

New York State Conservation District  
Employees' Association, Inc.



2013 Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 2013

“Providing today,  
Protecting tomorrow”

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

**ANNUAL MEETING**

**March 13, 2013**

**Holiday Inn**

**Auburn, NY**

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**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order – Welcome and Introductions
2. Roll Call of Districts
3. Reading and approval of 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes
4. Review Slate of Officers – Steve Lorraine – Past President
5. Treasurer's Report for 2012.
6. Review and approval of 2013 Budget
7. Agency Reports
  - a. New York Association of Conservation Districts
  - b. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee
  - c. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
8. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association Reports
9. New Employee Recognition
10. Service Recognition
11. Officer Reports
12. Division Reports; will also report on new Div. reps for the odd divisions.
13. Committee Reports
14. Resolutions
15. Other Business from the Floor
16. Election of Officers – Steve Lorraine
17. Adjournment



New York State Conservation Districts Employees' Association  
Annual Meeting  
Holiday Inn, Auburn, New York  
March 14, 2012

**Members Attending:**

Jim Lieberum, President  
Nichelle Billhardt, Vice President  
Velynda Risley, Secretary  
Aaron Ristow, Member at Large  
Kristin White, Treasurer

**Guest:**

Dennis DeWeese, USDA NRCS  
George Prios, NYACD  
Michael Latham, NYS SWCC

**Division Representatives:**

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

I. **Called to Order:** President Jim Lieberum called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm. Jim welcomed all those in attendance and introduced the NYSCDEA Executive Board and Division Representatives. Jim led the meeting with the Pledge of Alliance.

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	Chenango SWCD
Clinton SWCD	Columbia SWCD	Cortland SWCD
Delaware SWCD	Dutchess SWCD	Erie SWCD
Essex SWCD	Franklin SWCD	Fulton SWCD
Genesee SWCD	Greene SWCD	Hamilton SWCD
Herkimer SWCD	Jefferson SWCD	Lewis SWCD
Madison SWCD	Monroe SWCD	Montgomery SWCD
Onondaga SWCD	Ontario SWCD	Orange SWCD
Orleans SWCD	Oswego SWCD	Otsego SWCD
Rensselaer SWCD	St. Lawrence SWCD	Schuyler SWCD
Seneca SWCD	Seneca SWCD	Steuben SWCD
Suffolk SWCD	Tompkins SWCD	Warren SWCD
Washington SWCD	Westchester SWCD	Wyoming SWCD
Yates SWCD		

III. **Reading and Approval of 3/16/11 Annual Meeting Minutes:**

- Motion was made by Dave Wilson second by Ed Hoxie to dispense the reading of the 2012 minutes. Carried
- Motion was made by Dave Wilson second by Ed Hoxie to approve the 2012 Annual Meeting minutes as written. Carried.

- IV. **Review Slate of Officers:** Steve Lorraine thanked the Executive Board for their service and another successful year.

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

President, Jim Lieberum                      Vice President, Nichelle Billhardt  
Secretary, Velynda Risley                  Treasurer, Kristin White

- Motion was made by Dave Wilson, second by Ed Hoxsie 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 Lieberum stated the report is the packet and if there were any questions.

- Motion was made by Rick Weidenbach, second by Gerry Smithson to approve the 2011 Treasurer's report as presented. Carried.

President Lieberum reviewed the letter he had written to the Association outlining the time line on what occurred and what steps were taken by CDEA to resolve the issue of the uncategorized expenses. He continued to discuss Officer Guidelines and Responsibilities Supplemental – Standard of Operation (Treasurer). Copies of the letter and Supplemental is appended to the minutes. He asked if there were any questions from the Association. Blanche H. expressed her appreciation to the on the Board for following through issue. JD inquired if the Board has a bond in place. President Lieberum stated the bond has been purchased.

- VI. **Review and Approval 2012 Budget:** President Lieberum reviewed the budget with Association. A copy was provided in the meeting packet as well as appended to the minutes.

- Motion was made by Jerry Verrigni, seconded by Blanche Hurlbutt to approve the 2012 budget as written. Carried.

- VII. **Agency Report:**

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

B. **New York State Soil & Water Conservation District:** Mike Latham stated the following:

- Copies the 2011 Annual Report are available at the registration desk (copy is appended to the minutes)
- The new name for the Division is *Division of Land & Water Resources*. The Division has been divided into two units – Soil & Water Unit and Farm Land Protection Unit. Both units are working closely together whenever they can. The transition is going well. The Division has 71% of the contracts administered by Ag & Markets with 1/5 of the resources distributed by the Department.

- Proud of the accomplishments this year and sincerely appreciative of your efforts, leadership and patience.
- Thanked his staff for their efforts and assistance on program delivery.
- AEM
  - Year 8 will be announced shortly
  - Year 7 will be the self audit method
  - Revised/updated 9 AEM worksheets this year
- State Aide Reimbursement
  - Part A should coming to Districts soon
  - Part C payments are in process
- EPF has an additional \$8,064 for each District. This is one time deal. We will need to get this back into the appropriations for next year or get the law changed.
- 319 Funds are coming back into focus. OMB and GAO are very aggressive in Washington on EPA uses of 319. They would like funds back on the ground projects which will be positive for Districts.
- Department did receive a waiver to hire an engineer. In addition, the Department has 4 contractual positions up – 1 in Dutchess and 3 in Cortland.
- Ag NPS asked the Administration for additional \$1.2M which will allow Districts to receive \$600,000 for additional program work.
- The Round 18 announcements are expected in next fiscal year.
- Has new State fiscal accounting system coming online
- Outlook Items for the Year
  - Farm Bill Commodity versus Conservation Programs being debated National.
  - Efforts on consolidating USDA Service Centers
  - EPA will be putting out guidance on Clean Water Act & Waters of United States
  - New CAFO permit coming out this year both for Federal & State Renewal
  - State NPS Management Plan

C. **USDA Natural Resources Conservation:** Appended to the minutes.

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

**Division I**

Allison Thomas, Cattaragus SWCD  
 Christopher Fry, Erie SWCD  
 Katie Sommerfeldt, Orleans SWCD  
 Dennis Kirby, Orleans SWCD

**Division III**

Russell Martin, St. Lawrence SWCD

**Division II**

Katie Jakaub, Cayuga SWCD  
 James Balyszak, Monroe SWCD

**Division IV**

Rebecca Collins, Schuyler SWCD  
 Megan O'Brien, Steuben SWCD  
 Eugene Aarino, Tompkins SWCD  
 Angel Hinckle, Tompkins SWCD

**Division VII**

Michele Lindsay, Columbia SWCD  
Erin Sommerville, Dutchess SWCD

Teresa Burch, Tompkins SWCD

- IX. **Years of Service Recognition:** President Lieberum stated the 10 year service pins were recognized at the Division meetings. Each Division Rep recognized and announced employees with President Lieberum handing out the Year of Service pins as follows:

**Division I**

Donald Stribick, Erie SWCD 15 years  
Gloria Miess, Allegany SWCD 30 years

**Division II**

Maggie Connelly, Onondaga SWCD 15 years  
Thomas Eskildsen, Yates SWCD 15 years  
Ron Podolak, Cayuga SWCD 40 years

**Division III**

Eileen Lavier, Oneida SWCD 20 years  
Deb Michael, Herkimer SWCD 25 years

**Division IV**

Vicki Reynolds, Chenango SWCD 15 years  
Chris Savage, Delaware SWCD 15 years  
Karen Clifford, Delaware SWCD 15 years  
Elaine Dalrymple, Schuyler SWCD 15 years  
Lawrence Underwood, Delaware SWCD 15 years  
Lance Lockwood, Chenango SWCD 15 years

**Division V**

Janice Reynolds, Hamilton SWCD 25 years

**Division VI**

John Persch, Fulton SWCD 15 years  
Paula Schaeffer, Schenectady SWCD 15 years  
Brenda Weaver, Schoharie SWCD 20 years  
Corey Nellis, Montgomery SWCD 25 years  
David Mosher, Schenectady SWCD 25 years

**Division VII**

Myra Lawyer, Dutchess SWCD 15 years  
Brian Schoralick, Dutchess SWCD 15 years  
Brian Brutsman, Sullivan SWCD 15 years  
Ed Hoxsie, Dutchess SWCD 20 years

**Division VIII**

R. Allen Beers, Rockland SWCCD 15 years  
Lauri Taylor, Putnam SWCD 20 years

X. **Officers Report:**

**NYSCDEA President Report:** Appended to the minutes.

**NYSCDEA Vice President Report:** Nichelle Billhardt, 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** Kristin O'Dell stated her report is in the packet.

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

President Lieberum reviewed the even Division elections PJ Emerick, Division II; Jordan Clements, Division IV, and Polly Weigand, Division VIII for being elected as Division Reps to their respective Divisions. Division VI had no one step forward and John has served the allotted time; however, if no one steps forward with 14 days after the annual meeting, then the President can nominate someone from the Division.

XII. **Committee Reports**

**NYS Envirothon:** President Lieberum 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 Dean Moore. She further stated that she has been working with EEF on writing grants. To date, four (4) has been written with two (2) other being declined.



President Lieberum stated a copy of the NYS Envirothon Guidelines is in the packet for your review. Discussion followed

- A motion was made by Dave W., seconded by Gerry Smithson to approve the NYS Envirothon Guidelines as presented. Carried.

**Environmental Education Foundation (EEF):** Dave Reckhan stated the EEF report is in the packet.

**NYS Fair:** Kristin W. stated the report is in the packet.

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

**Frank Bratt Scholarship:** Mark stated the report is in the packet.

**Administrative Management Conference:** Deb Kelley stated the report is in the packet.

**Northeast Conservation District Employee's Association Reports:** Ed Hoxsie stated the report is in the packet.

- XIII. **Resolutions:** President Lieberum stated there is one resolution and it's in the packet. He read the first and last paragraphs to the Association and asked if there were any questions.

#1 – 2012: A Resolution that the New York State Conservation Districts Employees Association work with our partners at NRCS to stream line this process to reduce workload and expense to the Districts and the farmers we serve.

- Motion was made by Mark G., seconded by Kristen O. to accept the Resolution as presented. Carried.

- XIV. **Adjournment:**

- Motion was made by Dave Wilson, second by Amanda Barber to adjourn the 2012 Annual NYSCDEA meeting. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

*Velynda Risley*

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Velynda Risley  
Secretary  
5/1/12

**NYS CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.**

**2012 BUDGET-FINAL**

ACCOUNT	2012 Budget		2012 Actual	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	10,000.00	7,400.00	10,354.00	9,350.00
<b>Training Sessions:</b>				
Admin/Mgt Conf		1,000.00		149.50
CSW	3,000.00	2,000.00	2,513.59	2,079.11
WQS	98,000.00	75,000.00	82,617.00	61,683.77
Training -CPESC	1,000.00	1,000.00		
WQS Entertainment	4,000.00	2,000.00	5,900.00	2,270.46
Committee Expense		500.00		
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		6,000.00		2,585.00
<b>Donations:</b>				
Envirothon Scholarship		4,375.00		1,817.00
Donations-Other		500.00		
Executive Board		8,500.00		6,932.13
Insurance		2,100.00		2,060.13
Promo/Website		700.00		499.99
NACD		2,200.00		2,064.68
NCDEA Dues		200.00		200.00
NACDE NE		900.00		718.44
Newsletter		3,500.00		3,500.00
Ronny Raindrop		2,500.00		3,226.00
Sunshine Fund	100.00	100.00	752.22	229.52
Office Supplies		500.00		1,673.63
Golf Tournament			43.78	43.78
Division I		500.00		
Division II		500.00		215.76
Division III		500.00		300.00
Division IV		500.00		314.99
Division V		500.00		320.00
Division VI		500.00		475.87
Division VII		500.00		
Division VIII		500.00		507.27
Carryover	8,875.00			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>124,975.00</b>	<b>124,975.00</b>	<b>102,180.59</b>	<b>103,217.03</b>

<b>Self Sustaining Accounts</b>				
Frank Bratt	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,107.44	2,581.50
NYS Fair/EFD	5,750.00	5,750.00	4,600.00	5,806.39
NYS Envirothon	48,455.40	48,455.40	34,210.00	40,403.03
Envirothon Scholarships	4,375.00	4,375.00	1,821.68	4,625.00
<b>SSA Totals</b>	<b>61,580.40</b>	<b>61,580.40</b>	<b>43,739.12</b>	<b>53,415.92</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>186,555.40</b>	<b>186,555.40</b>	<b>145,919.71</b>	<b>156,632.95</b>

Actual Carryover  
-10,713.24

CDEA Carryover	1,036.44
FB Carryover	-525.94
NYS Fair Carryover	1,206.39
Envirothon Carryover	6,193.03
Envirothon Scholarship Carryover	2,803.32
	<u>0.00</u>

**NYS CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**  
**YEAR TO DATE BANK REPORT**  
As of December 31, 2012

	<u>Dec 31, 12</u>	<u>Dec 31, 11</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
<b>Checking/Savings</b>		
<b>NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING</b>		
General NYSCDEA Funds	30,267.54	35,509.30
Conservation Skills	9,909.61	9,475.13
NYS Envirothon Checking	25,191.53	31,384.56
Ronny Raindrop	0.00	1,000.00
NYS Fair Account	1,331.84	2,538.23
Sunshine Fund	1,132.37	309.67
WQS Entertainment Fund	16,082.00	12,133.86
<b>Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKI...</b>	<u>83,914.89</u>	<u>92,350.75</u>
<b>Envirothon Scholarship Acco...</b>	5,628.45	8,431.77
<b>Frank Bratt Savings-639018316</b>	24,154.95	23,629.01
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<u>113,698.29</u>	<u>124,411.53</u>
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>		
Accounts Receivable	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,803.15</u>
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>10,803.15</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>113,698.29</u>	<u>135,214.68</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>113,698.29</u></u>	<u><u>135,214.68</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	0.00	0.00

NYS CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION, INC.  
2013 PROPOSED BUDGET

ACCOUNT	2013 Proposed Budget	
	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	10,000.00	7,000.00
<b>Training Sessions:</b>		
Admin/Mgt Conf		1,000.00
CSW	2,500.00	2,500.00
WQS	85,000.00	65,000.00
Training -CPESC	1,000.00	1,000.00
WQS Entertainment	4,000.00	4,000.00
Committee Expense		500.00
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		2,100.00
<b>Donations:</b>		
Envirothon Scholarship		4,375.00
Donations-Other		500.00
Executive Board		8,500.00
Insurance		2,266.00
Promo/Website		700.00
NACD		2,100.00
NCDEA Dues		200.00
NACDE NE		900.00
Newsletter		3,500.00
<b>Fundraiser Activities</b>		
Bucket/Silent Auction		
Golf Tournament		
Sunshine Fund	100.00	200.00
Office Supplies		500.00
Division I		500.00
Division II		500.00
Division III		500.00
Division IV		500.00
Division V		500.00
Division VI		500.00
Division VII		500.00
Division VIII		500.00
Carryover	8,241.00	
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>110,841.00</b>	<b>110,841.00</b>

<b>Self Sustaining Accounts</b>		
Frank Bratt	3,000.00	3,000.00
NYS Fair/EFD	5,000.00	5,000.00
NYS Envirothon	51,234.00	51,234.00
Envirothon Scholarships	4,375.00	4,375.00
<b>SSA Totals</b>	<b>63,609.00</b>	<b>63,609.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>174,450.00</b>	<b>174,450.00</b>

Proceeds from the Bucket Raffle, Silent Auction, and the Golf Tournament will be put into Frank Bratt and The Sunshine Fund.

## NYSCDEA New Employee Recognition

<b>Division I</b>				
Leonard Preston	Allegany	Watershed Technician	Nov	2012
Jodi Chamberlain	Genesee	Cleck/Treasurer	Feb	2013
Alan Fagan	Wyoming	District Technician	June	2012
Amy McGinnis	Wyoming	District Technician	Feb	2013
<b>Division II</b>				
Aaron Buchta	Onondaga	Resource Conservation Specialist	Jan	2013
<b>Division III</b>				
Jacob Hart	Herkimer	AEM Program Assistance	March	2012
Alexis O'Donnell	Lewis	Intern	May	2011
<b>Division IV</b>				
Lauren Lyons	Cortland	Natural Resource Conservationist	Sept	2012
Henry Sanders	Delaware	Civil Engineering Technician	Feb	2011
<b>Division V</b>				
Ben Clark	Clinton	District Technician	May	2012
Robert Bombard	Warren	Water Resources Specialist	March	2012
Nicholas Rowell	Warren	Natural Resources Specialist	May	2012
<b>Division VI</b>				
Lori Sheehan	Washington	Office Manger	Oct	2012
<b>Division VII</b>				
Jennifer Clifford	Dutchess	Water Quality Specialist	June	2012
Brandon Terrill	Greene	Stream Stewardship Tech	April	2012
Chris Langworthy	Greene	District Technician	Feb	2013
Matthew Monahan	Orange	District Technician	Aug	2012
<b>Division VIII</b>				
Ann Marie Calabro	Suffolk	District Technician	Oct	2012

## NYSCDEA Years of Service Recognition

Division I					Years
Dave Spann	Chautauqua	District Manager	Sept	1998	15
Mark Gaston	Erie	Field Manager	Oct	1998	15
Deb Kelly	Chautauqua	Secretary/Treasurer	Sept.	1993	20
Dave Wilson	Chautauqua	District Technician (p/t)	May	1983	30
Robert Berkemeier	Genesee	District Technician (p/t)	April	1968	45
Division II					
Colby Peterson	Yates	District Technician	Jan	2003	10
Robert Sytrker	Livingston	District Manager	Jan	1998	15
Allyn Noga	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	Feb	1993	20
Valerie Horning	Cayuga	Conservation District Technician	March	1993	20
James Balyszak	Yates	District Manager	Aug	1988	25
Rick Ayers	Yates	District Technician	Oct	1988	25
Division III					
Kristen Bossard	Oneida	Resource Conservation Specialist	Dec	2003	10
David Livermore	Madison	Nutrient Management Planner	Feb	1998	15
Kevin Lewis	Oneida	Executive Director	Jan	1988	25
John DeHollander	Oswego	District Manager	Aug	1978	35
Division IV					
Thomas Mallory	Delaware	Stream Program Engineer	Sept	2003	10
Jessica Verrigni	Chemung	Stormwater Technician	Aug	1998	15
Judith Spencer	Delaware	Administrative Assistant	Mar	1998	15
Jeff Parker	Steuben	District Manager	June	1988	25
Lee Rizzon	Steuben	Equipment Operator (p/t)	June	1988	25
Brain Danforth	Delaware	Civil Engineering Technician	July	1983	30
Division V					
Jim Lieberum	Warren	District Manager	July	1998	15
Division VI					
Darryl Romano	Schenectady	Medium Equipment Operator	July	1998	15
Robert Kalbfliesh	Washington	District Technician	July	1998	15
Joseph Driscoll	Washington	District Manager	April	1983	30
John (Jeb) Hamilton	Saratoga	Field Manager	April	1978	35
Division VII					
Abbe Martin	Greene	Conservatin Planner	Oct	2003	10
Joel DuBois	Greene	District Program Specialist	Aug	1998	15
Heidi Carl	Greene	Admin Ast/Exec Sec to Bd	Nov	1998	15
Lisa Schick	Sullivan	Program Assistant	Jan	1998	15
Leslie Kirby	Sullivan	District Technician	June	1998	15
Gary Capella	Ulster	Executive Director	June	1993	20
Division VIII					
Shino Tanikawa	NY City	District Manager	Aug	1998	15
Robert Doscher	Westchester	District Manager	Feb	1993	20



## President's Report: 2012-2013

As I complete my second and last term as President of the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association I look back at what we have worked on and accomplished and what the future may hold. There are many challenges that lay before the CDEA and all Districts, whether it is changes to how we work at our offices, or new rules and regulations or funding questions.

We are still recovering from the economic downturn that hit several years ago. However in the NYS Environmental Protection Fund you can see that Districts have been recognized for their value. We have managed to be better off now than several years ago and with the legislative cap rise, have the ability to grow even more. I know that several Districts were negatively impacted by the shifting of the funds from Parts B and C to satisfy Part A. Obviously that is an unintended consequence that needs to be rectified as soon as possible, whether it is through an increase to the EPF funding line item or other methods that are not readily apparent. However I fully believe that this legislative change overall will be a tremendous benefit to Districts. Part of the responsibility now is making sure that we continue to build capacity in the Districts and get conservation on the ground.

There has been much discussion on several agricultural issues this past year: The proposed changes to the CAFO regulations and USDA-NRCS's 590 standard. There is a short report on each of these in this packet that Christine Watkins has provided. I wanted to make sure that you knew that when issues such as these arise, we look on the Board to see who would be effective in dealing with these situations. We are fortunate to have several members from the Board and the CDEA on the committees to provide a District perspective and provide that common sense check that can sometimes disappear when dealing with rules or legislation.

The Technical Deployment training plan has been moving forward the last several years and took a larger step in 2012. Training for new employees was held at SUNY Cobleskill and had a variety of courses designed to build up technical abilities. In addition, SUNY Cobleskill has taken the information that the partners (NYSSWCC, NRCS and CDEA) has provided and evaluated their own resource curriculum to see what could be integrated or improved on for students who are looking at a natural resource based career. I believe that we will see more and more of these types of training events held at colleges in NY, and not just for new employees.

Since my District has little to do with agriculture, I rely on other CDEA Board members for their agricultural knowledge, however I am adept at dealing with other issues such as stormwater. For those of you who are certified DEC instructors for the 4 hour Erosion and Sediment Control training, I have been reaching out to the DEC to allow the CDEA and Districts to assist the DEC with revamping the training. I feel that this is something that should be done as technology changes and we should be providing updated information to contractors and municipalities. I plan on keeping with this task and will work on this after my presidency ends. It is suffice to say though that Districts are recognized as leaders in erosion and sediment control and in stormwater.

Have we accomplished all that I wanted to when I become president 2 years ago? No. I see now that there are many irons in the fire and the ones that get the hottest need to get taken care of first, but I am proud of the job that the Board has done and extremely proud to be part of the CDEA. I have been with Districts for 15 years and have been on the Board in some capacity of 12. It is time for me to step down and have new folks provide their perspectives. The responsibility for the continued success of the CDEA is yours. The time to hold back for some reason or another is over. Stand up and be a part of this group, you will reap benefits many times over. Thank you for allowing me to serve and I look forward to the future of the CDEA.

*Jim Lieberum, President, NYSCDEA, Inc.*

## 2012 Division I Annual Report

I would like to thank everyone in Division I for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the NYSCDEA Executive Board. I have found Division I responsibilities to be very rewarding and would encourage all employees within the division to participate when the opportunity presents itself. Participation could be on the board itself or on a variety of different committee's that require employee input. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss your participation.

In 2012 it has been my priority to adequately represent Division I opinions and concerns on a variety of subjects that directly or indirectly affect District employees. These subjects have ranged from Ronny Raindrop to technical development for District employees to a financial review of the associations' by-laws and everywhere in between.

This year our Division was not able to hold a full employee's meeting but were able to meet once at an NYACD Division meeting in Batavia to discuss current issues. This meeting was well attended by managers, staff and directors and reports were given by NYACD, NRCS and the CDEA. I believe Division meetings are important and a good opportunity to meet other District employees to share opinions and concerns on the topics of the day but combining meetings whenever possible is more efficient and productive for all involved.

As a summary of Division I county activity I reviewed the NYS Ag Nonpoint Source program applications for round 18 funding. Division I counties applied for 12 projects, 7 of which were approved for funding, securing over 1.9 million dollars in state funding for agricultural water quality improvements in Western New York. In addition, Division I counties submitted multiple joint and independent applications under round 19 of the program requesting over 3.9 million in state funding. Hopefully a portion of these applications will be successful in securing additional grant funding for water quality protection in the region. Great job Division I in addition to all the other quality programs and services you provide such as: AEM planning, watershed planning and Lake Erie initiatives, stormwater technical assistance, E&SC training, streambank restoration, environmental education, Tree and Shrub, Annual Banquets, Farmer-Neighbor Dinners, Agri-palooza, etc. etc. etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a few new members to District employment in Division I for 2012. They include:

Leonard Preston, Watershed Technician, Allegany County

Jodi Chamberlain, Clerk Treasurer, Genesee County

Alan Fagan, District Technician, Wyoming County

Amy McGinnis, District Technician, Wyoming County

Finally, Dave Wilson from Chautauqua County has stepped down to part time employment and long time technician Dave Spann has taken over as District Field Manager. Joanne Laney Clerk/Treasurer in Genesee County and Frank Gould, Technician in Chautauqua County have retired. Congratulations to all and best of luck in retirement.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark C. Gaston, Erie County SWCD, Division I Representative