

**New York State
Conservation District
Employees' Association,
Inc.**



**2011
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2011**



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**New York State Conservation Districts Employees' Association
Annual Meeting
Holiday Inn Arena, Binghamton, New York
March 11, 2010**

Members Attending:

Steve Lorraine, President
Jim Lieberum, Vice President
Velynda Risley, Secretary
Brian Hall, Member at Large

Guest:

Astor Boozer, USDA NRCS
Dennis DeWeese, USDA NRCS
Bob VanLare, NYACD
Michael Latham, NYS SWCC

Division Representatives:

Mark Gaston, Division I
PJ Emerick, Division II
Christine Watkins, Division III
Jerry Verrigni, Division IV
Lenny Croote, Division V
John Persch, Division VI
Kristen O'Dell, Division VII
Polly Weigand, Division VIII

Absent:

Vicki Hendrix, Treasurer

- I. **Called to Order:** President Steve Lorraine called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Steve welcomed all those in attendance and introduced the NYSCDEA Executive Board and Division Representatives. Steve thanked soil & water district staff and guests for attending the business meeting. Steve led the meeting with the Pledge of Alliance. Steve recognized Astor Boozer, NRCS; Mike Latham, State Committee; Bob VanLare, NYACD; Doug Kierst, Secretary of the Northeast Conservation District Employees Association and Ines Grimm, Treasurer of the Northeast Conservation District Employees Association.

- II. **Roll Call of Districts:** Jim Lieberum and Velynda Risley performed the roll call and the following forty-four Districts were present:

Albany SWCD	Allegany SWCD	Cattaraugus SWCD
Cayuga SWCD	Chautauqua SWCD	Chemung SWCD
Chenango SWCD	Clinton SWCD	Columbia SWCD
Cortland SWCD	Delaware SWCD	Dutchess SWCD
Erie SWCD	Essex SWCD	Franklin SWCD
Fulton SWCD	Genesee SWCD	Hamilton SWCD
Herkimer SWCD	Jefferson SWCD	Lewis SWCD
Madison SWCD	Niagara SWCD	Oneida SWCD
Onondaga SWCD	Ontario SWCD	Orange SWCD
Orleans SWCD	Oswego SWCD	Otsego SWCD
Rensselaer SWCD	St. Lawrence SWCD	Schenectady SWCD
Schoharie SWCD	Schuyler SWCD	Seneca SWCD
Steuben SWCD	Suffolk SWCD	Sullivan SWCD
Warren SWCD	Washington SWCD	Wayne SWCD
Wyoming SWCD	Yates SWCD	

- III. **Reading and Approval of 3/11/09 Annual Meeting Minutes:**

- **Motion was made by Dave Wilson second by Ed Hoxsie to dispense the reading of the 2009 minutes. Carried**
- **Motion was made by Dave Wilson second by Ed Hoxsie to approve the 2009 Annual Meeting minutes as written. Carried.**

IV. **Review Slate of Officers:** Amanda Barber thanked the Executive Board for their service and another successful year.

She reviewed the slate of officers. There were no further nominations from the floor.

President, Steve Lorraine	Vice President, Jim Lieberum
Secretary, Velynda Risley	Treasurer, Vicki Hendrix

- **Motion was made by Dave Wilson, second by Rick Weidenbach to close nominations and have the secretary to case one unanimous ballot for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Carried.**

V. **Treasurer's Report:** President Lorraine stated the report is the packet and if there were any questions.

- **Motion was made by Rick Weidenbach, second by Henry Kelsey to approve the 2009 Treasurer's report as presented. Carried.**

VI. **Review and Approval 2010 Budget:** President Lorraine stated the report is in the packet as well. He stated he and Jim received some questions pertaining to the cost of the Symposium and what the funds are used for. He explained that the WQ Symposium is the only fund raiser the Employees' Association has to raise money to do the different projects throughout the year such as Conservation Skill Workshop, Administrative Management Conference and scholarship donation to the NYS Envirothon.

- **Motion was made by Rick Weidenbach, seconded by Kevin Lewis to approve the 2010 budget as written. Carried.**

VII. **Agency Report**

A. **NY Association of Conservation Districts:** Bob VanLare read NYACD annual report and copy is appended to the minutes.

B. **New York State Soil & Water Conservation District:** Mike Latham stated he Apologies in advance but he must officially announce "2009 as year for me to soon forget" an overall unfitting cap to an extraordinarily prosperous decade for conservation efforts in NY. Very foreign to its preceding years especially when you reflect upon the sum of the decades accomplishments.

- AEM Legislation,
- 5 years of AEM Base,
- a decade of experience working with permitted farms,
- Phase II Stormwater,

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- Performance Measures,
- Expanded Watershed Protection Efforts,
- 9 years of a strong EPF grant programs,
- doubling of Aid to Districts,
- 2.5 Farm Bills,
- Roughly half a billion dollars collectively circulating in our conservation corners. All put into action on the landscape by one common thread a group we call conservation districts.

You can add your own reflection points, but these triumphs are what I wish to remember of the decade and the rest is water over the proverbial dam. Which I am sure many of you can also relate to.

So in your meeting packet please find the state committees report, summarizing highlights of the Committee and various programs for the year. I am particularly pleased, that

- Together we erased a 6 month delay in EPF payments
- Secured funding to continue to support this important event
- Maintained state aid
- Capitalized on new funding opportunities such as Ecosystems Based Management, and supported the efforts of Conservation Districts to unite and form the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition.
- Maintained Ag stewardship momentum
- Discussed and acted upon many important issues to Districts
- Advanced a Strategic Plan that is responsive to your needs.
- Survived perhaps our first taste of a new fiscal reality
- And Strengthened our many partnerships

These accomplishments were due in large part to your commitment to work towards meaningful solutions, to advocate, to craft meaningful messages, and quite frankly hold the state accountable to the people that actually do the work.

I would like to take just a moment to recognize the presentation team of Dave Wick, Steve Lorraine, Kevin Lewis, Ed Hoxsie, Mark Watts and Barb Silvestri who took the time to articulate your messages, your benefits and your expertise to both the Association of Counties and Towns. They took decisive action, and that is what the next decade will be about. So, I thank you on behalf of all of us. Looking ahead I do see challenges. This past year 4 out of 5 of our Districts saw level or increased appropriation but 1 out of 5 saw reductions. County governments are looking for savings and it is realistic to expect continued depletion of appropriations.

In this economy District **MUST** become indispensable. To get there, we will need determination, tools, outreach, and a plan.

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- We must be SMART or as Les Travis says SWOT analyzing (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) in our deployment.
- Politically we must lobby the entire spectrum. Constantly reaffirming our values.
- In our local communities we must fully mobilize to address conservation and environmental concerns. As Wayne Gretsky says in describing his success, “I skate to where I think the puck will be”.
- We must savor our traditional roles and move on to embrace a new level of understanding that conservation (clean air and water) is now one’s right in the pursuit of a happiness. We are rapidly moving into a generation of informed citizens where we no longer have to build awareness about the causes of poor water and air quality; rather there is popular desire for us to fix them.

Most importantly we must put increased emphasis at playing as a team rather than as individuals. I recently read an editorial which I feel fitting to describe where we need to be. Allow me to summarize. Perhaps fitting to March we need to adopt a basketball player’s mentality. Basketball is a game of the people... anyone can play. Your fans can fill an arena. Basketball is highly physical but also a strategic sport; it has both complicated team defenses and individual plays. It also requires toughness and intensity at every moment. Players go from offense to defense in a nanosecond and the high score wins. In basketball, team play is a proven way to victory.

In conclusion, I for one want to earn the right to be here at the end of this decade and I believe that many of you share those thoughts as well. Our jobs will not get easier anytime soon, but they are rewarding, necessary and pivotal to future generations. My staff and I are here to assist you.

- C. **USDA Natural Resources Conservation:** Astor Boozer, NRCS State Conservationist addressed couple of issues on office closures, computer charge, rental problem to do his best to rectify some of those issues but also be willing to listen to what the Districts have to say. No offices were closed and the computer use charge is one that NY NRCS is going to take care of. There are 72 computers in District offices that are being used by District employees who are in turn helping us, NRCS, in implementing our projects. The process will be looked at every year. The National office provides the District with one computer and there are 14 extra computers at cost of \$42,000 that NRCS will be picking up. NRCS is doing away with operational agreements and to date there are 32 operational agreements in place totaling \$600,000 that will be used towards in-kind service for technical assistance. There are 13 cooperative agreements with Districts obligated \$900,000 to put conservation on the ground; 18 contribution agreements for \$150,000. NRCS is also looking at increasing the contribution agreements from 50/50 to 75/25 which means there may be fewer agreements due to the cost share being raised. He spoke about providing engineering assistance to Districts when needed as well as supporting training opportunities. He offered to provide trainers when needed. NRCS looked closer to the AEM program and are trying to tie their program with AEM at the same time getting conservation on the ground.

TSP final rule is out and this will need to be revisited to find out exactly what can be done to make it look better in NY.

Steve thanked Astor for going out of his way to resolve the perceived division in the Partnership.

- VIII. **New Employee Recognition:** Each Division Representative recognized and announced the new District employee's. They are as follows:

Division I

Al Ormond, Cattaraugus SWCD
Allen Young, Erie SWCD
Mark Elliott, Genesee SWCD
Lynn Metcalf, Orleans SWCD

Division II

Denise Dixon, Cayuga SWCD
Robert Kiley, Monroe SWCD
Tucker Kautz, Monroe SWCD
Gwyn Olenych, Onondaga SWCD

Division III

Pat Crast, Jefferson SWCD

Division IV

Jared Popoli, Cortland SWCD
John Jackson, Otsego SWCD
Jordan Clements, Otsego SWCD

Division V

Tiffany Pinheiro, Essex SWCD

Division VII

Chelsea Benson, Columbia SWCD
Erin Wagner, Dutchess SWCD
Josh Goreman, Greene SWCD
Cory Ritz, Ulster SWCD
Adam Doan, Ulster SWCD
Karen Router, Sullivan SWCD

Division VI

Jennifer Zunino, Schenectady SWCD
Steven Swenson, Schenectady SWCD

Division VIII

Jeane Nardone, Nassau SWCD

- IX. **Years of Service Recognition** Each Division Rep recognized and announced employees with President Lorraine handing out the Year of Service pins as follows:

Division I

Brian Davis, Cattaraugus SWCD	20 years
Darcy Tone, Niagara SWCD	20 years
Nancy Herman, Wyoming SWCD	25 years
George Squires, Genesee SWCD	30 years
Greg McKurth, Wyoming SWCD	30 years
Frank Gould III, Chautauqua SWCD	35 years

Division II

Maggie Connelly, Onondaga SWCD	20 years
Doug Fisher, Onondaga SWCD	20 years
George Barden, Ontario	20 years
Karen Ervay, Monroe SWCD	25 years
Peter Kanouse, Livingston SWCD	30 years

Division IV

Mark Richer, Chemung SWCD	20 years
Lloyd Wetherbee, Schuyler SWCD	20 years
Jeff Barnes, Tioga SWCD	35 years
Richard "Bear" Weidenbach	30 years

Division V

Elizabeth Mangle, Hamilton SWCD	20 years
Steve Mahoney, Clinton SWCD	30 years

Division VII

Kristine Breitenfeld, Orange SWCD	20 years
Janet McCabe, Dutchess SWCD	25 years
Kevin Sumner, Orange SWCD	30 years

Division VIII

Pau TeNyenhuis, Suffolk SWCD	25 years
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X. Officers Report

NYSCDEA President Report: President Steve Lorraine stated his report is in the packet. He stated CDEA is working NYACD to restore funding to the EPF and will keep Districts abreast on the issue. The Technical Development Program courses are being offered at the Symposium as the result of the process we are going through. No funding has been found for this; however, we are proceeding forward with the curriculum. He congratulated Cayuga County for winning the NACD award from the Ag Equipment Association for the innovative use of construction equipment. Most of the Division Reps has discussed the idea of having an assessment assigned to each Districts paid to the Association for the membership. He is looking for input as if the idea moves forward or not. The funding would be used for increase training statewide.

NYSCDEA Vice President Report: Jim Lieberum, Vice President reported that his report is in the packet.

NYSCDEA Member at Large: Brian Hall, Member at Large stated his report is in the packet.

XI. Division Reports

Division I: Mark Gaston reported that his report is in the book. The Frank Bratt Scholarship report is also in the packet and he stated a number of employees have submitted applications; not all can be funded. He reminded Districts that there is Don Aaron scholarship available.

Division II: PJ Emerick stated his report is in the packet.

Division III: Christine Watkins stated her report is in the packet.

Division IV: Jerry Verrigni stated his report is in the packet.

Division V: Lenny Croote stated his report is in the packet.

Division VI: John Persch stated his report is in the packet. Thanked everyone who helped him putting together the Resource Fair without the help it wouldn't have been successful. If you have any ideas and/or suggestions get in touch with him.

Division VII: Kristen O'Dell stated her report is in the packet.

Division VIII: Polly Weigand stated her report is in the packet.

President Lorraine congratulated PJ, Jerry, John and Polly for being re-elected as Division Reps to their respective Divisions.

XII. Committee Reports

NYS Envirothon: President Lorraine stated the report is in the packet. Blanche Hurlbutt reminded the District to pick up/sign for their oral presentations packets which are available at the registration area. Volunteer are needed for the State competition to contact Blanche Hurlbutt.

Environmental Education Foundation: President Lorraine stated the report is in the packet. Dave Reckahn stated EEF is offering support to regional Envirothon. If the EEF not-for-profit status is needed, contact Dave or Lisa Miller to get the information out.

NYS Fair: President Lorraine stated the report is in the packet.

Conservation Skills Workshop: Christine Watkins stated the report is in the packet.

Frank Bratt Scholarship: President Lorraine stated the report is in the packet.

Administrative Management Conference: President Lorraine stated the report is in the packet.

Northeast and National Conservation District Employee's Association Reports: President Lorraine stated these reports are the packet and encouraged everyone to read them.

XIII. Resolutions: President Lorraine stated there are four resolutions and they are in the packet. He read the first and last paragraphs to the Association and asked if there were any questions.

#1 – 2010: A Resolution to the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association to Develop Civil Service Study Guides for Technical Aspects of the Testing Associated with Applicable Civil Service Positions as well as to Work with New York State Civil Service to Update these Exams with More Applicable Questions.

- Motion was made by Nichelle Billhardt, second by Amanda Barber to accept Resolution #1 as presented. Carried.

#2 - 2010: A Resolution of the New York State Conservation Districts Employees' (NYSCDEA) to call upon NYS Ag and Markets, Soil & Water Conservation Committee, DEC and Elected Officials to pursue funding to County Soil & Water Conservation Districts for services provided to assist with monitoring and mitigation of Natural Gas Exploration.

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- **Motion was made by Jeff Parker second by Scott Fickbohm to accept Resolution #2 as presented. Carried.**

#3-2010: A Resolution of the New York State Conservation Districts Employees' Association to call upon the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service in New York State to Provide Funding to County Soil and Water Conservation District at a 100% rate for each hour of assistance Soil & Water District Personnel Spends on Planning, Surveying, Designing and making Site Visits for Federal Projects and Programs.

Jerry clarified to Astor that the resolution was decided upon prior to him approving the 75% cost share for contribution agreements.

- **A motion was made by Amanda Barber, seconded by Jim Lieberum to accept Resolution #3 as presented. Carried.**

#4-2010: Renaming the Special Award to Partner Appreciation Award within the NYSCDEA Annual Awards Nomination Categories.

- **A motion was made by Brian Scoralick, seconded Dave Wick to accept Resolution #4 as presented. Carried.**

President Lorraine turned the meeting over to Jim Lieberum, Vice President. Jim reminded everyone of the bucket raffle and silent auction items. He also mentioned that annual banquet reception hour begins at 6 PM with dinner at 7 PM.

XIV. Adjournment:

- **Motion was made by Dave Wilson, second by Amanda Barber to adjourn the 2010 Annual NYSCDEA meeting. Carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

Velynda Risley
Secretary
3/29/09

**NYS CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.
2010 BUDGET - FINAL**

ACCOUNT	2010 Budget		2010 Actual	2010 Actual
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Misc. Income			25.00	
Fertilizer Tablets	10,125.00	8,200.00	10,850.00	8,431.25
Legislative Days				
Training Sessions:				
Admin/Mgt Conf	5,000.00	7,000.00		200.00
CSW	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,510.00	1,163.63
WQS	95,000.00	75,000.00	92,548.52	63,529.00
Training -CPESC	2,000.00	1,500.00	7,010.00	3,814.40
WQS Entertainment	2,000.00	2,500.00	7,100.00	1,792.00
Interest/refund Income	100.00		84.42	
Carryover	10,000.00			
Committee Expense		500.00		151.35
Audit & Taxes		1,000.00		1,100.00
Donations-Misc.				
NYS Envirothon Donation		4,375.00		
Executive Board		8,000.00		8,592.47
Insurance		950.00		969.14
Promo/Website		700.00		456.66
NACD		1,800.00		1,882.14
NCDEA Dues		200.00		200.00
NACDE NE		1,000.00		909.38
Newsletter		3,500.00		1,166.66
Ronny Raindrop				
Bucket/Silent Auction			2,661.00	
Sunshine Fund		200.00		57.13
Office Supplies		200.00		2,271.69
Division I		300.00		233.55
Division II		300.00		149.92
Division III		300.00		300.00
Division IV		300.00		83.50
Division V		300.00		300.00
Division VI		300.00		299.61
Division VII		300.00		247.49
Division VIII		300.00		239.31
Fundraiser - Golf Tourn	3,500.00	3,000.00	4,145.00	4,058.00
Uncategorized Expenses				3,852.13
TOTALS	130,225.00	124,525.00	125,933.94	106,450.41

Self Sustaining Accounts				
Frank Bratt	3,000.00	3,000.00	221.53	2,825.00
NYS Fair/EFD	4,000.00	4,000.00	4,500.00	4,970.65
NYS Envirothon	45,875.00	45,875.00	43,376.95	39,245.97
SSA Totals	52,875.00	52,875.00	48,098.48	47,041.62
GRAND TOTALS	183,100.00	177,400.00	174,032.42	153,492.03

NYS DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
BANK REPORT
January through December 2010

	<u>Jan - Dec 10</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 09</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING		
General NYSCDEA Funds	35,174.71	20,212.84
Admin Conference	0.00	0.00
Commercial Account	0.00	0.00
Conservation Skills	6,818.73	6,109.36
Envirothon - NYS-Checking	12,001.56	1,147.53
Ronny Raindrop	0.00	0.00
NYS Fair Account	1,289.54	1,760.19
Sunshine Fund	199.87	0.00
WQS Entertainment Fund	10,041.61	4,733.61
NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING - Other	0.00	0.00
Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING	<u>65,526.02</u>	<u>33,963.53</u>
Certificate of Deposit		
Frank Bratt CD-902022549	20,000.00	20,000.00
General Funds CD-902034065	5,618.65	5,551.22
Envirothon CD-902043055	5,492.69	5,407.97
Total Certificate of Deposit	<u>31,111.34</u>	<u>30,959.19</u>
Envirothon Savings Accounts		
Scholarships Fund	2,500.00	3,500.00
Envirothon Savings Account	2,025.79	7,849.45
Envirothon Savings Accounts - Other	15.89	0.00
Total Envirothon Savings Accounts	<u>4,541.68</u>	<u>11,349.45</u>
Frank Bratt Savings-137790112	<u>4,031.49</u>	<u>4,016.97</u>
Total Checking/Savings	<u>105,210.53</u>	<u>80,289.14</u>
Other Current Assets		
Undeposited Funds	0.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>105,210.53</u>	<u>80,289.14</u>
Due to NYACD	<u>-4,381.00</u>	
2010 Ending Balance	<u>100,829.53</u>	

NYS CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.

2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNT	2011 Proposed Budget	
	Income	Expense
Misc. Income		
Fertilizer Tablets	8,500.00	7,100.00
Legislative Days		
Training Sessions:		
Admin/Mgt Conf		2,000.00
CSW	2,000.00	2,000.00
WQS	98,000.00	75,000.00
Training -CPESC	3,000.00	1,500.00
WQS Entertainment	2,500.00	2,000.00
Interest/refund Income	150.00	
Carryover	15,000.00	
Committee Expense		500.00
Audit & Taxes		7,500.00
Donations-Misc.		
NYS Envirothon Donation		4,375.00
Executive Board		8,500.00
Insurance		2,250.00
Promo/Website		700.00
NACD		1,900.00
NCDEA Dues		200.00
NACDE NE		1,000.00
Newsletter		3,000.00
Ronny Raindrop		1,000.00
Bucket/Silent Auction	500.00	500.00
Sunshine Fund		200.00
Office Supplies		500.00
Division I		300.00
Division II		300.00
Division III		300.00
Division IV		300.00
Division V		300.00
Division VI		300.00
Division VII		300.00
Division VIII		300.00
Fundraiser - Golf Tourn	4,000.00	3,000.00
TOTALS	133,650.00	127,125.00

Self Sustaining Accounts		
Frank Bratt	3,000.00	3,000.00
NYS Fair/EFD	4,500.00	4,500.00
NYS Envirothon	45,167.00	45,167.00
SSA Totals	52,667.00	52,667.00
GRAND TOTALS	186,317.00	179,792.00

CONSERVING NATURAL RESOURCES IN NEW YORK

February 2011

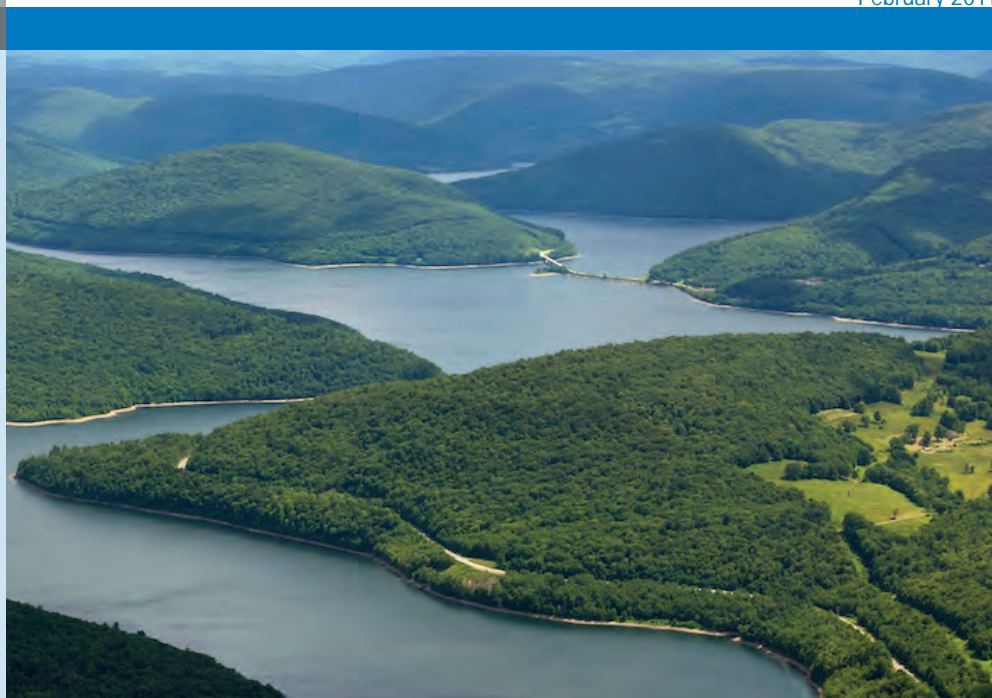
ASTOR BOOZER
State Conservationist
315-477-6504
astor.boozar@ny.usda.gov
www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov

Who We Are

Inspired by a shared passion for conservation, NRCS collaborates with farmers, ranchers, communities, and other individuals and groups to protect natural resources on private lands.

Working side-by-side with these customers, we identify natural resource concerns, such as water quality and quantity issues, soil erosion, air quality, wetlands and wildlife habitat, and develop unique conservation plans for restoring and protecting resources. Funds to implement these plans are made available in Farm Bill programs that share the cost of conservation for the benefit of the farm, the watershed, and the community. Conservation easement programs, also in the Farm Bill, provide long-term options.

NRCS helps New York and the Nation balance economic goals with the needs of the environment—ensuring sustainable productive lands supply food, fiber, forest products, and energy for all citizens.



A sky view of the New York City watershed which extends 125 miles and has numerous dedicated farmers participating in conservation programs.

Photo: Josh Dick

Farmers Cultivate Clean Drinking Water for New York City Dwellers

Everyone needs clean water to survive and thrive. In New York, NRCS and its partners have taken a watershed wide approach to help deliver 1.1 billion gallons of clean drinking water to 9 million New York City residents each day. Delivering this much unfiltered water for human consumption is no easy job.

Utilizing the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP)* this project has:

- Helped achieve water quality that meets and maintains drinking water standards.
- Using the watershed to provide to clean water is potentially saving New York City from building a water filtration plant which would cost approximately \$10 billion and have an estimated annual operating cost of \$500 million.
- Through AWEP 3 farms voluntary participated to improve water quality. NRCS invested \$78,000 in these projects, while the Watershed Agriculture Council invested an additional \$169,000.
- The overall picture—262 farms within the watershed are participating in a voluntary program to improve water quality and remain economically viable.
- Technical and financial assistance received by farms within the watershed assist them in continuing their operations. Farming is the historic foundation of civilization and now farming offers an economic solution to sustainable rural living.
- Farmers are improving water quality by fencing livestock off streams, installing waste storage facilities, and participating in whole farm planning.

* Through the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program NRCS enters into partnership agreements with eligible entities and organizations to promote ground and surface water conservation or improve water quality on agricultural lands. It is a voluntary conservation initiative that provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers.

Safe and Healthy Dairies

Issue: Helping the dairy industry manage manure, remain viable in a struggling economy, and comply with water and air quality regulations.

What NRCS NY is doing:

Dairy, New York's leading agricultural commodity at \$2.2 billion, is struggling with twin challenges: low revenues and increasingly stringent regulations. NRCS is helping producers develop Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans, a wise business tool for finding the right combination of structures and actions to use manure to decrease fertilizer costs and comply with water quality regulations. NRCS provides technical and financial assistance for waste facility covers, holding ponds, pumps, and pipelines. Additional measures are funded in heavy use areas like barnyards to avoid stockpiling and contamination of ground and surface water.

Program used: (CTA), (EQIP), (AMA), (CCPI)



Dairy farm in the Catskill region

In 2010, New York dairy operations worked with NRCS to implement 72 manure management plans which help them apply manure to field crops at optimum times, and keep our waters clean.

Wetlands and Wildlife

Issue: Declining habitats for fish, birds and species of special concern.

What NRCS NY is doing:

NRCS and its partners are working with more than 1,500 landowners and farmers to restore thousands of acres of wetland. An average New York wetland hosts more than 115 animal species. Some wetlands in the state provide habitat for the threatened bog turtle, a semi-aquatic species that lives in cool, shallow, slow-moving water, and deep soft muck soils. The bog turtle is generally found in areas with newly established (early successional) grassland habitat. A bog turtle may live for more than 30 years, but of the 74 historic bog turtle locations in New York only one quarter of these are known to support existent populations. All wetlands create habitat for waterfowl and wildlife, filter water, and offer increased flood protection.

Program used: (CTA), (WRP), (WHIP)



The threatened Bog Turtle

In 2010, almost 100 New York landowners entered into easements with NRCS to preserve and protect 2,300 acres of valuable wetland natural resources.

Great Lakes and Clean Water Supplies

Issue: Declining water quality in the world's largest freshwater resource.

What NRCS NY is doing:

The Great Lakes hold 20 percent of the earth's fresh water supply and provide drinking water for 40 million people. The federal government funded environmentally significant projects within defined priority watersheds, meaning the watersheds most influencing the lakes' ecosystem. Projects around Lake Ontario and Lake Erie concentrated on livestock waste management and wildlife habitat preservation. Along Lake Ontario, in the St. Lawrence River region, species such as the Golden Winged Warbler along with fifteen percent of its total nesting habitat are benefiting from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Program used: (CTA), (GLRI), (EQIP), (WHIP), (FRPP)



Sunset on Great Lake Ontario

In 2010, during the first year of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, NRCS in New York funded 15 projects at \$2.2 million dollars.

New York in The National Landscape

Grazing Lands Generate Green Jobs

Grazing land or forage used feeding is the top crop commodity in New York, valued at \$1.9 billion, and ranked 11th in the Nation. Grass-based farm operations protect the soil by maintaining continuous grass cover and reducing soil erosion. These operation also increase efficiency by using the natural nutrient application that occurs when pasture grazing animals.

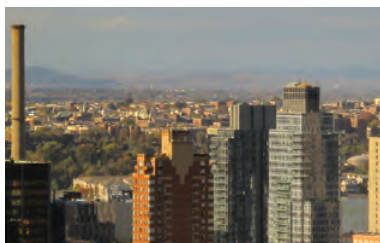
In 2010, over 80 grass-based farms agreed to work with NRCS to enhance their grazing operations with conservation practices like rotational grazing. Conservation practices of \$3 million were applied to 16,000 acres of grazing land.



Protecting Land Now for Future Generations Later

Through the farm and grass lands easement programs 5,500 acres were enrolled to protect, restore and enhance farm and grass lands in New York. Approximately \$6 million dollars is committed to the 50 private landowners or entities that enrolled in these programs.

On Shelter Island, development rights to a 26 acre historic field at Sylvester Manor Educational Farm was purchased—to ensure preservation of the family's 358 year old working farm. Preserving working farm lands like this ensure education and sustainability for future generations.



Solving Ferocious Flood Problems for Communities

This year 4 western New York counties are using the Emergency Watershed Protection program to help solve big problems on 30 sites! The program is deployed to safeguard lives and property from floods.

Plans are underway to help Seneca Nation of Indians reduce channel blockages and prevent catastrophic failure of essential infrastructure including a road culvert, bridge, and water line. Failure of the road culvert alone would cut off access and necessities to 90 homes within the Cattaraugus Territory.



2010 Farm Bill Program Funding*

NRCS Program	Dollars Obligated	Number of Contracts/Easements
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	\$14.4 million*	415
Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	\$1.1 million*	128
Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)	\$521,000*	56
Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program (FRPP)	\$4.9 million*	17
Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP)	\$4.8 million*	99
Grassland Reserve Program (GRP)	\$814,000*	36
Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	\$3.9 million*	321

*The numbers reflect Financial Assistance (FA) that is provided directly to landowners. Technical Assistance (TA) funding was also received by the Agency for professional planning and expertise to help carry out the conservation activities.

Of the 139 conservation practices available to farmers in New York during 2010, resources were distributed as follows: 1) Waste storage facilities to address water quality; 2) Fencing to improve pasture management and to exclude livestock from streams and wetlands; 3) Heavy use areas to provide water quality protection near barnyards; 4) Waste facility covers to address air quality and; 5) Agrichemical handling facilities to provide both air and water quality benefits on crop farms.

Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA)

is the core approach NRCS has used successfully for 75 years to reach out to all American farmers and ranchers. Through CTA America invests in conservation by investing in American farmers and ranchers, and the technical assistance they need to care for more than 70% of our private land, water and other natural resources that are in their hands.

CTA is simply about helping people. NRCS employees provide conservation options, recommendations, planning, and engineering assistance to individual farmers, ranchers, local governments, and urban landowners. This prepares the way for using Farm Bill and other conservation funding by providing—

Technical Planning and Design:

- Agronomy
- Soils
- Engineering
- Rangeland
- Forestry
- Wetlands

Project Coordination:

- State Environmental Regulation
- Archeological Permits
- Necessary Environmental Consultations
- Professional Coordination

Cost Share Programs for Working Lands:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

(EQIP)—assistance for a broad spectrum of conservation practices that promotes agricultural production, forest management and environmental quality as compatible national goals. Special initiatives and focuses in New York are the: Chesapeake Bay, Great Lakes, organics, energy, innovation grants, and air quality.

Agricultural Management Assistance

(AMA)— funding assistance for conservation practices specific to producers engaged in crop production such as fruits, orchards, row crops, vegetables, and vineyards.

Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP)—improves wildlife habitat on private agricultural, forest and Tribal lands.

Easement and Long-Term Rental:

Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program

(FRPP)—helps keep farm and ranch land in agriculture.

Wetlands Reserve Program

(WRP)—restores wetlands and wetland habitat on marginal ag land.

Grassland Reserve Program

(GRP)—helps landowners restore and protect grassland, rangeland and pastureland, and maintain viable ranching operations.

Conservation Reserve Program

(CRP) —pays farmers to plant trees, grass and brush on highly erodible/ environmentally sensitive cropland. NRCS provides technical assistance only.

Stewardship:

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

—encourages producers to embrace long-term comprehensive conservation, maintaining and improving existing practices.

Watershed and Community Wide Programs:

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

(EWP) —undertakes emergency measures on watersheds damaged by fire, flood and other natural calamities to prevent erosion and runoff that could endanger lives and property.

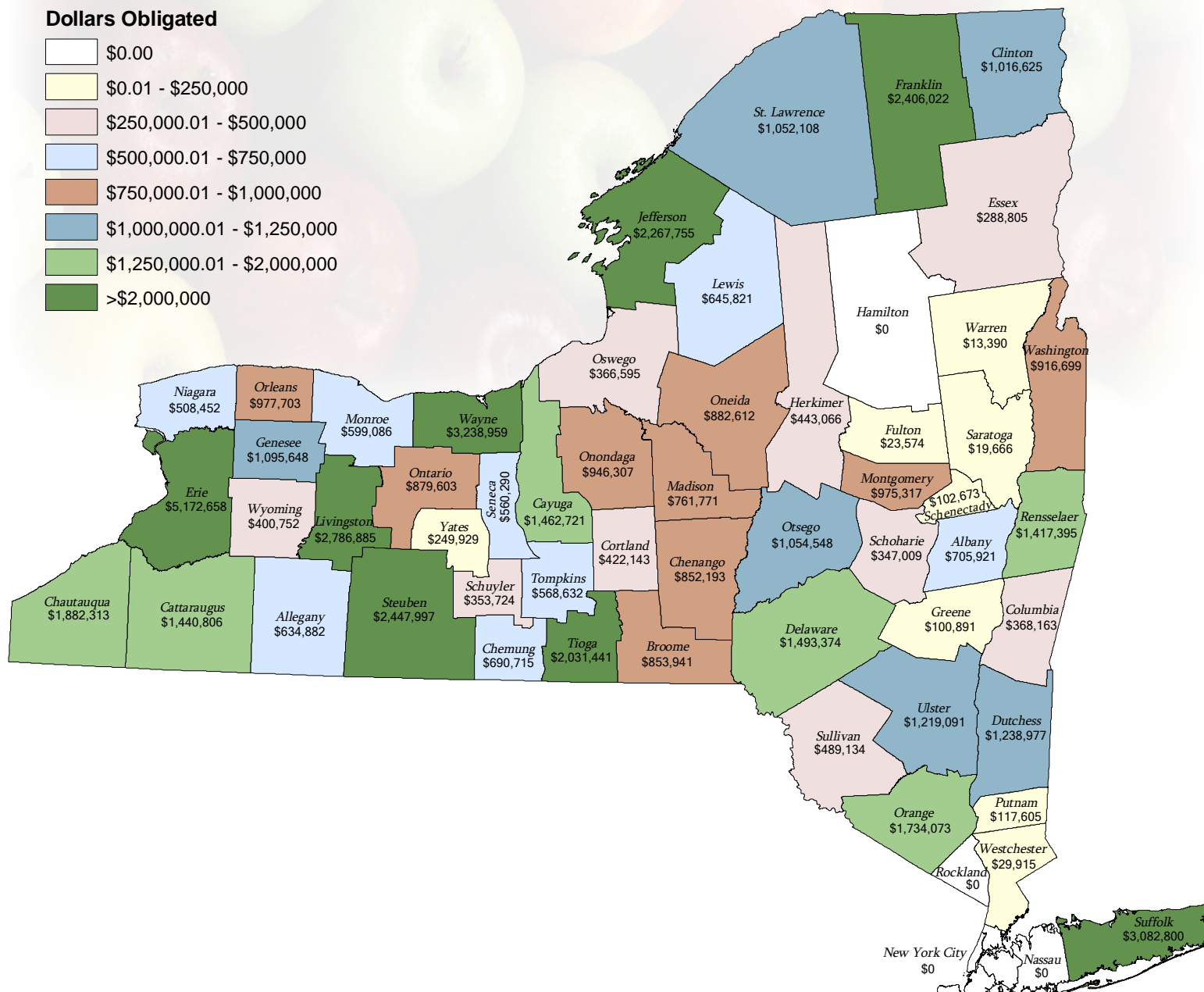
Resource Conservation and Development

(RC&D) —improves economics and quality of life in an area through prudent use and conservation of natural resources.

Financial Assistance

The map below depicts federal funding provided through conservation programs during fiscal years 2009 and 2010.

The dollar amounts you see below reflects the actual funding provided directly to farmers, landowners and entities within a New York County. Over the past two years, more than \$56 million dollars were obligated within New York.



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov

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NY Association of Conservation Districts Annual Report

NY Conservation District Employee Association March 2011

NYACD works in partnership representing District Directors, with the New York State Conservation Districts Employee Association (NYSCDEA), the NRCS, and the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, (NYSSWCC) to provide local, state and national conservation leadership and advocacy, while recognizing the independent responsibilities each partner has to sustain the environment and conserve our state's natural resources.

2011 NYACD Legislative Days was a success with District representatives visited 87 NYS Senate and Assembly Offices in Albany to educate legislators on the importance of the EPF and SWCDs needs for funding. Also asked for support of 3 pieces of legislation that will legitimize SWCD programs and enable Districts to put conservation on the ground more efficiently. The legislation includes:

- Modifying District Law to add a segment to acknowledge education programs already being done; and to include Invasive Species control as an authority of SWCDs.
- Include the SSWCC to have a seat on the EBM Council
- Legislation that will allow SWCDs the authority to apply directly for Waterfront Revitalization Grants

Currently, the legislation is in Committee, and receiving positive support in the Legislature along with support from the NY Association of Counties, and several townships. Part of NYACD's ongoing legislative efforts includes outreach to the EPF Coalition of organizations who count on EPF funding, to educate those groups on the broad scope of work that SWCDs perform. Meeting with these groups has been an eye opening learning experience for them, to realize the importance of SWCD existence.

New leadership of NYACD was elected in 2010. NYACD thanks Brad Rogers, outgoing President, for his many years of service and time dedicated to the SWCDs and NYACD.

2011 NYACD Board of Directors

Tom Nichols, President..... 315-323-0748
George Proios, 1st Vice President.....631-698-7691
Dan Farrand, 2nd Vice-President.. 607-542-8304
Glenn Larison, Secretary..... 607-594-3385
Chuck Colby, Treasurer.....585-721-0884
Robert Aman, At Large.....607-760-1957
Ted Konieczka, Division 1.....585-548-9948
Robert VanLare, Division 2.....315-483-8379
Clark Decker, Division 3.....315-265-5497
Division 4 - vacant
Ron Montessi, Division 5..... 518-793-7846
Scott Ryan, Division 6..... 518-673-8055
Jim Miccio, Division 7.....845-896-5488
Division 8 – Vacant
Judy Littrell, Executive Director..... 518-857-0060

nyacd@nycap.rr.com

nyacd.org

NYACD submitted testimony/comments in 2010-2011 for

- NYS Assembly EnCon Committee re: DEC staffing cuts
- Joint Hearing on Ag and Consumer Affairs
- EPA re: Chesapeake Bay TMDL
- 2011 Joint Senate and Assembly Budget Hearings
- NRCS re: proposed changes to 590 Standard

New in partnership in 2010, was the NYACD Annual Meeting combined Administrative/Manager's Conference that was held in October. In an effort to conserve financial and timely resources, 2 conferences successfully rolled into one.

Resolutions adopted at 2010 NYACD Annual Meeting

Chesapeake TMDL: establish new line item within the EPF for the watershed; plus, develop a plan with Conservation Partners, to protect NY from unfair regulations.

Work with Conservation Partners to develop reimbursed funding plan for SWCD work on gas drilling.

Alternative funding sources, to take advantage of 501C3 status
Streamlining AEM Database to improve efficiencies

Block Grants to States for Technical Assistance

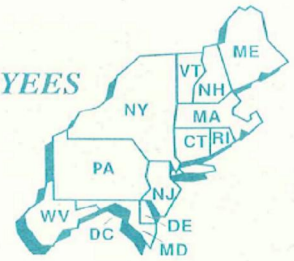
Protect Great Lakes from Asian Carp

Save the dates of October 16th-18th for the 2011 conference to be held in the Central NY area.

Summer of 2012: New York will be hosting the NACD Northeast Meeting

Moving ahead in 2011, NYACD looks forward to continuation of working with Conservation partners to assist SWCDs in efficiently implementing conservation practices, and educating the public/decision-makers on the critical role SWCDs have in local communities. We thank SWCDs for ongoing support, as 50 Districts paid dues to NYACD in 2010. This support is needed as we continue to work on funding issues, watershed issues, regulations, the 2012 Farm Bill, along with supporting the NYS FFA and the Envirothon. Please continue to share SWCD success stories, there is a lot to be told.

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES



Northeast Region Report

Ed Hoxsie
Regional Representative
Dutchess Co. SWCD
Millbrook, New York

<u>1425</u>	Number of District Employees in Region (estimated)
<u>04</u>	Number of Employees on State TLCs
<u>06</u>	Number of State Employee Associations in Region
<u>03</u>	Number of State Employees committees

<u>Officers:</u>	President	Ed Hoxsie, NY
	Vice President	Tim Thomas, NJ
	Secretary	Doug Kierst, NY
	Treasurer	Ines Grimm, NJ
	Past President	Rick Mickowski, DE

This year Employee and Directors descended on Portland, Maine for the 2010 NACD Regional Meeting. Again, NACDE played an integral role in the success of the meeting. Twelve (12) Employees from the Northeast State presented topics that included Hazard Mitigation Planning, Stormwater Management Techniques, Water Quality Outreach and our annual State of the States presentation that "How to survive in tough economic times".

Our Sunday afternoon tour was a hit for 58 attendees with a land and sea tour of Casco Bay, Portland Lighthouse and a trolley tour of historic Portland.

The morning breakfast meeting had one of our highest attendances in years. Our guest speaker was NCDEA Vice President Irene Moore from Wintersville, Ohio. Irene spoke on how to build a stronger District by diversifying programs.

This year's award recipient was George Proios, District Director of the Suffolk County SWCD in New York. The District Employee of the Year was Ernie Thurlow, District Manager of the Somerset Union Soil Conservation District in New Jersey.

NACDE & CD & G, LLC also scheduled four HydroCad trainings throughout the region, but was unable to hold one training session due to the lack of registrants.

This year NACDE was invited to participate in the New England Leadership meeting held in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The meeting brought together the partners to discuss issues and to work on solutions in order to strengthen the conservation program delivery system.

To close out the year the Northeast Region had 29 directors and Staff representing the 13 Northeast States attended the National Conservation Partnership Leadership Training Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

Years of Service Pin Recipients					
Division 1					
James Sroka	Erie	Water Quality Technician	July	2001	10
Sandra George	Genesee	Clerk/Typist (p/t)	January	2001	10
Division 2					
Patrick DeVoe	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	September	2001	10
Alan Masters	Onondaga	Resource Conservation Specialist	November	2001	10
Mark Schaub	Onondaga	Resource Conservation Specialist	November	2001	10
Doug Kierst	Cayuga	Field Manager	December	1996	15
Sandy Huey	Cayuga	Watershed Program Manager	October	1991	20
Phil Griswold	Seneca	District Manager	August	1981	30
Division 3					
Brian Wohnsiedler	Jefferson	Executive Director	January	2001	10
Dawn Howard	St. Lawrence	District Manager	January	1996	15
Cindy Moxley	Oswego	Secretary/Treasurer	May	1986	25
Ted Teletnick	Herkimer	District Field Manager	January	1976	35
Division 4					
Derek Green	Broome	Natural Resource Assistant	April	2001	10
Joel Fisk	Delaware	Stream Technician	February	2001	10
Gale Neale	Delaware	Stream Technician	September	2001	10
Mike Jura	Tioga	Conservation District Technician	May	2001	10
Seth Dennis	Tompkins	Education Coordinator	July	2001	10
Charles McElwee	Broome	Executive Director	January	1996	15
Stacy Russell	Cortland	Natural Resource Program Specialist	January	1996	15
Jim Curatolo	Tioga	Watershed Coordinator	March	1996	15
Craig Schutt	Tompkins	District Manager	April	1996	15
Blanche Delaney	Tioga	Executive Secretary	February	1986	25
Division 5					
Dave Reckahn	Essex	District Manager	February	1996	15
Division 6					
Susan Lewis	Albany	Administrative Mngr / Tech. Assist	June	2001	10
Nick Halford	Rensselaer	District Agronomy Technician	October	2001	10
Lisa Kuehnle	Schoharie	Nutrient Management Specialist	August	2001	10
Dave Pidgeon	Schenectady	Working Crew Leader	August	1996	15
John Kehoe	Schenectady	Heavy Equip. Operator	January	1991	20
Stephen Hoerz	Schoharie	District Manager	September	1986	25
Division 8					
Elizabeth Condon	Suffolk	Account Clerk	April	1996	15



President's Report: 2010 - 2011

As I complete my term as President of the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association I want to first thank all of you for putting me in this position. It has truly been an honor to serve you. I would like to think that the Executive Board members and I have moved the ball forward a little bit in our objective to strengthen local Soil and Water Conservation Districts of New York State.

One of the main problems that the employee association has been working on over the past year is the issues with the NYS Environmental Protection Fund. The problems with the NYS EPF appear to have stabilized this past year. I have been working very closely with Judy at NYACD to keep our legislators aware of what is going on with the EPF and how it is affecting districts and landowners in our respective counties. This was the number one issue of concern at the annual legislative days in January. The CDEA worked closely with NYACD and develop a coordinated effort to ensure we are all carried the same message forward. Additionally, I have kept in close conversation with Mike Latham about the concerns that districts are having with payments out of the EPF and he is doing everything he can to get as many payments out as the department will allow. If you have any questions or concerns about the EPF please let me or Mike know.

The office rent issues with NRCS continue to cause some in the state great difficulties. To try and sort this issue out I have been part of a reinvigorated 4 – Way Partnership. Astor Boozer, NRCS, Judy Littrel, NYACD, Mike Latham NYS SWCC and I have meet several times to discuss the office issues and where we stand in the process. Things have changed from a year ago and I encourage each district to work with their local DC and Watershed Leader at NRCS as you move forward with the rent issues in your county. Feel free to contact me with questions and concerns regarding this issue and I will help where I can.

The Technical Development Training Subcommittee continues to move forward with the development of training curriculum for district employees from across the state. Several of the courses offered this year at the annual WQS are a direct result of this work currently underway. We continue to seek funding opportunities that would allow us to take this program to the next level and put full time engineers on staff located strategically across the state. However we are not waiting for that funding to come through to move forward with the other facets of the program as outlined in the strategic plan endorsed by the NYCDEA Executive board last year. I have spoken with Astor Boozer at NRCS and he has pledged NRCS support in the development of this program. Development of levels one and two curriculum is currently under way and will be introduced to the membership as soon as they are complete. In addition, NYACD has recognized this as an issue and have made this one of the legislative priorities that they will be working on.

2010 was the third year of Part B and C funding and reporting for Performance Measures. Although they may not be exactly how we originally envisioned additional funds to Districts, the NYSCDEA should continue to work with the Performance Measures for now and evaluate whether they should be modified. Staying involved with the State Committee members will be important to make sure they understand how the Performance Measures are working and impacting Districts. It is also important that we share how we are using these funds to plan and implement conservation at the local level so that we can work on increasing the EPF line item to Districts well beyond \$3 million.

As President of the NYSCDEA I have had the opportunity to represent you at State Committee meetings, NYACD meetings, NRCS technical and management team meetings, 4-Way Partnership, Stormwater Subcommittee, Technical Advisory Committee and others. I have tried to make sure that other organizations and agencies understand the type of work Districts are capable of and that when given resources, we make conservation happen. I have also had the opportunity to travel to Nashville to attend the national NACD Annual Meeting. One thing that is clear is that Districts in New York State are very strong and measure up to most other states. I believe that we are real leaders in conservation and we have developed Districts that are a model for other states to replicate.

The NYSCDEA has many people working in the organization on a variety of activities. I want to thank all of the committees who work throughout the year to put on successful programs year after year. The Association could not do it without the work of so many. I would also take a moment to tell other Soil and Water Conservation District employees to get involved in some way in the Association, especially newer employees. Remember, it is free to be a member and you can obtain benefits such as Conservation Skills Workshop, Water Quality Symposium, Envirothon, and Administrative Conference by just showing up. However, I would suggest that you can get even more benefits by getting involved in a committee or helping with various Association business. Not only do you get the satisfaction of putting together some good programs but you get to share your talents and ideas, meet employees across the state, forge friendships, get out of the office for a little bit and get some new perspectives. It is an Employees' Association and it starts and ends with dedicated employees working together to make us stronger.

I also need to thank the staff of the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District. They have been patient and supportive over the past four years as I served as Vice-President and President. I am so proud of the work that these folks are doing. Also, I appreciate my Board's support through all of this.

Thank you again for the honor to serve as your President.

Steve Lorraine, President, NYSCDEA, Inc.



*"Providing Today,
Protecting Tomorrow"*

New York State Conservation District
Employees Association

Vice President's Report: April 2010 – March 2011

I cannot believe that two years of being Vice President have come and gone. It seems that as soon as I finished the 2010 Symposium, then I had to gear up for 2011 ...but I did get some time off in the summer!

Many things have occurred this past year, some good, some bad. I don't need to tell you that the State of NY is in serious financial trouble that has impacted all of us in many ways, professionally and personally. The price of a gallon of gas went up \$0.11 overnight, here in the Town of Warrensburg, food is going up, budgets are being slashed..... However through it all, the vast majority of Districts have remained extremely resilient and in a position to show our continued value to the local communities governments.

I can see through the Symposium how folks from across NY (not just Districts) feel about the training that is offered at this session. Last year we had around 295 attendees in the hotel, this year we currently stand at 350. We do have a few more instructors, but we have an excellent turnout and representation from Districts statewide and from NRCS, private contractors and other partnering agencies. It is a great sign to me that the attendance has grown, because I feel that this event offers quality training opportunities. Adding to your capabilities or expanding your current ones should be a priority these days and will help you when you need that recognition from the local communities and governments.

Obviously the CDEA is not just about the Symposium, and we have many great training opportunities through the year. The Conservation Skills Workshop, the Administrative Conference (now partnered with NYACD) and regional trainings and events, help to bring information and technology to Districts in a cost effective and common sense way. I hope these events bring together members of the CDEA and provide that sense of community as well.

The role of the NYSCDEA has become very important with the ongoing development of the Technical Development Training program. The need for diversified training is important, but there should be some consistency out there. I have been around now for almost thirteen years and it is amazing how diverse we are and that there are so many activities (both large and small) that the Districts and the NYSCDEA participate in.

It is encouraging to see that Districts have been accomplishing the performance measures and have been receiving their funding. These measures help to develop a certification of your District in the eyes of the state and show that we are able to meet standards and goals. We talk about locally led conservation and in actuality we accomplish that. Districts do a great job with getting conservation on the ground and keeping resources close to home. You should be proud of that. Keep up the work for the benefit of our resources and the people of your community. I take pride at being a District employee for what we do.

Jim Lieberum, CPESC
Vice President

Division I 2010 Annual Report

Allegany County

In 2010 Allegany County broadened the focus on AEM. We provided soil sampling on 3 farms for a total of 600 acres with much more interest for 2011. We also provided nutrient management assistance on another 2500 acres. Three CAFO farms were assisted with certification of their VTA and waste water treatment systems to meet DEC requirements. The following projects were installed – a roofed barnyard, 3900 feet of grassed waterways and a milk house waste water treatment system.

Cattaraugus County

Agricultural Projects: Several ag waste storages, bunk silo projects, barnyard runoff projects, grazing systems & associated water systems, and others were completed in 2010 utilizing both NYS Ag. NPS grants and EQIP funds. The District worked closely with NRCS on many of the EQIP projects, and we were able to leverage the state and federal funds on several of the projects. We also partnered with Chautauqua and Erie Counties in submitting projects for funding through Round 17 of the NYS Ag. NPS program.

Streambank Projects: The District assisted the County DPW in completion of 5 streambank projects, most of which were funded through FEMA from the August 2009 flooding. Several additional projects were bid, but were unable to be completed in 2010 because of permit time restrictions, and will be completed in 2011. The District also assisted NRCS and local highway departments with 5 projects funded through EWP, which also were the result of the 2009 flooding.

Flood Control Operation & Maintenance: The District assisted the county and the Conewango Watershed Commission with the annual O&M of 16 PL-566 flood control dams in the Ischua & Conewango Creek Watersheds.

Water Quality Council: The District obtained funding through Part B as well as a NYS Senate Member Item grant to evaluate alternatives to address water quality issues in the Conewango Creek relating to low oxygen levels in the stream caused by lack of flow from diversion by the NYS Dredge. We were also involved in a number of programs and workshops related to stormwater, watershed assessment, etc.

Envirothon: 16 teams representing 10 schools participated in the 2010 Cattaraugus County Envirothon. Hinsdale Central won the event and went on to place 15th at the State Envirothon.

Chautauqua County

The Chautauqua County Legislature recently implemented a 5% Bed Tax. They dedicated 3% to the funding of tourism projects and 2% to go towards lakes and waterway water quality improvement projects. The Water Quality Coordinating Committee ranks the projects on a set of criteria and turns them back to the legislature for funding. Over the past two years, the Chaut. Co. SWCD has been awarded 44% of the projects with funding up to \$40,000 per project. The District also purchased a warm season grass attachment for our no-till seeder so that we can now direct seed more varieties of grasses.

Erie County

2010 was a very busy construction year in Erie County. The District provided special assistance to the county highway department to restore forty stream sites damaged by a 2009 storm event with FEMA and FHWA funding. Emergency work continued through the USDA-NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program which restored an additional seventeen sites in the county. Grant project construction continued as well which included Ag and Non Ag Nonpoint Source Projects. These included six streambank restoration projects, three milking center collection systems, one silage leachate

collection, one barnyard system and two grazing systems. District staff conducted four DEC 4-hour stormwater E&SC trainings for contractors and municipal officials throughout the year. All other annual District programs went very well in 2010. Through the Tree and Shrub program 48,450 seedlings were distributed. Seventeen teams participated in this year's Envirothon with Erie County's Springville Team moving on to place fifth overall in NYS. Lastly, the District board and staff said goodbye to Francis Gernatt who stepped down from the board after thirty years of service.

Genesee County

Not exactly a highlight - manure spreading on shallow soils over limestone bedrock by a local farm was blamed in March for contaminating the well of a neighboring resident. The District was requested by DEC and others to investigate and assist in a resolution of the issue. This was not Genesee County's first incident of this nature, so a number of individuals and agencies soon became involved. A "task force" of directly involved agencies and consultants was assembled. In the end, NYSDEC, NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee Field Staff, USGS, Pro-Dairy at Cornell, and Cornell faculty were involved along with District staff. A training program was prepared and conducted in November for nutrient management planners and farmers in the "karst" area of the county.

Subsurface drainage was, once again, the leading practice installed on farms in the county. District staff worked on 816,100 feet of tile representing 41 projects on 22 farms worth \$1,638,750. That number of feet (816,100) is the highest in a single year since the District was formed in 1944. It brings our grand total of feet of tile installed to 10,610,826 (that's only 2010 miles) since 1944.

The District was awarded a Round 16 AGNPSACP grant for the Upper Tonawanda Creek watershed for over \$600,000 in state funding. This is the largest grant from this program that Genesee County has ever received.

Niagara County

The District performed planning and the Remedial Action Plan (RAP) coordination for the Eighteen Mile Creek watershed and Area of Concern (AOC) through an Environmental Protection Agency grant. As part of the RAP coordination, we initiated the Legacy Act Sediment Investigation for Eighteen Mile Creek, and completed the Trophic Trace food web model for the creek. We participated on the planning committees for the Tonawanda Creek and Niagara River watersheds. The district continued to provide assessment assistance with stream bank stabilization, shoreline protection and erosion sites on the Niagara River, miscellaneous creeks in the County and Lake Ontario. The district hydro-seeder was used to re-seed approximately one acre of reconstructed road ditch. Our office performed the monitoring and maintenance for 240 acres of grasslands planted through a US Fish & Wildlife grant. Four hundred and fifty grass carp were released into Bond's Lake in a County park to control the invasive Eurasian Milfoil in the 33 acre lake.

The design plans for 2 agri-chemical handling facilities, 2 barnyard runoff management systems, and 4 silage leachate collection systems were prepared through the AEM program. We provided construction layout and inspection services for installation of nine agricultural best management practices. Assistance was also provided to 3 CAFO farms for the certification of their agricultural waste storage and transfer systems. Approximately 39,000 lineal feet of drainage tile and drainage ditches was staked out and designed. The tree and shrub seedling program distributed over 46,000 seedlings to residents in the County. We received federal funding to conduct Lake Ontario LAMP/AOC education and outreach.

Orleans County

The District directors and staff were very proud to receive a Special Recognition Award from the Orleans County Legislature in 2010 for work we had accomplished in the county.

We have seen some cuts in money available for projects, but some funding is still available from most sources. Fortunately, reimbursements for grants from previous years have continued to come through when requested. In the past year we were able to add a landscape rake and a pull behind broadcast seeder to our equipment list. The main intent for this equipment is to be available for use on establishing grassed waterways and filter strips. We also purchased a utility trailer for transporting the equipment and our 4-wheel ATV. This also was the year we purchased a new computer (and software) and new printer. Nine Agrichemical Mixing Facilities were completed in 2010. A silage leachate collection/ treatment system and a grassed waterway were also installed last year. Eleven farmers will benefit from over 51 miles of subsurface drainage tile designed in 2010. The District also sponsored a training session where 66 persons received certification in erosion and sediment control required by the New York State DEC. Other statistics:

- Distributed over 7,000 seedlings & transplants
- Supplied over 1,200 fish through our county stocking program
- Supplied 67 grass carp to 13 pond owners
- Collected 2,807 pounds of trash at the Shoreline Cleanup Day
- Collected over 300 used tires for recycling
- Completed 236 Soil Group Worksheets

By providing such a variety of services to the residents of Orleans County, the Soil and Water Conservation District is able to not only maintain, but improve the environment and quality of life for all our neighbors.



Wyoming County

In 2010, the District purchased a new Finn T-90 Hydroseeder with funding through the Finger Lakes/Lake Ontario Protection Alliance (FL/LOWPA) as part of a cooperative agreement with the Wyoming County Highway Dept.

This past fall, the District took delivery of a Bigfoot Ag Plastics Baler as part of a partnership with Cornell University and Cooperative Extension to develop an agricultural plastics recycling program.

The District has received a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Grant for Stream Channel Restoration on the North Branch of the Wiscoy Creek as well as a Great Lakes Commission Grant for Erosion & Sediment Control on Agricultural Lands in Genesee, Monroe & Wyoming Counties.

We are continuing to work on the implementation of Agricultural BMP's in several priority watersheds through the NYS Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Abatement & Control Program as well as continuing to work with several agencies, groups and organizations in the development of Watershed Management Plans in the Black, Oatka, Tonawanda Creeks and Silver Lake Watersheds.

The District has also continued a cooperative agreement with Wyoming County for the formal review of Agricultural Districts.



New York State Conservation District Employees Association, Inc.
www.nyscdea.com

2010 Division II Annual Report

I would like to begin by saying thank you to all of the dedicated employees working here in Division II. It is your hard work and dedication to the Districts that make our goal of improving water quality possible. For the last few years, I have had the pleasure of serving you as your CDEA Division II Representative. I enjoy this opportunity, and I intend to continue to serve as your Representative in the future.

2010 has been a very challenging year financially for all of us. With this challenge, the Districts have done what we do very well: adapt. Several Districts found new innovative ways to provide more efficient service to their Counties. Others have found ways to improve efficiencies within in their own offices. Some have implemented new, never before offered programs, as a way to generate needed funding.

Also in 2010, Division II welcomed Kelly Emerick to Monroe County SWCD as Executive Director along with Lindsey Gerstenslager to Wayne County SWCD as Executive Director.

Ontario County Highlights:

Our District was awarded a Round 16 AG NPS grant for the Northern Watersheds Ag Program. This grant will provide funding to several farms within the watershed to implement numerous water quality BMPs. The AEM program was successful again in 2010, and resulted in the first ever equine census recorded in Ontario County. The UPP program was expanded in 2010 to include the City of Geneva.

Also, in 2010 our staff conducted several educational events. Programs included two 4-hour contractor/developer classes in both Ontario and Wayne Counties, the 2-hr CEO stormwater training course, Fun on the Farm, Home A Syst, and Lake Friendly Living to name a few. In addition the District also conducted 2 original outreach and education programs such as the Water Workshop for Real Estate Professionals, where realtors receive CEU's through the NYS Dept of Education. Furthermore, the District cooperated with a watershed group to complete a shoreline erosion control garden on Honeoye Lake. This was the first of its kind in Ontario County. Also in 2010 a staff member became a Certified Professional in Stormwater Quality (CPSWQ) and a Certified Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Specialist (CMS4S).

Monroe Count Highlights:

In 2010 the District created a part time Soil & Water Resources Technician position, and welcomed Caroline Myers back to the District to fill that role. Two staff members received Certified Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Specialist certifications (CMS4s). One staff member received Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control In-Training Certification (CPESC-IT). Through the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County, the MCSWCD staff completed 305 requests for stormwater technical assistance including construction inspections, MS4 and Construction SPDES Permit Assistance, SWPPP Review, handling construction site complaints, handling drainage complaints, streambank erosion assistance, stormwater pond assistance, and MS4 Audit assistance. The District held 13 NYS DEC endorsed 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Trainings in 2010, and trained 593 contractors, developers, and qualified inspectors to meet NYS DEC GP-0-10-001 compliance. The District developed a Fall 2010 -Spring 2011 Western NY Stormwater Management Training Series with Don Lake and successfully implemented the Spring 2010 Western NY Stormwater Management Training Series with Don Lake. The MCSWCD held a total of 41 stormwater related trainings and workshops in 2010, and trained 1,096 people. Workshops included Site Plan Review for Code Enforcement Officers, Living Next to Stormwater Ponds, In-field construction site inspections trainings, and a bus tour to showcase Green Infrastructure Practices in Monroe County, and a 3 day Stream Stabilization, Investigation, and Deign Workshop with Dave Derrick from USACOE. The District was awarded \$140,000 in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money for the project "Improving Water Quality in the New York Lake Ontario Basin" to be used for planning and implementing agricultural best management practices in the watershed. Monroe County SWCD, along with Wyoming and Genesee counties were awarded \$500,000 total in grant funds from Great Lakes Commission to implement erosion and sediment control practices on agricultural land in the Black and Oatka Creek Watersheds. The Monroe County SWCD closed out our Ag NPS Round 11 Genesee River Implementation Grant in 2010. The grant consisted of 14 BMP's on 12 Farms in the Genesee River Watershed. This Grant was a collective team effort between Monroe County SWCD, Genesee County SWCD, and Wyoming County SWCD to target priority resource concerns on agricultural land in the Genesee River Watershed. The total amount of AG NPS grant monies utilized in this grant was \$382,446. 600 feet of Streambank Stabilization BMPs were implemented on two municipal projects in Monroe County with funding assistance from Environmental Protection Fund through the Stormwater Coalition of Monroe County, and through FL-LOWPA funds from the Monroe County Health Department (MCSWCD Staff provided technical assistance and project oversight for both projects).



New York State Conservation District Employees Association, Inc.
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Onondaga County Highlights:

The Onondaga County SWCD has had a successful 2010! The District secured \$1.3 Million in outside sources of funding through grant writing initiatives, both in-house and with partners such as our neighboring SWCDs, County DOT, and the Izaak Walton League. All staff members were an integral part of the grant writing process. Accordingly, it was the efforts, and successes, of our staff that have enabled the District to maintain the programs currently offered into future years. In 2010, District staff applied \$750,000 of conservation funding to multiple BMPs on 27 farms. To earn income, the District taught 24 NYS DEC 4-hour contractor classes to over 1,000 participants.

Immediate challenges for the District include generating more "earned income" from a variety of services. The revenues generated from the earned income program will be paramount to paying the fixed costs that the District incurs each year. The District realizes, and appreciates, the partnerships that have been formed in the past with: neighboring Districts, USDA, Cornell Cooperative Extension, and local City, County, and municipal government. It will be these "partnerships" that help the District navigate the rough economic challenges that the future holds.

Seneca County Highlights:

NO REPORT PROVIDED

Cayuga County Highlights:

The District has installed several Ag BMP's in several watersheds within the County. The District staffs have been busy completing the earthwork associated with the Cayuga County IDA Eagle Drive Business Park. This is a joint project between the CCIDA, County Highway Dept and the Town. The District also completed over 149 acres of no till seeding. 70 of those acres were seeded to native warm season grasses valuable to ground nesting birds. Also, the District received several Round 16 AG NPS grant awards in 2010. The wood waste-recycling program resulted in over 30,000 cubic yards of wood waste being recycled. Also in 2010 the District completed over 12 acres of critical area seeding work on road banks, steep slopes and stream banks. Also, the District staff hosted 5 contractor stormwater trainings. Lastly, the regional methane Bio Digester Project is ongoing, with the generator set being installed in 2010.

Wayne County Highlights:

In 2010 the Salmon Creek stabilization project was completed with several BMP's installed to include hard armoring, in stream weirs and shrub plantings along the banks. Several drainage maintenance projects were completed in 2010, which consisted of removing beaver dams, blockages and woody debris. The aquatic weed-harvesting program continued and removed over 1710 tons of material removed from 4 embayment. Also in 2010 the AEM program continued with District staff beginning to develop comprehensive farm plans using the tiered process. In October of 2010 Ag Implementation Specialist Terry Reynolds joined the District to assist with projects in the Tier 4 and 5 stages of the AEM program. Also in 2010 District staff implemented 15 grazing plans.

Livingston County Highlights

NO REPORT PROVIDED

Yates County Highlights

NO REPORT PROVIDED

In closing, please remember that **the NYACDEA is your Association. Get involved, be a part of an Association that was established for your benefit.** It represents not only the District employees in Division II but also each and every District employee across the State. The people who volunteer their time to serve as Division Representatives and Executive Board Members are the reason this Association continues to be successful and provide important programs and services year after year.

Respectfully submitted,

P.J. Emerick CPESC, CPSWQ, CMS4S
Senior District Manager
Division II Representative
Ontario County SWCD

2010 Division III Highlights

Herkimer County

The Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District had another very successful year during 2010 as we continued to serve the residents of Herkimer County. There were 378 service requests during 2010 covering a very diverse array of soil and water conservation needs within the county.



Cooperators Dinner: The Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) held its 11th annual Cooperator's Dinner March 29th at the Cedarville Fire Hall. Over 100 people attended the dinner, which featured award presentations and updates from the SWCD. Keynote speaker Patrick Hooker, Commissioner of Agriculture, captivated the audience with his knowledge of statewide and local agricultural issues. Herkimer County Dairy Princess Leah Davis and Dairy Ambassador's Hannah Douglas and Stacey Collins served milk punch and cheese during social hour. The Robert Entiwstle Family Farm received the Conservation Farmer Award along with an AEM roadside sign. Mary Jane Smithson received the James F. Huxtable Memorial Award and Krista Harwick was presented with the Conservation Educator Award.

AEM: The fifth year of the NYS Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Statewide Initiative was very successful in Herkimer County with the completion of 4 Tier 1 Assessments, 2 Tier 2 Assessments, and 3 Tier 4 Implementation Projects. The sixth year of this program is now underway as we continue to implement the Herkimer County SWCD AEM Strategic Plan.

Conservation Education: The Herkimer County Envirothon was held Thursday May 6th at Herkimer County Community College. Over 30 volunteers and 50 local high school students attended the event. All participants received an Envirothon shirt and a nice lunch. Awards were given to the top 3 finishers and each member of the winning team was presented with a \$50 cash prize. Poland Central School Team A took the top spot and represented Herkimer County at the NYS Envirothon.

The 47th annual Conservation Field Day was held on May 26th at the Herkimer Diamond Corporation KOA Campground in Middleville. Approximately 650 sixth grade students received conservation related instruction on a wide range of topics at 13 separate stations. SWCD staff assisted with the site layout. District Technician Gerry Smithson gave the tree planting presentation while District Office Manager Deb Michael and District Field Manager Ted Teletnick coordinated and supervised the well-appreciated refreshment booth.

The 2010 Farm/Home Safety Day for 5th graders was held on June 8th at the Herkimer County Fairgrounds in Frankfort. Over 500 students attended this year's Frankfort camp bringing our

grand total to over 5500 Herkimer County students. Presenters spoke at 16 safety stations including: animal safety, ATV/snowmobile safety, electrical safety, fire safety, emergency 911 procedures, Lyme disease, chemical look a likes, poison ivy/poison oak, pool and water safety, lawn equipment safety, bicycle safety, rabies, mechanical hazards, sun safety, disability awareness, and emergency medical aid.

Earned Income: Our Tree and Shrub Program was again a huge success. 272 landowners purchased 12,500 bare root tree seedlings and transplants. This was complimented by the sale of an additional 4000 ground cover plants, 66 wildflower seed packets, and 22 bluebird houses. The District transported trees from the New York State Tree Nursery in Saratoga to Herkimer for local pickup. This effort was provided as a service to the 20 landowners that ordered 4,690 trees from the State. This DEC sponsored program in combination with the District's tree program resulted in 21,190 trees and groundcovers being planted in Herkimer County in 2010.

Barley straw is also available to landowners during our spring and fall programs. Barley straw is added to small farm and recreational ponds to improve water clarity by reducing the growth of algae cells. 48 individuals purchased 139 bales of barley straw to enhance the water quality of Herkimer County ponds.

Our Fish Stocking Program resulted in the sale of 55 Grass Carp, 225 Catfish, 450 Largemouth Bass, and 3200 Fathead Minnows.

Agricultural Assistance: During 2010, work continued on the "North Winfield Creek Agricultural Best Management Implementation Project" with the completion of a manure storage structure. A time extension until November 15th, 2011 was approved to complete this high priority project that will serve to protect the drinking water for the village of West Winfield.

Two proposals were submitted in December under Round 17 of the NYS Nonpoint Source Agricultural Program. These are BMP Implementation projects in the North Winfield Creek Watershed and Nowadaga Creek Watershed.

The Herkimer County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC) continues to meet at least bi-monthly with many ongoing projects utilizing Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) funding. Herkimer County BMP Implementation funding was enhanced by the NYS Reimbursement Part "B" and Upper Susquehanna Coalition funding. BMP's installed this year included 2 barnyard projects, and 3 cattle lanes with culvert crossings.

Mohawk River Coalition: The "Mohawk River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts" consisting of 14 counties, continues to meet bi-monthly to move the watershed management planning project ahead. This project is being funded by a "Local Waterfront Revitalization Grant" for \$370,000 with an equal match. A project coordinator and a private consultant have been hired. A GIS specialist is being sought.

Retirement: The District said goodbye to District Conservationist Bub Barra. His 30 year career ended with over 18 years here in Herkimer County. Our staff and farmers here in the county will miss Bub's experience and work ethic. We wish him a long and happy retirement.

Jefferson County

Sandy Creek: Year 2 of EBM allowed us to purchase a 15 foot no till drill. We had planned on planting 450 acres of cover crop on high priority fields, but received the drill too late to do that. We also were successful in securing a \$600,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant. This grant will allow us to stabilize 3000 feet of streambank in the Sandy Creek watershed. The streambank stabilization will enhance the buffer work we did last year.

Ag Nonpoint source projects: We had a busy summer implementing BMPs. We installed two complete silage leachate collection systems, including heavy use area, waste transfer and vegetated treatment area. We installed a waste transfer for a silage leachate system and heavy use area and waste transfer for another silage leachate system.

CNMP: We continue to work with 10 CAFO farms (5 large, 5 medium) in the county providing CNMP services for over 25,000 acres. We also developed 4 CNMPs for non CAFO farms.

Soil Group Worksheets: Assisted 78 farms; 168 parcels; 17,966 acres.

AEM: Through Tier 4, we installed a heavy use area for a small beef farm. We also assisted NRCS with a retrofit of a silage leachate collection system that included construction of a new bunk with heavy use area, waste transfer and vegetated treatment area. We worked with two vineyards to develop 3a plans. We continue to promote AEM in the northern part of the county to increase participation. We continue to work with a variety of farms: dairy, beef, goats, vineyards, and other livestock.

In October, the County Legislature designated the month as Soil and Water Conservation Month. The District hosted a Conservation Tour and our Conservation Farmer Dinner. The District had the opportunity to do a brief radio interview, in addition to tv coverage of the annual FFA Land Judging Competition.

We also held a grazing tour at the John Peck Farm. We were honored to have the Grass Whisperer, Troy Bishopp, as our guest speaker. The District developed a number of grazing plans during the year.

Forestry: Approximately 32 mbf of softwood, 29 mbf of hardwood and 42 cords of pulpwood were harvested from the County forestlands covering about 123 acres. This generated a grand total of \$4500 in 2010. We received a \$25,000 Community and Urban Forestry grant that will allow us to plant trees in 4 communities.

Recreational Trails: Jefferson County was awarded a \$107,000 Recreational Trails Program grant through NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. The grant will be used to develop 6 miles of multi use trails. We are also developing an Environmental Impact Study

for the county.

Conservation Farm of the Year: Our award went to the Magos family, Morning Star Farms. They were also awarded an AEM sign.

Educational Programs:

Farm Safety Day Camp	Fragile Wilderness
Envirothon	4-H and FFA contests held during the County Fair
FFA Land Judging	Arbor Day
Ag Extravaganza	Had a booth at the County Fair
Dairy Days	Job Fair at our local community college
Environmental Awareness	

Other: Hydroseeded various areas throughout the County as needed. Repaired dry hydrants as needed.

Lewis County

Black River Watershed Planning Initiative: The purpose of the watershed management plan is to examine the existing physical and regulatory conditions of the natural and built environments within the watershed, identify those factors negatively impacting water quality, and recommend strategies that focus on the protection and improvement of water quality in the watershed. The Black River drains 1,920 square miles encompassing Lewis, Jefferson, Herkimer, Hamilton and Oneida Counties and flows through 37 townships and 55 municipalities. The completed watershed plan will now position all communities within the drainage basin to compete for state and federal funds to implement identified projects. As part of this plan, a memorandum of understanding was created to both raise awareness to the communities about the plan and to outline that each community agrees to work together to protect and restore water quality in the Black River Watershed. Since December of 2009, 31 communities have signed the MOU. This project is funded by the NYS Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources, Senator Griffo, and the Beaver River Advisory Committee (BRAC) and sponsored by the Town of Greig. Lewis County SWCD is the project manager in cooperation with the Tug Hill Commission and the NYS DEC. The watershed plan was completed by Bergman & Associates. The steering committee is planning an Annual Black River Watershed Conference in May of 2010 to discuss current issues and align communities with funding for their projects.

Soil Survey Project: The Lewis County Soil Survey Project is a local effort to revise the old soil survey. The goal of this project is to re-map outdated soils originally mapped in the 1940s and 50s in the Black River Valley. With financial assistance from Lewis County, the Town of Martinsburg, BRAC and the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance the SWCD hired a contractual soil scientist to begin developing a soils legend that will be used in re-mapping the county. This first phase, over 890 soil transects, is complete and data entry has begun. The Lewis County Soil Survey Committee will reconvene to establish future priorities.

Farm Tour: The primary purpose of the 2010 Lewis County Agricultural Tour was to update county decision makers on the investment that the forestry industry has made in Lewis County and the most difficult hurdles it is now facing. The LCSWCD, Farm Bureau, Cornell Cooperative Extension and NYS DEC organized a tour from harvesting logs to manufacturing a finished product. The tour started with an explanation of the logging process at an active logging operation, followed by a panel discussion at the American Maple Museum and finally a tour of the Qubica AMF Bowling Pin manufacturer that utilizes local maple for its bowling pin production.

Invasive Species: The Lake Bonaparte Conservation Club (LBCC), located in the town of Diana, has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to control an infestation of *Eurasian milfoil*. After larval weevil implantation, adult weevil introduction and now moth introduction, the LBCC is beginning to see progress in the battle against milfoil. An independent study funded through the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FL-LOWPA) has identified that the larval weevil implantation was not as successful as the adult introduction. This independent evaluation has made an effective use of tax payer dollars in pointing towards more successful means of biological control of the invasive milfoil.

Madison County

Madison County is located in the geographic center of New York State. Our northern border is Oneida Lake and Oneida County, and we are neighbors to Onondaga County on the west, Cortland County to the South and Chenango and Otsego counties to the south and east. The county is split into three major watersheds; the Susquehanna, the Oneida Lake and the Mohawk. Multiple man-made reservoirs were built in the late eighteen hundreds to supply the Erie Canal system with water. They no longer supply the canal but do make wonderful summer camping areas for county and non-county residents. The county is comprised of 423,040 acres.

Agriculture is the number one industry in the county and generates approximately 62 million dollars in sales per year. Our agricultural community is a diverse and dynamic group of individuals that are changing all the time. The dairy industry is still our largest sector at this time comprised of over 200 operating dairies. There are also beef, horse, Christmas tree farms, vegetable and crop farms that comprise the remainder of the 734 total farms in the county. The district is working hard to correct non-point source pollution in the county through the implementation of BMP's on many farms. Through the use of multiple funding sources such as the state EPF, federal programs and special watershed projects such as the Tioughnioga River Watershed project, we have been able to assist many farmers in the county to meet their non-point source pollution reduction goals. We continue to work with our partners at NRCS with programs like Graze NY and CREP to meet landowner objectives.

Outside of the tremendous workload with our farming community, the district is actively involved with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition and NYS DEC in the implementation of the tributary strategy to try and meet the regulatory actions being implemented in the Susquehanna River watershed. We work with many landowners and municipalities with

drainage problems as they arise. Currently we are work with our fellow districts in the Mohawk River Valley Watershed to develop a watershed plan for this area of the county. We are actively involved with the Oneida Lake Watershed Management Plan and the implementation of that plan in the county.

We continue to hold a successful annual tree sale and our annual fish sale in the spring of each year. We continue to hold our yearly conservation field day at Morrisville College. This event usually has 300-400 sixth grade students attend to see multiple demonstrations on a variety of conservation topics ranging from windmills to fisheries.

Oneida County

Tim is really busy these days trying to finish his 3 plans to become a Certified Planner. He's working with the CAFO farms in our county to help them remain in compliance with DEC regulations. Tim is also working with Bill to implement AEM on as many farms as possible.

Despite the winter months, Bill remains active with our County's grazing projects. He held several grazing meetings in 2010 and all were well attended.

Eileen works tirelessly on the tree program with Tim. She's also the coordinator for the Farm Safety Day Camp which is in its 11th year.

Jo-Anne has been named the Project Administrator for the Mohawk River Watershed project - a 14 County initiative that started with a Coalition of Conservation Districts. Jo-Anne is also working on the County Envirothon - we had 21 teams in 2010 and we're hoping for the same in 2011.

Oswego County

No Report

St. Lawrence County

In 2010 staffing was the big news, with three out of four position changes. Technician Katie Maloney took a better paying position with NRCS. Secretary Raeanne Dulanski moved into the Technician seat. Raeanne is currently completing a soils engineering course, working towards certified planner status, and representing the SWCD on a grass bioenergy working group. Tamme Sharpe was hired as the new Secretary and will be learning GIS. Forester Aaron Earl resigned in order to move closer to his family. That position is in the process of being filled. Manager Dawn Howard is still here...

Our new No-Till Grain Drill was put to work in the spring and was very well received. In October we received our long anticipated Ag Plastic Baler which both St. Lawrence and Franklin Counties are using. As markets improve, we hope to promote this more.

We continue to manage 4,270 acres of county forest properties, help with 530 miles of snowmobile trail, and hope to open 121+ miles of across the county ATV trail next summer. This trail will connect to Franklin, Jefferson, Lewis Co. and beyond. \$76,000 in county timber sales were completed, along with five private forest management plans. Over 1400 requests for technical assistance were serviced. One federal wetland delineation was completed. WRP monitoring on over 183 sites for NRCS was completed along with two WHIP contribution agreements. New grazing plans were written. We currently have over \$800,000 in Ag NPS grants we are trying to implement. The new St. Lawrence River Watershed Partnership (SLRWP – pronounced “slurp”) is continuing to move forward.

This year the SWCD co-sponsored another Ag Tour for the County Board of Legislators. A four hour Erosion and Sediment Control contractor training session was done for 56 individuals and a presentation on Emerald Ash Borer was provided to over 70 people. We continue to partner with many other organizations in a host of activities, along with our day to day SWCD programs which are too numerous to list here.

DIVISION IV

Chenango County

Leveraging dollars and combining programs seems to be the bulk of our work. In 2010, 20 CRP/CREP contracts or renewals were completed with 424 contracts throughout Chenango County. Twelve more contracts have been put together for 2011. Using dollars received through the NYS Ag NPSA&CP for Grazing and combining this money with either the CRP program or Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP) has enabled us to stretch dollars, educate staff, producers, perform on-going assistance and follow up needed to ensure an environmentally sound grazing system.

In 2010, the District finished the largest WHIP Contract for the Canasawacta Stream and Fish Habitat Restoration Project. To make a long story short, NRCS had some money left over and was looking for a project to spend it on. With the effort of the Plymouth Watershed Association, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, NRCS, NYS Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Conservation, USC, Trout Unlimited, and the District, this project has become reality. By having these active partners working on a common goal, stemming from the flood of 2006, a design was put together for approximately six miles of restoration. With the money allocated for this project we were able to complete approximately 5 miles of the project, completing 82 structures, realigning approximately 585 feet of channel with a total cost of \$235,000.00 dollars.

The District completed the last stream bank project with money dedicated to Chenango County from Senator Liboux. This money (\$125,000.00) was made available to our county after the 2006 flood. This money enabled the District to complete five projects.

In 2010, EQIP funded 30 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans equaling approximately 6875 acres, and two Forestry/Wildlife Plans equaling approximately 120 acres.

In 2010 the District signed an EQIP Contribution Agreement with NRCS to implement two manure storage facilities, one funded through EQIP and the other one will be funded with CBWI funds.

The NYS Regional Envirothon was held on April 28th and 29th. Students from Chenango, Cayuga, Madison, Wayne and Onondaga Counties competed in the event. The Envirothon was held at Montezuma Audubon Center, New York. Over 200 students participated in the hands-on, outdoor event.

On October 27th 2010 the District celebrated its 70th year Anniversary. On October 12, 2010 Richard B. Decker, Chairman of the Chenango County Board of Supervisors, proclaimed the 27th day of October, 2010 as Soil and Water Conservation District Day in the County.



Cortland County

Huddled in the office, working diligently on a plethora of soil group worksheets, it seemed like a good time to take a look back and reflect on 2010. From a staffing standpoint, we saw a handful of interns come and go assisting the district with a variety of tasks and special projects. One of our natural resources conservationists, Aaron Ristow, has moved on to become the Ag Coordinator with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC).

With regards to the development of the TMDL for the Chesapeake Bay, the district played a critical role, in partnership with the USC and others, in the development of the New York State strategy to meet loading allocation goals set forth by the EPA. The staff has been educating themselves, participating in policy discussions and providing outreach about the TMDL development and what it could mean to the local Ag community.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recently released new floodplain mapping for the county. We spent a great deal of time on a project focusing on notifying over 4000 residents who had floodplain changes to their properties. We provided over 300 residents with floodplain maps along with information on the mapping procedure and flood insurance. We assisted individuals as well as groups of landowners with mapping concerns and continue to help residents rectify mapping errors.

Our AEM program continues to grow and we assisted with numerous Ag implementation projects utilizing a variety of funding avenues. This year we entered into a contribution agreement with the NRCS and have been working on the design and implementation of practices funded through EQIP. We have been working with numerous farms interested in grazing, and through the Graze NY program have been able to develop Prescribed Grazing Management Plans and assist these farms in applying for funding assistance.

As the City of Cortland and the surrounding area sits atop a sole source aquifer, the SWCD reviews all stormwater management activities taking place in the Town of Cortlandville. This past year we reviewed a stormwater system for a recently completed Super Wal-Mart consisting of stormwater conveyance structures to a 1 acre water quality basin, 4 corresponding sand filter systems and 7 monitoring wells. We have assisted with a floodwater retention berm project by completing wetland mapping and assisting with two funding applications for a site at the Cortland Water Works. We continue to manage monitoring for the Cortland County Solid Waste facilities.

With two large storm events earlier in the year, the district provided assistance to nearly every municipality and over 50 private landowners by making stream visits, providing guidance in regards to permitting and stream design, contracting and project oversight when requested.



These are just some of the special projects that our district does in addition to a variety of educational and outreach activities, continual ag and non-ag assistance, farmland protection and ag promotion efforts, conservation activities including tree sales, fish stocking and pond programs, rural landowner workshops, natural gas informational seminars, etc.

A storm event caused this streambank to erode and rip through a crop field. Streambanks were armored and barbs placed to redirect the channel towards the middle of the stream and protect the banks from future storm events.



Delaware County

AEM/SUSQUEHANNA PROGRAM

Over the past ten years the Delaware county AEM/Susquehanna Program has focused exclusively on riparian forest buffers and their many benefits to farms as well as the environment. Using the USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to leverage BMP funding, water quality in the Susquehanna watershed has been greatly improved.

There was still a water quality issue with hydrologically sensitive areas (HSAs) within livestock pastures which were located away from a stream corridor. The HSAs didn't quite fit into the riparian buffer standard so, working with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), NRCS and FSA, we began to focus on developing marginal pastureland wetland buffers to address these areas. In 2010 we were able to finish three wetland buffer projects: two CREP wetland buffers were completed with the help of the USC and one wetland complex was implemented through the Wetland Reserve Program. Three additional marginal pastureland wetland buffers have been planned and will be installed with a combination of matching funds from CRP, the USC and NYS Environmental Protection Fund.

The farmers in Delaware County understand the importance of excluding livestock from stream corridors and HSAs. Using the available programs it is possible for them to make farm improvements and elevate their ranking when seeking competitive cost share funds for other projects recommended in their farm plans.



Wetland Buffer

Round IX Water Quality Improvement Project Grant— Post-Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Training for Contractors/Municipal Highway Employees

Delaware County contractors and highway departments are benefiting from a \$161,700 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation grant for development and implementation of an initial flood response and training program. Matching funds came from a contract between the New York City Department of Environmental Protection and the Delaware County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The program was designed in the years following the 2006 flood to demonstrate emergency restoration techniques in flood-damaged streams. Natural stream design is emphasized in this three-day course as it is common for streams to be overly manipulated in emergency situations.

The first day is classroom training followed by a site visit to a nearby stream needing post-flood mitigation. On the second day, participants visit the project site during the construction phase. Day 3 begins with a fall field visit to see the completed project, followed by a classroom review of the methods applied, and ends with a course evaluation. Certificates of Training are issued to participants who attend all three days of training.

In 2010, the Delaware County SWCD conducted the second year of this training program with 29 participants completing all three days. The project site, located on East Handsome Brook in the Town of Franklin, demonstrated an example of a post-flood stream channel plugged with excessive gravel deposition that jumped its bank and tore through an agricultural property. The project stabilized 1,130 feet of impaired channel through restoration of the stream to its natural size and shape and re-establishment of stream access to its floodplain. Root wads, made up of trees found on site, were placed along the damaged stream bank with the root ball towards the stream and the trunk buried into the bank. The project, funded by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, has sustained some minor damage through a few high flow events, but the general alignment has remained the same.



Participants check out stream damage during Day 1 site visit

Collaborative Effort Repairs County Route 22 Streambank

The flood of 2006 left many Delaware County streams damaged and then further degraded by following old stream maintenance practices such as dredging, based on the theory that "deeper and wider is better." Now that emergency stream repairs have been completed, there is little funding remaining to remediate this damage, so damaged stream corridors continue to unravel. The Delaware County Department of Public Works (DPW), however, was fortunate to receive funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a streambank stabilization project on East Brook along County Route 22 in the Town of Walton.

The flood destroyed existing gabion baskets that were set at the toe of a steep, 30-foot-high slope; County Route 22 runs along the top of this bank. Gabion baskets are rectangular, wire-mesh baskets filled with rock at the project site to form flexible, permeable, retaining walls. These baskets were used in the past as a means of erosion control and streambank stabilization, though the practice is currently discouraged along stream banks as constant wear from debris and sediment in streams reduces the lifespan of the baskets.

Post-flood dredging further exacerbated the situation by lowering the stream bed elevation, disconnecting the stream from its floodplain, increasing the risk of erosion and endangering the road. As an important function of a stream system, floodplains act as a relief valve that reduces the energy within the stream channel, therefore reducing the potential for streambank erosion.

The Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District's Stream Corridor Management Program assisted the DPW with surveying, designing, developing specifications, and assisting with oversight of project construction. Collaboration not only brought about a successful project, but offered an opportunity to train contractors and DPW staff in stream dynamics.

The streambank stabilization project included installation of five in-stream rock structures, larger stone rip-rap along one stream bank, and a floodplain bench on the other. On October 1, the newly seeded and mulched project weathered its first high water event with minimal damage. Though the erosion fabric was washed from the floodplain, the bench remained intact and functioning properly.

Establishment of vegetation is an important factor in the function of a healthy riparian buffer system, so trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation native to the Catskills have been planted along the stream's banks. The combination of trees, shrubs, and grasses creates an interwoven root system that helps to secure the stream bank by locking the soils in place, reducing the effects of streambank erosion.



AFTER

Otsego County

Butternut Creek #2 Rehabilitation Project – Stabilization of a 280 foot portion of the Butternut Creek in order to reduce excessive sediment and nutrient delivery from the adjacent agricultural field to Creek and the greater Susquehanna River watershed. Additionally, the project will reduce scour near the Otsego County Highway bridge abutment on the upper streambank, protecting both the bridge and highway. The project design call for riprap streambank protection and 1 stone barb. Implementation of the practices was completed on Sept 23, 2010. NYS Part C funds and funds provided by USC were used on design, materials and construction. Five days after the completion the area received 4+ inches of rain in two days – the project, field, bridge and highways are still there!



Lower Unadilla - Winsor Acres Project - This project consists of the design and construction of both a waste storage facility and a low flow collection system wastewater treatment strip. These practices are designed and constructed to receive manure/milk-center waste and silage leachate respectively and cost shared between the farm owner, NRCS and a Round 14 NYS Ag NPS. Much of Southtown Dairy's cropland is very close to the Unadilla River and many of the well drained soils found on the farm have a high leaching index. By adding the BMP's the farm will be able to accumulate manure and leachate until such time as conditions are drier and the potential for excessive runoff and infiltration is less.

Schuyler County

Another busy year produced a multitude of projects. Project areas of focus included education and outreach, Agriculture Environmental Management (AEM), Prescribed Grazing planning and implementation, Nutrient Management Planning, Agricultural Waste Storage Implementation, Silage Leachate Collection, Stream Stabilization, Road Ditch Stabilization, Bridge Removal Projects, Wetland Implementation and Preservation, Critical Area Seeding, Stormwater Management Education/Inspection/Review, as well as many community outreach projects.

In order to accomplish this workload a strong sense of true shared services had to take place. We depend on our relationship and partnerships with Chemung and Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, and the Finger Lakes RC&D outside of our County. We also depend on our County Legislature, Town Boards/Supervisors, County and Town Highway Departments, and local CCE and NRCS offices. We have a really unique small county that evokes a one for all attitude that assists us greatly.

			
Contractor Training	Regional Envirothon	Boat Launch Clean-Up	Landfill Project
			
Stream Stabilization	Wetland Restoration	Bridge Removal	Geo-Web Crossing

Steuben County

Steuben County kept busy this season with many core programs such as stream and road bank stabilization, AEM, EQIP and critical area treatment. Over 40 pasture management plans were implemented through AEM and EQIP and 35 stream and road bank stabilization projects completed using our excavator and Shared Service equipment from Public Works and BOCES. We also wrapped up our two (2) Round 9 WQIP projects for stream bank stabilization on Meads Creek and Smith Hill Road. Thanks to Finger Lakes RC&D Council, Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties were approved for a US Fish & Wildlife Foundation grant and the total for our portion is \$150,000 for stream bank stabilization for two watersheds. The critical area treatment program has completed 70 acres on road shoulders, bridges, stream projects and gravel pits.

One of our largest project funded this year was river restoration for 1,000' on the Cohocton River in the Town of Erwin. This project protected the Town's wastewater treatment plant's outlet pipe and Corning, Inc. global fiber optic cable. This project was completed using equipment from all our Shared Service agencies county-wide (District, Public Works, DOT, Town of Erwin, DEC Operations/Flood Control). Ten (10) in-stream structures were installed using 1640.32 tons of heavy rock riprap and 20.68 tons of light stone in a two week time frame. The total cost was \$105,146.93. Part B funds were used towards the project with the remaining funds being provided locally.



Gravel Deposition Removal Used on the Eroding Bank



Completed Rock Vanes Prior to Seeding

Tioga County

In 2010, the Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation District kept busy with our core programs. We unfortunately lost a very experienced employee to the Natural Gas Sector but were fortunate to find a replacement with a retired NRCS District Conservationist and a new employee to the Soil and Water field. The District had lots of active Ag construction in 2010, concluding with the completion of a barnyard runoff management system, waste storage facility and silage leachate collection system, along with several grazing practices implemented. The District continues to cooperate with NRCS to get conservation practices on the ground with a contribution agreement for technical services. Also, in 2010 we reviewed several SWPPP for a local MS4 community and developed a Stormwater Management Program for the County and the Town of Owego. Our Stream program was active in 2010, with several stream projects designed by District staff with the oversight of the USC Stream Team. We also continued to work on natural gas preparation in the County, as a member of the Tioga Investigates Natural Gas Steering Committee (TING). The group plans to role out our Municipal Resource Binder in March; this binder includes information on the Environment, Water Quality, Roads, Public Safety, Workforce, Communications and Land use issues. The goal is to help our municipalities be better prepared for Natural Gas exploration and production. Other items of interest include our support in the development of the Town of Nichols Ag and Farmland Protection Plan, the installation of several community flood signs (that depict 100-year and the 2006 -event flood levels), local envirothon team taking first place in the state, continued administration of the USC, following of the Chesapeake Bay TMDL (which will have huge implications for our watershed) and construction of a bio-retention pond to collect and treat stormwater runoff from our paved parking lot.

Tompkins County

2010 has been an up and down kind of year for the Tompkins County SWCD. Many of the SWCD family have already heard, we sadly said goodbye to our long time Secretary/Treasurer and friend Vicki Hendrix who lost her battle to cancer last July. After 10 years at our office, she will be greatly missed by all. Jake Bengueyfield our Grazing Specialist left our team when he took another position back in September, and we recently hired Nick Brown as our new Grazing Technician. We are also joined by Aaron Ristow, the new Natural Resources Program Specialist (SWCD) and Ag-Team Coordinator for USC, Sarah Cox as our part time intern, and Jennifer Case as our new District Secretary/Treasurer. You will most likely see them at this year's Water Quality Symposium, so make sure to say "hi" and welcome them to the SWCD team.

The Tompkins County SWCD continues to make forward strides with limited funding. The tree sale was very successful again this year, we had nine teams participate in the 2010 Southern Tier Regional Envirothon, we continue to work on the AEM program, and hosted five Erosion and Sediment and Control Training sessions. (CONTINUED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)

Tompkins County Continued

A couple of new highlights include a Sixmile Creek Stream Project (Phase 2) completed in 2010 (*Photo #1*). A total of 8 Cross Vanes and 10 Constructed riffles were installed along with re-contouring of the stream to incorporate bankfull benches, stable bank angles and revegetation. This project was a major accomplishment for the district that helped the Town of Caroline to protect an artesian aquifer along with various infrastructures along the creek.

Photo #2 is a manure storage project installed on Jeff Cook's farm, completed in November 2010. The existing silage leachate and milkhouse waste systems were connected to the new manure storage facility.

Photo #3 is the new Bigfoot Ag-Plastics Baler that we recently tested out at a few farms in Tompkins County. We were one of six counties awarded with the Baler, funded by the NYSDEC.



The Upper Susquehanna Coalition

The Upper Susquehanna Coalition has been quite active on several fronts. It has worked continually in close partnership with NYS DEC with critical scientific support from Cornell and Binghamton universities to develop a Watershed Implementation Plan to meet TMDL load reductions for the Basin set by EPA. This task will continue with emphasis on targeting Agricultural BMPs to maximize nutrient reductions. The USC continue to forged ahead in the gas development arena, producing a white paper on the request of the NYS SWCC describing what District can do to meet the soil and water conservation needs of gas development. The USC continued to with its wetland program, including two wetland mitigation projects; it is moving forward with a basin-wide in-lieu fee mitigation program. Our USC Stream Team continues to do site visits and will be conducting training sessions as needed.



Finger lakes RC&D

Alternative Energy Field Day – A field day cosponsored by the Finger Lakes RC&D Council & Cornell's Small Farms Program was held on Thursday, September 9th @ Jonathan Barter's farm near Branchport, NY. Approximately 35 people attended the field day which provided individuals the opportunity to see a livestock watering system powered by wind & solar energy.

Managing Financial Risks of Organic Dairies – In cooperation the Cornell Cooperative Extension the Finger Lakes RC&D Council is administering a \$20,000.00 NY Farm Viability Institute grant which is encouraging organic dairy farms in western New York to utilize Cornell's [Dairy Farm Business Summary](#). Program manager, John Hanchar of Cornell's Northwest Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team has noted that the goal of this project is to reduce financial barriers faced by organic dairy producers. Participating organic dairies will utilize the Dairy Farm Business Summary to make peer to peer comparisons of their respective operations while identifying areas of potential improvement. Due to New York State's financial problems many of the NY Farm Viability Institute's projects have been terminated. Fortunately, this project has been reinstated

2010 Venison Donation Program – Even though funding for New York's venison donation program which is administered by the Venison Donation Coalition has been severely reduced, the program will still operate for the 10th straight year. New York's 8 regional food banks are helping pickup the financial slack by paying the initial \$1.00/pound of processing costs. Typical processing costs run from \$1.25 - \$2.00/pound across the state, Long Island being the highest. The VDC has received a grant from the NYS DECALs program (\$10,000.00) and is currently awaiting a legislative member item grant sponsored by NYS Senator George Winner (\$20,000.00). Since its inception NY's venison donation program has processed & distributed 373 tons of venison which has resulted in approximately 2,984,000 meals being served to individuals in need. (CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE)

Finger lakes RC&D Continued

2010-2011 GLCI Grant – The Council has signed a new GLCI contract with NRCS and has entered into agreements for services with the Steuben SWCD and Cornell's Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops team. Nancy Glazier, small farm specialist with the NWNYS team will be available to develop grazing plans in Ontario, Seneca & Yates Counties. The Council's subcontractor will be responsible for preparing 16 prescribed grazing plan, conducting 2 grazing workshop &/or pasture walks and performing 45 follow-up visits.

Natural Stearn Design Grant – The work on the project sites are currently in the planning stage as well as obtaining permits stage. Two sites of the Schuyler County portion of this \$399,995.00 grant has been completed, resulting in \$35,208.08 of improvements being installed along Coon Hollow and Switzer Hill Road. Two sites along Bennett's Creek (Steuben County) totaling \$26,072.68 have been completed. To date \$61,280.76 of total eligible expenses have been reimbursed.

Division V Report

Clinton:

- laid out, surveyed, and designed 2,053,818 feet of subsurface drainage
- hired a Conservation Technician in October
- purchased a hydroseeder
- won the "Platinum" Award for media outreach
- shipped one tractor trailer load of agricultural plastics
- completed Round 13 Grant

Essex:

- installed our first Rain garden and Infiltration Basins on the Essex County Fairgrounds
- assisted Westport School with a new School Garden
- trained nearly 300 contractors and inspectors on DEC 4 hour training program
- installed a new sediment basin to protect the Ausable River in Wilmington
- assisted with Salmon in the classroom for local schools
- completed culvert assessments for Lake Champlain and replaced a culvert with the US Fish and Wildlife service to enhance trout habitat
- completed 200' of stream restoration with the Town of Elizabethtown and Boquet River association
- purchased a new straw bale blower and seeded over 11 acres of critical sites
- Our Secretary Cynthia Brannock took an early retirement in 2010 and we are currently interviewing to replace her

Franklin:

- another round of baling ag plastics
- 2 applications for ag nps
- approved the bylaws for the st lawrence river watershed partnership
- working with an organization to get 501c3 status
- chas had the baby- anna breta 5lbs 11oz 18.5 inches on feb 13th almost 2 months early.

Hamilton:

- Hamilton County SWCD completed another successful year of water quality monitoring on 21 lakes; reinstating our private well water testing program
- completing 13 acres of hydroseeding
- conducting numerous classroom and outdoor educational events and presentations to lake associations, students and the general public
- organizing the first Adirondack Ecofest
- providing white paper recycling pickup at county buildings

- assisting a municipality with investigating a pollution source in Piseco Lake
- organizing a sediment and erosion control training for local towns and contractors
- expanding invasive species educational outreach and management efforts
- assisted the highway dept. in protecting a culvert
- partnering with local and state agencies to protect key watersheds in the county

Warren:

- Warren County SWCD had a strong year in 2010, both in grant funding awarded and in projects completed.
- installed 11 new stream culverts for improved safety and fish passage
- installed more than a dozen large stormwater retrofit and infiltration systems
- and a good deal more.
- 2011 looks to be a solid year as well, as county funding to the District increased by a fair amount in the last budget round. The strength of our program is the strong relationships we maintain with our local municipalities and county officials, who continue to work alongside the District to get projects on the ground throughout Warren County

Division VI Annual Report

Albany County SWCD 2010 Highlights Report

- Installed over 21,000ft of High Tensile fence on grazing systems.
- Installation of the 6th demonstration rain garden - SUNY Albany Alumni House - collaboration with CCE & Stormwater Coalition of Albany County
- Hosted a successful rain barrel program - 46 barrels sold to County residents
- Purchased 20 recycle Kits and were able to collect and recycle approximately 1100 pounds of dry cell batteries
- Planted 100 trees in a riparian area that is functioning as a wetland buffer to a crop field
- Assisted Buckingham Pond (an urban area pond) in erosion control measures Technical assistance and funding
- Received Round 16 award for \$153,000 to implement practices in Basic Creek Watershed
- Assisted NRCS in getting 8 (FY 2010) contracts funded totaling \$332,244.00 in conservation assistance
- Stream stabilization and restoration collaboration with Fish and Wildlife Service and Trout Unlimited to install 2 rock vanes with J-hooks, 3 straight rock vanes, a bankfull-high vegetated bench and 3 root wads creating trout habitat and protecting a landowners home.
- Distributed 50 water testing kits to residents on private well systems to monitor water quality.
- Hosted/organized three mandatory DEC endorsed 4-Hour Erosion and Sediment Control trainings resulting in 224 trained individuals.
- Project WET at the City of Albany Normanskill Farm. Stormwater/Water Quality educational activities for 60 students

Fulton County SWCD Highlights Report

The Fulton County Soil & Water Conservation District:

- Completed 41 Agricultural Assessment Worksheets on 3,280 acres for Ag Value Assessment.
- Supplied 136 landowners with 7,540 various bare root seedlings.
- Supplied 19 pond owners with 3,727 fingerlings.
- Supplied 2 pond owners with grass carp.
- Supplied 411 landowners with conservation drainage materials.
- Co-Hosted the Regional Envirothon with Saratoga and Washington County. 126 High School students competed, Fulton County's Oppenheim Ephratah High School Team won the Regional Envirothon and represented Fulton County in the State Envirothon.
- Co-Hosted the first Fulton County Farm Days with Fulton County Farm Bureau.
- Send a Newsletter to 900 landowners in Fulton County.
- Attended the Water Quality Symposium, Legislative Days and Mohawk River Basin Coalition Meetings.
- Applied for WQIP Grant and WQ Grant.
- Employed one college intern for the summer.

Municipality Assistance

Town of Johnstown:

- Provided materials for 1 Dry Hydrant (through RC&D Grant) to local fire department.
- Assisted the Town of Johnstown Highway Department with a beaver dam problem.
- Assisted 17 landowners with Soils information, Flood Maps, Wetland information, Pond information, Pond test pits, pond permits, tile drainage, perc test, and Stream bank erosion .
- Assisted FMCC with an estimate on culvert pipe to fill in a ditch.

Town of Ephratah:

- Sprite Club Dam, working with club to repair dam.
- Working with Rod & Gun Club on pond.
- Assisted farmer with strip cropping system.
- Worked with private landowner on bridge repair and another with a weed problem.

Town of Oppenheim:

- Assisted 3 landowners with soils information drainage problems and wetlands information.

Town of Perth:

- Assisted the local fire department with survey, design and general permit to repair dry hydrant.
- Assisted 5 landowners with soils information, drainage and pond issues.

Town of Broadalbin:

- Assisted the Town and Youth Commission with drainage layout of newly purchased land for athletic fields.
- Assisted 5 landowners with soils information, wetland information, highly erodible land determination, drainage and perc test.

Town of Caroga:

- Assisted 3 landowners with drainage problems, pond dredging and Flood Map determination.

Town of Stratford:

- Assisted local fire department with survey & design for a dry hydrant materials were obtained through a RC&D grant.

Town of Bleeker:

- Assisted 5 landowners with pond site evaluation and dam repair.

Town of Mayfield:

- Assisted the Town and applied for a Stream bank Project Grant.
- Assisted 6 landowners with pond survey and evaluation, weed control, culvert sizing and drainage problems.

Town of Northhampton:

- Assisted 1 landowner with a pond site evaluation.

City of Gloversville:

- Assisted one landowner with a drainage problem.

City of Johnstown:

- Working with Fish & Wildlife on a Stream bank Restoration design on the Cayadutta Creek.

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

2010 Annual Report & Program Highlights

Tree & Shrub Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 154 landowners participated ▪ 9,100 plants distributed for conservation purposes
Fish Stocking & Pond Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 16 ponds stocked ▪ 1,728 fish distributed ▪ 7 pondsite evaluations ▪ 6 aquatic weed & pond management visits ▪ Co-sponsored Twilight Pond Management Seminar with Ag Stewardship Assn
DEC Permit & Violation Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 11 NYS-DEC Stream Permits issued ▪ 2 DEC Mine & Reclamation Plan updated ▪ MS4 Stormwater Regulation assistance provided in Hudson Falls/Fort Edward urbanized areas; assisted with final reports, minimum measures and purchase of a sewer catch basin cleaner in July. That unit is currently in use by those municipalities to remove pollutants from the catch basin.
Rural Fire Protection – Dry Hydrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2 dry hydrants sited, surveyed and designed ▪ 1 dry hydrant installed in Greenwich for year around accessible water source.
Agricultural Drainage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 900’ of diversion laid out and installed. ▪ Surveyed and laid out 11,000’ of subsurface drainage; 9,100’ installed.
Streambank Stabilization and Riparian Corridor Improvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assisted US Fish & Wildlife Service and Battenkill Alliance install 17 habitat improvement structures on 1.4 miles of the Battenkill. Completed critical area seedings at staging areas for the project and access roads. ▪ Issued DEC General Permits to and assisted 3 municipalities and 8 private landowners with stream corridor restoration and bank stabilization to protect residences and highways from significant erosion. ▪ Completed stream corridor restoration on critically eroding reach of the Poultney River, Town of Hampton, due to several fallen trees. Utilized trees and local materials to complete the project with bioengineering technology.
Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Assistance (over 200 cows)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Assisted 12 farms with CAFO planning information to comply with DEC permit changes and BMP implementation. ▪ Assisted 4 consultants with CAFO plans & projects on 10 farms
Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) & Farm Planning & Implementation	<p>AEM Work Completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Tier 1 Farm Inventories • 10 Tier 2 Farm Risk Assessments • 3 Tier 3a Conservation Plans • 1 Tier 4 Implementation Project • 2 Tier 5a Farm Risk Assessment Updates • 1 Tier 5b Installed Practice 1-Year Evaluations
Agricultural Assessment for Real	Soil Group Worksheets completed on 110 parcels totaling 8,532 acres eligible

Property Tax Reduction	for Agricultural Assessment and real property tax relief.
No-Till Seeder Rental & Technical Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seeded 463 acres on 25 farms with 2 SWCD no-till seeders Held a no-till drill demonstration/calibration clinic and 2-drill comparison
Ag Plastics Baling and Recycling 2009-2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Used 2 plastics balers on 18 farms to produce 27 bales of recycled ag plastics <u>or</u> removed 27,000 lbs. of waste plastic from the environment. Trained 6 farms to safely use the plastics baler independently.

During 2010, 402 individuals, 24 units of government, and 6 private organizations were assisted.

Program Details

Specific Services & Assistance Provided To Landowners & Municipalities in 2010

Rural Fire Protection: Approved, designed and supervised implementation of 1 dry hydrants in the Town of Greenwich, in cooperation with the volunteer firefighting personnel. Surveyed and designed 1 dry hydrant in the Town of Easton.

Updated the countywide dry hydrant inventory and inspection to verify the location, function and accessibility of each dry hydrant during the winter months. Provided this document to the Washington County Fire Coordinator for reference.

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Phase II Stormwater Regulations:

Assisted the Villages of Hudson Falls and Fort Edward, the Towns of Kingsbury and Fort Edward, and Washington County DPW with MS-4 grant implementation for Stormwater Regulation compliance, including final reports, minimum control measures, audits, public outreach, illicit discharge detection and elimination, and the purchase of a sewer catch basin cleaner shared by the MS4 municipalities.

Schools:

- Made 5 presentations to grades K-5, Hartford Central School, on trout habitat and water quality.
- Participated in Salem Central School Career Days with 5 groups of students. Explained the duties and objectives of SWCDs and showed an interactive stormwater runoff model.

Nutrient Management and Water Quality:

- Worked with numerous Washington County farms, particularly at the CAFO level to assist with nutrient management planning, soil testing, manure analysis, and manure spreading guidelines, to protect water quality.
- Assisted 3 farms with the planning, certification and/or construction of ag waste storage facilities.
- Administered state and federal funds to cost share the engineering and construction or upgrade of ag waste storage facilities regulated through DEC/EPA CAFO permits.

Highway Erosion and Sediment Control:

- Assisted Washington County DPW with wetland mitigation, beaver dam removal and erosion control.
- Assisted the Towns of Whitehall, Hartford, White Creek, Argyle, Dresden and Hebron with road drainage issues and regulatory waters of the state.
- Assisted Highway Superintendents with highway erosion, streambank erosion, and sediment control projects, as well as funding for a project in the Town of Argyle through the Cossayuna Lake Sediment Control grant.
- Made presentations to the Washington County Association of Street and Highway Officials at several meetings throughout the year.

DEC Permits: Worked with DEC regional staff to utilize SWCD's General Permit for landowner and municipality projects requiring permits for stream and wetland related projects. **Eleven permits were issued.**

Legislative Activities and Presentation to Enhance Program Funding:

- Met with County officials and budget committees to insure adequate funding for SWCD at the local level.
- Participated in NYSCDEA Legislative Lobby Day in Albany to communicate SWCD accomplishments and needs to our representatives.
- Provided legislators with annual reports and project highlights for the year.
- Assisted CWICNY with securing funds through Aid to Localities for projects in the Lake Champlain drainage basin. Implemented EPA Targeted Watershed Grant Program in Washington County's Lake Champlain Watershed, cost-sharing ag waste storage facilities.

Solid Waste and River Cleanup:

- Maintained 5 trash collection sites along the Battenkill River, and collected several pickup truck loads of riverside trash from recreation areas, with assistance from Earth Team volunteers and interns.
- Worked with Washington County DPW to dispose of river corridor trash at local transfer stations.
- Coordinated ag plastics bale storage and recycling with county transfer stations.

Activities of Statewide and Regional Significance:

- Networked with all counties in the Lake Champlain Watershed and beyond to promote ag plastics recycling and effectively route baleage.
- Served on the Champlain Watershed Improvement Coalition of NY (CWICNY) and helped secure funding for natural resource improvements in the watershed through NYS Aid to Localities and EPA targeted watershed grants.
- Presented with the NYS "AEM in the News" award for media articles covering AEM activities and participants in Washington County.

Public Awareness and Education:

- Set up and staffed an educational display at the Washington County Fair, which focused on AEM, rain gardens and the history of Washington County SWCD.
- Published 2 SWCD newsletters and circulated each of them to 800 individuals, distributing information on District accomplishments throughout the county, as well as the promotion of SWCD earned income programs.



Montgomery County SWCD 2010 Highlights

We have had an extremely busy year in Montgomery County. Staffing has been the hot topic this year. Tom Bielli the DC in our County took a hiatus to the Greater Adirondack RC&D for four months last year leaving the office with one NRCS employee that was covering three counties and assisting in another.

Our Certified Planner took a job with NRCS in North Carolina and we hired a new technician in April and our NRCS Resource Con. Retired in December.

The familiar faces we all knew are living a better life in other arenas like Fulton County.

Despite the stresses incurred from hiring and losing staff members we had an extremely busy construction season, with over \$760,000 worth of BMP implementation money being allocated.

Despite the hardships of the staffing we were still able to implement a significant number of projects. NRCS has released a job announcement to fill our NRCS vacancy, Tom is back in his office, we hired a new planner, and our technician has a full construction season under his belt.

The County has given us control of the Ag-Economic Development Program. We have hired a coordinator and it has been going great so far.

I am sure we will have a busy year even though John has not returned and we had to hire two people to take his place we should be ok if John stops taking business away from Montgomery County.

Schenectady County Conservation District

2010 Highlights

The Schenectady County Conservation District was very busy assisting local community's and other conservation districts with providing information and education on the Phase II Stormwater Program. The district provided training support to five districts, six private and/or agency groups and two municipalities with either the 4 hour E&SC Training or the 2 Hour Municipal Site Inspector Training for a total of 789 individuals trained.

The district also successfully administered the following programs for the County Of Schenectady

- County Compost Facility- A 15 acre facility that takes in up 120,000 cubic yards of yard waste /year and produces various products for sale. Providing services to over 2300 residents/year.
- County Parks which involves the maintenance of 9.1 miles of Bike/hike trails and over 800 acres of preserves and trails.
- County Horticulture Education Center
- County Critical Area Seeding Program
- County Residential Recycling/ Drop-Off Facility

The district also cooperated with the City of Schenectady, providing special services including custom grinding and critical area seeding.

In 2010, the district hosted a senior student from Cobleskill College. The district entered into an Internship Agreement for the spring of 2010 semester. (Does that make me a Prof.)

Schoharie County SWCD 2010 Highlights

Schoharie County SWCD 2010 Wrap up by the numbers:

It's always amazing to look back at a year and realize yet another year has gone by. And a year in "soil time" is truly just a blink of an eye. But when I look at my calendar, I realize we did a lot more than blink our eyes. So, here is the wrap up, by the numbers: 12 Board of Director meetings. Over 50 Ag assessments were completed. More than 350 landowners took part in our Tree and Shrub Program, Two newsletters were sent out to over 800 landowners and new this year, an email list to reduce the cost of printing and mailing all of those newsletters was created. The District received two special awards for their public outreach efforts from the New York Association of Conservation Districts. A fish program was held twice this last year, with almost 200 grass carp provided, 900 Trout, 200 Bass and 1,000 minnows over the year. 70 Years—that's the number of years the Schoharie County Soil and Water Conservation district celebrated this year with over 60 people participating in a conservation tour and luncheon. Educational programs included the Capital Region Envirothon where 7 teams from Schoharie County participated; Conservation Field Day in June was attended by over 300 6th graders. Approximately 5,000 worms visited the Schoharie after school program with our "worms eat our trash program," and Schoharie was one of 14 counties to join the Mohawk Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts. The Stream Program planted 490 trees on the Manorkill, treating 2,300' of stream banks, Removed 200 Japanese knot weed plants, and treated 200' of stream banks on the Bear kill using 50 planted trees and vertical willow bundles and riparian seed mixes. Used our first materials from the SUNY Cobleskill Riparian plant materials center to stabilize 100' of stream banks on the Cobleskill creek. Assisted 6 landowners with stream permits, and conducted 17 pond evaluations. Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) seen 5 completed, managing 1,547 acres, 620 dairy animals, 30 horses and 90 sheep. Our Nutrient management Specialist assisted 5 CAFO farms with keeping in compliance with their permits and soil sampled 1,240 acres.

The District assisted in designing and installing the Schoharie trail that covers 1 1/2 miles.

A special project that provided assistance to inspect and pump out septic tanks around Summit Lake found and pumped out 19 of the 40 septic tanks around the lake. Wow, guess that's why the year went by so fast... we were busy!

So, what's in store for 2011—All of the above, plus more.

The Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District 2010 activities

1. **Agricultural Environmental Management** at all tier levels utilizing the New York State program
2. The **New York State Agricultural Non Point Source Abatement and Control Program** – 2 watersheds in progress, 3 watersheds with applications
3. **Mohawk River Watershed Coalition** planning in cooperation with 13 other Soil and Water Conservation Districts
4. **Agricultural Drainage** assistance for cropland and pasture
5. **Soil Group Worksheets** for agricultural land for the **NYS Agricultural Assessment Program**
6. **USDA NRCS EQIP Program** assistance – application, design and construction checking
7. **Agricultural Baler Program** in cooperation with Washington County SWCD and Cornell Cooperative Extension
8. **Parks and Trails Program** for wildlife habitat and trail improvements
9. **Fish Stocking** for private ponds
10. **Saratoga County Regional Envirothon** competition for high school students
11. **Tree and Shrub Program** for conservation, erosion control
12. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee** activities including trout stream temperature monitoring
13. **New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Permit** assistance to landowners
14. **Conservation Education**, including Sundae on the Farm, County and State Fair, Conservation Field Days and Boy Scout Jamboree
15. **General Natural Resource Information** assistance including soils information, topographic maps, aerial photos, conservation materials

No Report

Rensselaer County

New York State Conservation District Employees' Association
Division VII Annual Report

This year, we had one joint Division meeting and training, with Division VIII. We decided to meet at the Dutchess Co. farm center. This meeting was both informative and exciting. For the duration of the morning we conducted a business meeting that discussed employees concerns along with future staffing issues to be worked through. Representatives from SWCC and NYACD attended and presented partner reports. In the afternoon we attended a CPR / AED training. With the aid of Dutchess County SWCD we are able to offer this training, with their contact at Millbrook Volunteer Fire & Rescue Squad & local EMT. Shortly after the training all participants were given cards from the American Red Cross displaying the achieved certification.

This year was another successful year of the Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon in the spring of 2010. Once again this year, the Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts, of which five counties in Division VII are members, hosted the Southeast NY Stormwater Conference and Trade Show. Special thanks to all that aided in yet another successful year. We currently are preparing for another year of successful events to come. Lastly we anticipate hiring a new staff member to serve as the Lower Hudson Coalition Coordinator. We plan this individual will serve as a new means of finding & securing monies for our districts as well as take the lead in any Coalition events.

One of our final multi county projects is our mission of working towards completion of our regional pelletizer. This has been an on-going project between Dutchess, Ulster, Rockland and Orange County SWCD, the Lower Hudson RC & D and various helpful volunteers. While we are currently still in the research and development stage, significant milestones have been achieved. Within the last year we have visited six farms and make over ten tons of pellets. Several additions have been added to the machine such as a modified auger feed, a steam generator, two different feed elevators, and several other minor changes. While we are still exploring the best pre-processing method, we have moved forward with the machine and expect great advances in the future.

While this is my second year of serving as the division seven representative, it is also the completion of my first term. I would like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with everyone in my division and will look forward to the future to begin my next term pending re-election. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen J. O'Dell
Division VII Representative



Nassau County SWCD
Malcolm House
5 Old Jericho Turnpike
Jericho, New York 11753

Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District – 2010 Year in Review

Environmental Education: Long Island Regional Envirothon: The 12th annual Long Island Regional Envirothon, Ltd. was held April 28th at the USDAN Center of Performing Arts. 45 teams sign up from both Nassau and Suffolk Counties. The winning teams were Sachem High School North of Suffolk County and Chaminade of Nassau County which both moved on to the NYS Envirothon.

Fairs/Festivals: The Nassau County SWCD attended various fairs/festivals to promote its mission and educate the public: **NSLGA** - The event is one of the biggest events in our area focusing on the landscape industry. Distributors of nursery stock, building material, equipment and educational and regulatory agencies were present. Many people visited our booth to learn more about the district and the information and educational opportunities that we can provide. **World Water Day** - On March 20th, 2010, NCSWCD participated in World Water Day. Focuses on the conservation, wise use and management of this precious resource. This year the Conservation District participated in it by speaking to a group of individuals during the Garvies Point Park celebration. The slide show and subsequent question and answer period made people aware of the simple things they could do to manage water. **Harborfest** – Port Washington - The 19th annual Port Washington's harborfest was held at the Town Dock. As part of our outreach efforts we attended this event to bring awareness to the district and to the issue of non-point source pollution. We handed out educational packets to teachers, spoke with local politicians and those interested in conservation. The event typically draws over 12,000 people and is a good event for all those who participate. **Marine Education Day** – Oyster Bay - This year we demonstrated non point source pollution using an interactive watershed model. There were over 400 students in attendance that rotated between stations. **Cold Spring Harbor Festival** - Educational booths that were on display attracted many people with inquiries about rain gardens, rain barrels and other conservation methods that a homeowner could use to help protect their environment.

Projects: Rain Gardens: Installed three gardens over the course of the year: First rain garden was completed in conjunction with the Town of Oyster Bay Environmental Department and their Animal Shelter and students from Friends Academy. We planted native shrubs, flowers and grasses. We also installed rain barrels to demonstrate their correspondence with the gardens and show the public the simplicity of at-home stormwater conservation practices. Another rain garden was installed at the Malcolm House in Muttontown. We created this garden to slow water that runs for the parking lot into a low wet depression. It was created with the help of members of the CCE Master Gardeners program. A third was installed at the Farm at Oyster Bay with the help of local boy scouts. **Town of North Hempstead Beach Park weed removal/revegetation:** To further the effort of the Town of North Hempstead, the Conservation District was used their NY State Part C money to undertake the removal of invasive species and plant native grasses and shrubs in their place. A herbicide was used to eradicate the weed species. The District followed up by manually cutting the weeds back to draw the strength from them and possibility wick and spray them again. Then native species will be planted.

Beach Clean up: On September 25, 2010 the Nassau County SWCD organized and participated in the International Coastal Cleanup in Wantagh New York. Along with 29 volunteers and Operation Splash we collected over 200 pounds of garbage from the Shores of Wantagh Park and vicinity. **AEM:** Worked with various farmers in Nassau County to help qualify for NRCS programs and to help in the planning process - Grossman's farm, Welwyn farm, Karl Rueck's farm

DEC trainings: In 2010, NCSWCD held 4 trainings that certified about 400 individuals. Our clients were based in New York and also New Jersey and Connecticut. Our client base involved many companies which include LiRo, NYC Parks Dept, and LIRR.

Partnerships: **LINGI** – Volunteering to help LINGI collect and organize grasses/seeds for distribution. Native plants were used for revegetation projects and construction of rain gardens throughout Nassau County. **RC&D** – Barge Project is moving along and we are attending all of the necessary meetings to discuss this and the other conservation projects. Council has delivered on its efforts to provide Hudson Valley Grass Energy. **North Shore Land Alliance** – started planning process for 2011 Small Farm's Conference

OUTREACH:

Brochures: Created for: Nassau County SWCD, rain gardens, rain barrels, AEM, GeesePeace for distribution

Website: Nassau County Soil & Water Conservation District has finally created a website to advertise its services to local communities, give information on upcoming/past events and provide education to the public.

Rockland County Soil & Water Conservation District

R. Allan Beers, Coordinator of Environmental Resources

Mary Hegarty, Environmental Management Assistant

2010 ACHIEVEMENTS

Soil and Water Conservation District Overview:

Nine public SWCD meetings were held, which covered topics related to soil conservation and watershed protection. Sponsored the Watershed Assessment Associates (WAA)-LSI (Lotic Scene Investigation) Program, in which twenty stream sites in Rockland (four stream sites in each town) were monitored for water quality during the Summer of 2010, accompanied WAA staff at stream locations. Worked with consultant, assisting with the administration of the \$730,050. WQIP Round 8 & 9 Grant on behalf of the Stormwater Consortium of Rockland County. Prepared and worked with the General Services Dept. on the County Facility's MS4 Stormwater Annual Report. Attended Stormwater Consortium of Rockland County meetings throughout the year, served on by-laws review and grant distribution subcommittee. Assisted the Stormwater Consortium by submitting SWCD MS4 Stormwater Activities List to Consortium members for their MS4 Annual Report. Organized logistics and hosted NYSDEC 4-hour Contractor Training- Erosion and Sediment Control, at the Rockland Fire Training Center in October, had 85 attendees. Attended four trainings (CPESC Review, Green Building, IDDE, ESC) and three conferences/presentations (LHCCD Stormwater Conference, NYSDEC Water Conference and USGS Rockland Aquifer Presentation). Conducted six construction site visits for CPESC (Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control) Certification. Assisted with the 10th Annual South East New York Stormwater Conference and Trade Show in Beacon, NY. Assisted with reconstituting the Rockland County Ag & Farmland Protection Board and attended meetings throughout the year. Directed the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. Directing program included, scheduling volunteers, meeting with local teachers, data entry, equipment care, volunteer questions, etc. District hired biology professional to lead the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Training in the Spring. District hired and staff supervised a part-time Americorps Worker and a consultant, who assisted with the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Program. Directed Americorps workers on stream assessments in Kennedy Dells Park. Assisted the Rockland Farm Alliance (RFA) throughout the year; researched other community farms in region, information sharing, attended meetings to establish Cropsey Community Farm, etc. Coordinated/Co-hosted and attended presentation on Floodplain management, target audience was the Rockland Planning Federation. Worked with Rockland Audubon to assist with native plant purchase for Rain Garden at Piermont Library. Assisted other county Soil and Water Conservation Districts with Rain Garden and Water Quality Committee advice and recommendations. Represented SWCD at LHCCD (Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts), and LH, LI-RC&D (Lower Hudson, Long Island-Resource Conservation and Development Council) meetings throughout the year. Attended SWCC Manager's meetings throughout the year. Served on RC&D Award Anniversary Committee and served as recording secretary. Submitted SWCD Performance Measures documents. Prepared and submitted Annual Report to State Conservation Committee. Prepared Soil Group Worksheets for local farms. Participated in various EPA Stormwater Webcasts throughout the year, as part of continuing education.



Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Accomplishments

In 2010, the Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District and Planning Department continued to advance the Natural Resources Restoration and Stormwater Management Program. Within this program, the District initiated the planning, design and/or construction phases for six restoration projects. The District completed two rain gardens to demonstrate the design and effectiveness of these stormwater management practices at Saxon Woods Golf Course in Scarsdale and at Edith G. Read Wildlife Park and Sanctuary. The District also provided education and outreach, facilitated regional partnerships and provided technical support.

Summary of 2010 Accomplishments:

Restoration Projects

- 1) Gardens Lake, Mamaroneck Town
- 2) Manursing Lake, Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye City
- 3) Saxon Woods Streambank Stabilization Project, Mamaroneck
- 4) Bronx River (West and East Bank), Bronx River Parkway Reservation at Westchester County Center, White Plains
- 5) Stormwater Management and Water Quality Improvement Project, Bronx River Parkway Reservation, Greenburgh
- 6) Stormwater Management and Water Quality Improvement Project, Scout Field, Bronx River Parkway Reservation, Mount Vernon and Bronxville

Stormwater Management

- 1) Saxon Woods Golf Course Pro Shop Rain Garden, Scarsdale
- 2) Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary Rain Garden, Rye

Education and Outreach

- 1) Coordinated participation by Westchester County high schools in Hudson Valley Envirothon and New York State Envirothon
- 2) Sponsored two Erosion and Sediment Control Workshops, which trained over 300 hundred people
- 3) Developed content for the resource "Wetland Protection in Westchester County: A Survey of Municipal Wetland Ordinances"
- 4) Participated in the Annual Earth Day Festival

Regional Partnerships

- 1) Westchester County Flood Action Task Force
- 2) Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts (LHCCD)
- 3) Lower Hudson-Long Island Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D)
- 4) Westchester County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board

Technical Support

- 1) Prepared Soil Group Worksheets for 19 Agricultural Parcels
- 2) Provided Technical Information to Public, Municipal and County Staff



NEW YORK CITY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Annual Highlights 2010

Highlights of 2009

Our focus remained sustainable stormwater management in 2010. With two Green Infrastructure grants, we installed a wetland on West 150th Street and a 20-barrel rain water capture system on West 83rd Street in Manhattan. Our partnership with the LHCCD and SWIM also strengthened our stormwater program. 2010 also pushed the Foodway Corridor project to the next level with the designation of the project as a Marine Highway Initiative by the US Dept of Transportation.

PERSONNEL

Rebecca switched to a part time status in September when she was hired as a part time educator by Audubon in Cold Spring. Mary Beth McCarthy has resigned from the Board in fall, which leaves three vacancies on the Board.

SUSTAINABLE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

West 150th Street Stormwater Capture LID Project

With a grant from the State Committee, we have partnered with eDesign Dynamics, Community Assisted Tenant Controlled Housing (CATCH) and Central Harlem Bradhurst LP to build a wetland on a vacant lot next to an apartment building.

NY/NJ Harbor Estuary Program LID Project

We installed 20 rain barrels in the backyard of the West 83rd Street residential complex. We also installed a green wall using Woolly Pockets.

West 74th Street LID Follow up

The soil in the planters from this site had too much clay and the plants did not thrive. We replaced the soil in the planters from West 74th Street in April.

Greenstreets Monitoring

Tatiana remained involved with Greenstreets monitoring in partnership with the NYC Parks. She participated in planning meetings and conference calls and will be assisting in the field in 2011.

Erosion and Sediment Control Workshop

The District was asked to sponsor six private workshops for the DEC endorsed 4-hour training for qualified site inspectors. Our clients included Con Edison, NYC DEP, and NYC Transit. Tatiana also organized a public workshop where nearly 150 people attended.

Low Impact Development Workshop

With a grant from the State Committee, we hosted a workshop on Green Infrastructure Cost and Maintenance. The presenters included Robert Roseen from the University of New Hampshire, Jeffrey Seltzer

from Washington DC District Department of Environment, Omar Freilla from Green Worker Cooperatives and Aaron Koch from the Mayor's Office of Long Term Planning and Sustainability. Agency representative, landscape architects, GI practitioners, and students were among the attendees.

Partnerships

Stormwater Infrastructure Matters

Tatiana and Shino continued to serve on the steering committee. The District also administered the NYC Environmental Fund grant to hire a SWIM Coordinator (Kate Zidar). The District submitted a renewal proposal to continue the SWIM Coordinator.

Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts

The District continued to provide leadership to the Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts. Shino participated in the Southeast NY Stormwater Conference planning committee, which has served also as the Steering Committee for the Coalition.

The Stormwater Conference again drew more than 100 attendees. This year the conference had a more technical focus and offered professional development credits to engineers.

The Coalition has also established a hiring committee to hire a coordinator. Shino is a member of the committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Envirothon

The 2010 Envirothon was held in Astoria Park, Queens, on a beautiful sunny day. As usual the event was generously funded by Con Edison. A total of 23 teams participated from 16 different schools across all five NYC Boroughs. Bronx High School of Science, Benjamin Cardozo High School and Staten Island Technical High School were the first, second and third place winners respectively. The awards ceremony was then held on June 11th, 2010 at the Arsenal in Central Park. Commissioner Adrian Benepe attended the ceremony, with several of the teams that participated.

NY State Envirothon

Rebecca attended the State Envirothon with the teams. Out of the 50 State attending teams, the Bronx High School of Science received 10th place overall and Benjamin Cardozo received 12th place overall. The Bronx High School of Science also received 5th place in the Oral Presentation station.

NYC Outdoors: Environmental Education Expo

Rebecca coordinated the NYC Outdoors! Expo with The River Project and NYU Wallerstein Collaborative. Because the school started late in September, we pushed the event back to the first week of October. We were fortunate to be able to use the Kimmel Student Center at NYU through our partnership. Moving the event indoors eliminated a great deal of weather related challenges. Forty organizations exhibited and more than 130 people attended the event.

2010 was also the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Wallerstein Collaborative. The anniversary was celebrated during the Expo.

Requests by Community Organizations and Schools

The principal from the Resurrection Episcopal Day School on the Upper East Side has reached out to the District to assist the teachers in developing a curriculum on water quality. Shino gave three afterschool workshops.

An AP Environmental Science teacher at LaGuardia HS asked the District to conduct a water quality lab and a soils lab. Shino and Tatiana taught hands-on labs testing the water from the Hudson River and the Lake in Central Park and three samples of soil from various parks. Because of scheduling we were not able to take them outside. Instead we brought the samples of water and soil to the lab. Students were very engaged and showed a high level of interest.

SOIL SURVEY

Rich Shaw single-handedly implemented the Soil Survey Program in 2010. The District staff joined him a few times to provide field work assistance.

Queens College Partnership

Dr. Bird continued to develop the program at the School of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District

In 2010, Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District focused on implementing various grants and programs to protect surface and ground waters, improve air quality, reduce crop damage, educate our youth, and preserve biodiversity. Three Ag Handling Facilities were installed as part of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Agricultural Facilities Granting program which is funded by local pesticide violations.

Efforts continued in implementing the NYS Ag NPS Abatement & Control Grant, Round 14 to further protect surface water and the Long Island aquifer from petroleum pollution through the replacement of old deteriorating irrigation and dual use fuel tanks. Two tanks were installed at a cost of \$7000.00 this year. With monies dedicated New York State and secured by Senator Lavelle and the Long Island Farm Bureau, the District continued to manage the Deer Fence Exclusion grant. This year, 45 farming entities received \$584,530 towards the installation of deer fencing to protect their crops from high browse pressure experienced on Long Island.

Through our cooperative partnership with the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service we were able to secure and implement cost share programs such as EQIP, AMA, and CSP. This year, Suffolk County received 20 new contracts totaling \$242,093.00 for irrigation conversion, erosion control, rotational grazing, and high tunnels.

On December 1, 2010 the District hosted an on-farm small wind workshop at Mahoney Farm in East Hampton. Earlier in the year the farm installed a 10 kW Bergey wind turbine to power their drip irrigation system and farm buildings. The District hosted a workshop at the farm in order to showcase the project to the agricultural community and increase awareness of the technology.

The District created five (5) fact sheets regarding agricultural energy efficiency: Greenhouse Heating, Cold Storage, Water Pumping/Irrigation, Lighting and In the Field. Each fact sheet is one page in length and is currently in draft form. These fact sheets will serve as a good reference for farmers who want to begin taking steps towards efficiency.

The L.I. Envirothon is an environmental studies competition for high school students in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. Winning teams, one from Nassau and one from Suffolk, move on to the state competition and each member receives a \$500 scholarship, paid registration and transportation to the state event, and sponsor gifts. To date the L.I. Envirothon has given over \$36,000 to participating students.

Additionally, the L.I. Envirothon pledged to "green-up" the event by reducing the amount of waste generated during the competition. Each of the 450+ attendees receives a stainless steel water bottle. Lunch is served with compostable plates and utensils made from corn. All leftover food scraps were composted and paper, glass, and plastic are recycled. The results are a mere bag of garbage for the landfill. We are committed to continuing our efforts towards coordinating a green event and look for new ways reduce our garbage. The 2011 Long Island Envirothon will be held on April 26th in Nassau County at the Old Bethpage Village Restoration.

The Long Island Native Grass Initiative remained focused on encouraging the use of ecotypic (genetically) native plants, by creating commercial sources of ecotyped seed, seed banking, native plant propagation and conducting educational events. In January, seed cleaning commenced at the USDA- NRCS Cape May Plant Materials Center, where volunteers cleaned over 35 collections which are stored in the seed bank at NYC Department of Park's Green Belt Native Plant Center.

Weeding of the Founder Plot reduced seed contamination and competition and a successful harvest of Little Bluestem, Switchgrass, Indian grass, and Big Bluestem was evident with a harvest of over 30 cubic yards of seed on stem. This seed was sent to Ernst Conservation Seed for cleaning and seeding, the final step in creating a commercial source of LI ecotype seed. In June, the 2nd annual plant sale and fundraiser for LINGI was held offering over 20 species grown by LINGI. Many presentations were given at horticulture societies, research forums and symposiums both locally and federally to highlight our efforts and recognize the importance of using ecotypic plants.

Through the efforts of LINGI, Suffolk County SWCD has received increased requests for assistance with grassland restoration, invasive species management and native plants in landscaping and rain gardens. A Warm Season Meadow and Grassland Restoration and Creation and a Native Plant Resource on Long Island were two technical documents drafted to provide guidance to the public.



New York State Envirothon

Date: May 25th & 26th, 2011

Location: Hobart William Smith Colleges, Geneva

Current Issue Topic: Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries

In 2011 we plan to continue with hosting an eco friendly event. The ecospheres that we awarded last year were a big hit with the students, so we plan to continue with them. Instead of awarding medallions, team members will receive an engraved bamboo 2GB flash drive. Herkimer SWCD will provide water bottles as they did last year. This eliminates the use of bottled water.

With the closing of the Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne in December, we lost committee member Fred vonMechow. Fred was responsible for advisor activities, which usually included a canoe trip with DEC providing the canoes. Fred also assisted with securing an author for the oral presentation scenario. He served as a judge and provided interns to help volunteer. His absence has been a great loss to our committee. I want to thank Edith Davey from Ontario SWCD for stepping up to organize the advisor activities.

Gerry Smithson was successful in securing \$5,000 from Iroquois Gas. Blanche Hurlbutt is still working with Senator Seward on the member item funding he secured in 2010. We are still working with our conservation partners for sponsorship, however we realize with tight budgets we have to expand our outreach to secure other sponsorship to maintain the quality program we have. Among the NYSCDEA raffle items you will see a Canon video recorder and a Canon PIXMA printer/scanner. The video recorder was given to the 2007 Canon Envirothon Committee by Canon U.S.A. to use at our discretion. The printer /scanner were awarded to the Envirothon Committee at the Canon Envirothon 2010 because the Candor team placed 8th at the event. Proceeds from the raffle will go towards supporting the NYS Envirothon. The Envirothon committee would like to thank the Employees' Association for letting us share a spot in their raffle.

To date the first draft of the tests have been submitted. The oral presentation packet materials are available to be picked up at the symposium registration. Arrangements with the college are going smoothly. Districts should have received their registration invoices. We are working on fine tuning the details of the event.

In August 2010, at the Canon Envirothon in California, I was elected to the Canon Envirothon Board of Directors. I accepted this responsibility to help make the Envirothon a better program not only at the Canon level, but at the State level also. As a member of the executive board my expenses to the Canon Envirothon and the winter meeting which is held in conjunction with the NACD annual meeting are paid for by Canon Envirothon. As your representative to the Canon Envirothon, I serve on the rules committee. It also provides me the opportunity to share information from other states with our committee. This has proven to be helpful as we discuss various issues.

Committee members this year are:

Sandy Huey, Chairperson, Judges/test Committee	Cayuga County SWCD
Blanche Hurlbutt, Vice Chair/Registration/Website	Otsego County SWCD
Velynda Risley, Secretary/Volunteers	Steuben County SWCD
Kristen White, Treasurer	NYSCDEA, Seneca County SWCD
Jennifer Burcroff, Education/Recreation Committee	Chenango County SWCD
Gerry Smithson, Site Coordinator	Herkimer County SWCD
Jason Cuddeback, Awards	Cayuga County SWCD
Jordan Clements, Snacks, Assistant Site Coordinator	Otsego County SWCD
JoAnn Kurtis, Test Committee	NRCS
John Naple, Oral Presentation/Test Committee	Retired Science Teacher
Vacant	Empire State Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society
Vacant	NYS SWCC
Robert VanLare, Volunteers	NYACD
Vacant	NYSDEC

This is a great committee. All of them have taken on additional responsibilities due to our partner agencies vacancies. They exemplify teamwork. I thank all of them for their commitment and hard work.

Volunteer forms are on the web page. Don't hesitate to fill one out. Volunteers are always appreciated.

*Respectively Submitted by
Sandy Huey, Chairperson*

Environmental Education Foundation of Soil & Water Conservation In New York State

Supporting Environmental Awareness
Through the Funding of Educational Programs



2010 Annual Report



The **Environmental Education Foundation** provided funds to programs designed to increase environmental awareness in today's youth. Funds are focused at the local level where there is the most impact. One such effort is the NYS Envirothon which is designed to test students' knowledge and understanding of natural resource issues within New York State and cultivate their desire to learn more about our natural resources and environmental issues.

The spirit of competition stimulates students' interests in environmental concerns and motivates them to further develop their skills and grow into environmentally-aware, action-oriented adults. In 2010, \$ 9,500 of foundation funds went to supporting the NYS Envirothon.



2010 Contact List of Potential Funders

Walmart, State Giving Fund, Trout Unlimited, Alcoa Massena Operations, National Wild Turkey Federation, Bank of America, Birds Eye, M&T Bank, Joyce Foundation, HSBC, Aldo Leopold Leadership Program, Key Bank, National Parks, AT&T, Hewlett Fund, Sallie Mae, Home Depot, Fannie Mae, Ittleson Foundation, Dow Chemical Company, Tyco Employee Matching Gift Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Tyco Foundation, Ford Foundation, Unilever United States Inc., Iroquois Gas Community Grant Program, Union Pacific Corporation, International paper, Unisys, National Grid, United Technologies, Pepsi Co, USA Interactive, Hamburger Helper, Verizon Foundation, Lowe's, W.W. Grainger Inc., Blockbuster Inc. Wachovia Corporation/Wells Fargo, Alfred P. Sloane Foundation, WellPoint Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, Enterprise Rent-a-car, Ericsson GE Mobile Communications, Federated Dept(Macys), Gallagher Foundation, Gannet Foundation, GE Foundation, Geico Foundation, SBC Foundation (AT&T), Sprint Foundation, Square D Foundation, Sun Trust Bank, T. Rowe Price Associates, Temple Inland Foundation, Boering Company

Environmental Education Foundation Fund Raising Efforts

Environmental Education Foundation banner was displayed at numerous locations at events in an effort to bring awareness to the foundation.

Financial Review

Revenue for the year was \$ 3,452.89. Expenses were \$ 12,571.66. Total balance \$ 22,482.52

Get involved with the Environmental Education Foundation and
send your financial support today - it's tax deductible!
Help make a better future by supporting environmental awareness today!

www.nyenviroed.org

New York State Fair Report 2010

Prepared by: Kristin White, Seneca County SWCD, Committee Member

NYS Fair Committee Members

Kristin White, Seneca County SWCD
Seth Dennis, Tompkins County SWCD
Erica Schreiner, Oswego County SWCD
Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD
Tad Gerace, Ontario County SWCD
Jerry Verrigni, Schuyler County SWCD

Thanks to all of those who once again helped volunteer their time to work shifts at the 2010 Great New York State Fair. We had 40 volunteers from 20 Counties. We appreciate your help!

Our location within the Horticultural Building changed yet again in 2010! We brought back the Rain Garden and the Prize Wheel. We also added a Rain Barrel to the booth. There was a lot of interest in the Rain Barrel and we will have more information on it at this year's exhibit. The committee is hard at work developing a display for 2011. We are looking at updating the District Sales Programs informational binder that we have on display. An email will be sent out shortly. If there are any corrections or additions to your County's Programs please be sure to get them in when requested.

We will let all Districts know where exactly we will be within the Horticultural Building for 2011.

Handout Items: ♦District Sales Programs Binder ♦Rain Garden Brochure ♦District Programs & Contact Information Sheet ♦NYS Soil and Water Conservation Districts Brochure ♦Careers in NYS Soil and Water Conservation Districts Brochure ♦Make Your Home the Solution to Stormwater Pollution Brochure ♦and many more!

Winners of the Employee Incentive Award of \$50.00 were: Kristin White, Seneca County, Tad Gerace, Ontario County, Erica Schreiner, Oswego County, Mike Riley, Cayuga County, and Bill Paddock, Oneida County.

Winners of the coloring contest in 0-5 years were Sebastian Bradshaw, Onondaga County (1st) and John Whiteside, III, Delaware County (2nd). In 6-8 years were Makayla Whiteside, Delaware County (1st) and Allie Wilmot, Cayuga County (2nd). In 9-12 years were Paige Griffin, Monroe County (1st) and Lydia Mekeel, Cortland County, NY (2nd). Way to Go!!

We had 683 entries for the Guessing Game last year. There were four correct entries! The winner was drawn out of the four by a committee member and Linda Behrens from Westchester County came in as the winner!

The NYS Fair will run August 25, 2011 to September 5, 2011.

Empire Farm Days 2010

Once again we were in the Southwest Main Tent along with the NYS Conservation Committee Department of Agriculture & Markets. Our focus was on Ag and Non-Ag projects that have been done in different counties. We had a good turn out and not all of the rain that we received in 2009!

The Committee is working on this year's displays. If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact one of the Committee members.

We will remain in the Southwest Main Tent for 2011. Empire Farm Days will run August 9th – 11th in Seneca Falls at the Rodman Lott & Son Farm.

If you are interested in helping the Committee set up or want to volunteer, please contact Kristin White from Seneca County.

Kristin E. White
Chair



2010 Conservation Skills Workshop Cortland NY September 27th – October 1st

The 2010 Conservation Skills Workshop was a huge success this year with over 100 attendees. This year Mark Burger, Tom Eskildsen, John Persch and Christine Watkins shared the chair responsibilities. As always, the committee puts a lot of time into developing a training outline, identifying instructors and coordinating the classes. The 2010 Committee members included Greg Albrecht, Jeff TenEyck, Cliff Frasier, Stacy Russell, Steve Lorraine and Ron Young.

New this year was the filming of the concrete pour for the Concrete Inspection Class. We have hopes that this video will be used for future trainings. Thank you to Mark Burger for throwing the concept out to the committee and for his help editing the video with Paula Bagley from NRCS.

We had a lot of positive feedback on the 2010 Workshop. The committee meets in May to begin planning the event so if you have any suggestions for training, please let one of the committee members know. We can only make this event better with your input. If you are interested on serving on the committee please let one of the committee members know.

We feel it is important to remind all District employees that Conservation Skills workshop is not just for the new employee. By offering advanced classes we hope to broaden the skill base of seasoned employees, while offering basic classes for those with less experience or for those wanting to learn about something they have never worked with.

We would like to thank the committee for the time that they put into developing the workshop and to the instructors for their valuable expertise. A huge thank you to Cortland County SWCD for hosting the event and the many hours that they put in behind the scenes to make it a success. Finding classroom locations, setting up field visit sites, taking care of all the registrations, providing the New Employee luncheon and all the snacks during the week – this is just a few examples of all the work they do for the Conservation Skills Workshop. They put a lot of time and effort into coordinating the event. We thank the following for their financial assistance for the event: NYSCDEA, USDA NRCS and the Empire Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Burger, Tom Eskildsen, John Persch, Christine Watkins
CSW Co-chairs



Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District

Frank W. Bratt Ag. Center • 3542 Turner Rd. • Jamestown, NY 14701

Phone: (716) 664-2355 • Fax: (716) 483-0773

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Administrative Conference Report

2010 Administrative Management Conference was held on October 17 – 19, 2010 at the Radisson Hotel, Utica, NY. This training session was a success, for the first time training was combined with the NYACD Annual Meeting. Forty one (41) Counties participated in the conference, with one hundred fifty five (155) attendees. There were 56 Directors, 35 administrative staff, 32 managers, 16 NRCS and 16 others. The classes included Modified Accrual Accounting, Director Fiduciary Responsibilities, Budgeting in Tough Times, What is Your District Entitled To, Work Place Safety-PESH, Planning a Successful Tour, District Operations, Farm Bill and Gas Drilling. The Administrative Committee would like to see more participation from all of the groups at future joint training sessions. All of the Committee Members worked very hard to put together a quality program for the Conference. I would like to thank all of the committee members for their hard work and look forward to working with them on future trainings. The committee is always looking for new ideas and interested people to participate.

Frank Bratt Scholarship Program 2010 Annual Report

The Division I representative traditionally has been assigned the responsibility of administering the Frank Bratt Scholarship Program with oversight by the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association Board of Directors. The scholarship program was initiated in 1990 to assist District employees with furthering their professional development and education. Successful applicants are reimbursed for all or a portion of the cost of credit or non-credit college courses, workshops or other professional development programs. The following report summarizes the administration of two funding cycles for the scholarship program this past year.

There were six applicants requesting \$2,500 for the June 1st round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$1,500:

- Ryan Cunningham
- Kristen O'Dell
- Kelly Emerick
- Jason Cuddeback

There were nine applicants requesting \$3,265 for the January 1st round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$1,500:

- Tiffany Pinheiro
- Tucker Koutz
- Diane Fiorntino
- Polly Weigand
- Ryan Cunningham

Congratulations to this year's recipients of the Frank Bratt Scholarship! I would also like to encourage all employees seeking to further develop their skills or broaden their knowledge to apply for the scholarship.

In addition to the Frank Bratt Scholarship Program in New York, the National Association of Conservation District Employees offers a scholarship program. The Don Aron Scholarship allows for financial support to a District employee or member of their immediate family who is participating in a resource conservation curriculum while enrolled in an accredited college or university. For more information about the Don Aron Scholarship please visit the NACDE website at www.ncdea.org.

Best of luck!

Mark C. Gaston
Erie County SWCD, Division I Representative

Resolution for New York State Conservation Districts Employee Association (NYS CDEA) from Otsego County SWCD

Whereas, streambank rehabilitation provides significant environmental benefits to local water quality by reducing sediment and phosphorus export, and

Whereas, streambank rehabilitation provides significant economic benefits to local landowners and municipalities by protecting private and public property such as agricultural fields, permanent structures and transportation infrastructure, and

Whereas, current New York State regulations require that stream rehabilitation projects create no substantial visible contrast in turbidity to natural conditions during implementation, and

Whereas, visible contrast in turbidity to natural conditions can occur with even the most elaborate of design features meant to reduce mobilization of sediment creating a condition of liability to those implementing such projects, and

Whereas, compliance with this regulation often requires design features that significantly increase the cost of proposed projects beyond what is available through traditional funding sources making high priority projects unaffordable, and

Whereas, the amount of sediment mobilized during rehabilitation is less than the amount of sediment mobilized if a project is not implemented

Therefore Be It Resolved, that NYS CDEA work proactively with New York State representatives, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and other appropriate parties to amend the turbidity standard found in Section 703.2 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations to allow for some level of visual contrast to natural conditions during the implementation of stream rehabilitation projects.

Resolution for New York State Conservation Districts Employee Association (NYS CDEA) from Otsego County SWCD

Whereas, streambank rehabilitation projects within Area's of Archeological Sensitivity, as described by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation (NYSHPO), generally require a Phase I Archeological survey and

Whereas, the required Phase I Archeological surveys and potential mitigation or archeological data collection efforts can be costly, and

Whereas, funding for streambank rehabilitation projects generally does not include Phase I Archeological Surveys, or potential outcomes of the Surveys, as an eligible expense, and

Whereas, streambank rehabilitation projects protect soil and water resources as well as potential archeological artifacts contained within the soil resource, and

Whereas, streambank rehabilitation projects not implemented due to the increased cost of Phase I Archeological Surveys and potential outcomes are likely to result in the loss of both soil resources and potential archeological artifacts and continued degradation of water quality

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the NYSCDEA work in a proactive manner with representatives of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation and other appropriate parties to develop a standard, policy or administrative mechanism whereby stream rehabilitation projects that meet a certain criteria, developed by NYSCDEA and NYSHPO during this process, are waived from the Phase I Archeological Survey requirement.

Resolution for New York State Conservation Districts Employee Association (NYS CDEA) from Otsego County SWCD

Whereas, there is the potential for wide spread development of natural gas resources within New York State, and

Whereas, development of these resources will include the installation of gas pipelines, often referred to as gathering lines, that are below the threshold of review, regulation and certification of the Public Service Commission and notification of State Representatives,

Whereas, gathering lines are believed to constitute the majority of pipelines anticipated to be installed and,

Whereas, proper, independent oversight of the installation of all pipelines, including gathering lines, associated with potential widespread natural gas development is essential to ensure minimal environmental degradation in regards to local hydrology and water quality, sensitive environmental habitats and agricultural productivity

Therefore Be It Resolved, that NYS CDEA work proactively with New York State representatives, the New York State Public Service Commission and other appropriate parties to amend Article VII of Public Service Law to include those associated with natural gas development that are less than 1,000 feet in length and below 125 pounds per square inch.

Resolution for New York State Conservation Districts Employee Association
(NYS CDEA) from Montgomery County SWCD

Whereas, the SWCC allows a contract for the AEM program of up to \$75,000 for Districts with a Certified Planner to build District capacity, and

Whereas, there is not a pool of Certified Planners to draw from when a planner leaves the District,

Whereas, historically it takes up to twenty months for a qualified person to become certified

Whereas, it is important for a District to maintain program continuity

Therefore Be It Resolved, that NYS CDEA work proactively with New York State SWCC to set a policy that allows a District to maintain its current contractual level during the interim certification process.

2011 NYS CDEA Annual Meeting

RESOLUTION:

All past Willard F. Croney for Distinguished Service recipients, who are NYS Conservation District Employees' Association members, shall be provided the opportunity to participate in reviewing the annual nominations and selecting an individual for the Willard F. Croney Award along with the Division Representatives. In the case of a tie, past eligible winners will vote until a single winner is selected.

WHEREAS, the Willard F. Croney Award is defined as a Lifetime Achievement Award given to a District employee who has demonstrated outstanding excellence in the promotion of Soil and Water Conservation District employees; and

WHEREAS, the nomination should document the candidate's preponderance of cooperation within and between District employees and his/her superior job performance; and

WHEREAS, the current Willard F. Croney Award nominations are reviewed and a winner is selected by the past five recipients of the award and Division Representatives; and

WHEREAS, all the Willard F. Croney award recipients were selected because of their exceptional fulfillment of award criteria; and

WHEREAS, all Willard F. Croney award recipients equally embrace the professional capacity and ability to evaluate nominees reflected upon the above identified criteria; and

WHEREAS, there are more than five past Willard F. Croney Award recipients who are NYS CDEA members; now therefore let it be

Resolved that all past Willard F. Croney for Distinguished Service recipients, who are NYS Conservation District Employees' Association members, shall be provided the opportunity to participate in reviewing the annual Willard F. Croney nominations and selecting an individual for the Willard F. Croney Award along with the Division Representatives. In the case of a tie, past eligible winners will vote until a single winner is selected.