs, environmental clubs all come and really participate and gather this information. Which it's an indicator species, they come from the Sargasso Sea, they come up here, they do their thing, they live their lives, they go back and we still don't understand them very well, but we understand that we know about their weight and the volume is also an indicator of other key species along the watershed. We do stream management programs; we did 96 culverts. We assess those that helps, that's through the DEP funding in Hunter and Jewett is where we handled the program this year, and what happens is that helps to give data. We help provide information about what right-sizing culverts look like. So, you reduce blowout, you save money for DPW, you save money for town budgets. If you can right size them, before they blow out and you have a huge problem. So that data we're using the NAC assessment and also MOSCAT, all these things we got trained for on our own funds to bring back to Greene County because as you know, I believe Soil and Water here was founded over 60 years ago because of giant blowouts and flooding. So, this is preventative work that all of your communities really benefit from. We also do, we did a great plan for Catskill Village of a flood guide. We've created disaster preparedness plans for the Town of Athens and other communities. Parenting with confidence, that has reached seven families this year. Part of that funding comes from the county, and a lot of that funding comes from the Dyson Foundation Grant. That program has offered also two, eight-week anger management series. This is, this program is where we go into the home and we collaborate with DSS. They're a funder on this, and we work with families on anger management and/or parenting skills so they hopefully reduce the cost and the burden of the county for social service support because families learn alternative ways and better communication skills, and parenting that is evidence-based and helps them to de-escalate before things get to a place that's challenging. As y'all heard me come before you, about Safe New York. Last year we purchased \$51,000 worth of products and remember, last year was our slowest year since we were open, due to a variety of factors but we did buy \$51,000 of product from Greene County producers. That, there were six last year, we're continuing to bring more every day, and then some go off because they get too big, which is actually a good thing for them, and we contributed \$23,826 to the sales tax revenue of Greene County which I think I talked about the last time we had a soap day, I believe. So, the 224 funding, that one's super important. That's the funding that allows Cooperative Extension to exist. That funding, is that comes from the state, that's the one day a year I'm allowed to go and lobby. If you guys ever reduce my appropriation, that gets reduced. But if you increase my appropriation, it doesn't get increased. So, I just wanted to share that. So, it's a double whammy if we reduce our appropriation, and it's not a growth if it increases, but it just helps stabilize it. It's across, there's 56 executive directors in the state, and it's the same. So, there's 6.1 million for 56

people, and that number doesn't really change. So, it's, but if you lose your appropriation, you guys decide, these guys stink. They don't do what they need. But if you think we're doing a wonderful job by giving us an increased appropriation, it allows us to really help bring up the staff that are at that mid-level and that's really my goal. I have done, I think, a really wonderful job with our team bringing local people into our organization. We have 19 people who live and work in Greene County that are employed by us. They are not a burden to the county because that is a \$700,000 value of the New York State or now Department of Education relationship for your health insurance, retirement, workers' comp, and dental. So that's another benefit to Greene County is having us here working, and again, 19 of them live and work in the county right now. A couple moved up to Albany County, but we're trying to lure them back, and in terms of value of the volunteer hours, how many of you knew that a volunteer hour is like what you're doing right now is volunteering, right? It's \$39.50 per hour is what it's calculated by New York State. So, when we look at all of the segments of volunteers, we have 4-H, Master Gardeners, Master Forest Owner, Board of Directors, thank you, Ms. Sherry. They have donated 3,706 hours of volunteer time, which equates to \$146,000 and how that's important is when you go after grants as a county or your villages, that those numbers add to the, when someone's looking for how well is your community engaged in a new project, having those volunteer documented hours really does help people understand in selection for grants and contracts. So, our investment in the community of Greene is about a million from grants and contracts, and I'm not going to read through it. You're all wonderful readers. So, we bring in about 1.8 million in direct and in-kind, and currently we're receiving \$244,000 but your return on investment for your commitment to Cooperative Extension currently is at 765 percent return on your investment. We are bringing in a tremendous amount of resources to help every sector of our community, from agriculture to youth to the retired folks. This past summer we did the last run of SNAP money, and we did over 42 classes for free in the community with our seniors, with our children, to teach them how to utilize their budgets and make healthy food for as most easy. So, we did simple things like make a shake with fresh fruit and yogurt or use a hot plate. So, a lot of great things and that was something that was not new, but we did also do. So, some of these folks on this last slide, those are your people who live in your county and work here. You'll see Shane Stevens, Ashley Schoenborn, Tracy Testo, Will, Hannah, Zander, they're all those mid-level people who are amazing, and I want to retain them and the only way we can do incremental sustainable growth for our staff is to have strong appropriations so, we can leverage it when we'll bring other grants and contracts. As you know, grants and contracts, they're one year, they're great, they're gone the next. So, if we had a little bit of an increase, we could retain these amazing people and our references are here, and I open the floor for any questions. Sorry, I talked fast because I know you guys have a big agenda."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Lisa, what contribution level, I know you're looking for about a \$65,000 increase in appropriation. What are you requesting from Columbia County?"

Ms. Gallina stated, "85,000, (Chairperson Bulich stated, "\$85,000.") and we did a similar presentation. Maybe I'm a little better this time around, but yes, we asked for \$85,000. They gave us a \$515,000 appropriation. (Chairperson Bulich stated, "Okay.") I mean, that's based on their ag land is a larger mass. (Chairperson Bulich stated, "Sure, sure it is.") It's no, it's

all love between the two counties.”

Chairperson Bulich stated, “Right, I was wondering that. Now the state funding, now that goes just to Cornell University, and they divvy it up to 52 or 56.”

Ms. Gallina stated, “56, and it only can fund so, interesting question, Mr. Mike Bulich, is that it can only fund people whose positions require a masters, which is my position, Becky Palmateer, who many of you know, our deputy director, and Megan Gardner, who's our social worker. So, our three roles require a masters. We have seven other people who have a masters, but we don't require it. So, they're not compensated for a job that requires one. It's just great that they have them, and they're wonderful employees. But the three of us, that funding is part of our funding, and it has to be in order for us to exist.”

Chairperson Bulich stated, “Okay, has that funding been flat like ours has been flat?”

Mr. Groden stated, “Lisa, could you get closer to the microphone?”

Ms. Gallina stated “Yes, it has been, it has not been, we have been each year, so I'm in my fifth year, and it has been level and each year when we go for one lobbying day, we've been able to get it so that it is at that 6.1 million figure. That's in January of each year that we go and do that.”

Chairperson Bulich stated, “Okay, thank you.”

Legislator Lanuto stated. “Quick question for you, Lisa. So, of the approximate 26 percent increase that you guys are asking for, is that all going to be allocated, how is that going to be allocated out? Is it according to on page two? (Mr. Groden stated, “Mike, can you get closer?”) According to page two, is it different percentages, or is it going to be specifically just for admin? How is that increase going to be?”

Ms. Gallina stated, “That is going to be distributed over our staff, through that middle-level staff. So, to bring up the coordinator and educator-level person, we tend to be at between \$23 and \$25 an hour. If both counties do what we're asking, we're able to hopefully bring people up a dollar or two dollars an hour who are doing the direct education in 4-H, agriculture, community horticulture, and a small percentage will go towards our admin. But it will not be it would be under four percent of it would go towards our admin. It's really going towards salaries of the direct educators and coordinators.”

Legislator Lanuto stated, “Okay. So, those directors are included in the allocations according to like the 4-H and that -.”

Mr. Gallina stated, “So yes, so the 4-H, it would go for the 4-H staff. It would go towards the Community Horticulture and Master Gardener, and towards our agricultural education and a small percentage of it will go towards admin. But we keep our admin under at 18 percent or lower.”

Legislator Lanuto stated, “Okay, thank you.”

Ms. Gallina stated, “Thank you.”

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Shaun on, I believe we've been flat with that rate for ten years."

Mr. Groden stated, "Oh, easy."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Anyway, at \$247,000."

Ms. Gallina stated, "You did, I'm going to be honest, you did give us \$10,000 four years ago of an increase. But that was the first increase in ten years, and there had been a reduction a few years before that."

Mr. Groden stated, "Right. It was a ten percent cut back in, (Chairperson Bulich stated, "11?") 14, something like that. Yeah. All agencies received a ten percent cut."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Okay."

Ms. Gallina stated, "Thank you all so much. If there are any questions, you, Sherry and everyone have my contact information, if you want to come up and visit us anytime, please do. Thank you so much."

A number of Legislators thanked Ms. Gallina.

Update By Members of the Greene County Libraries Association

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Alright next, we have our Greene County Libraries Association here to present. Thank you."

Ms. Benson stated, "Good evening, do you have the presentation for us?"

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Cathy, could you talk closer?"

Ms. Benson stated, "A little closer, sure."

Chairman Linger stated, "Does that look like yours?"

Ms. Benson stated, "Thank you, I'm all set then, perfect. Thank you very much, Pat. Thank you for the opportunity for us to present, were the Greene County Library Association, and we'll be presenting our proposed budget over the coming year and serving as a library director is a true privilege, and it's made possible because we have exceptional trustees and staff whose dedication and teamwork make every day rewarding for us. The libraries are the D.R Evarts Library in Athens, Kim Benjamin, Cairo, we've got Corinne Tadvito, and her daughter (unintelligible), Catskill and Palenville branch, we've got Christopher Leary, Coxsackie for the Hermance Library, Catherine Benson, that's me. The Greenville Library is led by Barbara Flack. Hunter has Regina Johnson. Mountain Top Library, we've got Jacqueline Elmo Email. Windham has Candace Bagley. What's the library's, oh, here sorry, you need that. What the Greene County Libraries have added this year? Well, we've got a digital microscope. We've brought things along with us for show and tell. Telescope, hydraulic jack, piano mat, cornhole, Jenga, a giant Jenga, light bright, dust buster, bread maker, thermal camera, code reader scanner, bubble machine, 3D scanner, and bears. Oh, we've got the bears, right? (Ms. Tadvito stated, "Oh the bears, I didn't bring them.") Okay, I will get them to your office. (Ms. Tadvito stated, "We've made 3D printed bears for you.")

We got the Americal Girl Doll, STEAM Kits, we have them at both of our libraries, for the science, technology, engineering, art and math, Tony's, circuit breaker identifier. Let's see we've got the maker space in Cairo, gallery for Create Space that's Mountain Top. We also have Catskill magazine and newspapers offered online. In the Athens Library, they added a ramp and elevator. In Cossackie, the ADA door, Mountain Top ADA door, and equipment. Talking braille library, lamps, assisted scissors, sensory boards, and toys. We each offer museum passes, and some of the new ones include the Athens Pool. We have Thomas Cole, Olana, Bronck House, USS Slater, the Iroquois Museum, the Mid-Hudson Children's Discovery Museum, the Albany Museum of History and Art, and these are all free to borrow. Oh, and the Fireman's Museum, too. These are all free for everyone to borrow so, please do that. Okay, next one, we have for technology. Using the Mid-Hudson Library system app, you can browse the catalog, manage your account, place holds on any time. Your library is simply just a tap away, and you can use the Libby app or the Hoopla app for e-books, audiobooks, and magazines and you can use it with your library card on any device. We find that our digital demand is growing. About a third of our patrons don't even come into the library. They may, but they also borrow books online. That's our e-books and our audiobooks, and they cost three to five times more and we find that the demand is increasing. They cost more than the print resources, and up on the screen, I have the Cossackie's e-books and audiobooks graph of the usage between January through December, and you can see that it's growing over time, and audiobooks are much more popular. Why this matters? This budget keeps the wait times low and ensures that equitable access is ensured for all of the residents, whether they visit in person or connect from miles away. If they're traveling, say, to another country, they can still access our resources online. Alright number four is next."

Mr. Leary stated, "All right. Thank you all for letting us speak tonight. My two slides really have to do with statistics so every year, all New York State libraries have to submit an annual report to the state, which includes our statistics. So as a county, we really started to track them better and better over the course of the past two years, and the statistical writing is on the wall and up on the screen here is you can see, let's say, we just talked about the electronic checkouts. Well, those were up 20 percent year over year as more patrons are getting familiar with e-books and seeking that as a resource, just like any other book they would. Registered patrons or new patrons up ten percent. Library programs offered up 30 percent, program attendance 20 percent, physical items still growing well, but certainly not exponential growth as some of the other categories, which really kind of even shows modern libraries and some of the things that are happening. What's interesting is still questions asked the library up almost 20 percent like e-books. So, humans are still looking for human intelligence to talk to. So, what you can really see is when you're in the library, they're actively being used. The reversion from COVID, everyone couldn't go in the library during COVID and coming back out, you're really seeing the community start to use those resources more and more and we continue to really hone in our statistics and being able to capture that and run libraries from a data perspective, just like any other organization or business. When it comes to our ask, we are asking for a modest request of an additional \$7,843 which would nudge our budget just over 50 grand in total. At heart, when you look up there on the screen, you can see that the items in bold are really part of the budget of the association and what gets evenly divided amongst the libraries that are experiencing a

growth. So obviously, we want to invest more in the digital resources, I know one of the interesting projects at the Mid-Hudson Library System that's currently going on is within Greene County, within Ulster, within all counties of the Mid-Hudson Library System, there are areas that aren't inherently served by a taxing district, and we are actually going to be assigning a way to register those patrons so that we can actually have better data on all the additional patrons coming in. Because in New York State, as I've come to learn, there's a New York State free direct access plan, and it roughly says if you come into a library, you can get service because that's what we're all about and keeping education and information open. Yeah, and so roughly, when you take it down to brass tax, we increased all over across the board last year, and we're looking for a modest increase in wealth to meet that demand. I certainly know I have overtaken Overdrive purchasing for the Catskill Library and have learned an incredible amount, actually, in purchasing models and how to run things, and I think our stats this year are up 20 percent in checkouts, but I've even learned how to do that with the same budget as last year because there's a whole field of data behind this that I'm just really tackling and looking forward to. So, thank you very much I really appreciate it."

Ms. Email stated, "Hello. I'm here to talk about why libraries matter. So aside from the resources that Chris mentioned, another one of our resources is our spaces because at the library, there is something for everyone. All of our libraries introduce and have consistent programming that brings people together, that spark creativity, and that celebrate our communities. All of our branches have story times. It's a nice open free space for songs, movement, hands-on activities for all ages and abilities. We have creative arts programs at our branches, card making, mixed media collage, garden displays, cupcake decorating, and we have gallery spaces where works from local artists can be displayed. We do local history presentations and initiatives that highlight the people, the places, and the events that shape our communities. We also have family-friendly events open to everyone, brand nights, seasonal celebrations, interactive demonstrations. We all host wellness programs in some capacity. Some of us have yoga, some of us do sound baths, some of us mindfulness sessions, and some other gentle movement classes. We all strive to present informational programming as well. We partner with Senator Michelle Hinchey's office and with Josh Riley's office that lets the community connect with their elected officials. We show documentaries, such as the librarians and documentaries on bees and natural conservation. We also are home to a lot of the skill-building workshops and skill shares. So, our community can share their knowledge and impart it in topics like cooking, knitting, crocheting, one-on-one for digital literacy and repair cafes and the like. We also do a lot of community service and outreach for tech health for people who walk in and are struggling with some work on their devices or connecting with other kinds of local services or local agencies and need a little bit of assistance connecting that way. I think that's all I need to say. Thank you."

Ms. Benson stated, "As Christopher was pointing out, our program attendance was up, book circulation up, electronic downloads up, reference questions were up. So, we go to the Massachusetts Library Association and we look to what they have for how much these things cost. So, program attendance, based on 35,930 people attending, we did \$15 for adults and seven dollars for children. What is that worth? Multiply that out, it was \$396,000, free to whoever attends, free. Books are categorized as \$17 each if you're going

to buy it. CDs, ten dollars. Music, like a music CD, four dollars, and DVDs, four dollars. So that would be from all the checkouts, \$3,220,000 saved. Electronic downloadables, that's based on Audible, \$9.95 and e-books, \$15. Okay? So, with all those checkouts, \$893,000. Reference questions, seven dollars each, and that doesn't include computer use, meeting room use, internet, or database access. So just based on our reference questions alone, and you know we're not keeping track of all that stuff. We're just like, let's tick, tick, tick every now and then. So, it looks like we only answered five questions all day long, that was all we did. But that savings, each one counting seven dollars each, would be \$392,000. So, adding all those together would be \$4,901,000. So, use our libraries, use our libraries, please."

Ms. Tadvito stated, "It's my turn, I'm Corinne from Cairo and I know I've seen a lot of your faces at the Youth Fair; I was there all four days. The library together decided to attend, and we've been working as a team to go and really reach our community where they're at. This means going to the school districts, going to all of those 250th celebrations that everyone had that were so wonderful. We were a part of planning and being there and really making sure that the history was getting out to the people. You'll see on this; we go everywhere from newborns to seniors. We want to reach every single member of our community, no matter whether that's in our building or outside of our building. Alight, and I am here to say thank you so much to each of you for continuing to support us. I am especially lucky this year since you guys funded through a grant the 3D printer at the maker space and really made that space possible for the library. So, I really wanted to make sure I was the one saying thank you to you guys because when I got the grant, I cried. So, thank you so much to you guys, but also to all of our community partners that we continue, to continue to support. Thank you so much."

Ms. Benson stated, "Any questions?"

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Yes, Cathy, when you say school visits, so do you guys coordinate with your school libraries and in terms of-."

Ms. Benson stated, "It's with a lot of classrooms too, and it depends on who's doing it. Not so much the librarians, we do that when we do reading programs. When we do like summer reading programs, we'll reach out to the librarians. But we'll also do, like I can only really speak for myself, this coming year we're coordinating with all of the sixth no, all of the fifth graders at Cossackie-Athens. They're sending down their ELA groups, apparently, there's going to be in this year's budget, coming budget, but school budgets have been cut significantly. So, they're looking out to community partners and so they've reached out to us, and we said, sure, come on down. They're going to come down once a month and work with us and show them how ELA is just not in the classrooms, it's in the community too, it's all round you. So yeah, and we go to the YMCA, we go to Bethany Village. I'm only speaking on my own, but we do all this outreach and we make it happen. Yeah, we bring like pop-up libraries to different areas. So, you don't necessarily need to come to the library, we can meet you where you need to be."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Okay, and then on the technology side, when you talk about e-books and audio, if I'm a resident of Catskill and I go and visit the Catskill library to grab an e-book, but it's not there, is it (Ms. Benson stated, "You'd have to wait.") Well, would it

be in Cairo? Would I be eligible to grab it from Cairo then or Cossackie or the Mountain Top?"

Ms. Benson stated, "It depends on how it was purchased. Yeah, because it's done by the first few digits of your library card number. I hate to say it, but we all are a number. So yeah, it depends on the permissions that it's given. We each have our own first six digits."

Mr. Leary stated, "Yeah, and how it really works in the e-book world, right, is that because we're part of the Mid-Hudson Library System, roughly is every 66th library can buy or lease their own copy of their e-books and that e-book will inherently go to their barcode numbers or first. If it's not being used, it'll go to one of the other 66 libraries, and then there is also a way in certain publications that you can actually even turn on a cost per cert model that's considerably less. Not available for everything, but let's say you're like a science fiction book club and you can get a copy for about a buck 50 digitally. You can like turn that on for a week. Everybody gets it instantly and you can go about it that way. So, at heart, you're able to access the entire library of the Mid-Hudson Library System. All the books bought or leased, but there could be certain titles that you will have to wait longer on or could get instantly based upon your library collection (unintelligible) policy or practice."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Okay."

Ms. Benson stated, "You might be learning more than you want, there sorry."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "I was curious-."

Mr. Leary stated, "Oh, yeah, like I said, I've been in the Overdrive world this year because I was in the library world ten years and 15 years ago when e-books just came out and then it got into the private sector and then now back. It's like a whole new world and so I've actually gotten to spend the last six months learning and getting behind the data and just starting to understand it a little better, so I have that answer."

Ms. Email stated, "We're part of a large system too. So, we share, we share a lot of the e-resources. So, we kind of make our purchases as we branch based on what's on hold system-wide too. So we try to contribute to the greater pool and in return, we get to reap some of those benefits from larger libraries and towns and counties like Ulster, Putnam, Dutchess, and Columbia County who all pull into this pool, and sometimes you might not get any orders you like, but because the costs are high, we have to be choosy but we try to see what the demand is and we try to fill it to the best of our abilities that way."

Mr. Leary stated, "And just as a reminder from a use perspective, everyone can put a physical book on hold or a digital book on hold. Or even when they're in Libby app, can find a book that's not owned and say, 'wow, I would like to read that' and all of that data comes to us. We can see that weekly or monthly, whatever we choose. But roughly, that sort of feedback allows better purchasing because then we can be specific, we can maximize dollars, and we can really meet the public where the interest is instead of guessing on a \$90 e-book if people will read it, right? So, using the app, using the catalog, putting hold, saying what you're interested in is just data that actually could help more efficient purchasing models."

Chairman Linger stated, "A little surprising that the e-books are actually more expensive for you to get."

Ms. Benson stated, "Yeah."

Mr. Leary stated, "If you type into Google and you type in e-book pricing, I think there was a bill in the legislature this year about e-book pricing, and I don't understand that side of it. But e-books do operate differently. They operate in some, like some of them operate like a purchase, a lot of them operate like a lease, like a year or two lease. (Ms. Tadvito stated, "For \$60.") Yeah, for \$60 so, some of it's a little ridiculous. But that's where the data and the CPC modeling and maximizing and even understanding your physical model and how much physical is being requested and leaning into that, well, that's appropriate."

Ms. Tadvito stated, "And due to our vast space of how spread out everything is in Greene County, we see a higher rate of these people being able to check out e-books and being able to use library resources that we're very happy that they're able to use. But going as far as to Durham, all the way to the edges, you're not going to be able to get to the Cairo library after work if you get out right on time. So, they're able to now use these e-resources, and people that have mobility problems are able to use these e-resources even though they are at a more high cost."

Chairman Linger stated, "Thanks to 100 percent broadband coverage."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Anybody else?"

Legislator Luvera stated, "Just a question on your program attendance. Is any of this like after-school programs that you're doing?"

Mr. Leary stated, "Lots of it."

Ms. Benson stated, "Yeah, LEGO club, knitting club."

Ms. Email stated, "We have an outreach with the HTC Middle High School every Thursday. We partner with Mountain Top Cares Coalition, and they come and they give resources or confidential services or referrals, and then there's snacks and entertainment, video games, homework help, mostly the video games though. So yeah, that's weekly for us."

Mr. Leary stated, "And I know in Catskill, it certainly slows down for us in the summer a little bit. But once school gets back next week, it roars back to life. I know one of my favorite programs we did in the last year was we partnered with Columbia County or Columbia Greene Community College, and their to-be teachers need teaching experience. So we matched them with kids that need free tutoring, and we brought to market free tutoring and connection, and I think we had sort of 20 people first go around and so it's some of those sort of after-school programs that we're also doing to where it's LEGO Club for this group, and then there's literally free tutoring at the library, which is a big thing that brings people in in the afternoon, whether it's school district-based or whether it's something we're running or even just privately in homeschool coming into the study space."

Ms. Benson stated “To tie it in we've had Cornell Cooperative Extension come in a few times this year so far and had a lot of kids at it, so thank you very much. Any other questions?”

Legislator Luvera stated, “We're also working on a Think Differently initiative for, (Ms. Benson stated, “To get into Greene County?”) correct, (Ms. Tadvito stated, “We just met with Corin Molinaro.”) okay, (Ms. Benson stated, “Yeah, last week yeah.”) alright, great is there anything that you're doing currently right now that we could connect with our public health department that's working on a survey and working on getting information out to families? Is there something specific that you're doing now already?”

Ms. Tadvito stated, “So we're happy to, a lot of us have newsletters that include community events already. I know that we put all of our resources on our websites, and we're also really happy to put community resources on, each website has a community resource page already. But highlighting something like that would be wonderful to work with. I know that Cairo already has a few groups that inflight groups that come in. So once the program is up and running, it would be more than happy to team up with them and give them a place to get these needed work skills that other places don't really have the opportunity to give them.”

Legislator Luvera stated, “Great, thank you.”

Mr. Leary stated, “I'll look it up, I haven't heard about it yet.”

Ms. Tadvito stated, “I come from Dutchess County. So, I've worked with the program over in Dutchess County already.”

Legislator Luvera stated, “Great.”

Chairman Linger stated, “Yeah, it's infancy here really. We just started a group.”

Legislator Luvera stated, “We're looking for other avenues and-.”

Ms. Gallina stated, “We have a library right now for the next five days in Columbia County at the fair with a Think Differently room that anyone can come to. We just partnered with Molinaro and Dana who came and worked with them for the last six years, and it's all experiential-based. So, anyone that wants to come and learn what we're doing and share it, we'd love to do that.”

Legislator Luvera stated, “Great.”

Ms. Tadvito stated, “We actually saw the room in Dutchess County. We had to use it; my daughter uses services in Ulster County. So, it was a great experience, and I would really hope that it would be something you guys would continue to pursue and any way that the libraries can help, I'd be happy to talk to anyone that need-.”

Legislator Handel stated, “Your daughter is stealing the show.”

Ms. Tadvito stated, “She sees herself in the camera now. I told her she had to stop dancing,

but I can't do the job.”

Legislator Luvera stated, “That’s what Harry does too.”

Ms. Tadvito stated, “Thank you all very much.”

A number of Legislators thanked the Group from the Greene Counties Library Association.

Stella Yoon - CREATE Executive Director

Chairperson Bulich stated, “And last for county resources, we have Stella with CREATE to give us an update and a breakdown of this year's budget requests.”

Ms. Yoon stated, “Good evening, everyone. I guess just to give a quick overview of the package is, we have our upcoming events on the first page and then a little bit about what we've been up to, and just to give you an idea of what we've been up to this summer, there's our June postcard of all the events and a postcard for our opening at Beattie-Powers. We hosted a couple of plein air painting games and invited folks to come out and paint and so, the show at the Beattie-Powers will be the pieces that were created during those days, and so we had a couple of really beautiful summer days that people came out and painted and actually painted, drew, used all sorts of media so. Hope you can join us for any or all of the upcoming events. So, this year was the launch of our offsite programming. In a way, it kind of started in the '80s with the Amtrak gallery that we're still overseeing, and we had two really great shows by Greene County artists. Kristen Bates, a photographer, and Ruby Silvius, who did these amazing paintings on found acorns and sea pods and things like that. So, it's really a variety that we're able to showcase at the train station and obviously, it's the third busiest station in the state, it gets a lot of traffic, and so, you know, this has kind of been in the DNA of the organization. Now, without our physical space, we were able to go launch into offsites all across the county. This year, we will have had four different offsite partners. One of them is the Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Agroforestry Center, which has been a really fruitful collaboration where one of the shows that I wanted to highlight was our spring-summer show called Here for You. Featured 14 different local artists, and we centered this theme around caretaking. We used the opportunity, or the platform of exhibits to focus on themes that highlight things that are interests of artists. But also, we thought it was a great opportunity to touch on a topic that highlights some of CCE's other resources around parenting and family economics and that aspect. So, we brought those things together and we try to fill in the gaps in the calendar by working together in that way, and we have some exciting shows planned for next year as well and so, our offsite partners are local businesses as well as local nonprofits and while we're in different spaces, what we are also layering in is bringing other programming like readings and coworking days for creatives to work together and kind of different interactions when we are in these different spaces in the different parts of the county. We're in conversation with a venue in Coxsackie and one in Prattsville for programming for next year. So, we're really trying to, you know, we're really going out there and I wanted to touch on our marketing is kind of a big service and value that we bring to the organizations and artists that we work with. We brought on a community engagement coordinator this February, and she's been doing an amazing job kind of updating our kind of visual look and organizing our newsletter so that

we're really highlighting all the different things that are happening in the region. So, we do a biweekly events and happenings newsletter and then a biweekly resources newsletter that highlights not only opportunities for artists and organizations in terms of grants and resources, but job postings and things like that to help get the word out about local opportunities. So, yeah, I guess in terms of allocation, we had an exciting but a bit of an increase in terms of our Greene County Cultural Fund this year. I think traditionally, it's been ten to twelve organizations that participate in this program and even with two of the organizations that have historically participated that have participated, are not participating anymore, we had an increase of 15 applications, and so the ask of the grant request from those 15 organizations totaled \$70,000. As you know, the Greene County Cultural Fund regranteeing is \$40,000. So, this year, the community panel that we convened made the decision to fund 13 of the organizations. So not all of them got funded, and some of the organizations that had traditionally been funded were significantly underfunded in comparison to the past year. So, we were able to this year's fulfillment was 56 percent of the ask and so, we proposed a \$50,000 allocation for regranteeing for next year to cover about 70 percent of the anticipated requests so yeah. Are there any questions?"

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Stella, when it comes to the regrantee program, (Ms. Yoon stated, "Yes.") you have a variety of people who apply every year, right? Would you say?"

Ms. Yoon stated, "I would say generally, it's been such a long-standing program that it is kind of there are a certain group of people or organizations that are kind of consistent here."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Right, right. I just, I didn't know if you guys had some type of algorithm in place or whatever where, okay, there's this many people looking for it and the 70 percent or whatever and 40 percent have already received numerous times through the year, you then say, 'Hey, these newcomers to the game, let's give them a shake,' or is that a-."

Ms. Yoon stated, "I mean, you know we really advise the panel to kind of look at merit and evaluate budgets and things like that and they're, I think in terms of for this past year, for newer grantees, the panel had decided we won't give them the full ask. They'll definitely get a portion, but kind of we want to see proof of consistency, get to know them more. So, there are decisions like that that are being made. So, what's really cool about the way this is structured is that there's the statewide program that we administer and the organizations that apply for that don't get funded or aren't eligible to apply for the Greene County Cultural Fund so, it's really different pools. (Chairperson Bulich stated, "Okay,") And so, there are some that are growing and coming to the Greene County Cultural Fund. There are other kind of for more emerging projects or organizations, we really direct them to the statewide program because they're just more services that we provide in terms of technical assistance and yeah, tend to be designed more for less established organizations or projects, and the Cultural Fund does require you to be a nonprofit, have a minimum budget size and things like that. (Chairperson Bulich stated, "Okay,") So yeah, they're really complementary."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "All right, and so this funding increase request, what do we have, have you asked the funding increase of the other two counties also?"

Ms. Yoon stated, "Well, so this is just specifically for this Cultural Fund program, yeah."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "But on their side of their funds that they make accessible to you, did you also ask for anything on that too?"

Ms. Yoon stated, "Yes, but we do basically, we do different programming in the different counties based on the amount of funding that they have (Chairperson Bulich stated, "Okay.") and you know, I think we've really seen success in people are people and we still need to be out there, and the driving and just hitting the ground and seeing people is really important. But of course, that takes time and we can't clone ourselves and so for us, administrative doesn't just look like we're at a computer. It's literally like being out in the community and driving out to sites and going to support their programming as well as these offsite partnerships have been really fruitful because we're really bringing other audiences that don't know about these organizations and also exposing their audiences to the type of programming that we're doing."

Chairperson Bulich stated, "Okay, thank you."

Chairman Linger stated, "Stella, do both other counties provide funding, separate funding like this?"

Ms. Yoon stated, "Columbia County does and we have different programs with them as well. We, but Schoharie County, we are, you know it's something that we've been working on, (Chairman Linger stated, "Okay.") and just to kind of reiterate, so the state program we get. Before that, we do a regranting program with the state and they give us administrative funds for that, and we get some general operating support. The general operating support has fluctuated quite a bit in the last couple of years, just funding landscape and so yeah, we're really trying to weather it, so."

Chairman Linger stated, "I think the hospital folks here would agree with you. (Ms. Yoon stated, "yeah.") It's a common theme."

Ms. Yoon stated, "Yeah and usually, I'm not with the library folks or with the Cornell Cooperative Extension, but it's really great to see all of them because whether it's grantees that have received programming grants to do arts programs in the different libraries that we're here or the youth program that we do in the spring, we partner with the Catskill Library and then we have our partnership with the Cornell Cooperative Extension. I think it's really hard sometimes to illustrate what the service organization does and it is really about people and being out there and having these relationships and yeah, we've really been just having more conversations and trying to create more ways to support in terms of outreach, marketing, getting the word out about all the amazing resources that are here in this county."

Chairman Linger stated, "It's a lot of collaboration."

Ms. Yoon stated, "Yeah, yeah it's fun."

Legislator Legg stated, "So, does the \$50,000 you're asking for, does that stay in Greene

County or does it go-?”

Ms. Yoon stated, “That would go directly to Greene County organizations, yeah.”

Legislator Legg stated, “Thank you.”

Chairperson Bulich stated, “Anybody else, for Stella?”

Ms. Yoon stated, “And just really briefly, one of our newest board members I asked to come, Alex Todaro is a Catskill resident. I don't know if you want to just give a brief introduction of yourself? (Mr. Todaro stated, “Yeah, sure.”) We've had the opportunity to work with Alex. He's a creative and just engaged with the community, we're really excited to have him on board.”

Mr. Todaro stated, “Cool, thanks hi, everyone. So yeah, I'm Alex Todaro. I'm, yeah, a newest board member to CREATE. I'm also part of the Catskill Tree Council, I regularly volunteer for the Repair Cafe and I've been in Catskill now for about five years. I was in Philmont before that. So yeah, just really excited to be joining the board of CREATE. I'm really passionate about the arts and the ways that sort of a creative community can really stimulate a culture and economy within the places that they are. So yeah, just excited to be working with this group and yeah, nice to be involved.”

A number of Legislators thanked Mr. Todaro.

Chairperson Bulich stated, “Thank you, Stella. (Ms. Yoon stated, “Thank you.”) Anything else to come before county resources?”

There are no action items for the month of September.

Adjournment

On motion made by Legislator Lennon, seconded by Legislator Thorington, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.