



New York State

Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

January 26 & 27, 2017
Double Tree E Syracuse
6301 NY 298
E Syracuse, New York 13057

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
Steve Lorraine, Division III
Laura Benedict, Division V
Ben Luskin, Division VI
Erin Somerville, Division VII
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

Partners

Greg Kist, NRCS
Amber Paice, NYACD
Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC (via phone)

Absent

Kelly Emerick, Division II
Velynda Parker, Division IV



Minutes

I. Call to Order: January 26, 2017 at 10:02 a.m. with introductions.

II. Reading and approval of November 17, 2016 meeting minutes.

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

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

IV. Treasurer's Report – P.J. mentioned the 4 hour training expense was for his and Doug's attendance of the online course. P.J. continued that CDEA meeting costs came in under budget, saving money. The budget is under on expenses, over on income, and is doing very well.

- **A motion was made by Judy, seconded by Laura to transfer \$3,245.00 from the bucket and silent auction to the Frank Bratt Scholarship. Carried.**

Kristin inquired if the Environmental Education Foundation would be able to apply for a credit card with a large limit to pay for venues for the Water Quality Symposium. Kristin continued that this year has been difficult for her because the Double Tree requested \$25,000 by a specific date, and a hard, early deadline was set for Water Quality Symposium registration to

accommodate this early time frame for payment. When the EEF receives their statement, CDEA will have the money for them. A \$70,000 credit card through the EEF to be used once a year would be helpful. It may be necessary to apply at a few different banks for this large of a limit. P.J. commented that he will ask Kelly to inquire about an EEF credit card for future Water Quality Symposiums at the next meeting. Kristin commented that the EEF would have to apply for the credit card. Kristin continued that the CDEA Treasurer's name may be able to be added to the credit card, and everything could come to her with the exact dollar amount. The hotel will receive payment from the tax exempt organization. The bill would come to Kristin's address, or whoever the CDEA treasurer is at that point. Doug commented that it may be cleaner for credit card statements to be sent directly to the EEF instead of the CDEA treasurer. Ben commented that meetings are usually the first Monday of the month. P.J. inquired if Ben could let the EEF know to contact CDEA with questions.

Kristin continued that she sent the 2017 budget for review, including a Budget vs. Actual for what was spent. Ben commented that the expense for fertilizer tablets has not increased in 5 years, and that item should remain at \$6,000. Kristin continued that the Administrative Management Conference budget was increased for 2017 to allow for more instructors, and that there was more income than expenses. P.J. commented that a course on insurance and District liability may be beneficial to offer at the 2017 Administrative Management Conference. Kristin continued that the Conservation Skills budget remained the same. P.J. inquired if a Level 1 Tech Training will be organized for 2017. Jordan responded that these trainings are driven by new employees, and the training will take place every other year or as needed. Jordan continued that a Tech Training was not held in 2016, and that the funds budgeted for the Level 1 Tech Training could be transferred when the training is not held. P.J. commented that these trainings are inexpensive to run. Doug inquired if anyone raised a concern and asked if the Tech Training would be held. Laura responded that there are many new District employees who would benefit from the training. P.J. commented that Lauren of the State Committee organizes the training. Doug commented that it would be beneficial to reach out to Lauren. Kristin continued that the actual income of the Water Quality Symposium was \$86,251, and the expense was \$58,182.16. This year, Symposium income will increase with the CNMP class. P.J. commented that a Leadership Conference may be held in 2019 or 2020. Kristin continued that Audit, Taxes, and Legal Fees remained the same. The Water Quality Symposium Resource Fair income was \$7,168.34, and the expense was \$849.42.

P.J. inquired if the amount budgeted for the New York State Envirothon scholarship should be reduced due to lack of staff and volunteer support and positions that remain to be filled. Judy responded it should remain the same due to hard times. Judy continued that she has reached out extensively to her Division, but it is difficult to obtain support. Doug responded the scholarship amount should be kept the same for now. Jordan inquired if the scholarship funds should instead go towards event operation expenses. Judy inquired if teams would have an incentive to participate in the NYS Envirothon without the scholarships. Amber inquired if the draw of cash prizes is large. Kristin replied no. Caitlin replied that the Hamilton County Envirothon does offer prizes, and the reason why teams participate is due to student interest and passionate advisers, not prizes.

- **A motion was made by Caitlin, seconded by Kristin for \$2,500 to go towards New York State Envirothon operational expenses including dorms, food, supplies, advisor tours, and National Envirothon expenses, instead of scholarships. Motion failed during the vote.**

Kristin continued with her Treasurer's Report, and mentioned that \$1,500 goes through the EEF for the Water Quality Symposium towards fees for the accountant. The Executive Board expense was \$4,689.05, and will remain the same at \$7,000. Insurance was increased. The Promo / Website expense was \$225.80. Kristin commented that she is creating the new website, hosting fees will be \$300, and she won't charge for updates because they are easy to make. The Promo / Website will remain the same at \$500. NACD Dues, NACDE NE, and the Newsletter will all remain the same. The Sunshine Fund supports the purchase of condolence cards and will remain the same. Office Supplies includes QuickBooks updates, and books of stamps, and was increased. The budget for Division Meetings was raised to \$400. Doug commented that the cost of the New York State Fair may increase due to the additional day of Wednesday. Kristin commented that she is planning for a new trailer costing \$5,000, and funds will be built over the next 2 years to put towards the trailer. Jordan inquired how funds will be generated for the trailer. Kristin responded that expenses have been cut back from 3 to 2 promotional items. Kristin continued that the proposed New York State Envirothon budget was submitted.

Kristin commented that New York State Envirothon scholarships are difficult to administer to the winning teams, and that it would be helpful and efficient for prizes to be cash.

- **A motion was made by Caitlin, seconded Kristin that from 2017 forward, any CDEA scholarship funds for the New York State Envirothon will be rewarded as a cash prize in the year earned.**

Kristin suggested that the New York State Envirothon Committee set a limit on how much is reimbursed for meals for the National Event. For example, only reimburse up to \$5.00 a meal.

Kristin continued that the Golf Tournament budget was left the same. Doug mentioned that he is hoping to keep costs down.

Steve inquired if the expenses of the Water Quality Symposium are based on expenses from past years or the specific charge listed in the budget. Kristin replied that the amount is a combination. Kristin continued that income will be greater than last year. The estimated cost for the 2017 Water Quality Symposium was \$58,000.

- **A motion was made by Steve, seconded Jordan by to accept the 2017 CDEA budget and financial report. Carried.**

V. Reports

i. Partnership Reports

a. NYS SWCC – Brian mentioned the following:

The Governor's proposed budget for the EPF remains strong at the level of \$300 million. This includes \$9 million for District aid, \$19 million for ag nonpoint source pollution, and \$1 million

for Districts to develop stormwater management programs for community resilience on private land.

Program development for this new funding, if approved, will be done through the municipal subcommittee. Brian mentioned that he is confident these figures will be maintained throughout the process. The SWCC will be seeking feedback on how to implement the program. Initially the thought is to supplement the existing District aid program by adding the roughly \$17,000 per District with other program elements, offering the necessary resources to continue work throughout the communities.

Doug inquired if the \$9 million targeted for Districts is consistent with this year's funds for parts A, B, and C. Brian replied correct. Part A funding is \$60,000, part B funding is capped at \$6,000 and the remainder goes into part C, Performance Measure funding.

Brian continued that ongoing discussions take place at District board meetings and managers forums to ensure that SWCC continues to work with Districts on both qualifying for and investing performance measure funding.

P.J. thanked the state for the executive budget that is proposed, and commented that he hopes funding will stay consistent.

Brian continued that the EPF budget proposes \$1 million for Cornell University, \$500,000 for Cornell Cooperative Extension, and \$15 million for the Oceans and Great Lakes line.

Other facts in the Governor's budget include \$2 billion for the proposed water infrastructure program. This is a large amount of funding for infrastructure including wastewater, drinking water, and source water protection focused on drinking water. Funding is being proposed for manure storage capacity on concentrated animal feeding operations. The DEC CAFO Permit that is expected for release in January 2017 will include stronger language for winter manure application and spreading during extreme climate weather conditions. There is a potential to spread during winter, but that potential has been narrowed. This will most likely be the administrator of the NY State Committee and the Department. Open public forum discussions will take place to allow Districts to weigh in. Doug inquired if implementation will take place in 2018 in regards to this money, and when the Governor wants projects on the ground. Brian replies as soon as possible; the program needs to be finalized, approval from oversight agencies needs to be received, solicitation will be out within the 2017 calendar year, and project implementation would begin in 2017 and stretch into 2018 or beyond.

P.J. inquired about the source of the \$10,000 that is budgeted for NAACC. Brian replied that the NYS Grown and Certified RFP is in a good position to release road stream crossing, and culvert funds. This has been reviewed and signed off on, and should hit any day now. Also, funds come out of the ecosystem based management line. Assistance is needed to help implement NAACC protocol on private lands.

Don Lake requested the support of the SWCC to form a committee for the NYS Certification Program in Erosion and Sediment Control. Don will speak at the next municipal subcommittee. P.J. commented that Don also looked to CDEA for support.

The draft operations manual that Jennifer developed with the Operations Subcommittee is being reviewed. This is a large task. Brian mentioned that he is very pleased with the comprehensiveness of the manual and hopes this will be a living document that is regularly updated with current information. The goal is to have the manual available for Water Quality Symposium, and this goal is on track. Brian appreciates everyone's patience.

Brian thanked the Employees' Association for organizing the Water Quality Symposium, and mentioned that the schedule looks great as always. He looks forward to attending. He was able to confirm Nancy Herter for the SHIPO program to be available for the Managers Forum.

Steve inquired when the round 23 RFPs will be released. Brian replied that they may be released today, and are due March 31. With advanced notification, the deadline can be extended.

Judy inquired about the number of applications that were submitted for specialty crop farms. Brian replied that eligibility review is taking place now, and 29 applications were received. Applications should be ranked by the end of February, and awards will be released soon after.

Brian continued that he is working with the Cortland County SWCD on the job announcement for the AEM / education position.

Kristin inquired if SWCC staff members have registered for the Water Quality Symposium. Brian replied yes. Brian inquired about a credit card payment option. Kristin replied that credit card payments are available.

b. NRCS – Greg mentioned the following:

Many issues have arisen with the new administration. NRCS is dealing with changes in priorities, and a hiring freeze. There is no Secretary of Agriculture. The department does not have priorities in place. Press releases, grants, and agreements have been put on hold. Work has slowed down. The hiring freeze has hit hard. Implementation rules are not in place. Long term rules are being written for how the hiring rules will work. The impact to New York includes 31 vacancies. 12 applicants have completed interviews, selections were made, and Human Resources is in process mode. The new rules come out today, and it is the hope that 12 new employees will be hired. Grants and agreements with Districts and partners must go through the Department, adding an additional step. PJ inquired about the impact to the Genesee River RCPP. Greg replied that the RCPP is already in place and won't be impacted. Greg continued that any new agreements will be impacted, and NRCS is dealing with how to get the new applications through the system. There are many unknowns and issues.

17 NRCS staff will attend the Water Quality Symposium. Kristin commented that she will follow up quickly for accounts payable. Judy inquired if it is too late to register NRCS employees. Greg replied that the deadline is today. Judy replied that she will notify her employee.

EQIP programs were selected for funding. For regular EQIP, funds will remain the same or increase slightly. Without the riparian forest buffer, \$3.5 million won't be available this year. The Forest Service did not support this initiative. \$21 – 22 million in FA dollars will come from New York due into contracts and easements.

The CSP sign up is in place and ends February 18. The program is now more user friendly for producers.

The RCPP RFP is out for the 2018 program, and sign up ends at the end of the day on March 9. Active projects are in place.

Amber inquired why riparian forest buffers may lose some money. Greg replied that at the post budget meeting, source water management funds for riparian forest buffers were included. Forest buffers will still be taken care of, but at a different level. Jordan inquired about strong planning with minimum funding for buffers. Greg replied to implement strong planning, and to put planning first instead of contracting. Focus on planning because CRP plans and regular programs are extremely important when competing for funds.

Doug inquired if it would be helpful to contact local congressional representatives and request that they push for a speedy back filling of positions in regards to the hiring freeze. Greg replied that this may be helpful.

Steve mentioned that people are confused about the EQIP process. Farmers are not eligible if they don't have a conservation plan, but are eligible if they have a CNMP. Greg replied that this is an issue. Greg continued that had a discussion with Mark Rowes at National HQ on this issue. Before a contract is drawn up, NRCS wants to make certain that people have a conservation plan in place. Sometimes, poorly written contracts are written without a good conservation plan. A conservation plan will earn the applicant more points. There is a need to have a good conservation plan in place. Steve commented that from a farmer's perspective, this was the same thing as the CNMP process. Field staff take a CNMP and write another conservation plan. Developing another plan that restated what is already in the CNMP slows the process down. Steve has received complaints from farmers and planners because people get treated differently across the State. Steve continued that he wants to make certain that this issue that impacts Districts, planners, and farmers is still on the radar. The current process does not equate to better conservation on the ground. Greg replied that inconsistencies with interpretation exist, and that in depth discussions have taken place in an effort to establish consistency. Steve mentioned that farmers talk across county lines, and people are treated differently from county to county. Steve continued that he is glad to hear that NRCS is aware of the issue and they are moving forward.

Jordan inquired if anything can be done to speed up background checks. Greg replied that Jordan should send an email detailing the concern and Greg will try to speed up the process. The process is taking too long.

Suspended at 12:15 p.m. for lunch
Reconvened at 12:38 p.m.

c. NYACD – Amber mentioned the following:

NYACD is seeking leadership, and new Division Directors in II, III, VII have been recruited. Amber encouraged each Division to have a Division Meeting annually.

Amber passed out a meeting schedule for 2018 and mentioned that the Board meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. A teleconference is scheduled for February 9.

NYACD Legislative Days is March 6 and 7. Legislative Days spreads the SWCD message. Amber requested photos of District projects for the Districts of Distinction Informative Booklet. The event offers networking opportunities for directors and others. A Business Card Challenge has been organized. A Tell Your Story training will be provided by Amber, and this workshop will help directors and District employees identify what is important to the District and how to communicate with legislators for lasting impact and results. Food will be available at the event. Also, an After Hours networking opportunity will take place, with shuttle service to the Plaza near hotel. On Tuesday, legislative appointments will take place. Lunch will be provided. A check list will highlight parking, and what to bring including business cards.

NYACD is working to make programs count for District performance measures.

Jordan inquired if it is appropriate for Districts to speak with legislators outside of their geographical area. Amber replied that meetings are voluntary, and the goal is to spread a unified message of NYACD to all assemblymen and senators not otherwise seen. Appointments are arranged with other people who are influential. Legislative Days presents opportunities to speak with people on the environmental and Ag committees.

Kristin inquired if a NYACD meeting will be held at the Water Quality Symposium as a conflict may arise if the meeting is scheduled for Thursday afternoon, the same time that the State Committee will hold their meeting. Kristin continued that an executive room is available as a meeting space with a table and chairs for NYACD. Kristin requested that if NYACD plans to hold a meeting, to notify her of the day.

Amber continued that the NYACD website has been updated with presentations from the annual meeting for those who want to reference the presentations or for those who couldn't attend. SharePoint is being utilized for minutes and financial documents. This information is also available by email request because they are confidential documents.

A 4-Way Partnership Meeting was held in January. P.J., Greg, Brian and Amber attended. Partner opportunities were discussed. NYACD can assist with Performance Measures including resources for training plans and budgets. Amber finds it helpful to look at how Districts are the same and different in making training plans in an effort to help Districts. Amber inquired when the District Law Training is held. Kristin replied every 3 years. Amber continued that 2 letters were written for the CREP program and for herbicide application. Efforts were coordinated with FSA, the State Committee, and NRCS to write the letters and provide information and feedback.

Locations are being researched for the Annual Meeting.

Outreach will take place with Division Representatives to get representation in providing a Director meeting.

State associations foster partnerships with SWCDs with MOAs between the Districts and NYACD individually. Amber inquired if this been discussed in the past as this would fall under a performance measure of fostering partnerships. P.J. replied to contact the State Committee and make sure performance measures count. Amber commented that she will communicate with Brian before a discussion takes place with the entire committee.

Opportunities exist to expand District presence through the Agriculture, Energy, and Environment budget.

Amber had a conversation with Pat Hooker regarding New York State Fair expansion. Other groups are represented with a permanent, longstanding structure at the Fair. Small booths may under represent a very important group to the state. Kristin mentioned that a permanent structure has been discussed in the past, and an issue is that the NRCS building is out of the way, and visitors do not know where it is or how to find it. Kristin continued that visitor traffic may decrease with the relocation of a permanent structure, and the location is difficult to find behind a building. Greg mentioned that NRCS maintains the building including painting and tree plantings, and doesn't pay for space for the permanent location. Greg continued that new people funneled through to the location and commented they had never been to this area of the fair before. Amber inquired what the booth represents. Kristin responded that the booth is on behalf of New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Kristin continued that she organizes volunteers from Districts to work shifts at the booth, that the booth must be staffed until 10:00 p.m., but volunteers are allowed to leave at 8:00 p.m. Kristin commented that a benefit of having a permanent structure would be opening and closing when we choose. Kristin inquired if CDEA would have to pay for the building to be built. Amber responded that there is a need to fill an empty space by the new pond at the West end of the fair towards the FFA building. Amber will request more information from Troy at the Fairgrounds including available possibilities and opportunities. Kristin mentioned that the flow of traffic is a concern, especially because visitors know to look for the SWCD booth in the Horticulture building.

Suspended at 1:05 p.m. for a tour of the hotel.

During the tour, Jordan mentioned that there will be no corking fees at the Banquet, and drink specials will be available. Jordan also mentioned that personal drinks are not allowed in the bar or at dinner. Ben mentioned that refrigerators will be available in hospitality suite.

Reconvened at 1:21 p.m.

Amber continued with her report, and mentioned that yearly planning included the dissemination of assessment for membership for dues. Kristin mentioned that she has not seen the letter. Amber responded that a letter is included showcasing 2016 accomplishments and what can be expected in 2017.

In 2016, full membership dues were received from 41 districts, partially paid dues were received from 4 Districts, and 13 Districts did not pay dues. Jordan inquired if the Divisions who did not

pay dues correlated to Districts who do not have Directors. Amber replied that yes, there is a correlation.

In the Legislative Days email that was sent, 3 links were included. Districts have an opportunity to be included in a booklet. This resource will be available on the website for Districts to print. The booklet deadline is February 3, and the Legislative Days sign up deadline is February 17.

Jordan inquired if NYACD will host a table at the Farmers Market and Resource Fair during the Water Quality Symposium. Amber responded yes. Caitlin mentioned that she will follow up with information and a registration form.

Planning is underway for the NYACD Annual Meeting. A goal is to increase the value of the annual meeting to Directors, and to include partners. A vendor fair is being organized to encourage sponsor and partner involvement.

A Score Card for Division Directors is being developed as a resource to know expectations and to keep track of being present to Districts year round.

Amber inquired about other ways NYACD can partner with CDEA. P.J. mentioned the importance of District board members to say thank you during Legislative Days. P.J. continued that it is essential to spend time thanking the legislators for the budget we are operating under now, thanking them for thinking of us in the proposed budget, and to please continue to think of us. This message should be taken to District boards, allowing Amber and NYACD to hear it. It is important to talk to your boards, and make sure the message gets to Amber. Jordan mentioned that the tone of Legislative Days should be thank you. PJ inquired if Amber will host a session on what message needs to be delivered to the legislators. Amber replied yes.

Steve inquired if District staff are allowed to go to Albany for Legislative Days if NYACD is no longer a registered lobbying organization. Steve continued that Directors are the lead to our legislators, and there may be conflict when District employees attend Legislative Days. As a citizen, you can speak with legislators on your own time, but we can't put anyone at risk during this event. Legislative Days has been conducted in this way for a long time, with District staff attending the event with NYACD to communicate a message to legislators. Steve mentioned that it is essential to make certain that this process is acceptable, and will not cause trouble for NYACD or Districts. Doug inquired if it is acceptable for District staff to attend without their Directors. Amber responded that District staff must go with a Director. Amber continued that Districts provide their Directors the resources to attend but do not tell them what to say or do. Amber will email the document that John Santacrose presented at the annual meeting.

VI. New Business

i. Follow up on CDEA CAFO training with DEC – Steve mentioned the new permit was issued yesterday. More training for farms and manure applicators on farms is underway. No system in New York State is set up to give those trainings, and no real curriculum exists. The training would be similar to the erosion and sediment control training, where everyone is taught the same information. A presentation would be developed, followed by a train the trainer that would qualify certified CMP or CCA individuals to teach the training. Steve inquired if

employees support this going forward. Doug commented that this training should not be similar to the 4 hour course, and should receive even coverage across the state. Doug inquired if we are able to handle the entire state. Steve replied that the training would be more like a 2 hour course. Steve continued that Scott is willing to take it to Albany if we are willing to offer the course. P.J. inquired if Districts are able to charge for the training. Steve said this will be worked out, and he will let Scott know if CDEA is interested in supporting the training.

ii. Elections - P.J. mentioned that Nichelle Billhardt sent an email for CDEA Executive Board and Division Representative nominations. Steve mentioned that Nichelle will collect information about the nominees. If someone doesn't run, nominees will be sought at the Symposium.

VII. Reports (continued)

i. Division Reports

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

b. Division II – No report provided.

c. Division III – Steve mentioned that he sent an email to his Division, and no one responded to his request. They are all busy, and a lot of work is going on. Steve is closing out a soil health mini grant, and it is more in depth than he expected. Steve mentioned that anyone closing out the soil health mini grant should be certain to have photos, receipts, and everything that was done as if it was an EPF grant.

Steve left at 1:51 p.m.

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

e. Division V – Laura mentioned that Franklin County has a new technician, and shared her report appended to the minutes.

f. Division VI – Ben mentioned that a division meeting was held and shared his report appended to the minutes.

g. Division VII – Erin shared her report appended to the minutes.

h. Division VIII – Ann Marie shared her report appended to the minutes.

VIII. Committee/Meeting Reports

i. Conservation Skills Workshop – Kristin mentioned that she has started working on the new CDEA website, and a tab will be included for Conservation Skills, the Water Quality Symposium, other training sessions, and 4 hour classes. Kristin requested to send her information to include on the website. Judy inquired if the website is up. Kristin replied that the site has a temporary domain, but people with an NRCS server can't view it because the name is blocked. Kristin continued that you can view the website at home instead of on NRCS computers.

ii. Envirothon Committee – Blanche L Hurlbutt, NYS Envirothon Chair submitted her report 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	<u>376.00</u>
		\$ 942.00

- Cheyenne Youngs of St. Lawrence County submitted a request for payment of \$480.37 relative to her award under the June 2016 round of funding. Approved by Judy Bennett and sent to Member @ Large.
- Received 3 applications for the January 2017 round of funding totaling \$1,500.
 1. Nicole Laible, Rockland County SWCD Employee - \$500 for Legal Issues in Public Administration
 2. Michelle Vedder-Drew, Columbia County SWCD Employee - \$500 for Biodiversity & Conservation Policy: Policy Issues
 3. Calum Lewis, Steuben County SWCD Employee - \$500 for Calculus II
- Sent an email to Division Reps with the applications attached for their review.
- **A motion was made by Kristin, seconded by Laura to approve the 3 Frank Bratt Scholarship applicants. Carried.**

iv. State Fair Committee – Kristin mentioned that a meeting took place last month and this year’s theme is Stormwater. Kristin continued that Erica Schriener might have some displays for use. The State Fair opens a day early on Wednesday. The annual invoice for the State Fair was sent.

v. Environmental Education Foundation Committee – Ben mentioned 1 or 2 positions are still empty for Members at Large. The application process for the SAM and DUNS number is taking place. Different funding options are being researched. The Envirothon budget is being analyzed for support.

vi. Municipal Assistance Subcommittee - P.J. mentioned that a meeting will be held in early February, and he will call in if he can’t attend. This committee addresses stormwater, some streambank issues, and slope stabilization. Meetings do not take place very often. P.J. mentioned that he keeps in contact with Jennifer Clifford. The New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certification started yesterday. CPESC is a difficult organization to deal with due to the rising cost of certification. Don Lake wrote the ESC book. New York State certification is needed. Don spoke with Kelly Emerick, Jim Lieberum, and Tim Clark, and things are moving forward. Don has a clear vision of where he wants to go with certification, and looks for approval from the State Committee, CDEA, and NYS DEC to support certification. An idea was discussed for CDEA to support certification for administering the program. The program would require a certain number of hours of course work. Laura mentioned that

registering for the CPESC exam is very difficult due to a lack of testing facilities offered for the exam. P.J. mentioned that there are 265 CPESCs in New York State. DEC supports this new certification, and they want CDEA's support for administration.

Via phone, Jim Liebrum commented that he spoke with Don Lake. CPESC has changed over the years regarding the certification process and cost. NYS testing locations are hard to find. Don wants to make sure New Yorkers are doing the right thing, obtain certification, have support, and are offered a professional experience. Don envisions a NYS certification. If you are currently a CPESC, you would be grandfathered into the program, work with the State, work with permits, and conduct inspection reviews that CPESCs are allowed to review and sign off on. A NYS certification would be provided. Don proposed that the DEC, CDEA, State Committee, Department of State and New York City DEP work together to move the process forward. This process needs to be well thought out. Liability is a question. P.J. mentioned that this could be an earned income for CDEA, and that Don didn't want to move forward without a CDEA resolution. Jim mentioned that qualification levels are being looked at differently. Doug mentioned that as long as standards are the same, the proposal is a good idea. Doug continued that the program can't be too lax, and that high standards need to be maintained. PJ mentioned that Don will do all of the work with DEC. PJ continued that he thinks it's a great idea, and that a subcommittee will be formed to act as a review committee.

- **A motion was made by Doug, seconded by Caitlin for CDEA to support the efforts of Don Lake and others in going forward with a New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certification. Carried.**

Suspended at 3:12 p.m.

Reconvened at 3:21 p.m.

vii. Operations Manual Committee - P.J. mentioned that Nichelle Billhardt first started the process of working with the SWCC to update the Operations Manual, and that this is the blue book that has everything you need to know to run your SWCD. Now it's finally coming to completion. Jennifer will roll it out at the Managers' Form and the Clerks' Forum. P.J. thinks it's an awesome effort with a lot of people helping and working hard to update the existing manual. P.J. wants to print the manual for every office, and feels that costs could be decreased with funding sources or a partner with a local printing business. A binder would be a user friendly format. Ben mentioned that Lauren Prezorski would be a good contact for funding sources. P.J. mentioned that he will approach the state or CDEA with a funding request. Ben mentioned that printing expenses should be put out to bid. Doug mentioned that he will check with Lisa for printing options. P.J. mentioned that he will follow up and make a phone call to Lauren and Mike.

Ann Marie inquired if a training schedule for new employees would be included in the operations manual. P.J. replied that the document focuses on how to run your District administratively, but does not focus on trainings. Ann Marie inquired what trainings are needed for a new technician. P.J. replied that Tim Clark is a good contact to answer that question. Doug replied to reach out to other Districts. Ann Marie mentioned that it is difficult to meet performance measures when the County doesn't offer trainings and restricts travel and comp time.

viii. Other – none.

- **A motion was made by Kristin, seconded by Ben to suspend for the evening at 3:31 p.m. Carried.**

Reconvened at 7:57 a.m. on January 27, 2017

IX. Old Business

i. Follow up on CDEA online 4 hr. course – P.J. mentioned that Kelly spoke with SUNY Brockport, and students are able to film the slides and edit the production. The Board can decide who will voice the script. Kelly has a good contact with Brockport. P.J. mentioned that he thinks this effort should be advanced. Wendy Walsh and Jessica Verrigni may be able to assist with the video. Caitlin mentioned that she will speak with Jessica and Kelly to help with the script and flow of the video. P.J. continued that the DEC supports this effort. Ann Marie mentioned that she is also glad to help. P.J. continued that certificates and wallet cards will be easy to administer. Ann Marie inquired who will manage the wallet cards and certificates. P.J. responded that that detail will be determined later. Kristin mentioned that she will determine how to put the course on the website, and that PayPal is already set up. The participant will receive an email that the course was taken and completed, and a unique verification code will be given. Caitlin mentioned that she will look into YouTube and Vimeo for privacy and the ease of embedding the video to the CDEA website. Kristin mentioned that she has CDEA envelopes for mailings. P.J. mentioned that this will be an excellent earned income program because people find online courses desirable and efficient.

ii. Discuss/change CDEA Committee information sheet – P.J. mentioned that the sheet needs to be updated and uploaded to the website. The CDEA committee leads need to be updated, and page 2 is outdated. Doug inquired if we should disband committees that are no longer active. P.J. commented that he will send the document to Kristin who will convert it to an electronic version for statewide review.

iii. Tour/finalize all 2017 Water Quality Symposium classrooms, AV equipment, meals, breaks, etc. with hotel staff – P.J. inquired about AV equipment. Jordan mentioned that he received an estimate of \$4,800 for the hotel to supply AV equipment and offer IT support, and this estimate is negotiable. Kristin commented that this cost is worth it because AV equipment supplied and supported by the hotel will eliminate problems and concerns. Jordan mentioned that another option is to purchase equipment specifically for WQS courses. P.J. mentioned that another option is for the presenters to bring their own equipment. There is \$26,252 in the Farmers Market budget that could be used to go towards AV equipment. P.J. inquired if the gun raffle goes into the Farmers Market fund. Doug replied yes, he thinks so. Hotel staff present during this discussion mentioned that laptops are included in the price with projectors, screens, and tech support for 9 rooms.

- **A motion was made by Jordan seconded by Kristin to spend \$4,800 on AV equipment for the 2017 Water Quality Symposium through the hotel. Carried.**

iv. CDEA website transfer follow up – Kristin mentioned that she began to put together the new CDEA website. The About Us menu contains Executive Board, and Division Rep

information. The website will also include information about the State Fair, the program sheet with resources and contact information, the professional talent pool, the Water Quality Symposium, Conservation Skills, Conservation Boot Camp, CNMP training, soil health, useful resources, and the reimbursement form. Doug mentioned that putting invoices on SharePoint would be beneficial. Kristin continued that meeting minutes, agendas, and the budget for committees will also be on the website. P.J. mentioned that the certified trainers listing should be up to date, and will change periodically. Kristin continued that the website will also have information about the Golf Tournament. Doug mentioned that the Water Quality Symposium would be a great opportunity to request photos and roll out the new website. Caitlin mentioned that she will scan the hard copies of the minutes for Kristin to post to the website.

v. Other old business

Kristin mentioned that she has not yet looked into a lock smith for the safe.

Jordon mentioned that the old CDEA logo could be updated. A statewide competition could be organized inviting people to develop a logo that will be put up for vote. P.J. mentioned that he will send an email requesting that logo entries be submitted to Erin.

Caitlin inquired about the renewal of the Ronny Raindrop trademark. Correspondence states that the registration expires September 1, 2019. P.J. replied that this issue will be revisited soon so that the registration does not expire.

Kristin mentioned that the gun raffle goes into resource training.

X. New Business

i. Discussion on proposed EPF budget info – P.J. mentioned to thank our legislators for supporting the EPF and to keep the momentum going forward with NYACD. P.J. continued to please plan to go to Legislative Days. P.J. is uncertain if we can attend without our Board of Directors. P.J. inquired if we should go with the Farm Bureau. Amber replied that it's her understanding the reason NYACD holds Legislative Days the same time as the Farm Bureau is because the Farm Bureau member on the SWCD board will attend. Amber continued that the challenge is the time limit with half for the Farm Bureau and half for Districts. Only a few people attend for both Farm Bureau and Districts. P.J. mentioned that the Farm Bureau has taken an advocacy stance that District's cannot take, and Districts need to make certain that a policy stance is never taken that could adversely impact Districts. Amber mentioned that District staff can only speak on legislation. She continued that there is some confusion due to Districts and Farm Bureau sharing the same day. Doug mentioned that it is difficult to go on the same day as Education. Amber replied that the challenge is that during session, people do not know when the legislators will be available. Doug mentioned that Districts do sometimes blend in with the Farm Bureau. Doug inquired if Amber could ask Districts how they feel about attending Legislative Days with Farm Bureau. Amber called John Santacrose to inquire about Legislative Days and to make certain District employees don't violate any rules by attending. John mentioned that he is not acting as an attorney on our behalf, and that what follows is only information. John continued that the view on Legislative Days is we're going to the legislature to provide information. We're not trying to change or affect policy. We are providing information, we are a resource for the members of the legislature so when questions arise about

soil and water conservation, legislators can reach out to us. We are going to say thank you. We understand and can translate state law into action, such as AEM. We educate legislators about how we work, and how we serve as an educational role. We aren't asking for policy change, and we are not lobbying. We keep ourselves in the legislators' minds so that when things come up that impact soil and water, they know to call Districts. There is a difference between providing information and swaying a legislator for policy. Amber inquired if employees can attend without a District Director. John replied that District staff should attend with Directors, or you can attend with another District who has Directors at the meetings. District staff should not go to a meeting without a Director because that would not represent NYACD. A District staff member can attend without their board members by identifying with a neighboring District Director. If you attend on your own, you cannot speak during the meeting, but you can make an appointment for your Director for a future meeting. P.J. thanked John for the information.

ii. Discussion on CDEA group insurance (dental, vision) from NYCON – P.J. mentioned that he has been speaking with Chris Mason. NYCON offers insurance, and they are similar to a Chamber of Commerce set up for businesses. CDEA would pay NYCON a yearly fee, and receive a good deal on dental and vision insurance. P.J. continued that he does not feel this will work. P.J. mentioned that Chris passed along flyers with more information about insurance. NYCON is a one stop shop for insurance. NYCON provides support and guidance on health insurance options. Members pay into NYCON. Annual dues were listed. P.J. mentioned that he does not feel CDEA would qualify for NYCON because we are not a non-profit organization. Amber inquired if P.J. considered speaking with NYACD. Jordan replied that all District insurance policies are different. P.J. mentioned that it is unfortunate Districts can't have a state wide insurance policy. Kristin mentioned that insurance needs to remain separate. Jordan mentioned that his District's current insurance plan may be better than what NYCON offers. Doug mentioned that he contacted Key Insurance and Benefit Services, Inc., for more information about a Health Consortium. Doug continued that with 2,000 members, it is possible for his county to lower the cost. A municipal corporation would not be able to participate. P.J. mentioned that it would be wonderful for employees to have a cheaper health care plan, but the rules of the insurance industry don't allow this.

iii. Follow up on 2 hr NYS DEC MS4 inspector training program for Districts – P.J. mentioned that there has not been movement forward to completing the training, however, this program is needed. P.J. continued that a municipal subcommittee meeting will be taking place on February 8 in Albany.

iv. Other New Business

Ann Marie inquired if P.J. has thought of a nomination for the President's Award. P.J. responded that he will continue to think about this. Ann Marie commented that the awards are going well. Erin inquired if a print frame will be presented for the Croney Award. Ann Marie replied that she will reach out to the applicant and see what is best for the recipient. Erin mentioned that the cost will remain close to last year. Erin mentioned that she will reach out to Lindsey for flowers.

- **A motion was made by Caitlin, seconded by Jordan for a budget of \$300 for the Croney award. Carried.**

Kristin inquired about wine for the banquet. Ben mentioned that John Perch has organized the wine.

P.J. mentioned that he will complete the packet and speeches.

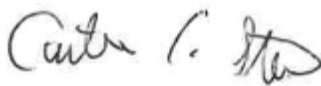
Kristin inquired if wine glasses will be offered during the Farmers Market at the Water Quality Symposium. P.J. replied that he can pick them up. Kristin commented that Christine needs to be notified to bring her own cutlery. Jordan replied that he will call Christine. Amber mentioned that Syracuse First is a good resource for vendors for the Resource Fair. Doug mentioned that he will reach out to Mark Burger for local foods. Ben mentioned that the hospitality room is ready, and that it will open at a certain time. P.J. mentioned that Mark Burger has elected officials arranged to speak. P.J. inquired about resolutions. Doug mentioned that resolutions need to be received 30 days prior to the meeting. Caitlin mentioned that in the past, a state wide email was sent requesting resolutions. Ben mentioned that a signup sheet is accessible at the registration table. Jordan mentioned that the silent auction and bucket raffle is the responsibility of Steve and Velynda. P.J. mentioned that he cannot find the banner. Jordan replied that he will bring the banner from last year. P.J. mentioned another banner could be made after the WQS.

Jordan mentioned that he will not run for Vice President again, and will let Nichelle Billhardt know. Jordan continued that he has been with his District for 9 years, and has served on the board for 8 years. Jordan said he has enjoyed serving, but has a lot on his plate right now. It's great to be involved. P.J. mentioned that if someone runs for president, he will happily step down, but if no one runs, he will be happy to continue as President. P.J. has enjoyed serving with the committee.

XI. Next meeting dates – TBD.

XI. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Jordan, seconded by Kristin to adjourn at 9:57 a.m. Carried.**



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 diligently on Year-end reports.
- Planning for our annual meeting to be held February 17, 2017.
- Submitted 10 applications for the NYS Grown & Certified Specialty Crop Grants.
- Hosted the WNY Soil Health Alliance workshop on December 21 with 152 participants.
- Participated with the NRCS Local Working Group meeting.
- Spring Tree & Shrub Sale is underway.
- Starting to plan for the Niagara/Orleans Regional Envirothon.
- Working on Soil Group Worksheets for Ag Value Assessments.
- Working on AEM Year 12.
- Working on designs for several BMP's to be completed this coming construction season.

Cattaraugus County SWCD reported the following:

- We will be closing out a Round 18 AGNPS Grant.
- Completed a concrete waste storage under Round 21.
- Getting geared up for some additional projects in 2017 under rounds 20 & 22.
- We have completed projects on several farms under the Southern Tier Ag Industry Enhancement Program. Projects include equipment buildings, barn renovations for cattle comfort, grain dryers, manure handling infrastructure, etc.
- We continue working on preparing projects to be funded with Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance (LEWPA) funding.
- Spring tree sale is underway.
- Planning for Envirothon is also underway.
- Working on the Annual Reports.

Wyoming County SWCD reported the following:

- Working on various Annual Reports to NYSSWCC.
- Working toward the Close-out of the Silver Lake/Genesee River Round 17 Ag NPS Grant.
- Working on Ag Value Assessments.
- Continuing to make progress in AEM Year 12.
- In the process of hiring a new SWCD Technician.

I did not hear back from any other county.

Submitted by: Judy Bennett, Division I Representative

Division IV, Velynda Parker

Broome – no report

Chemung – The District had another very successful year doing stream projects in cooperation with our municipalities. With our stream program, mirrored after Steuben County, we completed eighteen (18) projects in three (3) counties (Chemung, Schuyler, & Yates). All jobs we accomplished were well over one million dollars in construction work. Utilizing municipal funding, grants, private landowner contributions, as well as funding from the District. This program was established in 2011 with a five (5) year inter-municipal agreement. We are happy to report all municipalities signed on for an additional five (5) years. The District continues to implement the AEM Program, as well as administer grants and the STAIEP funding. In December the District hosted its annual Christmas Luncheon that has been held for almost forty (40) years. We had approximately 220 people in attendance to view a PowerPoint on the District accomplishments of 2016. The Stormwater Coalition was established in 2008 and is now full staff with the hiring of Nikole Watts as the new Stormwater Educator. The staff includes an Engineer, Technician, and Educator. Their purpose is to make sure the MS4 Community stays in compliance with the NYS Stormwater Permit. The District is now heading into another recycling endeavor. We have an Ag Plastic, Pesticides Collection, Tire Recycling Program, along with some composting. This year we will, in cooperation with the Stormwater Coalition, hold three (3) E-Waste Collection Days for electronics. Our hopes are to keep the unwanted TV's and computer monitors out of our road ROW and waterways. The District and Stormwater Coalition is proud to have Nikole Watts join the ranks of the District family. Nikole was hired as the new stormwater educator on August 8th, 2016. Nikole is a graduate of Notre Dame High School and holds a bachelor degree in Marketing from Cazenovia College. Nikole grew up on a dairy farm and is looking forward to working with the District, Stormwater Coalition, as well as all others in the stormwater education arena.

Cortland – no report

Chenango – 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. To date the District has been through two signups. Round one has seen twelve successful farms apply with six farms starting projects and one completed. In Round two the District has seen 15 farms apply for the remaining money. Round two is in the process of being

ranked as we write this report. 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. In 2016 approximately \$1.3 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 were 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. In 2016 the District was successful in acquiring a Water Quality Improvement Project grant (WQIP) through NYS DEC. With this grant the District will start and grow a County Wide Hydro Seeding Program. In 2016 the District has also taken over the annual inspection of the six floodwater retaining structures in the county and uploading in the Dam Watch program implemented by NRCS. 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 – no report

Otsego – Very busy with Ag Nonpoint source close outs. At the same time, prep for round 23 Ag Nonpoint source grants. We're working on producing CREP plans with our cost share agreement with NRCS. We are also working on end of year reports and everything that goes on with that. We will be offering a 4 HR Sediment & Erosion Control class on March 8th at the Holiday Inn, Oneonta NY, \$100.00 per person. Cover Crop & Soil Health Class on April 5th 10:00-3:00. We are also providing a Winter Manure Spreading class this Thursday January 19 from 12:30-3:00.

Schuyler – We are building Ag. projects through STAIEP and AGNPS, working on end of the year reporting, setting up next year's construction schedule, wqip plans of work, prep for annual banquet, many shoreline and stream permits, building bluebird boxes, and rain barrels, and some ag value assessment's.

Steuben – To date Steuben has completed 12 out of 41 Round 1 STAIEP applications, 26 applications were received for Round 2 with no word on ranking; tree orders are being sent out; active with ag assessments; two (2) out of five (5) WQIP projects are complete and we're seeking no cost time extension on two (2) WQIP projects; working on end of year reports; mining pit renewals are under way for County and municipalities; held a Cooperator luncheon in December to recognize a farmer and two highway superintendents for BMP implementation and County DPW employee for his dedication to the Shared Service Program; looking at projects for the District Streambank Stabilization program and currently there are 22 projects totaling \$236,660; will be purchasing a new excavator & a truck this year with other equipment will be sold either by bidding or online auction ; staff will be attending the NACD meeting in Denver, Co at the end of the month.

Tioga – Working on closing out two Ag Nonpoint Source grants that completed construction last year. We are also holding several 4-hour erosion and sediment control trainings this winter and are currently working on annual reports and closing out our 2016 financials in preparation of our

annual audit. SWCD staff are working on planning and design for 2017 construction season. We are looking to hire a new technician in 2017 to assist with our Ag programming. USC will be holding a 2-day retreat in February with a focus on strategic planning and meeting the Chesapeake Bay TMDL goals. All committees of the USC have met over the last month in preparation for the retreat giving opportunities for partner feedback

Tompkins – The Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District said goodbye to James Balyszak at the beginning of December as our Hydrilla Program Manager. He took a job with the City of Ithaca police department as a police officer and is now in active training at the academy. He will be missed and has left some big shoes to fill. We have just hired a Conservation Technician, Mike Hall, who was working as a Seasonal last year with us. Mike will take over some of the role of the Hydrilla program as well working with our Hydroseeding, Compost and other invasive species program within the District. Welcome aboard Mike! The District has purchased a new “compost bark blower” for use within the county. This will aid in adding compost as a top layer soil horizon for those bare construction sites and also creating compost filter socks in replacement of silt fence. If any District is interested in looking at the blower, getting a demo, or having some projects done in their county please let Jon Negley or Angel Hinickle know at the Tompkins County District and we will arrange the details.

Division V, Laura Benedict

Division Wide

- Working on Annual Reports
- Events
 - Division Meeting held November 30
 - 20 attended, everyone had a great time

Clinton County

- Getting ready to work on Round 23 AgNPS applications and planning for the coming year. Looking to hire 1 or 2 interns for the summer projects. We did submit a grant to LCBP to purchase a trailer mounted vacuum excavator

Essex County

- Working on two timber sales, and several forest management plans
- Preparing for 2017 Tree Sale by updating order form and descriptions list
- Applied for Climate Resilient Farming and 4 Lake Champlain Basin Program grants
- Put in spring order for Trees for Tribes on 5 sites
- At least 3 attending WQS
- Welcome Alice Halloran, our new District Technician that will be working on stormwater projects

Hamilton County

Hamilton County SWCD General Conservation Activities

- Assisting Towns of Arietta and Lake Pleasant with DEC Aquatic Invasive Species Grant reports and reimbursement requests.
- Assisting County with Emergency Management Cell Tower.

- Development of 2017 Tree & Shrub Program
- Organizing Lake Association "Protect Your Lake" Seminar for summer 2017
- Coordinate data collection for Invasive Species Section of Upper Hudson River Watershed Revitalization Plan
- Developing cemetery plot management map for Town of Arietta
- Promoting and assisting landowners with signup and implementation of NRCS RCPP

Conservation Education Programs and Events:

- Preparing for the 2017 Hamilton County Envirothon
- Social media updates and press releases
- Invasive insect forest survey of Moffits Beach Campground with Tom Colarusso of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
- Information booth at Hamilton County Health and Benefits Day
- Conservation Field Day awards ceremonies for the essay and poster contest participants
- Attended the Adirondack Lakes Alliance round table discussion
- Board of Supervisors presentation of our 2016 accomplishments
- Assisted with reviewing the updated New York State Envirothon website

Warren County

- Four of us are attending the WQS.
- We will have one or two new board members by March.
- We received one NYSDEC WQIP grant (ESC), one was not funded (Culvert).
- Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around once in a while, you could miss it.

Division VI , Ben Luskin

Albany County

- Installed a 175 square foot pollinator garden with over a dozen native species at the Lawson Lake County Park Visitor Center.
- Planted over 200 trees and shrubs at the North and South Treatment facilities of the Albany County Sewer District. Provided them with 10 bluebird houses
- Provided 150 Home Water Analysis Kits to county residents with private wells
- Provided a High Tunnel to the Bethlehem Middle School "Green Team" to help extend the growing season of their classroom gardens

Fulton County

No Report

Montgomery County

No Report

Rensselaer County

No Report

Saratoga County

The last several months have been grant time in Saratoga County. We have been steadily working on grant applications for the New York Grown and Certified grant program as well as working on closing out an Ag. Nonpoint Grant. We have also been preparing for our spring tree and shrub program which will be held the last weekend in April. We have also been working with the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition to create a plan for the Upper Hudson River Watershed. There are also RCPP signups occurring this February.

Schenectady County

No Report

Schoharie County

The Schoharie County Soil & Water Conservation District had a busy fall. We closed out 2 Ag Nonpoint grants by completing 2 large barnyard projects in the Towns of Seward and Jefferson. We continue to work with the 4 NY Rising Projects for the Town and Village of Schoharie and the Village of Middleburgh. Just completed 4 very successful CAFO inspections with DEC. Assisted in the monitoring of the completion of one of the EWP projects on the Platterkill Creek in the Town of Gilboa and one on Dave Brown Mountain Road in the Town of Blenheim. Completed 2 mined land reclamation plans for the Towns of Gilboa and Conesville. Constructed and rain garden in conjunction with Cobleskill-Richmondville Central School and their environmental studies class.

Washington County

- Round 17 & 18 Ag Nonpoint: Working on closeouts
- Round 20 Ag Nonpoint: Completed partial closeout
- Round 21 Ag Nonpoint: Ongoing construction of a 6.1M gallon earthen manure storage system and a large silage leachate collection & treatment system
- Finished updating the Cossayuna Lake Watershed Management Plan
- Soil Group Worksheets
- Preparing for the tree and shrub program
- Upper Hudson River Watershed and Lake Champlain Watershed: DEC & DOS grant work
- Newsletter
- Annual Reports

Division VII Report, Erin Sommerville

Dutchess County

- Worked with 2 municipalities to place Erosion Control Mats.
- Working on Soil Group Worksheets
- Starting work on our annual newsletter and seedling sale.
- Planning Pollution Prevention Trainings for Highway and Park and Recreation Departments to be held in the Spring. This is funded through our NYSDEC WQIP Grant.
- Working on Annual Reports.
- Inventoried a total of 308 crossings (416 culverts) in 6 watersheds in 2016 using the NAACC Protocol.

Division wide planning is being done for the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon.

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

Division VIII, Ann Marie Calabro

New York City: We have just hired two part timers: one as a Lab Manager for the Urban Soils Institute and another as Project Assistant on a grant funded community greening project. On a different note, I am attending and presenting at the NACD Annual Meeting in Denver next week. We have a project funded by NACD for urban agriculture. – Shino Tanikawa

Putnam County: I don't have much to report on except that our Annual Seedling Sale is currently running with online orders coming in, we have become a full partner in the Lower Hudson PRISM, working on a stormwater plan for the county owned farm, and that I'm working on offering the 4 hour Erosion and Sediment training sometime this year. --Lauri Taylor

Rockland County: Rockland just finished its first phase in a Road-Stream Crossing Town Level Management Plan (I know that is a mouthful) for the Town of Stony Point; this is a partnership with LHCCD. We completed a town inventory on culverts and bridges and ranked the top 10 and later top 2 culverts in need of right sizing based on conservation value and flood risk. This took several months and we are glad to have this initial step completed. Next steps include stream simulation modeling of the proposed culverts to be right sized, then conceptual design phases with Town and Emergency professionals/ officials. --Nicole Laible

Nassau County: No Report

Westchester County: No Report

Suffolk County:

Funding: LINAP \$500 for Nutrient management plans implementation and training for staff. RCPP \$1.2 Million for NMP & IPMs within Peconic Estuary Watershed

Training: Suffolk County hosted a Conservation Planning Training on 1/25/17.

Education/Outreach: Bluff Erosion Video is complete. The video covers 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 also aided Cornell Cooperative Extension in hosting the Long Island Ag Forum on January 12th and 13th.

New Hires/Team Members: Susan Odell-Pepe, Principal Account Clerk and Ken Johnson, Soil District Technician

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

NYS Envirothon January Notes

January 12, 2017

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 26, 2017 at Chemung County SWCD at 11:00 a.m. Phone in service will be provided for all committee members or anyone that would like to call-in.

JoAnn Kurtis, NRCS, oral problem writer has completed the final problem and the NYS Envirothon committee has reviewed and approved the problem. It is available for all on the NYS Envirothon website. JoAnn is working on updating the judges score sheet and that should be online shortly.

The funding packets have been updated and are ready for mailing to sixty (60) potential donors. Franklin County SWCD was kind enough to print all the necessary funding packet information. If you have a possible sponsor that you feel we should contact, please let us know.

I completed a \$5,000 request from Dominion Gas Transmission and we are waiting for a response. I was notified by Lori at Dominion, that there have been some changes to some contact folks. One has retired and one is taking a position elsewhere. Lori provided me with a new contact and reminded me to keep in touch with Stan at the New Hartford office.

Intent to participate forms has been emailed to Districts as of today and responses are expected in the next few days. This will help us have a better idea of possible funds to come in.

Scholarships are being processed as requests come in and Kristin is following up with students that have not requested their funds, but are due to.

Registration packets are about completed. We are waiting on a couple of companies to secure tours of their facilities. Once that information is provided all should be completed and ready for printing.

Maxine Appleby has been working with Kristin White on fine tuning the new website. Check out the website and give feed back to us.

I will have more information to provide to you once we have our meeting on the 26th. Until then we are moving forward and working hard to have another successful event.