



New York State

## **Conservation District Employees Association**

Radisson Hotel  
Utica, New York  
July 22, 2016

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### **Executive Committee Members**

P.J. Emerick, President  
Jordan Clements, Vice President  
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary  
Kristin White, Treasurer  
Doug Kierst, Member at Large

### **Division Representatives**

Judy Bennett, Division I  
Kelly Emerick, Division II  
Steve Lorraine, Division III  
Velynda Parker, Division IV  
Laura Benedict, Division V  
Ben Luskin, Division VI  
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

### **Partners**

Brian Steinmuller, NYSSWCC  
Greg Kist, NRCS  
Amber Paice, NYACD

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## **Minutes**

**I. Called to Order:** 10:13 a.m. with introductions.

**II. Reading and approval of May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting minutes**

- **A motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Steve, to approve the minutes as presented with the clarification that a discussion did take place. Carried.**  
Discussion: Kelly and Judy commented that corrections to the minutes were not made. P.J. commented that there was nothing in the minutes regarding the discussion about payment for the NYACD and Admin conference. Kelly commented that the way it was left was that there was a need to verify with Dan that there is no financial obligation from the Employees Association if NYACD takes in the registrations. Amber commented that the only cost the Employees Association would participate in would be to pay a presenter, and 50% share of that would take place. Amber continued that that hasn't been encountered, and that probably no presenters would need to be paid. It's a mute point. Kelly commented that for future conference budgets, an expense line item for instructors between NYACD and CDEA should stay within that budget. Kelly continued that if it went above that, the Employees Association would be responsible for additional costs. You have to pay for instructors, not everyone is free. Amber replied that she will take these recommendations back to her board.

Jordan stated that he does remember having a discussion, and clarified that if we want someone, we need to split it. If there's no one, it's not a problem.

### **III. Correspondence**

- i. Sally Crosiar** - Leadership Conference Ranger School thank you. She provided a collection of quotes and references.
- ii. Amber Paice** - Request for funds and sponsorship for upcoming 2016-17 budget year.

**IV. Treasurer's Report** - Kristin provided the financial reports prior to the meeting and reviewed the reports with the Board. She mentioned that there are no issues, and the budget is looking good. Steve inquired if a bill for the symposium had been received. Kristin replied that it is all taken care of. P.J. commented that additional invoices for the Leadership Conference were submitted. Brian inquired if the State Committee owes you any money. Kristin replied no. Velynda inquired about the vacation raffle and asked if there was \$230 left. Kristin replied that Nick opted for a cash prize, and that \$230 left. Kristin commented that she is waiting for an invoice from school for Envirothon.

- **A motion was made by Velynda, seconded by Judy to accept the financial reports as presented. Carried.**

### **V. Reports**

#### **i. Division Reports**

- a. Division I** – appended to the minutes.
- b. Division II** – no report provided. Kelly commented that Division II has lots of new employees and trainings. 5 new technicians have been hired, and new employees are still increasing from there. She will have a report for the next meeting.
- c. Division III** – no report provided. Steve inquired if the Frank Bratt scholarships had been approved. He hasn't heard anything about planning a division meeting for August.
- d. Division IV** – appended to the minutes. Velynda commented that she didn't send out an email, but they do have another meeting scheduled for August in Cortland. Every District and partner attended the last division meeting. The resolution for civil service was discussed, and Bear will come up with a new resolution. 8 counties out of 11 are working on STAIEP, and are moving forward with contracts. Award letters from Ag and Markets are going out this week. FLOWPA had a nice anniversary celebration.
- e. Division V** – appended to the minutes. Laura commented that she heard back from 2 counties she hasn't heard from in a while. Everyone is busy with WQIP, and basin program grants. Nick Rowell is newly married.
- f. Division VI** – no report provided. Ben commented that Division VI is busy with ag non point, and they did well with Round 22. They are also completing closeouts, busy with the construction season, working on WQIP and upper Hudson grants.
- g. Division VII** – appended to the minutes.
- h. Division VIII** – appended to the minutes.

#### **ii. Partnership Reports**

- a. NYS SWCC** – Brian mentioned the following:
  - A state committee meeting was held on Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.

- The Chairman is going through challenges with family illness.
- Bethany and her husband Chris had a baby girl, and she is on maternity leave until October.
- An update on Round 22 awards went out. Projects will be funded according to the revised ranked list. Round 22 had the highest amount of funding requested and awarded to date.
- Round 23 has no defined timeline in front of the Committee. Based on feedback from the District Managers it was decided to put out separate RFPs for both AgNPS and CRF. CRF will be put out first in late summer or early fall, and ag non point will go out after that, with state aid reporting in the middle. The deadline for Round 23 will be March 31<sup>st</sup> or April 1<sup>st</sup>. Significant discussions of Round 23 still need to take place. Contracts are moving through the process of the current round of CRF, and people are trying to figure out the Grants Gateway.
- Service contracts with the USC are ahead of schedule: they are working on a GIS model that locates flood attenuation projects on the landscape.
- Cornell is working on AEM Information Sheets targeted at District Technicians for background on how farming and forestry practices impact and are impacted by climate change.
- State Aid will be taking a great step forward with \$85,000 estimated for Part C this year. A new policy was passed by the committee. During the in house review process, if the committee staff finds an inconsistency or discrepancy in an application, they can ask the individual who submitted the application via email to clarify. The individual will be given 3 business days to clarify. Once the clarification is accepted, they can proceed. A memo and guidance will follow. Brian commented that Districts appear to be cautious developing concepts for the funding that can make a lasting impact if the unprecedented funding is not sustained from one year to the next. The SWCC will be closely monitoring the budget process that is set to begin after the New Year to gauge what is likely to happen in the near future. Jordan inquired if there was a gut feeling. Brian replied that they should know the budget proposal by late January. Brian went on to say that the whole EPF was raised to \$300 million, and that there is enough wide spread support to keep it at that level. When you look at the increase in State Aid is roughly equivalent to the overall increase in the entire EPF.
- Brian asked for feedback from employees: do we have the foot on the accelerator and are we going too fast? Ideas for growth are based on the State Committee's Strategic Plan, District's shared success, and what can reasonably be accomplished. Are there Boards that don't want to move forward, complacent, or otherwise conservative? Are there financial limitations from counties or otherwise? Brian was asking the CDEA if there is a way to assess where Districts are at cumulatively. P.J. replied that there are ideas for what the Governor is looking for, another service Districts can provide. P.J. went on to say that Districts are expanding and diversifying. The North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) is one of the latest example of District's seizing a statewide opportunity that is also a local priority in counties throughout the state. Steve commented that a structured program with attached funding is needed. Steve went on to say that we trip over ourselves sometimes because with new initiatives, we often recognize that we are already performing these functions. With non-point source management, there is resiliency for land base. Climate change impacts redefine the work we do. Brian replied that you don't always have to develop a new program, but help figure out where funding sources already exist to sustain these programs. Kelly commented that it is great

to put funding to what Districts are already doing. Kelly went on to say that very few Districts can add new programs or staff right now from the first year of a major budget increase.

- AEM District Outreach Specialist: the RFP is out there. It is similar to the previous service contracts and due August 12, by 3:00 p.m. via a hard copy submittal. This is a procurement, not a grant. The budget is reviewed by fiscal, the application is reviewed internally by Department staff and the scores are combined. Three Districts may be needed for OSC to approve the procurement. The staff member would be based out of the Albany office.

**b. NYACD** – Amber mentioned the following:

- They are busy and she is learning the ins and outs, and the relation to the Employees Association. She thanked everyone for their support.

- Annual Meeting: October 18 – 20 at the Crown Plaza, Syracuse. The meeting will be a combined event with the Employees Association and the Admin Conference. Amber is finalizing online registration for her board to look at before the August release. She will be in touch with Kristin to check things over on Google Forms. Annual meeting sponsorship includes selling ads for the booklet. The raffle was great success last year, and they will be doing it again this year. Performance measures will be met at the conference. Food will also be available along with classes and meetings. At the business meeting the following will be discussed: NYACD budget for the upcoming year, program of activities that indicates what they do year round, resolutions brought forward from District Directors, and officer elections.

- She will continue with work that focuses on the culture of NYACD and putting through revisions to bylaws and the mission statement.

- Kelly inquired if Districts are sponsoring the NYACD conference, and how the sponsorship requests are sent out. Amber replied that she thought a sponsorship form went out to all Districts. Caitlin commented that it was in the CDEA News. Amber replied that she will send it to everyone, or Division Reps will send it out.

- Kristin inquired if the classes are coming together well for administrators and managers. Amber replied yes; they are waiting for program descriptions. Amber said she will give Carla a call.

- Velynda inquired about online registration. What happens if someone doesn't send in a registration, but does send in a check? Amber replied she will have an Excel spreadsheet. Velynda commented that she will need access to that spreadsheet, and a Gmail account will need to be created.

- P.J. inquired if receipts are sent out. Amber replied that someone will.

- Kelly inquired about the organization of a silent auction or bucket raffle.

Amber replied that they traditionally do. Kelly commented that there was never an official announcement to District Board Members, and they didn't know to bring an item for donation. Kelly continued that many board members showed up empty handed because they didn't know anything about it. It would be helpful if Amber could put something together to send to the board members requesting donation items, like a flyer.

- P.J. inquired about the next conference call. Amber replied it will be held on August 13. P.J. replied that can't make it. Jordan replied that he will call in.

**c. NRCS** – Greg mentioned the following:

- He thanked the Employees Association and partners involved in the Leadership Institute.

- He congratulated the NYC Conservation District. Chief Weller gave money to NACD, NYCCD is the recipient of a grant for urban Ag outreach, and perhaps another staff member.

- NRCS hired a State Conservation Engineer Paula Biagly. She started June 27.
- An engineer for the west area was also hired and will start August 22.
- The new hires of the engineering staff are great. Of the 16 engineer positions in NY that are typically filled, 6 are vacant.

- An effort was made to staff up at the field office level in response to complaints and concerns that revolve around way too much time in the office on a computer. 38 positions have been filled, they are actively doing more, and 21 additional vacancies need to be filled that are currently advertised.

- Program support specialists will be placed on 17 field teams. District Conservationists have a specialist. 8 or 9 are in place now, and more are waiting for certificates.

- The State Technical Committee will hold an open meeting, and anyone may participate next Wednesday.

- Steve inquired about the stream restoration program. Greg replied that there is 1 issue: we need to have some conversations, where do we want to go with stream restoration work? Greg continued that they've been encouraged by the Farm Agency to put more money into stream conservation work. Efforts in the Chesapeake Bay area and Upper Susquehanna Collation are taking place. When the program ends, 3 years of funding is used up. Money is need for stream restoration projects. CREP is not being held hostage. Greg stated that it is helpful for Districts to give them the guidance on where money is placed. Brian inquired if there is a formula for funding. Greg replied no; applications are reviewed to determine where funds need to go. Projects in the Southern Tier are funded from the Joint Chief's initiative. That's now gone, and they won't have it for this year. Steve inquired if the funds can be carved out of existing EQIP funding. Velynda commented that a farm plowing right up to the edge of the streambed is given a bang for its buck deal. Greg commented that there is a dilemma: should taxpayer money be used to fix a problem caused by a farmer who is not following good ag practices? Steve commented that farmers should be eligible for an EQIP restoration project, but the question is do we carve it out from joints of chief or take existing EQIP funds? Greg inquired that if the best use of \$12.5 million dollars is to invest into stream bank restoration, how much bang for the buck is received, and are there other priorities in soil health? Velynda commented that there is a lack of riparian buffers to meet load allocations for Chesapeake Bay. Steve commented there is a need for acres of riparian buffers, and there is an argument on both sides. Steve continued that in USC, there are disagreements. Kelly inquired if the purpose is to protect farms or stream banks? Steve commented that if you don't eliminate sediment load to a stream properly, you're just translocating the problem in a stream channel. Steve continued that there are many different takes on the issue. Greg commented that farmers want to fix the problem until they see the price tag associated with remediation, and they ask what their share is. The farmers often say it's not worth that to me, I want someone to pay that. Steve commented what are buffers worth, what's an acre of land worth? Will you spend half a million to protect half an acre of land? Is this a wise expenditure of funds? Brian commented that this is a complicated discussion. Greg replied that we want to have as much input as possible.

- Partners are invited to participate in the Wetlands Reserve Partnership Program by helping to manage program easements. Districts can help sell the program, and do more wetlands reserve programs. Districts can also help with restoration work, engineering and

design, contracting, and field work. There are many easements, and managing them is a huge work load. Districts have equipment to help with the work. The sign up period won't happen until February or March. NRCS will pay up to 100% match, making the application more competitive. Velynda inquired if the program will be run similar to a contribution agreement. Greg replied that he does not know. Steve replied that he wouldn't think so because those are different.

- It is required by law to implement everything in CNMP before the end of an EQIP contact. Greg commented that this aspect has been violated. NRCS will follow the law, and make sure landowners understand. Producers will be given an opportunity to revise the CNMP and exclude inappropriate aspects, and NRCS will help them understand the things that are not needed. The CNMP must be fully implemented by the end of the EQIP contract, and NRCS is required by law to ask for money back if this is violated. Brian inquired about the length of a contract. Greg replied that it is limited by 10 years, and \$50,000. Steve inquired if there is a review of the current CNMP checklist, which is 18 or 19 pages. Greg replied that the objective is not to redefine what goes into a CNMP. It's codified in State Code. Training sessions will be encouraged and opportunities for outreach will be offered. Jordan commented that a solution may be to have a NRCS certified nutrient management plans, and management plans for others. Brian replied that that's a slippery slope. P.J. commented that the 2017 Water Quality Symposium is a CNMP year. Steve commented that his concern is if a farm is funded for CNMP, it must meet the CNMP check list. There's a problem: the check list is 19 pages long. Steve went on to say that he had farms who were bumped to a low priority last year because items on the check list didn't show up in the plan. Brian commented that everyone must be on the same page. Steve inquired if a solution could be to distinguish between enhancements vs. requirements in the plan. Greg replied that if an item is listed in the plan as an installment, it needs to be installed. It could be listed as an alternative that wasn't selected, but only the selected suite of practices must be installed. Steve inquired if it is a requirement for enhancements to be made under DEC CAFO rules, and under CNMP? Greg replied that the landowner can choose; it is not required.

Suspended at 11:58 a.m.

Reconvened at 12:42 p.m.

Greg left at 12:42 p.m.

## **VI. Committee/Meeting Reports**

**i. Conservation Skill Workshop** – Steve commented that things were due yesterday. Classes are all set, and the workshop is moving forward. Registration should be out in August.

### **ii. Envirothon Committee to include member approval**

- **A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Anne Marie, to approve Betsy Ukeritis, Al Fagan, Chris Anderson, Bob Shank, Blanch Hurlbutt, Kristin White, Joanne Curtis and Cal Lewis as members of the New York State Envirothon Committee. Carried.**

P.J. commented that Blanche submitted an Envirothon report.

**iii. Frank Bratt Scholarship approval and updated application info** – Judy commented that it is a good idea to add in an email option for submitting applications in addition to mail. Judy went on to say that a question came up in this round of funding: an applicant was approved for funding in the last round and applied for more funding this round for the same class. The applicant was already awarded \$100 and applied for more funding this round. Steve inquired where the application ranked. Judy replied it depends. If the applicant already received funding, should they receive more funding for the same class? Kelly added that in the 2<sup>nd</sup> application the applicant applied for \$250 to cover the entire cost of registration. Steve stated that there is nothing in the rules that says the application should be disqualified. It could have been ranked poorly.

- **A motion was made by Velynda, seconded by Kelly to go with the slate of individuals recommended for the Frank Bratt Scholarship: Cheynne Youngs - \$500, Joshua LaFountain - \$425, Molly Swearingen - \$350, Don Stribick – \$100, and Megan Webster - \$125. Carried.**
- **A motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Kristin to add an email application option to the Frank Bratt Scholarship. Carried.**

**iv. State Fair Committee** – Kristin commented that the policy for the executive board is to take a shift at New York State Fair. All of the shifts have been filled. Parking will be in the North Lot. Kristin commented that she made arrangements with Ag and Markets to set up that Friday before. Give away items include bottle openers, coasters, Ronny Raindrop bumper stickers, and seed mixes.

**v. Operations Manual Committee** - P.J. commented that Jennifer and the entire committee have done a great job to put it together. It may roll out at the Water Quality Symposium. Judy inquired if there is a deadline for submitting certain parts to Jennifer. P.J. replied that the current manual has tabs, and a printed copy is nice. Brian added that he will work on getting Districts hard copies. Amber inquired if Directors refer to it. Velynda replied that mostly admin staff refer to the manual. P.J. added that Directors do use it to answer questions.

**vi. Other** – P.J. stated that he would like to designate an alternate to the Northeast Association. Allen, who was Vice President of the Northeast Association, moved out of the state and stepped down. Jeff will be sending out an email for a call for a VP that has to take place at the annual meeting in New Jersey.

- **A motion was made by Kristin, seconded by Caitlin to designate Velynda as the alternate to the Northeast Association and attend national meetings. Carried.**

Brian left the meeting at 1:11 p.m.

## **VII. Old Business**

**i. Discussion / follow-up on Leadership Conference** – P.J. commented that the invoices are coming in and will be paid. The response has been very positive. It may be best for

the event to be hosted every 3 – 5 years. Ben added that everyone had a good time, it was a good training, and well worth it.

**ii. Follow-up on potential group health insurance for Districts** – P.J. commented that he hasn't done much with it recently. Ben commented that he sent out an email to a local insurance company that gets insurance for larger companies. The only state wide option we have is for a minimum of 10 people. Districts would have to be grouped together. There are 3 different policy options, and billing options. Each employee can choose what they need. Each District is different percentage wise. It could become difficult for the insurance company. An enrollment in payroll services is required to allow paychecks to go through them. The cost goes down as the number of people who enroll increases. P.J. commented that over time, this would be revisited every so often. Jordan commented that it is diverse across the state. Kelly added that the cost could be significantly lowered. Kristin inquired how they would bill us. P.J. replied that billing is an issue. Ben replied that the group needs to own an EIN number.

**iii. TAC Committee Update** –P.J. stated that the DEC gave a presentation about bonus points that that could be considered in the next round of ag non point. Blow back could occur if 9 element plans are required for bonus points. Kelly commented that DEC will review and approve plans to make sure they meet the minimum requirements. Jordan inquired that if a county does an individual watershed plan, how many extra points can you get before it starts to dilute it? Bonus points could put another project over the top. If you add extra points, is something taken out of balance? Kelly replied that it is too early to do anything with 9 element. P.J. commented that maybe they won't even put it in. Steve replied that the EPA is pushing DEC to refrain from funding anyone who doesn't have a 9 element plan. From a grant perspective, having a 9 element plan doesn't mean you have a water quality issue. Kelly commented that DEC is responsible for making sure it's in line and meets the requirements. Jordan inquired if there is a funding source to do this. Steve commented that he is happy to go to meeting and represent the point that it's a bad idea. P.J. and Jordan will try to attend a meeting as well.

**iv. Other Old Business - none**

**VIII. New Business**

**i. Review discussion / approval of 2017 WQS hotel quotes / info** – Jordan commented that 4 submissions were received from Double Tree, Crown Plaza, Holiday Inn, and Marriott. Kristin mentioned that Mary and most of her staff are now working at the Holiday Inn and that she is eager to show us her hotel. Jordan commented that the Crown Plaza blew everyone out of the water. Steve commented that the Double Tree is a fantastic facility with ample meeting rooms. P.J. commented that the Crown Plaza is out of the running. Jordan commented that the WQS is March 14 – March 17. Kristin inquired about how the RFPs were sent out. Kristin went on to say that the Syracuse Visitors Connection could have thrown out bids. Kelly commented how odd it was to receive bids from 4 hotels in Syracuse when it was sent out state wide.

- **A motion was made by Kelly, seconded by Velynda for Jordan to negotiate with the Double Tree East Syracuse to hold the 2017 Water Quality Symposium. Carried.**

Jordan commented that it has been hard to organize a meeting for classes. P.J. commented that a first aid class is needed. Kelly commented that class topics for invasive species, floodplain management, storm water management, hazard mitigation would be beneficial. Jordan commented that a meeting will be held next Friday to discuss courses. Jordan commented that ideas for entertainment for Wednesday night include a mechanical bull, jeopardy, comedian, poker tournament.

Steve Lorraine left at 2:18 p.m.

**ii. Discussion on payment for instructors for upcoming CDEA, NYACD Admin conference** - P.J. commented that everything is all set and this was already discussed.

**iii. Follow up on CDEA online 4 hour course – what’s next and who can help** – P.J. stated that the course was pretty good. P.J. inquired what do we do now? We know how they do it, what they charge, how they charge. Jessica Verrigni will help. P.J. inquired if we can offer the course on our website in a video. P.J. inquired about the distribution of certificates. Kristin replied that Alexa may know. Doug commented that he will ask Cayuga Community College how much it would be to create a video. NRCS may also be a good resource. Kristin inquired if a PayPal account would be helpful.

Suspended at 2:26 p.m.

Reconvened at 2:44 p.m.

P.J. requested other volunteers. Kristin commented that she will Google how to put together a tutorial. Kelly recommended SUNY Brockport can help with recording. P.J. will talk with Doug and Jessica. Caitlin commented that she will help with video script and follow up with PJ.

**iv. Follow up on CDEA working with DEC to provide CAFO training** –P.J. commented that this may be a money maker, and Steve knows more about it. It is something that could get the District name out there and it’s nice to partner with DEC. P.J. will follow up. .

**v. Schedule of WQS and CSW training track sub-committees** – P.J. commented that the WQS meeting will take place August 29 in Utica at Joanne’s office.

**vi. Discussion on NAAC culvert training requirements and possible funding for Districts** – P.J. stated that Jeff Parker and Laura went through the training. \$10,000 could be available per District for field assessments. P.J. suggested that people complete the 3-hour online training first. People answer questions, and if they answer correctly, move on to the next section and receive a certificate. Judy commented that trainings are in Erie County. Division reps should talk to your Districts, let them know NAAC is out there, suggest they attend trainings for certification. It is a good idea to stay ahead of it. Laura commented that if you have L1 status, you can train other folk. Jordan and Kelly are in the process of becoming NAAC certified.

Jordan inquired if anyone has done a WQIP for salt sheds. Velynda replied that she didn't get far with theirs. P.J. commented that for years, it hasn't been a hot ticket.

**vii. Discussion on NYACD funding request and future support for CDEA events –**

Amber commented that Dan sent out a letter requesting funding in response to the Conservation Skills Workshop. Dan received a request for funds, but didn't put it in their budget. They want to know ahead of time what to expect for employees, EEF, and Envirothon in order to be proactive and allocate funds for these items ahead of time. An official request for funds should be sent out. Velynda commented that other than Envirothon, NYACD hasn't funded these items. Amber commented that their membership must say funding is ok at the beginning of the year. Kelly commented that NYACD money should be spent on NYACD over District programs. P.J. inquired if the NYACD would be willing to financially support the Conservation Skills Workshop. Amber replied that it is a foundational year, they are looking at bylaws, best practices, the mission statement. Once these are in place, they can address questions like this. Amber went on to say that they want to go beyond lobbying and educational aspects. P.J. commented that there is a need to follow protocol if we ask them for money. Kristin commented that donations are not necessary for cons skills. Jordan commented that NYACD could donate a silent auction for the WQS. Velynda commented that a request for funds for training is not needed, but a nice silent auction would be great. Amber replied that they will try to help in any way they can. Kelly commented that NYACD should support money being spent for reports geared towards legislatures, and for Amber to attend meetings.

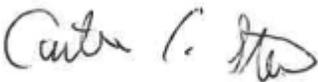
**viii. Other business**

- Jordan commented that the 9 point element plan's bonus points negates its purpose, and allows weaker projects to come in. P.J. commented that Steve's presence on the committee is a good thing. 9 element plans are well organized but expensive.
- Jordan commented that funding is a skew throughout the state. Jordan inquired if it is possible to make an approach for a State Mandate to fund Districts. Is it possible to mandate at the county level for funds? P.J. replied that it can't be done, they don't have to fund us. We're all different with the funding we receive. Kelly commented that if you're mandated, you are under county control and they have control over what you do.

**IX. Next meeting dates – September 8 and 9 at the Northwoods Inn on Fourth Lake, 11 a.m.**

**X. Adjournment**

- **A motion to adjourn at 3:35 was made by Jordan, seconded by Kristin. Carried.**



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Caitlin Stewart  
Secretary

## **Division Reports**

### **Division I, Judy Bennett**

I sent an email out to all the Districts in my division to see if they had anything they would like me to report.

Niagara County SWCD reported the following:

- In the process of submitting a continuation grant application for an EPA grant to perform the remedial action plan coordination for the 18 mile creek area of concern thru 2021.
- Constructing 2 bunk silos and leachate collection systems.
- Constructing a covered barnyard and waste storage.
- Designing a barnyard/manure storage area.
- We will be designing 1 bunk silo leachate collection system in the near future and 1 leachate collection system for an existing bunk silo.

Orleans County SWCD reported the following:

- Continuing with the Soil Health Alliance. Held a cover crop workshop on June 20.
- Were awarded 2 grants for Round 22 and have started working on the Plan of Work for both of them.
- Constructing a Covered Feedlot.
- Constructing a Filter Strip.
- Constructing a vegetated treatment area.
- Working on Plans for Cover Crops on 18 farms.
- Designing a stream crossing.
- Designing an Agri-chemical Handling Facility Floor.
- Designing fencing and access path.
- Designing a roof runoff structure.
- Assisting the Canal Corporation with a canal leak.

I did not hear back from any other county.

**Division IV, Velynda Parker**

- ✓ A Joint Division meeting was held in Cortland and all ten counties were present along with partnering agencies. Another Joint Division meeting has been schedule for August 26 in Cortland.
- ✓ Districts are busy with construction projects
- ✓ Majority of the Division are working on the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program

## **Division V, Laura Benedict**

### *Division Wide*

- DEC WQIP
  - CWICNY
    - Identifying projects
- Upper Hudson DOS
  - NAACC (North Atlantic Connectivity Collaboration)
    - Collecting data on culverts to be included in Watershed Plan
- AMA (Agricultural Management Assistance) Grant
  - Clinton, Franklin, and Essex County high tunnel implementation
  - All submitted applications are being funded

### *Essex County*

- AEM Year 11 closed out successfully
- Waterfest July 15- free event to educate all ages on the topic of water
- Expanding forest management to town lands and a few private

### *Franklin*

- Closed out Round 18, and Round 19 almost complete- 3 Silage Leachate Collection Systems in total will be installed
- Applying for CFA to install 3 culverts in Town of Franklin
- Hydroseeding for 2015 WQIP grant
- Inventorying culverts utilizing NAACC protocols
- Inventory of purple loosestrife to implement beetle program next year

### *Warren*

- Applying for Round 13 WQIP- Hydroseeding and stream connectivity
- Closing out 3 grants- 2 NYSDEC and 1 LCBP (Lake Champlain Basin Program)
- County budget meeting will be in late August, looking good
- Working with Office of Emergency Services on County Multijurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan- should be complete by late fall
- Nick Rowell is newly married!

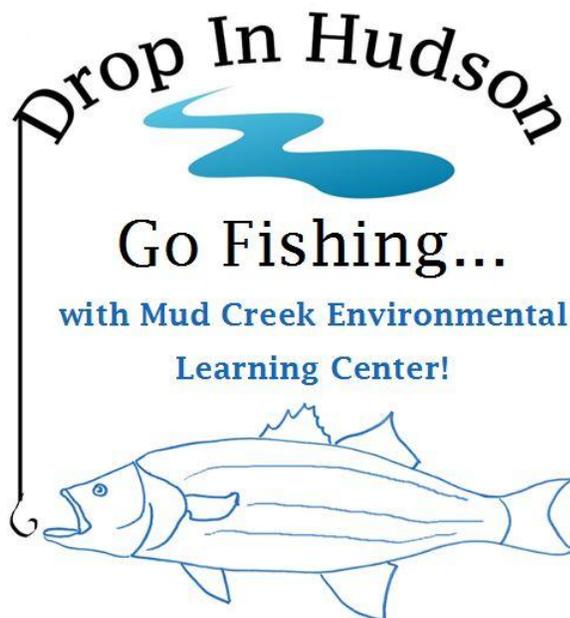
## **Division VII, Erin Sommerville**

### *Dutchess County*

- Continued hydroseeding for municipalities.
- The DCSWCD AEM staff is working on inventorying farms within the Ten Mile River Watershed to update records and develop more farm plans.
- Assisting 2 property owners with Pond Projects and permits.
- Continued NAACC road stream crossing inventories and have completed 4 watersheds this Summer.

### *Columbia County*

This summer, Columbia County Soil and Water Conservation District began a new public outreach program called “Drop in Hudson”. This program was designed for the residents of Columbia County to come to the Riverfront in the city of Hudson and learn to fish while connecting to one of their most significant local natural resources. “Drop in Hudson” provides a laid back atmosphere where participants need not worry about tackle or bait. They can also look forward to learning informally about the biological and cultural impact the Hudson River has provided to New York State since the arrival of the Native Americans.



*Division Wide Events:* The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts has continued planning for the SENY Stormwater Conference to be held October 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **Division VIII, Ann Marie Calabro**

### *New York City*

We applied for the NACD Urban Agriculture grant for workshops on urban soils for community gardens. It is a partnership with the Urban Soils Institute. We are busy with GI maintenance of our past GI projects as well as finishing a new stormwater capture planter. We are in the middle of a stormwater capture planter construction in Central Harlem. We hope to be planting in the next few months. We also have a grant for community-driven green infrastructure planning in Greenpoint, Brooklyn. We are selecting a consultant shortly. Our portfolio of GI projects is growing.

– Shino Tanikawa

### *Putnam County*

Putnam County is working on implementation of our Keep Putnam Farming Initiative as we just released our final report. I also just put in a new movie ad to run throughout the summer advertising our farmers markets/farm stands. I am also working on updating our web pages with a lot more information. Working on removing invasive species and replacing them with natives in several locations in the county. Also working with Open Space Institute in acquiring a parcel for Hudson River public access for motorized boats to assist the fisherman. Working on getting Audubon certification for our county golf course. Trying to get the county to setup a program to identify all Ash trees on county roads/parking lots and setup a program to remove them in order to avoid any liability issues when they die. Working with 2 schools in developing/continuing their outdoor classrooms. I'm also working with the Food Bank of the Hudson Valley to coordinate any surplus vegetables from Putnam County farms be purchased and picked up by the Food Bank. This looks like a great opportunity for our farms and I want to make sure they are all aware of it. It's a win – win for everyone. I think that is as much as I can handle for now. Thank you and hope you have a great summer!! .

-- Lauri Taylor

### *Rockland County*

No Report

### *Nassau County*

No Report

### *Suffolk County*

Some Good News... The Suffolk County SWCD is proud to announce that our own Wickham's Fruit Farm has won the 2016 New York State AEM Award. The Wickham's have established a long history of land stewardship with the District dating back to 1964. The farm has benefited both environmentally and financially by partaking in the AEM program, which has led to the funding and installation of BMPs over the years. Tom has been awarded cost-share through programs such as the District's Fuel Tank Replacement Program swapping out four fuel tanks with double-walled facilities. This was provided through the New York Agricultural NPS Pollution Abatement and Control Program. The Wickham's have also participated in the District's AHF program that is funded through the New York State DEC's Benefit Fund.

In the article, "Farmer Story: Fertilizer is Key to Saving Money, Reducing Work, and Protecting Community," written by Tom Wickham and published by the US EPA in 2014, he said, "What we have here is a unique opportunity to work with our land, improve our operation, and protect the health of our community. For me, these are rare opportunities that we shouldn't pass up." Tom was referring to the CCE of Suffolk County's Agricultural Stewardship Program that taught him to reduce his fertilizer usage by transitioning from traditional to the slow-release. This transition decreased his usage by 10 pounds per acre and greatly reduced the risk of nitrogen seepage into the Peconic Bay that surrounds his farm.

"Long Island Farm Bureau congratulates Tom and his family for all the work and dedication they have put into their farm operation. This award is long overdue. Long Island farmers have always been forward thinking and their dedication to the land and environment is why our farms have been in production for many generations, and with these efforts, we look forward to many more generations of farmers working the land," said Robert Carpenter, Administrative Director of the Long Island Farm Bureau.

Funding: Currently administering several NPS Grants for Fuel Tank Replacement, Nutrient Management, and Pesticide Sprayer Retrofit in addition to a DEC grant for Agrichemical Handling Facilities and a NYS grant for Deer Fence Installation.

Training: Nothing to report

Education/Outreach: Bluff Erosion Video is nearly complete. The video will cover restoration, maintenance, plant materials, and best management practices for reducing erosion and degradation of bluffs. We continue with our efforts to guide and educate homeowners and townships on proper techniques for reducing bluff erosion. We are also funding a Native Grassland Restoration for the Town of Brookhaven. The restored grassland will serve to educate the public on Native Grass Species and alternatives to ornamental invasive and non-native species.

New Hires/Team Members: Elizabeth Condon, Principal Account Clerk, retired on June 30th after 20 years of service. Liz has been a cornerstone in the office and she will be missed dearly, we wish her a happy and healthy retirement. We welcome Joanne O'Brien, Principal Account Clerk, on July 25th to fill the vacancy. Joanne comes to the district with a wealth of knowledge and experience.



New York State

**Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.**

September 8th & 9th, 2016  
Great Pines Resort  
4920 NY 28 Old Forge, NY 13420

**Executive Committee Members**

P.J. Emerick, President  
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary  
Kristin White, Treasurer  
Doug Kierst, Member at Large

**Division Representatives**

Judy Bennett, Division I  
Kelly Emerick, Division II  
Steve Lorraine, Division III  
Velynda Parker, Division IV  
Laura Benedict, Division V  
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

**Partners**

Brian Steinmuller, NYSSWCC (via phone)  
Amber Paice, NYACD

**Absent**

Jordan Clements, Vice President  
Ben Luskin, Division VI  
Erin Somerville, Division VII

**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order:** 10:09 a.m. with introductions.

**II. Reading and approval of July 22, 2016 meeting minutes.**

- **A motion was made by Kristin, seconded by Judy to approve the minutes as presented. Carried.**

**III. Correspondence** - P.J. mentioned that no correspondence was received.

**IV. Treasurer's Report** - Kristin mentioned that she separated the Leadership Conference under the checking account to help keep track of the money, and it is a negative amount because money has not yet been received from NRCS. Steve mentioned that payments will be shut down in a week, and to call NRCS on Monday because their quarters differ from ours. Kristin responded that she will follow up. Steve inquired if \$14,000 was brought in from the Leadership Conference. Kristin responded that \$10,500 was brought in from registration and \$4,000 was brought in via donations. Kristin continued that everything is looking good in the budget. P.J. inquired if there are any outstanding payments. Kristin responded no. Steve inquired why the Leadership Conference was listed in the budget as both an expense and an income. Steve went on to say that the general membership may review the budget and conclude the Leadership Conference cost \$17,000. He inquired if there is a different way to present the report. Kristin

responded that the \$3,000 must be listed as income. She went on to say that for auditing purposes, money leaving the general account and going to another account must be shown. Steve mentioned that he feels the budget presents \$3,000 more than what is actually in the account. Kristin responded that she can put an asterisk next to the item to explain the amount includes a \$3,000 donation from CDEA. Kristin continued with her report, and mentioned that she believes the Envirothon expenses have all been paid, starting out with \$21,262.75. She continued that there are still some expenses that need to go out for the contest winner and volunteer winner of the New York State Fair. Credit card activity is included with a detailed memo. Steve inquired about the Golf Tournament profit. Kristin responded that in the past, it was rolled over into the Frank Bratt Scholarship or Sunshine Fund, and now it rolls back into the Golf Tournament and the Environmental Education Foundation.

- **A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Doug to accept the financial report as presented with the amendment that was discussed. Carried.**

## **V. Reports**

### **i. Division Reports**

**a. Division I** – Judy mentioned that she did not send an email to her Districts. She continued that everyone is in their construction season, is busy with ag non point source projects, and was awarded Round 22 grants.

**b. Division II** – Kelly mentioned that she received Lindsey's report stating that Wayne County hired 2 people for AEM starting September 6. She continued that Mark Burger said his District is working on revising the credit card policy and updating the cover crop policy. Kelly mentioned that her District is gearing up for MS4 training, teaching municipal staff how to conduct a construction site inspection and inspect post construction practices, and WQIP grants. A 4 hour sediment and erosion control training including the new PowerPoint presentation was released and her District will offer the training in October. Dave Gasper mentioned that trainers who did not attend the Water Quality Symposium must go through the course with a District who has been recertified and teach the class once a year in order to maintain instructor status. Kelly continued that she developed a list of certified trainers for the CDEA website. P.J. inquired about the formation of a WQIP subcommittee. Steve mentioned that a training from the Department of Environmental Conservation would be helpful, as well as a revision to the grant policy on WQIP. Velynda mentioned that revisions to the WQIP grant policy must come from Albany. P.J. mentioned that he doesn't know who to speak with in Albany, but will contact Mike or Brian to let them know that CDEA would like DEC to model what they do. P.J. continued that he will take the lead on this. Amber mentioned that she will attend any meetings as necessary, and that NYACD is here to support CDEA. P.J. mentioned that he will call Brian and ask who to speak with to mirror after their program, and if he is aware of any reason why DEC couldn't or shouldn't. Kelly continued that Doug was busy with weed harvesters this year with low water levels and it went well. The report is appended to the minutes.

**c. Division III** – Steve mentioned that John DeHollander is officially retiring. He continued that he received an email from Christine Watkins about NRCS. It's been a busy summer with lots of work.

**d. Division IV** – Velynda mentioned that she had a joint meeting scheduled with NYACD but it was cancelled due to a lack of District participation. She continued that 11 counties were awarded \$25 million through the Southern Tier Ag Enhancement Program. Everyone is moving into contract mode. Jeff worked with Jim on a stream bank stabilization

project and next week their equipment operator will assist with the project. The report is appended to the minutes.

**e. Division V** – Laura mentioned that it's been a busy summer with projects, and hydroseeding is in full swing. She continued that summer interns were hired for the culvert assessment grant. The Adirondack Lake Alliance was well attended by Districts. Schroon Lake sedimentation control projects have taken place. The New York State Fair went well. Multiple timber sales and management plans are in the works. Districts are working with AEM farms on smaller woodlots. An aquatic invasive plant survey was conducted in Crown Point. Franklin County mentioned the Leadership Conference was awesome. Lewis County loaned a rain barrel demo for a fair, and Laura thanked them. P.J. inquired if Laura could share photos and design plans for the sediment control projects. Laura responded that she will follow up. The report is appended to the minutes.

**f. Division VI** – the report is appended to the minutes.

**g. Division VII** – no report provided.

**h. Division VIII** – the report is appended to the minutes.

## **ii. Partnership Reports**

**a. NYS SWCC** – Brian mentioned the following via phone:

### **NYS SWCC News**

**SWCC Meeting:** The next meeting is scheduled to convene at **10AM on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**. The meeting will take place at the NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets office located in Albany, NY. A meeting agenda will be sent out shortly. The October 2016 meeting will be convened in the Utica area and encompass both a regular meeting and conservation tour over the course of two days, most likely the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>.

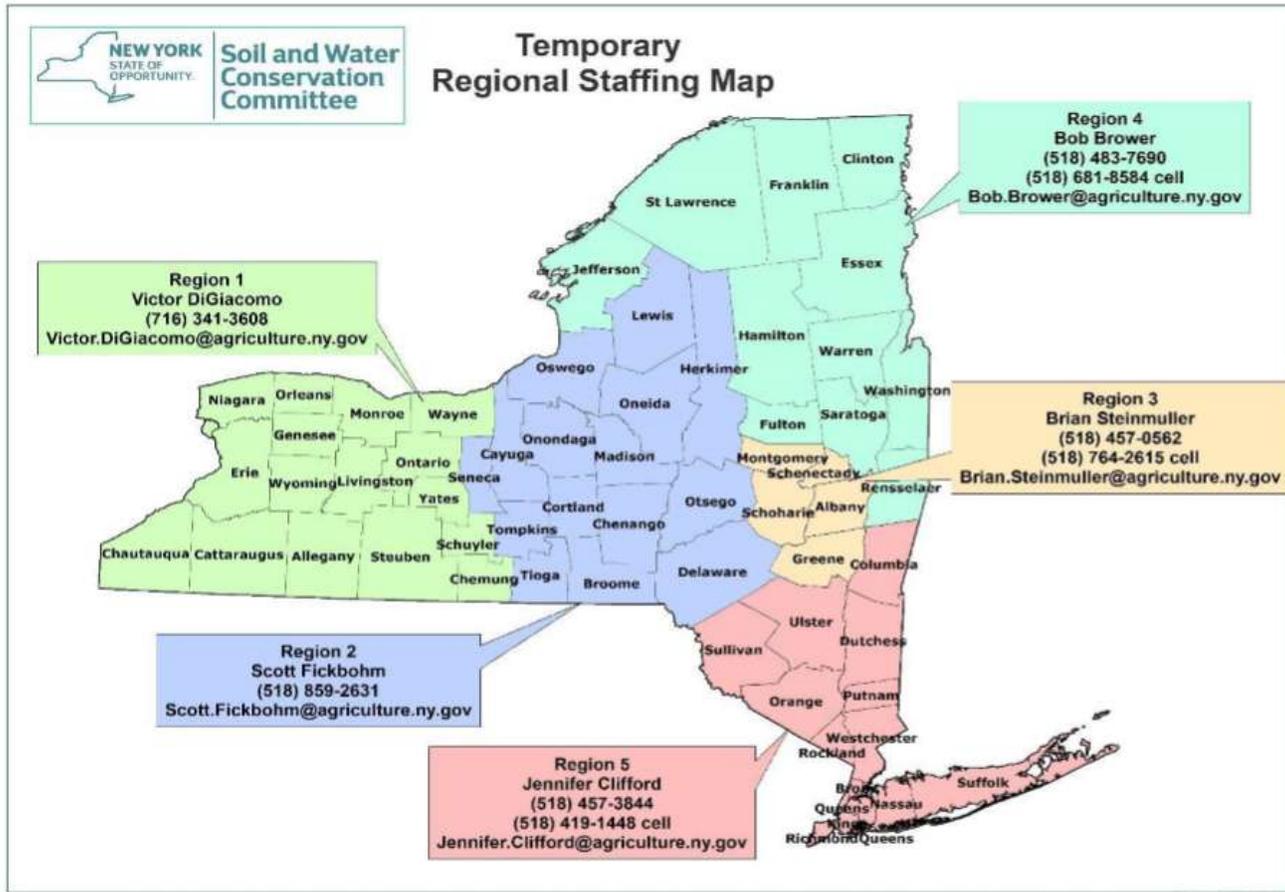
**2015 Annual Report:** Is now available on [SharePoint](#) & the [SWCC website](#). Copies were mailed to each District, please distribute to Directors, legislators, and partners! Congratulations on all your success! Please enjoy!!

**2017 Annual Plan of Work (APOW):** As a reminder, last year the SWCC resolved to change the APOW submittal deadline to be consistent with the calendar year for which the plan is written. For plans written for the 2017 calendar year, the deadline for submittal to your Regional AEA is **November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016**. This will allow time for your AEA to review, provide feedback and recommend to the SWCC for approval at their December 2016 meeting.

**Cliff Frasier Retirement:** After 30 years of working with the Village of Lake George, Warren County SWCD (as a Board Member and later as a technician), and the State Committee/NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets, Cliff Frasier is ‘pulling the wheel chocks, extending flaps for maximum lift’, and officially announcing that he will be retiring from State service. Cliff’s last day of actual work is Wednesday August 30<sup>th</sup>. For decades, Cliff has been a crucial resource for SWCDs all across the State and has always been a pleasure to work with. We will all miss Cliff very much and wish him well as he prepares for the next ‘leg of his flight’... Ever-lasting happiness!!!

**Temporary SWCC Regions:** With Cliff’s ‘departure’, the SWCC has ‘corrected for drag’ and made some changes to the regional staffing plan. The Regional staffing map was redrawn

(included below for your reference) to fill in the Region 3 (Mid-Hudson and Mohawk watershed) counties—Brian will cover the immediate Capital District counties, and the other regional staff will each pick up a few Districts. Regional staff will work together to make sure all answers, policies, and procedures are consistent throughout the state, so despite a staff adjustment, everything should be extremely familiar to the affected Districts.



**New York State Grown & Certified Program:** On August 11<sup>th</sup>, Governor Cuomo launched the New York State Grown & Certified program. “The New York Grown & Certified Program strengthens the link between producers and consumers and provides new opportunities for agricultural development,” Cuomo said. The Department will be working with New York State producers across all commodities to assist them in qualifying for the voluntary certification program. To ensure maximum environmental sustainability and food safety, participation in existing certification programs, including the State’s AEM program and the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) program, is required for participation in New York State Grown & Certified. The **AEM Verification Cover Form** that producers must submit to verify participation in AEM can be found in the [AEM Resources folder on SharePoint](#). For more information about NY Grown & Certified, please visit, <http://certified.ny.gov/>, or contact your Regional AEA.

## **AEM**

**AEM Review:** In the coming months State Committee staff will be conducting on-site reviews of District AEM Programs. As was mentioned at the Spring Manager's Meeting, State Committee staff previously conducted close-outs and program reviews, but due to funding and staffing issues, were not able to maintain that level of oversight and Districts were asked to 'self-certify'. With increased staffing, we will be conducting an on-site review of the AEM Program in your county. Several Districts volunteered to be the 'Guinea pigs' of the review process as we work through the protocol and process. A rotating schedule for reviews will be developed, so you will not be subject to a review every year and will be provided advance notice of a review.

**New AEM Brochures:** A new AEM brochure has been developed! Copies of the new brochure have been mailed to each District. If you would like additional brochures please contact Brian Steinmuller at 518-457-3738.

**AEM Specialty Crop Grant Program:** The Department of Agriculture and Markets, in partnership with the Soil and Water Conservation Committee anticipates a new funding opportunity to assist Specialty Crop farmers (Fruit, Vegetable, Herbs). It is expected that available funding will be offered on a competitive basis for the implementation of AEM Tier 3 Plans. Funding for this grant will be through the Ocean and Great Lakes Initiative – more details to follow. P.J. inquired if the RPF for specialty crops should be brought to Districts now or in October. Brian responded yes, and to follow the AEM framework and ag nonpoint procedures. Brian continued that the context here is that specialty crop operations don't always compete well in traditional Ag NPS proposals. P.J. inquired if Districts should be alerted to the upcoming funding potential for specialty crops. Brian responded yes, it is a good idea to get folks thinking about it.

**Climate Resilient Farming (CRF):** A request for proposals for the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) grant program is set to release in September. \$2.5M will be available within 3 tracks of funding for 1) cover and flare systems, 2) on-farm riparian, floodplain, and upland water management systems, and 3) soil health systems. Please be on the lookout for more information on Round 2.

## **State Aid to Districts**

**2017 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance:** Part B proposals are Due **November 1, 2016** along with a signed hard copy of the Claim for Payment form. Funds will be dispersed in December 2016 and projects are to be completed by December 31, 2017.

**2016 Part C Performance Measures:** As for Performance Measures, the end of the year is rapidly approaching and you should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling their obligations for meetings, training, training plans, etc., to be able to earn all of the funds that will be available. Projections for 2016 PM awards are approximately \$50,000-\$80,000 pending the amount of funding remaining after Part A & B has been paid & achievement level of PM per District.

**New York State 2016 Irrigation Workshop:** USDA NRCS is offering a 3 day educational workshop for on-farm irrigation system planning, design and implementation. Participants will learn about irrigation methods, system planning for water use efficiency and plant needs - Irrigation Water Management (IWM). **November 15-17, 2016, 100 Grange Street, Cortland, NY 13045.** Pre-registration is required and attendees are expected to complete a pre-requisite 1 hour webinar prior to the training. For more information about registration, please contact your local NRCS employee or your Regional AEA.

### **Other Funding Opportunities**

**North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Consortium (NAACC):** The Soil and Water Conservation Committee, in partnership with NYS Department of Environmental Conservation anticipates offering funding to Soil and Water Conservation Districts within the Great Lakes Watershed for conducting culvert assessments on HUC 12 watersheds. Details are still being developed but anticipated awards will be up to \$10,000 per County. Funding is to support the Great Lakes Action Agenda. Districts that are interested will need to complete NAACC training which will be offered in various areas of the watershed throughout the fall and at the CSW.

**Post Flood Emergency Stream Intervention (ESI) Training:** As a reminder, funding is available for hosting ESI training within the Great Lakes and Mohawk River Watersheds. For more information, please contact Lauren Prezorski ([lauren.prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:lauren.prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov)). **Funding is time sensitive so interested Districts should contact Lauren as soon as possible to express interest in hosting a training event.** P.J. inquired if Lauren received any more interest from Districts in hosting an ESI training event. Brian replied he doesn't have that information and is not sure if anyone responded directly to Lauren. Brian continued that notes from the meeting are not yet released. Lauren now works part time. The municipal subcommittee update will be presented at the next State committee meeting, and a few items are waiting to be confirmed. The plan is to brief the committee on the municipal subcommittee information and action items that were discussed. Kelly mentioned that it was unclear if the information about the 1 day stream training or hybrid training was sent out statewide, and that a 3 day training may not be feasible for Districts to complete that don't have a site that is compatible with the training. P.J. replied that he will contact Lauren about the amount of training that is needed. Steve mentioned that there is a 1 day municipal training and a 3 day training for everyone else. Kelly mentioned that if this was clarified, more Districts may be more eager to host trainings. She continued that Districts could partner and host regional trainings.

P.J. inquired who to reach out to in DEC to request that their WQIP grant payments be made more similar to SWCC programs and processing for receiving funds. Brian responded that Sue VanPatten is a good contact, and that the discussion with DEC is worthwhile.

Suspended at 12:08.

Reconvened at 1:39

Anne Marie joined the meeting during lunch.

**b. NYACD** – Amber mentioned the following:

- NYACD is on track for the annual meeting this October. The registration deadline is September 15. 71 registrations have been received, and more will be coming in. Resolutions are District driven, and if local Districts have ideas for resolutions, to please forward them to Division Directors. Resolutions must be received prior to the 15th to allow 30 days notice for the membership, then the resolution will be voted on at the meeting.
- NYACD is working with the administrative conference committee.
- A committee has been working on the bylaws and a new mission statement. The mission will be presented 30 days before the annual meeting. District Directors will have time to review the bylaws and provide feedback. Then, the bylaws will be sent back to the committee. Changes are member driven, and the bylaws will be passed at the next meeting in 2017.
- The following Board members are retiring: Ron Doughty of Tioga County, Bob VanLare of Wayne County, Dave Brass of Jefferson County, and Bruce Jennings of Hamilton County. NYACD is going through some transitions as a board. There is a challenge in recruiting good leadership to the board. Amber asked to please encourage board participation and provide any names to her or the Executive Board of people who might want to become involved. P.J. inquired if replacements for the retiring board members have been brainstormed. Amber replied that they have not identified specific people for Divisions. She continued to please reach out to her with suggestions for replacements. Time commitments include 1 year for the Executive Board and 2 years for Division Directors. Doug inquired if Amber could send a state wide email requesting the need for new Board members. Amber replied yes.
- NYACD leadership is setting an appointment to meet with Ag and Markets for next year's budget. If people have any specific thoughts, they may be taken to the meeting in the next 3 - 4 weeks. P.J. inquired if past resolutions are outlined. Amber replied that last year's resolutions were stuck in committee and they are actively looking at ways to reevaluate how they are being put through in Albany, and they will speak with the leadership in Albany and determine alternative routes. P.J. inquired if any resolutions have been received. Amber replied that no resolutions have yet been received. Kelly inquired if P.J. will submit a WQIP resolution. P.J. replied that he would probably not because a resolution may be unnecessary due to the ability to work directly with Sue from DEC. Doug mentioned that the funds and fines resolution was not passed. Velynda commented to check with Jeff because Senator Young didn't want to take it any further. Steve commented that old resolutions can be brought forward again. Velynda commented that she will do her best to bring it to her board and she will speak with Jeff, Dan, and Ernie. Kelly inquired if NYACD can reintroduce the resolutions. Steve replied that they can, but new resolutions take priority. Velynda commented that the resolution that was presented to Senator Young was developed incorrectly, and that it is worth revisiting. She continued that she will send the materials to Amber.

c. **NRCS** – No report provided. Steve inquired if anyone was denied EQIP sign-ups on the last day. He continued that Christine Watkins in Jefferson County experienced a denial, and she was curious if there were any other occurrences statewide. Velynda replied that it may be a local issue.

**VI. Committee/Meeting Reports**

**i. Conservation Skills Workshop** - Steve mentioned that Stacy sent out a document a few days ago, and registration continues through Monday. Class setups and meeting sites are being finalized. Velynda commented that some staff in Steuben County would like to sign up for the soils class, but there is a prerequisite. She continued that these staff members took a soils class in college. Steve replied that he does not think anyone is policing prerequisites, and that the instructor requested that attendees have a basic understanding of soils for a beneficial course. Kelly mentioned that there is a good variety of course topics. Steve commented that he hopes course variety will increase attendance.

**ii. Envirothon Committee** - Kristin mentioned that she will email Districts and request that staff members sign up for the Envirothon Committee to fill empty membership slots.

**iii. Frank Bratt Scholarship** – Judy mentioned that there is nothing new to report. P.J. inquired if Megan should reapply. Judy replied that her total is \$225 between the two applications, and inquired if she can apply for the remaining cost of the course of \$150. Steve replied that she can reapply, and the Division reps will rank her application. Kelly mentioned that she may not rank high because she recently received funding twice for the same class. Judy provided the below scholarship report:

Frank Bratt Report September 8, 2016

Active Frank Bratt Scholarships:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Brenden Wagner	June 2014	\$ 341.00
Kristin Ballou	January 2016	225.00
Megan Webster	January 2016	100.00
Caitlin Stewart	January 2016	299.00
Melanie Saunders	January 2016	376.00
Cheyne Youngs	June 2016	500.00
Joshua LaFountain	June 2016	425.00
Molly Searingen	June 2016	350.00
Donald Stribick	June 2016	100.00
Megan Webster	January 2015	125.00
		\$2,841.00

**iv. State Fair Committee** – Kristin’s report is appended to the minutes. She mentioned that the Fair went very well, and that it was a record year for attendance. Positive comments were received from visitors and volunteers. Next year the theme will change. Enough copies of

handouts were made to keep up with demand. Set up and take down was great with the help of P.J. and Chris Creelman. Kristin commented that for the 2017 NYS Fair, take down may be scheduled for Wednesday to avoid congestion. Kelly thanked Kristin for all her hard work to coordinate the booth. The full report is appended to the minutes.

**v. Environmental Education Foundation Committee** – P.J. mentioned that some people are stepping down, but the CDEA representatives will remain the same with Ben, Ann Marie, and Kelly. P.J. continued that committee assignments will be made available on the CDEA website.

**vi. Municipal Assistance Subcommittee** - P.J. mentioned that a meeting with Cliff took place a few weeks ago and went very well. P.J. continued that the committee does a lot, and covers all non ag District programs across the state. P.J. has served on the committee for many years. Cliff Fraiser was a tremendous asset to the committee, and P.J. appreciates Cliff's years of service and dedication to the committee and Districts. Opportunities are arising with the NAACC culvert assessment program, emergency stream, stormwater courses, and bluebook updates. This is the catch all committee at the state level for all things non ag. P.J., Kelly, and Brian are representatives and serve alongside others.

**vii. Operations Manual Committee** - P.J. mentioned that the meeting in July was not held, and the next meeting is September 14. P.J. continued that he will try and call in. Jennifer and the other committee members have been doing the bulk of the work, and things are moving along. The committee hopes for a roll out at the Water Quality Symposium for managers and clerks.

**viii. Other**

- **A motion was made by Caitlin, seconded by Kelly for Kristin to create a CDEA website. Carried.**

Discussion: Doug inquired if Alexa had been paid, and if CDEA will offer to reimburse the new webmaster with the current pay for Alexa. P.J. replied that payment could be transferred to Seneca County SWCD. Kristin mentioned she will table this.

**VII. Old Business**

**i. Discussion / follow-up on Leadership Conference** - P.J. mentioned that he will serve on the committee again. The instructors were great, the committee did an excellent job, and the feedback was excellent. P.J. hopes the conference will be offered every 3 to 5 years. Doug mentioned the past attendees will be the focus group that keeps the conference rolling. P.J. mentioned that the committee and Bob Brower did an excellent job with the conference.

**ii. TAC Committee Update** – Steve mentioned that funding for expansion regulated practices is on the agenda, but the definition of expansion regulated practices is ambiguous and people do not agree on the definition. Steve asked for input from CDEA members, and suggested that a ranking system based on the water quality benefits to the project would be beneficial. Steve requested that Division Representatives send an email request for recommendations about how to define expansion regulation practices and if the EPF should fund

those practices by Monday for Tuesday's meeting. Steve asked for the group's opinion on the 9 Element Plan ranking system. Kelly commented that it dilutes the bonus points, which was Jordan's point at the last CDEA Meeting, and that it is unclear how to obtain an official review that meets standards. Kelly continued that the state committee needs to work with DEC, and that a process needs to be established for the review and approval of existing watershed plans that meets the standards and criteria. Doug mentioned that if the same ranking criteria are used, a single, one time application for specialty crops, climate resiliency, and ag non point should be developed. Steve replied that he will bring this recommendation to the committee. Steve continued that Brian mentioned incentive bonus points will be given to new farms that apply. Steve commented that he feels grant applications that have the best water quality benefits should receive funding.

**iii. Other Old Business - none.**

Suspended at 4:03 p.m.

Reconvened Friday September 8 at 7:59 a.m.

**VIII. New Business**

**i. Discussion / update on 2017 WQS courses, instructors and registration form release date** – P.J. mentioned that he and Steve attended the planning committee meeting, and that Jordan is doing an excellent job with organization. P.J. continued that some classes have instructors and courses are being established, and the goal is to have course descriptions submitted by November 1, giving Jordan time to establish the schedule and send out the registration by the first week in December. NRCS needs 90 days for approval for training, and Districts need board approval to attend training sessions like the Water Quality Symposium, and these deadlines will allow time for such approval. Kristin inquired if there is a way she can have access to the committee list. Caitlin replied that she will email Kristin a spread sheet that Jordan composed. Doug mentioned the possibility of renting equipment like laptops and projectors to make certain that tech needs are met for all classes. P.J. replied that delegating the equipment setup to a volunteer would be beneficial, and that Erin would be an excellent volunteer. Kristin mentioned that a lockable storage room for equipment would be beneficial. Steve mentioned that future CDEA meetings will be held at the Double Tree, allowing for a tour of the facilities. He continued that Ben will take care of entertainment and the hospitality room. P.J. mentioned that a comedian will be hired, and that Jordan spoke with the comedian and explained that with the mix of attendees at the WQS, mainstream comedy would be best. He continued that the comedian's rate is a few hundred dollars for an hour. Caitlin mentioned that last year, John Persch asked for her assistance to organize the Farmers' Market, and she is excited to help. Caitlin continued that John does an excellent job with the market. P.J. said that CNMP will be offered this year, and asked that Division Reps invite engineering firms, associations, and anyone else who may be interested in attending. P.J. inquired about the gun raffle. John, via phone, replied that he has a contact with Henry and spoke with the owner of the company. The donation is at cost, and the gun raffle is a big hit. Judy commented that Christine should be contacted about the silent auction. Velynda replied that Divisions III and VI work together to organize the silent auction and bucket raffle. Kristin mentioned that she is not organizing meal tickets due to last year's problems. Velynda inquired about the registration table sign up. Steve replied that

before that is discussed, course registrations must be received to complete the schedule. P.J. commented that he will organize the opening speakers, and John will organize the gun raffle.

**ii. Follow up on CDEA online 4hr. course** - P.J. asked if anyone had been contacted by vendors about offering the course online. Doug replied that he spoke with a Cayuga College professor who may have some students interested in helping with the video for class credit. Doug continued that the project would take place in the Spring over a 6 week span. P.J. mentioned that the video could be produced by a college or a news station. Kelly replied that SUNY Brockport is definitely interested. Doug mentioned that interns or Newhouse would be a good avenue. Kristin inquired if the cost of video production could come out of resource funds. P.J. replied that he thinks this would be an excellent earned income program that could be used to support the WQS. P.J. continued that a cost needs to be determined with Newhouse and Brockport, or Channel 13 (a station in Rochester). Kelly commented that the video could be interactive with quiz questions. Steve commented that the 4 hour course could be filmed with the addition of slides and other content, or, it could be a slideshow with talk over, with a pause to ask questions. P.J. mentioned that DEC may be a good avenue. Steve mentioned that he will follow up with a private business. P.J. mentioned that the next step is to obtain quotes. P.J. continued that certificates would have to be produced and sent. Kristin mentioned that she will look into online payment.

**iii. Follow up on CDEA working with DEC to provide CAFO training** - P.J. mentioned that Scott Cook inquired about this. Steve mentioned that he missed a call yesterday from Scott.

**iv. Discussion on NAAC culvert program and funding for Districts** – P.J. mentioned that Districts need to be trained and complete culvert assessments to receive \$10,000. P.J. continued that he and Doug discussed using the funds for waders, tapes, tablets and staff time. DEC will give money for culvert and watershed assessments. Steve mentioned they may include WQIP. P.J. continued that he will learn more at the next meeting. Velynda inquired if DEC will send out a notice concerning the RFP. Kelly replied that the State Committee will send out the information. Kelly continued that in order to receive money within a year, it must be completed in 2017. Doug mentioned that he thinks it will come out in September. P.J. commented that it is important to keep track of time, and to produce a report with the deliverables.

**v. Follow up on 2 hr NYS DEC MS4 inspector training program for Districts** - P.J. mentioned that Carol Lamb-LaFay, Section Chief, NYS DEC Division of Water inquired about the program. P.J. continued that the new permit will come out soon. Stormwater Management Officers need to be on the same page in case there is a shortfall. Jessica Verrigni has been working with DEC and the Stormwater coalition. Kelly mentioned that all NYS coalitions met to speak with and receive feedback from all stakeholders. Kelly continued that there is little agreement for the requirements. P.J. mentioned that Jessica talks highly of the discussions. P.J. continued that training is needed, and a framework is in place for a 2 hour CEO course and a 4 hour contractors' course. P.J. and Jessica feel a train the trainer is needed. Velynda inquired if District staff members would have enough time for such trainings. Kelly replied that little would change and that DEC would organize the training. P.J. mentioned that he will continue to work

with Jessica and the Municipal Subcommittee to develop another method for Districts to provide a service and benefit from an earned income program.

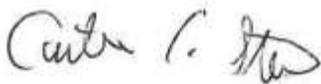
**vi. Other Business**

- Kristin mentioned an internal audit was completed. Velynda and Doug came to Kristin's office and Kristin passed.
- **A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Velynda to accept the audit that was completed. Carried.**
- Kristin mentioned the location of CDEA meetings should be held in hotels with appropriate and comfortable facilities. P.J. replied that he will contact Jordan with this venue request. Velynda mentioned that teleconference capabilities are available for the meeting. P.J. inquired about budget meeting expenses. Steve replied that the budget expenses are in good shape. Kristin replied that \$7,000 has been budgeted for meeting expenses and only \$2,000 has been spent to date.
- Velynda mentioned that the paperwork for the Ronny Raindrop trademark is available in the CDEA binder. Velynda continued that the paperwork has to file into 9/1/2016 - 9/1/2017, and that it must be submitted to continue the trademark. Blanche has always submitted the paperwork. P.J. commented that certain forms must be used and sent. Kristin commented that she doesn't remember a trademark cost. Velynda mentioned that all the info is in the binder. Caitlin mentioned that she will look into it. Velynda mentioned that she will follow up with Blanche. P.J. mentioned that he could write a letter to Otsego County SWCD requesting the trademark information be sent to CDEA for filing. P.J. continued that he knows the attorney who helped with the trademark. Kristin recommended sending the letter to all board members. Velynda mentioned that she will write the letter for P.J., who will follow up with Otsego County SWCD board members.

**IX. Next meeting dates - November (dates TBD) - P.J. will determine a 1 day meeting in Utica.**

**X. Adjournment**

- **A motion was made by Caitlin, seconded by Kristin to adjourn at 9:11 a.m. Carried.**



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Caitlin Stewart  
Secretary

NYS CDEA Empire Farm Days/State Fair Booth Committee Report

Submitted By: Kristin White, Chairperson

NYSCDEA Board Meeting

September 8-9, 2016

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Committee Members: Kristin White, Seneca County, Erica Schreiner, Oswego County, Kelly Emerick, Monroe County, and Doug Kierst, Cayuga County.

**Empire Farm Days** – Nothing to report on at this time.

**State Fair Booth**

This was a record year for attendance! According to the NYS Fair website there were 1,117,630 in attendance this year. We received good comments from both visitors and people working at the booth. Next year there will be a new theme. The committee will be putting our heads together to come up with something. If anyone has any suggestions, they are always welcomed.

We had enough handouts this year. Last year we ran out towards the end.

This year we set the booth up earlier than usual. This worked out well. We may wait until the Wednesday after Labor Day to take the booth down next year; we're hoping there will be less congestion in the building and it will give us a day to recoup from a long weekend. P.J. Emerick and Chris Creelman helped the committee to set the booth up. I just want to say Thank You to the committee, P.J., and Chris for all their help.

Kristin White, *Seneca County SWCD*  
Chairperson

## Division Reports

### Division II, Kelly Emerick

Cayuga County – Verbal report provided by D. Kierst at the meeting. Recorded in the minutes.

Livingston County – No Report Provided

Monroe County –

- Currently scheduling MS4 Training for our Stormwater Coalition members to conduct Construction Inspection Training for Erosion & Sediment Control and Post-Construction Inspection Training for maintaining stormwater management practices.
- Finalizing our Pollution Prevention BMPs project under the Part B funding to distribute spill kits and catch basin inserts to MS4 fixed facilities to contain pollutants per their permit compliance. This is the second year on this project under Part B funding.
- Working on design phase for our WQIP Round 12 grant for 3 stream restoration projects in two high priority watersheds in the County.
- The NYS DEC 4 Hr. E&SC class has been updated and released. Our District has training scheduled for October, November and December of this year. We offer this training for free for any SWCD staff member that wants to attend.
- Finalizing and closing out a riparian buffer project in the Town of Chili under the County FL-LOWPA funding.
- Completed *Trees for Tribs* planting project along Oatka Creek where approximately 1300 native trees and shrubs were planted along a highly regarded trout stream.
- Looking at having (3) three staff members attend the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity training coming up in October to become certified for culvert assessments.
- Conducting outreach under AEM Yr. 12 to target watershed farms. Began reaching out to GAP certified farms for participation in AEM or for updated AEM planning.
- Closeout for Round 17 AgNPS completed.
- Installed a Manure Storage, Riparian Buffer & a HUA/Barnyard BMP on two farms under Round 18 AgNPS grant; working on planning for cover cropping for the fall on two farms under the Ecosystem Based Management grant program and 9 farms under the AgNPS Round 20 grant; designing (2) WASCOP basins under the Round 21 AgNPS grant for installation this fall.
- Three (3) new staff members are in training. Our Agricultural Planning Technician, Jeremy Paris, has been with us for 6 months now. Our Stormwater Resource Technicians, Molly Swearingen and Josh LaFountain have been with the District for (4) four months.

Onondaga County -

#### Aquatics

- A four person summer crew that are attending (or just graduated from) SUNY ESF pulled ~32,000 pounds of water chestnuts / ~20,000 plants / ~100,000 seeds from a 19-mile stretch of the Seneca & Oneida River system. An estimated 1,000 pounds of Nitrogen and 200 pounds of Phosphorous was removed from the river system by composting at OCRRA the aquatic plants. This project was undertaken at the request of Onondaga County and was funded

through an Aquatic Nuisance Species grant obtained by Dr. Russell Nemecek of Onondaga County.

- Staff assisting County w/ Hydrilla mapping project along Seneca River
- Woody debris assessment for T. Clay along Sawmill Creek

#### EAB

- Staff have injected 139 of 200 ash trees on County Parks land that provide high functions and values.
- Staff have injected 50 ash trees for T. Marcellus along community park on 9-mile creek
- Staff have injected 225 ash trees for T. Dewitt in Ryder Park
- Summer help from SUNY ESF marked out 2,000+ ash trees along County highway ROW. Trees to be cut Nov. 16 – Apr. 17.

#### Ag Projects

- Slow because of milk prices for dairy farmers. Most project work on non-dairy farms.
- Drought conditions have some farmers reconsidering watering system designs and sources (springs proven not to be as reliable)
- One earthen manure storage on hold because of low soil moisture content. Concerns about achieving proper compaction
- Assisting County Dept. Emergency Management w/ formation of a volunteer Technical Large Animal Emergency Response program/team
- Made improvements to Ag Spill Response Trailer (manure loading pipes now out of PVC and 5-foot lengths can be attached to reach any height manure tanker)
- Took a non-farm resident to Empire Farm Days to help educate them about agriculture and manure spreading technology/equipment
- Office addressing a fair number of manure spreading complaints from non-farm neighbors

#### Hydroseeding

- Our most miles hydroseeded for greatest number of customers ever. But results look horrible because of lack of rain.

#### Stormwater

- Currently inspecting 8 active construction sites for County-sponsored projects
- Working on update to Municipal Good Housekeeping presentation; delivery to County departments this winter

#### Drought

- Director participated in 3 radio interviews and authored one letter to editor that was published by Syracuse.com

#### Policy

- Revised credit card policy to be more accurate
- Updated District Cover Crop policy for OCWA and City of Syracuse funded cover crop programs in respective watersheds

Ontario County –

- 2 AG NPS closeouts. We are also continuing to finish other Ag BMPs while the weather is nice.
- We have also started to work with several of our farms regarding the new NYS Cert program.
- We have also been working on 3 WQIP Round 11 and 12 grants with the County, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy and the NYS DEC. A big thank you goes out to Mark Gaston from Erie County SWCD and Jimmie Joe Carl from Chemung County SWCD for their help with providing example bid packages and other information we used to advance these grants. Also on this topic, there is some concern lately about the need for the Districts to “upfront the money” for the WQIP grants. We always assumed that submitting the contractors paid invoice was sufficient and then DEC would pay us. However, that’s no longer the case. The District now has to pay and then be reimbursed from the NYS DEC. Luckily we are fortunate enough to have this ability, but I could see it being a potential problem for some Districts. I will explain more about this at the meeting.
- We have also begun working on our Conservation Field Day event that’s coming up this month.
- We have also presented our 2017 District budget and it went very well. Our County supports the Districts greatly and is planning for an increase in funding in the years to come.
- We’re continuing to work on expanding our UPP septic program into other Towns in the County. This is a long process, but it’s something we are working on with our Board and other municipal officials. We will formally increase these efforts in 2017.
- Stormwater inspection for municipalities has also increased this summer with more work on the horizon. This is a great earned income program for our District.

Seneca County – No Report Provided

Wayne County – Report submitted via email to Kelly on September 8, 2016 and given verbally, thus recorded in the minutes.

Yates County – No Report Provided

Please call me anytime if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report at (585) 753-7380.

Submitted by,  
Kelly Emerick  
Executive Director  
Monroe County SWCD  
NYS CDEA Division II Representative

#### **Division IV, Velynda Parker**

Broome – no report

Chemung – no report

Cortland – no report

Chenango County – Combining State Grant Dollars, and Federal dollars when available helps reduce out of pocket costs for our Ag producers. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, Barnyards, Silage Leach-ate Treatment Systems, Grazing Systems, Cover Crops, Access Control, Manure Storages, Set Aside and Buffer Work across the county has greatly improved the water quality here in Chenango County. The work the District has done has enabled us to stretch dollars, educate staff, educate producers, perform on-going assistance and follow up needed to ensure the implementation of environmentally sound, Best Management Practices. Every year the District inputs completed Best Management Practices into the Chesapeake Bay Model. By doing this, it helps show the Environmental Protection Agency, our farmers are doing their part in reducing the nutrients reaching the Chesapeake Bay. On December 15, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the release of the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program (STAIEP), developed to help boost the agriculture economy in the Southern Tier of New York State. Of the \$25 million budgeted for our eleven-county region, I'm happy to report Chenango County will be receiving \$3 million over the next five years. The purpose of the program is to assist farmers with the implementation of an approved business or environmental plan that will increase farm production, enhance profitability or provide environmental enhancements on the farm. Eligible costs include capital expenses necessary to complete the project, including: Construction, Renovation, Buildings, Structures, Environmental enhancements, Fencing, Permanently installed equipment, and Professional services. Visit the Chenango County Soil & Water office for more information; visit our web site at [www.chenangoswcd.org](http://www.chenangoswcd.org), or our face book page for more information. To date we have 12 contracts signed and with the 30% received from Albany we are moving along with the projects. In 2015 approximately \$1.8 million dollars was spent implementing Agricultural Best Management Practices in Chenango County. The local impact on our economy is tremendous and hard to measure. I'm sure if you where to ask any of the local contractors, independent haulers, local gravel pits, Saunders Concrete, Steel Sales in Sherburne, and local Building / Hardware stores as to the effect this has on sales and keeping people employed, it would be great. The District consistently works with 10 – 12 local contractors that employ approximately 40 people. With the introduction of the new STAIEP program run through the District, we will continue to see a tremendous boost to our farming community and our local economy.

Delaware - Busy with construction and the STAIEP.

Schuyler – no report

Steuben – The joint meeting with NYACD had to be cancelled due to low participation. Looking at scheduling another joint meeting later in the year. Busy with implementing BMP's under the AgNPS and WQIP projects. Currently working with 41landowners on developing contracts for the STAIEP (Southern Tier Agricultural Enhancement Program) and we are also in the process

of taking the 2nd round of applications which has a deadline of October 17. Some of the personnel will be attending the Conservation Skill Workshop training at the end of the month. Directors and staff will be attending the NYACD annual meeting in October. Our new conservation planner, Josh and his wife welcomed Cole Andrew to the family on August 31 and conservation assistant, Jody, her son and daughter in law welcomed Emmitt James to the family on September 7.

Tioga –no report

Tompkins – no report

Otsego – no report

## **Division V, Laura Benedict**

### *Division Wide*

- DEC WQIP
  - CWICNY
    - Project implementation on roadside erosion identified in ARRA report
      - Hydroseeding and sediment basin installation
- DOS
  - Upper Hudson
    - Culvert assessments using NAACC protocol
- Events
  - Adirondack Lake Alliance, July 29, Paul Smith's College
    - Representatives from Franklin, Hamilton, Warren and Essex Counties
    - Workshop for lake and river associations across the Adirondack Park
  - Schroon Lake Annual Meeting, August 19, Boathouse Theatre, Schroon
    - Representatives from Warren and Essex Counties
    - Presentations on work completed under the Schroon Lake DOS grant
  - NYS Fair, August 25- September 5

### *Essex County*

- Worked with Washington County SWCD to provide 3-Day ESI training
- Essex County Fair allowed us to reach out to several people about agriculture, forestry, conservation, education, and other topics
- Forestry program is working on multiple timber sales, management plans and assisting our AEM farms with their woodlots
- Assisted Town of Crown Point with an aquatic plant survey in Monitor Bay

### *Franklin*

- Kristin and Chastity attended Leadership Conference. It was an excellent event and informative. Both picked up valuable tips and information
- Provided rain barrel demonstrations at Franklin County Fair, thanks to Lewis County for letting them borrow it and to interns Zack and April for running the demonstrations
- Completed culvert survey in two towns, submitted CFA for WQIP to replace 3 inventoried culverts

## **Division VI, Ben Luskin**

### **Albany County**

- Have started utilizing our new hydroseeder (WQIP Funding)
- Continuing to do maintenance on the 10 demonstration rain gardens that have been installed in the County
- Hired a new District Technician – Polly Festa
- Had a staffed booth at the Altamont Fair with a focus on District programs and invasive species

### **Fulton County**

No Report

### **Montgomery County**

No Report

### **Rensselaer County**

No Report

### **Saratoga County**

No Report

### **Schenectady County**

The Schenectady County Conservation District has had a very busy summer. We continue to make improvements to all our nature preserves and the Mohawk bike trail. We have expanded a parking lot, repaired kiosks, installed benches, and improved the trails. All this in addition to our routine maintenance and supervision of alternative to incarceration clients. The District was also hired to complete some urban hydro seeding projects and we are consulting on a gully erosion issue at a historic cemetery. The management of the compost and recycling facility is always busy. However, we are also making significant capital improvements on our parcel. This includes preparing a new pad for a blacktop display and sales area, improving drainage and addressing runoff, the design and installation of new access roads, and a plan is in the works for creating some wetland potholes/retention basins to address water control issues. Several different staff training sessions have been scheduled for this fall. These are just some of our highlights and recent accomplishments. Overall things are good at the District and morale is high.

### **Schoharie County**

No Report

### **Washington County**

- Round 18 Ag Nonpoint: Installation of two silage leachate control & treatment systems
- Round 19 Ag Nonpoint: Installation of an animal trail and fencing
- Round 20 Ag Nonpoint: Preparation for fall cover crop plantings on 200+ acres
- Round 21 Ag Nonpoint: ongoing construction of a 6.1M gallon earthen manure storage system
- Round 22 AG Nonpoint: 3 plans of work
- Updating the Cossayuna Lake Watershed Management Plan
- Coalition, Alliance, & Partnership Meetings
- Stream assessments, pond site evaluations, and permits
- Fair booth
- NAACC culvert assessments

**Division VIII, Ann Marie Calabro**

**New York City:** It's been a quiet summer but I can report that we are hosting another GI bus tour on September 22nd. We are looking at permeable parking lot, bioswales (a.k.a., rain gardens), "sponge park" (which is a series of bioretention cells strategically placed to capture runoff on the bank of the Gowanus Canal) and more.

The Urban Soils Institute, our partnership with the NRCS and Brooklyn College, has taken off splendidly. We've offered many workshops for community gardeners (soils 101) and just recently received the NACD Urban Agriculture Initiative grant to offer workshops and field assistance to farmers and community gardeners in low income communities of color in NYC.

Very exciting!

– Shino Tanikawa

**Putnam County:** No Report

**Rockland County:** No Report

**Nassau County:** No Report

**Suffolk County:** We are working on several unfunded projects and designs installing green infrastructure practices with municipalities, grassland restoration, bluff erosion remediation and revitalization, zoning board of appeals requests for comments regarding erosion and land use, to name a few.

**Funding:** Currently and continuously administering several NPS Grants for Fuel Tank Replacement, Nutrient Management, and Pesticide Sprayer Retrofit in addition to a DEC grant for Agrichemical Handling Facilities and a NYS grant for Deer Fence Installation. Suffolk County WQPRP Grant for Manure Storage.

**Training:** PACE University is offering a FREE online desktop GIS Course.

**Education/Outreach:** Grown on Long Island Day was held at the Suffolk County Educational Farm on August 5th, this is an event highlighting all local products. Soil Health workshop September 20 & 21st. Suffolk County in cooperation with the Town of Babylon will be hosting a 4 Hour DEC ESC Training on September 29th. Ag Forum planning for January 2017 is underway.

**New Hires/Team Members:** No Change

**Submitted By:** Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII Representative



New York State

**Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.**

November 17, 2016  
Ward O'Hara Agricultural & Country Living Museum  
6880 East Lake Rd.  
Auburn, New York 13021

**Executive Committee Members**

P.J. Emerick, President  
Jordan Clements, Vice President  
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary  
Kristin White, Treasurer  
Doug Kierst, Member at Large

**Division Representatives**

Judy Bennett, Division I  
Kelly Emerick, Division II  
Steve Lorraine, Division III  
Laura Benedict, Division V  
Ben Luskin, Division VI  
Erin Somerville, Division VII (via phone)

**Partners**

Brian Steinmuller, NYSSWCC (via phone)  
Bruce Hopkins, NRCS

**Absent**

Velynda Parker, Division IV  
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII  
Amber Paice, NYACD  
Greg Kist, NRCS



**Minutes**

**I. Call to Order:** 10:06 a.m.

**II. Reading and approval of September 8 and 9, 2016 meeting minutes.**

- **A motion was made by Kristin, seconded by Steve to approve the minutes with clarifications made to Post Flood Emergency Stream Intervention (ESI) Training on page 6 and Discussion on NAACC culvert program and funding for Districts on page 11. Carried.**

**III. Correspondence** - P.J. passed the correspondence folder to the members in attendance.

**IV. Treasurer's Report** – Kristin mentioned that the expenses will go up because she printed additional checks after she completed the report for the meeting. She continued that she noticed a difference in expense amount for the NACD Annual Meeting expense. The difference from her last report to now is \$1,018.20. The explanation for this is that P.J. incurred expenses in December of 2015 for the meeting and they show up in the 2015 report. The expenses were the NACD fee (\$600) and the airline fee (\$418.20) and Kristin entered them twice. She thinks that P.J. must have given her a second copy of the receipts and she entered them in February not realizing they were already entered and paid. She realized her error and voided the February

charges. She will make a note to enter a January date for future charges for NACD Annual Meeting.

Kristin continued that there is \$36,333.38 in General Funds and \$16,041.25 in the Envirothon account. She mentioned that there is \$90 in Accounts Receivable for Training Sessions due to a payment that has not yet been received from the State Committee. Kristin said that the woman she spoke with at the State Committee said the payment was declined. Kristin will follow up with Brian about the \$90 receivable.

Kristin mentioned that the Credit Card Activity Report is included in the Financial Report.

Judy inquired if there are any outstanding expenses for the Conservation Skills Workshop. Kristin replied yes, the expenses will increase because Doug was on vacation when she submitted reimbursement requests, and that amount is not included in this report because she completed the checks after she submitted the report. Doug inquired if there were any facility donations. Kristin replied that for Conservation Skills, a \$200 donation was given to the Grange, and \$200 was given to the training center. Steve mentioned that the donations were doubled for the use of 2 facilities.

- **A motion was made by Steve, seconded by Caitlin to accept the financial report as presented with the amendment that was discussed. Carried.**

## **V. Reports**

### **i. Partnership Reports**

a. **NRCS** - Bruce Hopkins, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations, Marcy, mentioned the following:

- Greg Kist asked Bruce to attend the meeting and report on the following items.
  - CSP program renovation/reinvention: NRCS staff members attended a national training in St. Lewis, and a face to face training will take place in December. Work continues on the tool that will be used with the program and the opportunities that will be available. A fair number of acres are available for sign up. Renewals are taking place of contracts from 5 years ago.
  - The 2017 budget looks good except that FA is down about 2 million (CBWI). The 2017 budget is under continuing resolution until December 9. Congress came back to work this past week. Funding beyond the 9th of December will be discussed.

Kristin inquired if there are any concerns with the President-elect. Bruce replied that there will probably be a hiring freeze, and NRCS is attempting to quickly fill positions before that happens. Bruce continued that no one knows what will happen until the new administration takes office, and that Congress still has a lot to say about what happens.

Judy commented that Human Resources staff members sometimes take months to respond. Bruce replied that there are no local people available to speak with, that NRCS national leadership will change at National Headquarters, and that the entire team will be replaced. Bruce

continued that career leadership at the state level is in place, with no turnover. He said that career people at HQ have a lot of institutional knowledge, and the process will be long.

Bruce continued with his report, saying that an initial allocation was given, and financial assistant monies were received but are down \$2 million from last year. He said that EQIP and CSP programs are still pretty solid in New York. There is still opportunity for WRP, even though it has lost funding and has been scaled back for a number of years. Staffing and budget both look good.

- Staffing: we have made great progress in filling vacancies but still have about 10 more positions vacant. Challenges have arisen with filling positions and encouraging highly qualified people to apply.

- NRCS is working on a strategy to fill those vacancies before the new administration puts a hiring freeze in place.

- Looking toward the new administration, we really have no idea what to expect. We know that Agency leadership will change.

- Renewed interest in Chesapeake Bay activities due to national pressure.

- New interest in water quality in the Finger Lakes due to Blue Green Algae blooms in 2016. Senator Schumer, DEC, local governments and citizens are looking for solutions. NRCS is very interested in working with all partners.

- Discussion:

Ben mentioned that NRCS enforcement of plans may be different across New York. Ben continued that CNMPs submitted by TSPs are being approved by western NRCS staff, but the NRCS staff in the eastern New York field offices are stating that the CNMPs completed by the same TSPs are not complete. Bruce commented that NRCS is aware of this and work is taking place with leadership in the State. Bruce continued that gaps are noticed in CNMPs, and NRCS is aware of the inconsistency issue and is working on the issue. Ben mentioned that he met with ACS planners, who need someone from New York State and NRCS to tell them what is wrong with the plan, and have a back and forth conversation. Bruce replied that the CCA training is coming up for certified planners, and the inconsistency issue will be discussed.

Steve mentioned that the EQIP CNMP 20 page check list may or may not be ignored, and planners and farms find this problematic. Bruce replied that NRCS is aware of that and is working on the issue. Ben mentioned that some planners are willing to do the extra legwork and some are not, and that farmers have the option to fire the planners. Steve commented that clarity would be helpful.

Steve inquired if RCPP waivers were brought up. Steve gave an example of a waiver for the Chesapeake Bay RCPP contract that excluded the implementation of everything in the CMP. Bruce replied that he is not aware of the time frame.

P.J. thanked Greg and Bruce's staff for assistance with the Water Quality Symposium. P.J. continued that a wetlands course is being organized and the NRCS generously offered to instruct the course.

**b. NYS SWCC – Brian mentioned the following:**

- The new RFP for AEM implementation on specialty crop farms went out on Monday. We recognized that a separate funding source would be needed to address these issues. All farms in the state are eligible, but farms in certain areas will receive more points. A total of \$1.5 million is available for BMPs through this RFP. A webinar on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving will help answer questions, and increase understanding. P.J. inquired if FAQs will be posted on the website after questions are asked. Brian replied yes. Brian continued that a definition of specialty crops will be in place, and that will be posted today or tomorrow.

- A TAC meeting is scheduled for this Tuesday, and discussion will continue regarding the Ag NPS Program. Reading the State Committee minutes, focus will be on addressing the highest water quality needs while maintaining access to farms that have not yet participated. State Committee and TAC are discussing these items. Farms will be prioritized accordingly, and consideration may be given for new farm participation. Many conversations have taken place over the last few months, and discussion will continue again on Tuesday. Repeat farm participation and expansion related practices will be defined. Also, work is being done on new screening for waste storage facilities under Round 23.

- CRF – There are 3 tracks and \$2.5 million available for the RFP that is due in mid December. All questions are to be directed to Gabriella Spitzer. Kelly inquired since there is a Q and A from the CRF, if Gabriella may be contacted for clarification. Brian replied that if an item is unclear, further questions can be asked. Once the answer is posted, further work can take place if more clarification is needed, the answer can be discussed during the process, and answers can be reposted. Brian continued that there is some confusion in the water management track caused by unfamiliarity with this new focus on water quantity as well as quality. Kelly commented that her technician has quite a few questions. Brian replied that eligibility will be addressed, and the technician can call him or Gabriella with questions.

- Brian thanked people for submitting Part B, Annual Plans of Work, and interim reports on time. There has been a dramatic increase in the timeliness of reports. The committee will complete approvals of each Annual Plan of Work at the December meeting. Brian continued that he is impressed with everyone's efforts and with the amount and diversity of work Districts are doing. Kristin commented that she would like to suggest a confirmation email be sent when the plan of work is received. Kristin continued that she received a call from Scott asking for a plan of work after she submitted the plan. Brian replied yes, confirmation emails can be sent out.

- An Irrigation Workshop was held this week. Many District, NRCS, and State staff are participating, and Brian thanked NRCS for hosting the workshop.

- The contract for AEM Outreach Services is approved or will be approved soon.

- State Committee staff update: Melissa Carriero who was providing contract management assistance, left to go work for the NYS Office of General Services (OGS). The hiring process will take place for this program support position. The hiring process is still taking place to fill Cliff Frasier's regional position.

c. **NYACD** – P.J. mentioned that he received a phone call from Amber, and she wished to thank everyone who attended the NYACD conference.

## ii. Division Reports

a. **Division I** – Judy shared the report appended to the minutes.

b. **Division II** – Kelly mentioned that her District has been working on MS4 permits from the DEC. They are also working with their coalition to submit comments on the MS4 permit that is due December 2. Three stream restoration projects and a stormwater pond facility were completed for the WQIP grant. Two 4-hour classes were given, and it was Kelly's experience that the new presentation is difficult to get through in 4 hours. The District is releasing the Stormwater Management Training Series classes, and it costs \$100 to attend, and a hydrology class will be offered. The District also completed NAACC training, ag non-point closeouts, and four mini grants.

Wayne County has hired 2 new fulltime staff. The District moves into a new County space in January, and the new phone number, email, and address will be sent out in December. Agreements with highway departments for infrastructure analysis are being developed for the NAACC program. The District is learning about climate resiliency and ways to deal with shoreline issues.

Doug mentioned that his District is completing the construction season. The District is waiting for a permit for a streambank. His staff members have assisted with the harmful algal blooms in Osasco Lake because algae were found in treated water samples. Even though the amounts were well below the sampling point of EPA recommendations, the general consensus of the public is that any amount is too much. Many meetings took place to address the algae growth, and research is being conducted to determine why the blooms occur.

P.J. mentioned that his District continued work on AEM and NY Grown and Certified. Two ag non-point source contract close outs were completed. WQIP funding was received for great projects. A Bowie hydroseeder was purchased. The Bowie Company came in under the other companies with great feedback, and the District is happy with the new seeder. Other WQIP grants moving forward. A rain garden and stormwater management project at the Finger Lakes Community College is planned. The Uniform Procedures Program is expanding, more towns have been added, and septic inspections were completed. A new agreement was drawn up with Town of Geneva for rentals, and septic inspections at the time of a rental agreement. Site inspections continue. The Seneca Lake Inter-municipal Organization is a newly formed group among SWCDs and partners.

The full report is appended to the minutes.

**c. Division III** – Steve mentioned that he has not had a meeting, but is planning one in December. He will poll the group for a training workshop.

**d. Division IV** – Velynda submitted a report, appended to the minutes.

Jordan reported that Otsego County has 2 new staff members. The District received an increase in allocation. An open house for his SWCD office will take place on December 12, and new legislators are invited to attend. Four grants were closed out. The District is working on their first ever CRF. Jordan inquired if he can ask his County for an expansion for the District facility because more space is needed. He wondered if the County could provide engineer designs and cost estimates for an expansion. Doug replied that his County bonded with his District, and the District paid the County back.

**e. Division V** – Laura shared her report appended to the minutes.

**Suspended at 12:03 p.m.**

**Reconvened at 12:45 p.m.**

**Bruce left after lunch.**

**f. Division VI** – Ben mentioned that culvert assessments are being conducted. Manure storages have been completed. RCPP cover crops and high tunnels through NRCS have been completed. Several ag non-point grant close outs are being completed. The fertilizer tablets are ready for distribution at the Water Quality Symposium.

**g. Division VII** – Via phone, Erin mentioned that dam removal was completed. Work on 6 watersheds for an inventory project was completed. Several ag non-point grant close outs are being completed. The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts held a storm water workshop. Her full report is appended to the minutes.

**h. Division VIII** – no report submitted.

## **VI. Committee/Meeting Reports**

**i. Conservation Skills Workshop** – P.J. mentioned that there is nothing new to report. Doug commented that the workshop went well. Kelly inquired about attendance numbers. Kristin replied that as far as profit, some money was made. P.J. mentioned that people enjoyed the workshop. Doug mentioned that the raise in rate didn't prevent people from attending. Kelly commented that omitting Friday may have helped boost attendance.

**ii. Envirothon Committee** - Kristin mentioned that she has concerns being a committee member and would like to participate as the treasurer. P.J requested she send a letter to the committee saying she will only continue on as the treasurer.

Blanche L Hurlbutt, NYS Envirothon Chair submitted a report that is appended to the minutes.

**iii. Frank Bratt Scholarship** – Judy submitted the below report.

- Active Frank Bratt Scholarships:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Brenden Wagner	June 2014	\$ 341.00
Kristin Ballou	January 2016	225.00
Melanie Saunders	January 2016	376.00
Cheyenne Youngs	June 2016	<u>500.00</u>
		\$1,442.00

- Emailed Brenden Wagner asking if he had completed his degree. He has completed his courses, but is still working on his thesis so he has not received his degree yet.
- Emailed Melanie Saunders to see if she has taken any classes. She replied stating that she was enrolled and working on it, but needed her vaccination records. She is in the process of getting this straightened out and is planning to take a class in 2017.
- Donald Stribick of Erie County submitted a request for payment of \$100.00 relative to his award under the June 2016 round of funding. Approved by Judy Bennett and sent to Member @ Large.
- Megan Webster of Ontario County Submitter a request for payment of \$225.00 relative to her awards under the June 2016 and January 2016 rounds of funding. Approved by Judy Bennett and sent to Member @ Large.
- Joshua LaFountain of Monroe County submitted a request for payment of \$425.00 relative to his award under the January 2016 round of funding. Approved by Judy Bennett and sent to Member @ Large.
- Molly Swearingen of Monroe County submitted a request for payment of \$350.00 relative to her award under the January 2016 round of funding. Approved by Judy Bennett and sent to Member @ Large.
- Coreyn Goddard of Nassau County submitted a request for payment of \$500.00 relative to her award under the June 2015 round of funding. Approved by Judy Bennett and sent to Member @ Large.

**iv. State Fair Committee** – Kristin mentioned that there is nothing new to report. The newsletter will be finalized. Kelly mentioned they are budgeting for a new trailer. The old one may be able to be sold, and Doug is looking into getting a new one.

**v. Environmental Education Foundation Committee** – Ben mentioned there is a meeting the first Monday of each month. Grants for education purposes are actively being pursued, but it is difficult to find grants. Some grant deadlines change year to year. For some grants, the application time period is only open for a month. Ben continued that Blanche is pursuing Dominion Gas, and is looking into other donors. The committee is looking into Sam and Duns certification that allows money to be accepted through federal government. Ben will email Erin to remind her she is on the EEF committee.

**vi. Municipal Assistance Subcommittee** - P.J. mentioned that NAACC money is still questionable. A 2-hour MS4 inspector training will be discussed in the future.

**vii. Operations Manual Committee** - P.J. mentioned that the last meeting was canceled because they're moving along at a rapid pace. Many emails have been exchanged between committee members and the state committee. People will be assigned tasks. Roll out will take place at the Water Quality Symposium during the Managers Meeting and Clerks Forum. Jennifer Clifford will teach both sessions.

**viii. Other**

- P.J. mentioned that the CDEA reviewed the NYACD / admin conference, and it was decided that the two conferences will not be combined for 2017.

- Jordan mentioned that he attended the NYACD meeting in P.J.'s absence, and their members wish to honor Bob VanLare. Jordan suggested the CDEA District Director award be changed to the Bob VanLare District Director award. Jordan will ask Lindsay if a plaque could be housed and managed for each annual winner by the Wayne County SWCD. Jordan will also ask Lindsay to complete a write up about Mr. VanLare.

- **A motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Kristin to rename the District Director award to the Bob VanLarne District Director Award. Carried.**

**VII. Old Business**

**i. TAC Committee Discussion / Update** – Steve mentioned that the meeting is next Tuesday. Expansion related practices and repeat farm participation are being discussed. Doug commented that he isn't sure how the two can be differentiated. Doug continued that the awarded money should be based on the best practices, the best valued practices. Steve replied that it is a competitive program, and that the best application should be awarded. Steve continued that bonus points are punishing good work. Doug commented that the quality of the application should matter. Steve continued that he doesn't know if the 9 element plan will be brought up again. P.J. replied that he thinks it might be brought up. Steve commented that he wants to make sure that as a group we are still opposed to it at this time. Kelly commented that until the State Committee can fully explain how Districts can start getting a plan in order to prepare themselves for bonus points, it shouldn't be on the table. Kelly continued that bonus points should be omitted. Steve commented that a lot of money has been spent on the 9 element plan and modeling doesn't take into account many things. He continued that too much money is spent on planning, and not enough is spent on implementation.

**iii. Other Old Business** - Kelly mentioned she will put the CDEA Committees list on the website. She will email it to the committee for review. The committee will review and comment on the list before website posting for finalization at the January meeting.

**VIII. New Business**

**i. Review and finalize 2017 Water Quality Symposium courses, instructors, schedule and registration form** – Jordan passed out a draft schedule of courses and course descriptions. Jordan mentioned that he would like to make a spreadsheet of track chairs and support groups for next year's symposium. 39 classes are being offered. Tuesday Kristin and Jordan met with the Double Tree staff. The only major concern is a few of the classroom sizes. The 9th class will be placed in the breakfast / lunch room for that day to accommodate the large number of courses. The Farmers' Market will be held in a large hallway to allow a good flow.

Jordan commented that some tracks have more classes than others, with focuses that span different tracks. He thanked everyone who helped with the Symposium. The Green Infrastructure Planning and Pollution Prevention courses days being offered will be switched.

John Persch passed along the following information to Caitlin to share with the Committee: The Farmers' Market vendors have been contacted, and he has already received some applications. John will step down from organizing the Farmers' Market after this year, and Caitlin will organize the event for 2018. He cc-d Caitlin on the emails to make next year's transition to her easy.

P.J. commented that he wants to make certain the schedule is finalized for a December registration release.

Kristin and Jordan discussed meals that will include fish and soda selections. Breaks will be staggered to allow a non-congested flow. Jordan mentioned that the Double Tree charges \$4,800 for equipment in all rooms including screens, microphones, and projectors. P.J. asked if the food and AV costs cut too much into the profit. Jordan said the menus were in the bid they submitted, and the hotel waived the corking fee.

Jordan shared the entertainment schedule: Tuesday - acoustic guitar player, farmers' market; Wednesday – comedian; Thursday – DJ. An entertainment schedule will be developed to encourage participation from the WQS attendees.

Caitlin commented that the hotel projectors may not talk with laptops. Doug replied CDEA could purchase projectors for Symposiums.

Kristin mentioned that the Crown Plaza gave the CDEA a negative review. She continued that the Plaza billed the CDEA for 3 items that were not accounted for. P.J. and Kristin called multiple times to explain the situation. Kristin subtracted the 3 items from the bill, wrote a letter to the Crowne Plaza requesting a discussion to go over the subtracted items, and never heard back from them. Due to this situation, the Double Tree is now requiring the bill be paid in full by February. (This was later clarified via email after the November CDEA meeting that this is not the case). Steve mentioned that having a registration deadline far in advance may prevent the family members of award recipients from attending.

Jordan will contact Jim Lieberum and ask if he is interested in being the MC for Thursday night's banquet.

**ii. Follow up on CDEA online 4hr. course - quotes for videotaping, online payment and wallet cards** – P.J. mentioned that Ann Marie sent information to video producer Rory McIntosh, and he may be interested in producing the video. P.J. continued that Skyline Drive Productions is another possibility. A voice over of the presentation would be less expensive. Doug commented that the college will only produce a video that is a half hour to an hour in length, and we would need to present our request to the class to see if there is any interest. Kelly commented that a proposal from Brockport has not yet been received. She continued that she feels slides with voice over is the best option because that type of video is easy to change. P.J.

commented that he will follow up. P.J. continued that online payment should be an option. Kristin replied that she may be able to use PayPal for online registration and payment and develop a fillable registration form. P.J. commented that wallet cards will need to be developed. P.J. continued that he received 2 phone calls from DEC, who wants the CDEA to put the course together and voiced their support for CDEA to develop the video.

**iii. Follow up on CDEA working with DEC to provide CAFO training – P.J.**  
mentioned that no movement took place. P.J. and Steve will speak with Scott.

**iv. Follow up on 2 hr NYS DEC MS4 inspector training program for Districts - P.J.**  
mentioned that the training program is in place. The DEC is looking to Districts to obtain training. P.J. continued that this could be an earned income program for Districts. The DEC has the template and they are creating the presentation. With this training, inspectors will know what they need to look at, and the proper procedures for enforcement. MS4 inspectors will be trained to follow DEC's procedure, and great work will be accomplished. P.J. encouraged the CDEA to partner with the DEC on this training program.

**v. Other Business**

Doug mentioned that he was approached by some people at the Conservation Skills Workshop who are frustrated with CPESC, stormwater, and MS4. Doug continued that WAVE would like Districts to take over or create protocol for inspections instead of CPESC of North Carolina. P.J. commented that the State Committee should be informed and it could be discussed at the municipal subcommittee. Steve commented that this conversation should start with the Municipal Subcommittee. Kelly mentioned that Don Lake, professional engineer, should be invited when the conversation takes place.

Kristin mentioned CDEA has a safe in her building, but she can't open it due to a circulation combination lock. She inquired if a key lock safe would be a better option. Steve replied that a locksmith can open it and provide a new combination. P.J. commented that it is an electronic lock that is charged by turning. Steve replied that a locksmith could replace the lock with a new one. Kristin will look into a locksmith.

**IX. Next meeting dates - January 26 and 27 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Syracuse.**

**X. Adjournment**

- **A motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Steve to adjourn at 4:06 p.m. Carried.**



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Caitlin Stewart  
Secretary

## Division Reports

### Division I, Judy Bennett

I sent an email out to all the Districts in my division to see if they had anything they would like me to report.

Orleans County SWCD reported the following:

- Working on 2017 Budget.
- Organized the Annual Shoreline Cleanup on September 10. Volunteers picked up trash along waterways throughout the county.
- Organized the Annual Tire Cleanup. Citizens throughout the county brought old tires in to be recycled.
- Worked with several farmers throughout the county on Cover Crop projects for Round 19 & Round 20 AG NPS grants.
- Working on the preparation for a Soil Health Workshop to be held on December 21.
- Attended the NAACC training.
- Staff attended the Conservation Skills Workshop.
- Staff attended the NYACD/Administrator/Manager's Conference.
- We are working on the final reporting documents for a Soil Health Mini-grant.
- Staff is working on a grant application through Climate Resilient Farming.
- We have had a lot of interest in the New York Grown and Certified.

Wyoming County SWCD reported the following:

- The 2016 WNY Soil Health Field Day was held at the Thornapple Dairy Farm in Livingston County on October 26th. This event was co-sponsored by the Wyoming County SWCD, Western New York Crop Management Association, American Farmland Trust, NRCS, NY Farm Viability Institute and the NY Corn & Soybean Growers Association. Topics of discussion included inter-seeded cover cropping, no-till applications, herbicide applications as well as several field demonstrations. Approximately 170 producers, CNMP Planners, agency personnel and vendors were in attendance.
- We are continuing to work on the implementation of many BMP's associated with several NYS Agricultural NPS Projects.
- We have completed and submitted the final reporting documents for the District's Genesee River Soil Health Mini-grant.
- We are continuing to work on the deliverables for the Genesee River Basin Trees for Tribes contract with NYSDEC.
- We are continuing to work toward completion of several Genesee River Erosion & Sediment Control Mini-grants.
- The District has just completed the formal review of Wyoming County Agricultural District #3.
- Our Climate Resilient Project involving a manure storage cover and flares as well as waste transfer system is currently under construction at Table Rock Farms, LLC in the Town of Castile.

I did not hear back from any other county.

Submitted by: Judy Bennett, Division I Representative

**Division II, Kelly Emerick**

***Report from Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates  
Cayuga County – No Report Provided***

Livingston County – Responded to request that unable to provide a report for this month.

Monroe County –

- Staff is reviewing the draft Stormwater MS4 permit for changes that will affect our MS4s in Monroe County and providing comments to the Stormwater Coalition to submit to NYS DEC Central Office.
- Completed review of a draft design for a regional stormwater management facility in a high priority watershed under WQIP Round 12 grant. The remaining 2 stream restoration projects are in planning and design phase.
- Our NYS DEC 4 Hr. E&SC classes have been posted to our website where there will be one more class in December for 2016.
- Preparing to release our 2017 Stormwater Management Training Series classes in December. 5 classes will be offered again including Stormwater Hydrology, Stormwater Design for Linear Projects, Maintenance & the New MS4 Permit, Constructed Wetlands for SW Management, and SW E&SC and the New Blue.
- Two (2) staff members are certified to conduct culvert assessments through the North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity training; one of which is an L-1 level coordinator as well (third staff person is pending certification).
- New Agricultural Planning Technician is working on developing AEM Tier 3A Plans and mentoring under other County SWCD staff and G. Albrecht. Also, working with farms gaining interest in participation in the Climate Resilient Farming program, specifically focusing on irrigation management planning, as well as the upcoming AgNPS Round 23 program.
- Working on the closeout for Round 18 AgNPS.
- Still moving forward with the AgNPS Round 20 and 21 grant programs to complete those as well as the Ecosystem Based Management grant projects.

Onondaga County - No Report Provided

Ontario County –

- The AEM program is moving forward and we have been reaching out to our GAP specialty growers who may want to participate in the NY Grown and Certified program.
- Working to close out 2 Ag NPS contracts before the end of the year.
- WQIP Funding- Recently we completed a large project in the Honeoye Lake Inlet Wildlife Management Area. This project consisted of re-establishing a natural stream and

reconnecting it to the historical floodplain in an effort to keep nutrients and sediment out of Honeoye Lake. This was a cooperative effort that was led by the District and involved partners from FLCC, NYS DEC, The Nature Conservancy and the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force. Additional work on this project will be completed in 2017.

- WQIP Funding- purchased a new Bowie hydro seeder and stabilized several acres within Ontario County.
- We will be completing other deliverables associated with each of the 4 WQIP grants in 2017. One project of note in 2017 will be the WQIP CMAC Performing Arts Center Stormwater Management project that will be led by the District and will involve several public and private partners to install stormwater management projects at the concert venue.
- Uniform Procedures Program- Our program has expanded recently in 2016 with the addition of another town in Ontario County listing the District by name as a provider of septic inspection/deep hole soil investigation. This is an earned income program for our District and we are continuing to work with other municipalities to revise their existing Town codes to allow the District to provide this service. An interesting recent update to the program occurred in the Town of Geneva on Seneca Lake. The Town now requires all lakefront properties to have their waste water treatment systems inspected by the OCSWCD prior to renting for the summer season. We are using this Town code to work with other Finger Lakes municipalities and hope to expand our services in 2017.
- Our certified construction site inspections for municipalities is continuing with new sites being added to our schedule frequently. We also continue to work with our Ontario-Wayne MS4 Stormwater Coalition to implement stormwater management for MS4 communities.
- The District and the OC Planning Dept. has continued to work together to form the Seneca Lake Inter-municipal Organization. This process has been moving forward as we hoped and will be a wonderful organization to help improve water quality in Seneca Lake. Other partners involved in the effort are Seneca, Yates, Chemung and Schuyler County SWCD's and the 42 municipalities within the watershed. Most towns have recently signed an MOU to be part of the Seneca lake IO.
- Canandaigua Lake Watershed Inspection Program- The District continues to administer this internationally recognized program. In 2016 the District started using a specially created software program to catalog all systems and system information within the 2 County Canandaigua Lake Watershed. This program could also be used outside the watershed with our UPP program elsewhere in the County.

Seneca County – No Report Provided

Wayne County –

- Hired two full time staff members this year.
- Working diligently on plans for 2017 which will include a move into County Space in January. Our phone number, emails and address will all change and will be sent out next month for formal contact information.
- We have had a lot of shoreline projects along the Lake Ontario corridor popping up this year and are working with a network of professionals to try and learn the new curve of

climate resiliency to deal with those issues that are similar but very extreme compared to upland watershed work we have done in the past. New horizons are upon us.

- We are utilizing the opportunities with the NAACC program to develop new partnership agreements with local highway departments for infrastructure analysis and will begin doing some of that work utilizing FLOWPA funding along the Lake until the other allocation becomes available.

Yates County – No Report Provided

Please call me anytime if you have any questions or concerns regarding this report at (585) 753-7380.

Submitted by,

Kelly Emerick  
Executive Director  
Monroe County SWCD  
NYS CDEA Division II Representative

**Division IV, Velynda Parker**

**Broome** – no report

**Chemung** – no report

**Chenango** - no report

**Cortland** – no report

**Delaware** – no report

**Otsego** - no report

**Schuyler** – no report

**Steuben** – Four board members attended the NYACD annual meeting in October to help in meeting Performance Measures along with District Manager & Secretary. Staff has been very busy with project implementation under the AgNPS and STAIEP program. To date, four landowners has completed their project under STAIEP totaling \$305,443 and two additional landowners are in the payment process. Round 2 of STAIEP have concluded and applications have been forward onto Ag & Markets for review/approval. We're anticipating notice sometime in late December early January. Four WQIP streambank projects are completed and close-out is being worked on. Board of Directors will be hosting a Cooperator of the Year luncheon on December 13 recognizing the Schum-Acre Dairy Ops, LLC as this year's recipient. We will also be recognizing two highway superintendents and DPW Deputy Commissioner as well for their assistance under the Shared Service Program. Local, State and federal representatives have been invited along with our partners. We're estimating 45-50 individuals will be attending. A PowerPoint of 2016 Accomplishments will be showcased along with Cooperator of the Year accomplishment.

**Tioga** – The Tioga Co. SWCD is working on finishing up construction of Ag projects that we are working on under a contribution agreement with NRCS this agreement also funds updating CNMPs. We just completed installation of our second toe-wood designed stream rehabilitation project on Appalachian Creek. We have several other stream projects that are moving forward with construction that will be finishing up. We are working on the development of a stream program that we will take a funding request to the County. We are going to look to hire a staff person to work on AEM and some other projects. We will be conducting watershed assessments this fall/early spring with funds from the USC. We are also assisting the County with the update of their Hazard Mitigation Plan.

As for the USC, we are currently buttoning up our field work, working on vernal pool development in Otsego County until the first day of gun season at which time we will have to move equipment out of the state forest. Just completed 3 stream projects in Otsego Co. the District secured the funds through WQIP, USC stream team completed the design and our field team installed the projects. Monitoring reports are being developed for several wetland mitigation sites. Our Buffer Coordinator along with the buffer workgroup is trying to come up with programmatic guidelines for a possible USC buffer program. Patrick Raney continues to complete mapping tools as requested, currently working on finishing up the Climate Resiliency Tool that was funded by NYSDAM under the Climate Resiliency Farming funds. He has also been working on wetland mapping for PA in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. All of our teams will meet in November/December to have a strategic planning session to support an upcoming 2-day USC retreat we hope to have in mid-to late January or February.

**Tompkins** – no report

## **Division V, Laura Benedict**

### *Division Wide*

- CWICNY
  - Hosted Project Tour which invited political leaders to visit implemented projects
  - Hosted 12<sup>th</sup> Annual North Country Water Quality Trade Show in Lake George. It was well attended with a good turnout and lots of vendors.
  - DEC WQIP
    - Project implementation on roadside erosion identified in ARRA report
      - Hydroseeding and sediment basin installation
  - DOS
    - Held meeting to finalize project priorities for each priority watershed
- Upper Hudson
  - DOS
    - Culvert assessments using NAACC protocol
- Events
  - Conservation Skills
    - Division V Employees attended and had positive reviews
  - NYACD

- Division V Employees attended. Enjoyed the training sessions the first day
  - Division V Meeting
    - Scheduled for November 30 at 10:00 AM
- Civil Service
  - Two District Technicians from the Division recently took and received scores from the Civil Service Exam. Both scored well and within the top three, and will be holding onto their positions.

#### *Clinton County*

- Between our WQIP grant and our Part B Project, we hydroseeded more than 10 acres of roadsides, installed silt socks and helped to install rip rap and a sediment basin to protect a tributary to the Ausable River. We hired an intern for the summer who helped operate our hydroseeder and map all of the sites that we identified and addressed.
- We had 3 RCPP projects that were awarded funding and our technician spent many hours planning and helping the farms to implement BMPs; including a milk house waste system, animal trails, heavy use areas, and fencing for a grazing system.
- We also partnered with Essex and Franklin County to successfully apply for NRCS AMA funding. Two farms in Clinton County were awarded high tunnels.
- Our no till drill was in steady demand and was used on over 500 acres this year.
- A grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) allowed us to assist 5 farms to plant 150 acres of a winter rye cover crop to reduce erosion in the Chazy River watershed.
- We planted 300 trees along the Little Ausable River as part of the Trees for Tribes program.
- Construction began on our Round 21 AgNPS project- a manure storage facility for a 600 head heifer raising facility.

#### *Essex County*

- Attended Northeastern Transportation and Wildlife Conference in Lake Placid. Presented 90 minute Emergency Stream Intervention training and described projects on tour around Wilmington, Jay, North Elba, and Keene.
- Wildlife habitat improvement project put in 4 wood duck houses, 2 bluebird boxes, a bat house, and several fruiting trees for a food source. Funds came from USFWS, with volunteer help from NEIWPC and Westport Central School
- Forestry program completed marking two timber sales and has had successful showings
- Held Game of Logging Level 1 and 2 for farmers and highway departments
- LCBP funded implementing about 80 acres of cover crop and a laneway for a dairy herd.

#### *Hamilton County*

- Organizing the management of Japanese Knotweed throughout the Adirondack Park region through the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program. 121 sites of treatment took place in Hamilton County.
- Press Releases: 2
- Facebook posts:
- Completion of the Elbow Creek Protection Project on Gilmantown Road, Town of Wells. Progranics, cocoanut erosion control blankets, and coir logs were installed to prevent bank erosion, protect nearby Elbow Creek from sedimentation that fills in brook trout and macroinvertebrate habitat, save taxpayer dollars, and protect infrastructure.

- Conservation Field Day - 67 fifth and sixth graders attended this year's event where presenters educated youth on various conservation topics such as aquatic invasive species spread prevention, streambank erosion, composting, weasels, water quality, and tree work.
- Assisting the County with trail establishment for an Emergency Management Tower Project in Speculator.
- Hydroseeding across the county prevented erosion. 8 acres were stabilized.

#### *Warren County*

- Just wrapping up projects for the year and getting reports started.
- We have applied for 2 NYSDEC WQIP grants and so far 2 Lake Champlain Basin Program grants, with one more to go.
- We had a retirement from our BOD, Charlie Maine stepped down last month. Charlie started in Warren County as a SCS Soil Scientist in 1968. After he completed the 1986 Soil Survey and revisions, he retired, but accepted one of at large board member positions. We hate to see him go and hopefully will get him to the December Board Meeting for recognition.
- Don't laugh – we are handing out the 1<sup>st</sup> ever Warren County Farm of the Year award. We have a small, but active AEM program and our awardee has worked with our office through site visits, AEM program and EQIP.
- Looking forward to seeing the NYSCDEA WQS course packet!

#### **Division VII, Erin Sommerville**

##### **Dutchess County**

- Completed NAACC Assessments in 6 watersheds in Dutchess County.
- Completed project to remove the Shapp Pond Dam in the Town of Clinton with funding through the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program.

The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts held the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Southeast New York Stormwater Conference on October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

#### **Columbia County, Greene County, Sullivan County, Ulster County, Orange County-No Report**

#### **NYS Envirothon November Notes**

The NYS Envirothon Committee is saddened to report the loss of Bob VanLare. As most of you know Bob was one of the driving forces representing the NYACD Board. Bob believed in the Envirothon and all that went along with promoting this great hands-on environmental competition for high school students. He will be sorely missed and hard to replace on the committee.

I'm pleased to announce that Maxine Applebee, Wayne Co SWCD and Chastity Miller, Franklin Co SWCD have joined the committee. Their request should have been sent to Patrick Emerick, NYSCDEA Pres for approval at the November NYSCDEA meeting. As you know Pat VanLare was approved as a committee member and we're hoping she will continue to be on the committee. At this time we are waiting for a response from her as to what her plans will be.

The positions open on the NYS Envirothon committee are NYS Society, Ag & Mkts., NYACD, and two District folks. I have put out requests from each one, but as of this writing I have not had any responses to the requests.

The committee once again is working hard to once again bring a great event together for 2017.

We have formed a website committee and a new website should be approved by the committee and up online in the next couple of months. We will be requesting that the NYSCDEA allow us to create a PayPal account for donations to the NYS Envirothon and saleable items. The funds received would need to go through the NYSCDEA checking account and transferred into the NYS Envirothon account.

We are working on possible funders and in January funding packets will be mailed to potential funders. I have contacted Stan with Dominion gas regarding funding and volunteers. Stan encouraged me to complete another donation request for 2017 and stated staff will volunteer for the event. I'm working with the EEF on possible funders and grants. EEF folks are working hard to apply for possible funding.

We are still looking for a current issue and oral presentation problem writer, but hope to have one secured before our November meeting. If not, the fall back will be the committee, but we are confident we will find some willing to write both the test and problem.

All of the 2016 bills have been paid and we have a nice balance to begin next year of a little over \$20,000. This being said with the change to where the NYS Envirothon committee could store their materials for the event we are in the process of purchasing an enclosed travel trailer and having logos placed on it. By the time you hold your November meeting the trailer purchase, logos, and material should all be complete. Steuben Co. SWCD has willingly stepped up to store the trailer at their garage in Bath. We are greatly thankful for them to do this on behalf of the NYS Envirothon.

Overall we are moving forward and things are going along as expected. Our next monthly meeting will be held November 15th, Seneca Co SWCD, at 11 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Blanche L Hurlbutt  
NYS Envirothon Chair