



Meeting Minutes  
January 28 and 29, 2020  
Double Tree Hilton, Syracuse, NY

**Executive Committee Members**

Chastity Miller, President  
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary  
Kristin White, Treasurer

**Partners**

Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC  
Judy Littrell, NYS SWCC  
Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC  
Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC  
Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD

**Division Representatives**

Scott Collins, Division I  
Aaron Buchta, Division II  
Velynda Parker, Division IV  
Kristin Ballou, Division V  
Erin Somerville, Division VII (via phone)  
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

**Absent**

Dustin Lewis, Vice President  
Dean Moore, Member at Large  
Raeanne Dulanski, Division III  
Amber Luke, Division VI  
Blake Glover, NRCS



**Minutes**

**I. Meeting begins and introductions** – Miller called the meeting to order at 11:06 AM with introductions.

**II. Reading and approval of the November 2019 meeting minutes.**

- **A motion was made by White, seconded by Calabro to approve the November 2019 meeting minutes with the spelling and grammar corrections. Carried.**

**III. Correspondence** – Miller mentioned that no correspondence was received.

**IV. 2020 proposed budget** – White disseminated the 2020 proposed budget in advance of the meeting. Discussion ensued about a better platform for the CDEA stormwater online 4 hr. course. White mentioned that the 2019 budget vs. actual looked good overall. Discussion ensued about attendance of the National Association of Conservation Districts' national meeting, and District representatives for the National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast and National Association of Conservation District Employees. White mentioned that not all Divisions held a meeting, and those that did stayed within budget. Parker proposed an outside audit of the books. Stewart will research 2 new Ronny Raindrop™ costumes. Ballou inquired if there is any way to increase the Frank Bratt Scholarship fund as there has been an increase in the number of applications submitted, and there may be capacity to accommodate awarding a greater

number of scholarships. Discussion ensued regarding other line items that could, in part, increase the Frank Bratt Scholarship line to accommodate more awards (4 hour course and the bucket raffle / silent auction). Money is being budgeting for a new trailer annually for the New York State Fair, and 2020 expenses include booth repairs, the prize for the coloring contest winners, shirts, and the employee raffle. Discussion ensued regarding the 5 extra days of the New York State Fair. The budget was reviewed line by line, and the following changes were made:

- Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees increased from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for audit expenses.
  - National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast increase from \$2,400.00 to \$3,000 for conference expenses.
  - 4-Hour Online Course increase from \$5,000 to \$60,000 for technology course updates (applications and certificates).
  - Insurance increase from \$3,000 to \$3,500.
  - Office supplies increase from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for a new laptop and Office 365.
  - Ronny Raindrop™ increase from \$4,000 to \$8,000 for 2 new costumes.
  - Frank Bratt increase to \$4,000 (two rounds of \$2,000).
  - With the above changes, Total Income is \$321,615 and Total Expense is \$319,047.25.
- **A motion was made by Parker, seconded by Collins to approve the 2020 proposed budget with the changes. Carried.**

**V. Treasurer's report** – White emailed the report in advance of the meeting, and reviewed the report during the meeting.

- **A motion was made by Stewart, seconded by Parker to accept the Treasurer's report. Carried.**

## **VI. Reports**

### **i. Division Reports**

**a. Division I** – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes. Excited for Round 25 projects, Division meeting, closing out grants, starting new grants, getting ready for tree programs.

**b. Division II** – Buchta shared his report, appended to the minutes. Discussion ensued regarding Part C funding of similar assistance programs for landowners vs. municipalities, and a group rate to revise personnel policies state wide for Districts.

**c. Division III** – Dulanski submitted her report, appended to the minutes. Stewart shared the report during the meeting.

**d. Division IV** – Parker shared her report, appended to the minutes.

**Suspended at 12:15 PM for lunch.**

**Reconvened at 12:56 PM.**

**e. Division V** – Ballou shared her report, appended to the minutes. Steinmuller inquired about number of Distinct employees state wide. Ballou mentioned that there are approximately 330 employees.

**f. Division VI** – Luke submitted her report, appended to the minutes. Stewart shared the report during the meeting.

**g. Division VII** – Somerville shared her report, appended to the minutes. She mentioned that she received an inquiry regarding if the CDEA Board would consider a percent of online class fees to the county in which the participant is from, and discussion ensued.

**h. Division VIII** – Calabro shared her report, appended to the minutes.

## **ii. Partnership Reports**

**a. NYS SWCC** – Littrell mentioned that the Department of Agriculture and Markets is upping the ante by enhancing the New York State Agricultural Environmental Management awards and introducing the Leopold Conservation Award. She disseminated a handout that introduced the 2020 AEM Leopold Conservation Award. The handout stated, “The Department of Ag and Markets is partnering with the Sand County Foundation to present to Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York’s first award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award at Empire Farm Days in partnership with the AEM awards program.” The handout detailed what Districts need to know, and the timeline for the application process. Littrell mentioned that in addition to the \$10,000 award to the winning farm, a video will also be produced, and the winner has the opportunity to attend a conference to learn leadership skills, share ideas, and network. The applying District will also receive \$1,000. Littrell continued that Districts are the only eligible applicants, and can only submit 1 application per District to the Soil and Water Conservation Committee. Applications are vetted through the Department of Environmental Conservation, and the judging panel and process will be enhanced and more formalized. Discussion ensued about the roll out procedure. Littrell mentioned that the application and announcement may be released next week. Miller mentioned the importance of alerting Districts before this information is submitted to the press. Littrell mentioned that American Agriculturalists, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell –help facilitate program meetings and outreach, assist with applications, and award the winning farm. Littrell mentioned that she can order cover crop signs for Districts, and Districts can send her an email by the end of the week if they need signs.

Cunningham mentioned that the grants webinar includes information on ag non point, irrigation, and CRF. He continued that the RFP is out for funding for small irrigation practices. Soil and Water Conservation Committee regional coordinators are available to assist Districts with interpreting and working through Conservation Approval Authority and Job Approval Authority. Regarding municipal updates, the Department of Environmental Conservation uploaded approved RAAMP documents to the Nonpoint Source Guidance and Technical Assistance page on the DEC website, including: Rural roads Active Management Program Manual, Environmental Sensitive Road Maintenance Practices for Dirt and Gravel Roads Manual (PA), Cornell Local Roads: Roadway and Roadside Drainage Manual, NYS Standards and

Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Controls (bluebook), and NYS Forestry Best Management Practices for Water Quality Field Guide. Cunningham mentioned that if District staff wish to apply for grants and host trainings, these manuals are officially recognized.

Fickbohm shared information about CRF rounds and due dates. He continued that the Farm Bill's initial final rule for CREP is on the registrar, and Districts can submit comments on the document, and he can provide assistance to Districts with the language, if needed. For Divisions that have USC counties and CREP, a new buffer agreement for the upcoming year will be rolled out, expanding the menu of deliverables and broadening the agreement with more eligible expenses. Money is available for ESI, NAACC, and dirt and gravel trainings. The agreement will provide money for Districts to work with municipalities on sediment reduction plans, and how to deal with flooding events. Funding will be awarded on a rolling basis, first come first served.

Steinmuller reviewed the Governor's Environmental Protection Fund proposed budget. He continued that the SWCC is still working to replace secretary vacancy. Some legislators, especially in the Hudson Valley, are engaged in soil health issues, and eyes are on the work that Districts are accomplishing. The Climate Leadership Protection and Community Act was passed over the summer and established a Climate Action Council. The Agriculture and Forestry Work Group is co-chaired by DEC and SWCC, and the goal is to draw down CO2 with good practices. The new SWCC website will be launched today, and house the storyboard. Districts can email projects to include in the storyboard. Parker inquired about the National Association of State Conservation Agencies NASCA, and Steinmuller replied that he is the representative. Calabro inquired about Conservation Approval Authority. Miller replied that she has a copy of the CAA list.

**b. NYACD** – Hurlbutt shared her report, appended to the minutes.

**Littrell and Steinmuller left at 2:11 PM.**

**c. NRCS** – No report provided.

Miller mentioned that it would be beneficial to create a chart of national, regional, and state associations, and their connections to CDEA.

## **VII. Committee / meeting reports**

**i. Conservation Skills Workshop** – Miller mentioned that the event is being scheduled soon and the planning process will begin.

**ii. Envirothon Committee** – Hurlbutt mentioned that CDEA and NYACD supported the submission of a bid by the New York State Envirothon Committee to host the national event in New York State, and this support impressed the NCF-Envirothon committee. Hurlbutt continued that she completed and submitted the bid packet. The NCF-Envirothon committee will review the bids at a meeting next week, and make their recommendation to the NCF National Committee Board, who makes the final determination of the event host. By New York State Envirothon Committee should know by mid-February if they were awarded the bid. If the event

is hosted in NYS, a location will be determined, and plans, budgets, committees, and intentions will be discussed. The NYS Envirothon Committee sent 16 Request for Proposals for the next 3 years for the state Envirothon. T-shirts have been ordered for the 2020 state event. The college is requiring a minors on campus policy, and all volunteers, teachers / advisors must have abuse training before entering campus. The Boy Scouts of America or the Geneva Police may be able to provide the training that includes an hour long video, module review, answering questions, and printing a certificate that shows course completion. No one can be on campus without the certification, that is good for 2 years. A funding request was submitted to Dominion Energy, snack sponsors are lined up, and NYACD printed the registration packets.

**iii. Frank Bratt Scholarship** – Collins reviewed the report, appended to the minutes.

- **A motion was made by White, seconded by Parker to approve the January 2020 Frank Bratt scholarships, including Mathew Everdyke (Soil Science, \$500.00), Kevin Preischel (Cornell Local Roads Program – Roadway & Roadside Drainage, \$50.00), Caitlin Stewart (Quickbooks: A 60 Minute Crash Course, \$99.00), Eva Brown (Financial Accounting, \$375.00), Maxine Appleby (Creating Story Maps with ArcGIS, 500.00), and Pamela Price (Further Research in Environmental Education – Leadership and Careers Course, \$476.00). Stewart abstained. Motion carried.**

**iv. State Fair Committee** – White mentioned that the contract will arrive in late February / early March, and she completed the non-obligatory online registration. Discussion ensued about the challenges with volunteer recruitment and the benefits of disseminating SWCD information to a large audience. Miller mentioned that she will make a call for State Fair and New York State Envirothon volunteers at the Water Quality Symposium, as well as the importance and benefits of serving on committees. Stewart mentioned that she will put a call for Envirothon and State Fair volunteers in the CDEA News, and highlight the \$50 prize for 10 state fair volunteers. White mentioned that the new Empire Farm Days location in the soil health building did not work well, and the booth will be moved back with Ag and Markets for the coming year's event. The full report is appended to the minutes.

**Suspended at 2:49 PM for a break.**

**Reconvened at 3:11 PM**

**v. Environmental Education Foundation Committee** – Miller mentioned that the committee is working on a documents retention policy, funding requests, establishing an Amazon Smile account, filling 1 vacancy, setting up an account on grants.gov that will allow the Foundation to apply for federal grants.

**vi. Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees** – Parker shared her report, appended to the minutes.

**vii. National Association Conservation District Employees, Inc.** – Parker shared her report, appended to the minutes.

**Hurlbutt left at 3:29 PM.**

**viii. New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee** – Stewart mentioned that she attended the ISAC meeting on December 10, 2019. New York State Invasive Species Awareness Week, the annual statewide campaign sponsored by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to educate and inform people about the threat of invasive species, enhance stewardship, and encourage communities to take action is slated for June 7 – 13, 2020. If Districts wish to schedule ISAW events, they can submit information to their local Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management, and the event will be promoted on the ISAW website. For more information, go to [www.stoptheinvasionny.com](http://www.stoptheinvasionny.com). The Department of Environmental Conservation reviewed Title 6 New York Codes, Rules, and Regulations (CRR) Part 575 Prohibited and Regulated Species. The regulations were developed by NYSDEC, in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, to help control invasive species by reducing their introduction and spread by limiting commerce in such species, thereby having a positive impact on the environment. DEC reviewed the species assessment and listing process, and distributed a questionnaire. The next ISAW meeting is March 11, 2020.

**ix. Municipal Assistance Subcommittee** – Cunningham mentioned that and PJ Emerick hope to hold a meeting this April in Albany, and invite Dave Gasper to speak about new stormwater information SPDES (State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System), Emergency Stream Intervention (ESI), North Atlantic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC), and Roadside Ditch Management (RDM). Counties and watershed coalitions have applied for training funding, there are no official training modules for trainings, but funding can support creating a module for training. This is a good opportunity to establish municipal partnerships.

**x. Operations Manual Committee** – Miller mentioned that there is a need to update personnel policies, and a standardized policy for credit cards and other policies would streamline the process for Districts. Cunningham mentioned that a template would be beneficial that Districts can change to meet their needs. Cunningham continued that the State Committee may be able to research new compliance acts and develop a memo for guidance. Miller mentioned that a personnel policy file on SharePoint would be beneficial, and that policies should be examined once a year for updates and new additions. Cunningham mentioned that Districts should work with their count attorneys on personnel policy matters.

**xi. TAC** – Miller mentioned that a meeting was held in December that reviewed ag non-point source, CRF, irrigation, buffer easement programs. The next meeting is in February.

**xii. Other** – None.

## **VIII. Old Business**

**i. Update for CDEA stormwater online 4 hr. course** – White mentioned that the course is going well. Fickbohm mentioned that the Soil and Water Conservation Society has hard copies of the stormwater design manual and the blue book (erosion and sediment control field notebook that could be sold as a source of income. Miller mentioned that it would be beneficial to see if there any differences between the hard copy books and the updated PDF files.

**ii. Follow up on NYS ESC Certification** – Miller shared Jessica Verrigni's report. A conference call took place to discuss adding in additional instructors to teach the review course

and administer the exam. These instructors must have extensive knowledge. The review course and exam will be available at the 2020 Water Quality Symposium. Only 2 people took the exam at the Conservation Skills Workshop. Items that need to be addressed include when and who will teach the course, and requirements. Committee members can teach the course and administer the exam. People must qualify to take the exam. Dustin, Miller, and Moore will serve on the committee. Ballou mentioned the importance of advertising the course to increase participation from the general public.

**iii. 2 hr NYS DEC MS4 inspector training program for Districts** – Miller mentioned that no movement will occur until the new MS4 permit is issued.

**vi. Other old business** – Discussion ensued regarding the NRCS MOA and the benefits of a 4 way partnership meeting to discuss concerns.

**Suspended at 4:44 PM**

**Reconvened January 29, 2020 at 8:30 AM**

**Executive Committee Members**

Chastity Miller, President

Caitlin Stewart, Secretary

Kristin White, Treasurer

**Partners**

Scott Fickbolm, NYS SWCC

**Division Representatives**

Scott Collins, Division I

Aaron Buchta, Division II

Velynda Parker, Division IV

Kristin Ballou, Division V

Erin Somerville, Division VII (via phone)

Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

**Absent**

Dustin Lewis, Vice President

Dean Moore, Member at Large

Raeanne Dulanski, Division III

Amber Luke, Division VI

Blake Glover, NRCS

Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD

**VIII. Old Business (continued)**

**iv. 2020 Water Quality Symposium** – Miller mentioned that some course title changes and updates to credits will take place. Entertainment was reviewed. Bucket raffle items will be auctioned together to save time. The registration table schedule will be emailed. Sponsors will be added to the entertainment schedule flyer. Stewart will place the order for banquet wine, contact District staff members who arrange snacks for the hospitality room, and mentioned that the Old Main will cost \$1,000 for 2.5 hours of music. Miller will follow up with Luke about the hospitality suite, and send an email request for people who wish to stay in buffer rooms. Luke will need assistance with manning the hospitality room. Ballou mentioned that she will order years of service awards and prizes for fishing contest. She continued that the Fishing Tournament brought in \$395. Miller mentioned that the gun raffle will be arranged by John Persch. Calabro mentioned that at least 1 award application was submitted for each category, a

MC has been arranged, and no new employee gifts need to be ordered. Stewart will bring knives and cutting boards for snacks and make the awards banquet program. Miller will send an email request for information to include in the annual report. Mark Burger has lined up a legislator to speak during the opening ceremony. Miller will reserve some extra rooms for Thursday's awards banquet.

**v. By-laws revisions** – Miller emailed the bylaws in advance of the meeting for review, and CDEA Division responsibilities, CDEA committees, CDEA advisory appointments, Frank Bratt Scholarship, and Environmental Education Foundation were discussed. Updates will be made, and electronic copies will be sent to Districts in advance of the annual meeting for review. Hard copies will be available at the Symposium, and By-Law approval will take place at the annual meeting.

#### **IX. New business**

**i. Committee reappointments** – The executive committee reviewed committee reappointments, and made updates. Miller mentioned that Zoom was an excellent platform for teleconferences, and expenses include approximately \$150 for a microphone and \$150 for the annual subscription. Zoom could be utilized for other meetings across the state and be made available to Districts.

- **Motion was made by Miller, seconded by Buchta to allow the NYS CDEA to purchase a Zoom subscription and a microphone for teleconference capabilities at CDEA and other meetings. Motion carried.**

**X. Next meeting** – May, date to be determined.

#### **XI. Adjournment**

- **A motion was made by Stewart, seconded by White to adjourn at 11:00 AM. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Caitlin Stewart  
CDEA Secretary



## **Division I Report**

**January 28-29, 2020**

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

Division I meeting held in Genesee County on December 19, 2019

- 7 SWCDs and SWCC participated
- CDEA updates were shared and plenty of side discussions
- Division training opportunities discussed

Niagara County

- Closing out several grants
- Received funding for Round 25 Ag nonpoint source grants
- Continued knotweed outreach and education efforts
- Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern
  - Continued data gap summary with US Army Corps of Engineers
  - Sent new year BUI summary to Remedial Advisory Committee
  - Coordination calls with USEPA and NYSDEC

Genesee County

- Applying for new grants
- Getting ready for the tree program
- Year-end reports

Wyoming County

- Received 3 of 4 Round 25 Ag Non-Point Source grants
- Closing out several grants and year-end reporting
- Utilizing GLRI funds to reduce erosion in the Genesee River Watershed
- Assisting several municipalities with surveying and design of road ditch stabilization projects

I did not hear back from any other county.

Submitted by: Scott Collins, Division I Representative



NYS Conservation District Employees Association

[www.nvscdea.com](http://www.nvscdea.com)

## **Division II Report**

**January 2020**

*Report from Cayuga, Livingston, Monroe, Onondaga, Ontario, Seneca, Wayne, Yates*

Cayuga: No report submitted.

Livingston: No report submitted.

Monroe: No report submitted.

Onondaga: DISTRICT

- Completing many projects in the Otisco Lake Watershed funded in part with OCWA assistance: Lotterle Pasture Mgt. system, Catherman waterline project for Miniature Donkeys, • Wheeler Pasture Mgt. System (Waterline), CoVale Holsteins Roof Structure over Composting Pad, Multiple Cover Crop and Nutrient Management documentations.
- 1,978 ac. cover crop planted throughout the county (excludes Skan. Lake watershed).
- Starting a Tier 3 for small veggie farm in the Onondaga Lake Watershed.
- Completing revisions to CNMP submitted by former employee for beef operation in 9 mile creek watershed.
- Pasture System completed for beef farm in Upper T. watershed.
- Working with the Tully-Cortland Kettle Lakes Association on a Environmental Shorescaping (Buffer) program.
- Completed Pasture Mgt. System on Sheep operation in the Oneida Lake watershed.
- Preparing 4 grant close outs.
- Hired a new technician to complete outfall inspections and data management.
- May be searching for new hire for design and implementation.
- Will be searching for new hire for seasonal aide to the hydroseeding program.
- Waste tire collection in SLWAP/SWCD watersheds – 32 loads sent (~12,000 tires removed from farms and recycled into landfill drainage/gas aggregate)

SLWAP:

- 1 ac. Stormwater Wetland Project -working on permitting and getting ready to get out to bid. Construction anticipated summer 2020
- Completed implementation of a 4.2 mil gal manure storage
- 1,118 acres of cover crops planted on corn silage ground in the watershed
- Met w/ Jim Keib of Congressman Katko's office 1/13
- Attended Mayor Walsh's State of City address 1/14
- Participated in County Emergency Management Preparedness Committee meeting 1/15
- Attended SLA Nutrient Management Committee meeting 1/8
- Held City of Syracuse's Watershed Agricultural Program Review Committee meeting 1/22
- Attend CCE Municipal Officials meeting for Skaneateles Lake – Borodino 1/29

Ontario: No report submitted.

Seneca: No report submitted.

Wayne: Our District in Wayne County is looking at our program with Part C and increasing opportunities with the diversity of funds. We are planning a Watershed Technical Assistance application, for when people call into the office for site help. This would be two-fold, both Landowner Assistance Program (LAP) and Municipal Assistance Program (MAP). Does anyone else have programs similar to this? If so, is there a rubric that is used for ranking besides Board review?

We will be requiring these applications before it will trigger an onsite review to allow the staff to pre-review the site and properly document needs before meeting with the landowner in a more regimented and consistent protocol. (More of a customer assistance and management tracking opportunity). Also, by filling out the application, it can potentially trigger cost share assistance. Any feedback would be appreciated!

Yates: No Report Provided

Respectfully submitted by,

Aaron Buchta  
Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District  
NYS CDEA Division II Representative



**Division III- *Covering Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Oswego, and St. Lawrence Counties***

Districts are all busy with annual reports and end of year activities. I reached out to the Division and no Districts reported back with questions or concerns for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Raeanne Dulanski

NYS CDEA Division III Rep

**Division 5 Report**

Clinton County

- Working on End of Year Reports
- Technicians working on CAA courses
- Planning for 2020 Projects
- Jillian had applied for the Frank Bratt scholarship to attend the Vermont Grazing Conference, but it was last week and we didn't realize the cdea board wouldn't meet until after, with that uncertainty, she did not attend

Essex County

- No Report

Franklin County

- Franklin County is proud to announce the addition of a new District Technician, Chris Ballou starting on Jan 6th! Chris has an extensive background in forestry, permits, wetlands and municipal work! We are looking forward to all that he will help the district complete!
- We were awarded 2 AGNPS grants, one for cover crops/ soil health and the other for a silage leachate system.

- Kristin wrote 2 successful applications for WQIP planning grants that were funded in December.
- Allycia is working with our producers on 4 different AEM implementation projects!
- Closing out another Round 1 CAFO grant.
- Planning for our part C projects for the summer of 2020!
- Even in these cold temps and snowy days Kristin and Allycia are out in the field. Kristin is working on forestry visits and Allycia is conducting farmstead visits.
- The District is always working on grant applications for many different programs and plans.
- Even though it is winter...we have allot to work on!

#### Hamilton County

- Annual presentation to the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors
- District Technician Alex Bielli resigned, and we wish her well in her future endeavors
- We recently hired Jaime Parslow as our new District Technician, and she begins February 3
- Vice Chairperson Ed Winchell retired after 22 years of serving on the Board of Directors, and we wish him the very best
- We welcome new Director John Stortecky, Town of Benson Supervisor
- Assisted with Halloween Storm flood mitigation efforts, including utilizing the hydroseeder for culvert debris clean out
- Purchased a trash pump
- Conservation Field Day awards ceremonies
- Tabled at Hamilton County Health and Benefits Day
- Paper recycling program
- Trail maintenance
- Winterized equipment
- Updated procurement policy
- Cleaned the basement and took truck loads of old items to the transfer station
- Conservation Field Day awards ceremonies for the essay and poster contest

#### Warren County

- Completing the SWCC reports
- Our longtime chair, Frank Thomas has stepped down from our board to become Chair of the County Board of Supervisors.
- We have 3 new board members since August of 2019, so some learning curves.
- Had our December BOD meeting and Awards luncheon – recognized 5 winners.
- So far 6/6 in grants (4 NYSDEC WQIP and 2 Lake Champlain Basin Program).
- Three staff signed up for WQS week. Jim will be out on Thursday.

**CDEA Meeting**  
January 28 & 29 2020  
Syracuse, NY

Division 6 County Reports:

Washington County:

- Busy closing up construction on larger projects for the winter that did not get finished this summer
- Busy with prepping for round 26 of Ag Non-Point source and CRF Grants
- Been Busy working on Ag Assessments
- Work on prepping for Tree Sale and getting order forms out

Montgomery County: (2019 Recap)

- Multiple projects completed including a new 3-mile hiking trail and a raised 300ft platform/Walkway
- Was awarded a PRISM Grant to purchase a mobile billboard to help spread awareness of invasive species.
- Part B and C projects completed included hydroseeding unstable ditches, Ag plastic recycling program and a tire recycling program. Along with the completion of Trout in the Classroom with 2 local schools.
- Montgomery County hosted their 4<sup>th</sup> annual Farm and Home safety Day. 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from 2 schools participated.
- The second round of the Montgomery County Agricultural Enterprise Program (MCAMP) was administered this past year. Out of 18 applications received 9 were able to be funded.

**Division 6 Responsibilities:**

**Fertilizer Tablets:**

**WQS:**

- To date I have received Fertilizer orders from 16 counties Totaling 57 cases of fertilizer tablets.
- Just a reminder these orders are due by February 14<sup>th</sup>.

Division VII Report  
January 2020  
Submitted By Erin Sommerville

- Districts in Division VII are working on Annual Reports and end of year activities.
- Setting up projects for 2020.
- Hudson Valley Regional Envirothon will be held 4/30/2020.
- Seedling sales are being worked on throughout the Division.

Question received- Would the CDEA consider sending a percentage of each online 4-hour course registration fee to the County the attendee is from?

### **NYS CDEA January 28, 2020 Division VIII Report**

#### **Suffolk County: Ann Marie Calabro**

**Continued Programs:** Deer Exclusion Fence (closing out), Fuel Tank Replacement Program, Nutrient Management, Pesticide Sprayer Retrofit, Agrichemical Handling Facilities, Elementary School Garden Program, and Comprehensive Soil Health Testing Programs.

**Soil Health Sampling/Testing and Equipment Rental Program (Soil HELP):** The goal of the Soil H.E.L.P. Program is to assist Suffolk County farms to conserve and improve the long-term health of their soils. We have moved the equipment to winter storage for a short while. Looking to do a few trials with the no-till drill on frost seeding clover in pasture

**NPS:** Closing out NPS grants for fuel tank replacement and another for sprayer retrofit.

#### **Education/Outreach:**

- LI Envirothon Planning – Scheduled Date 4/29/2020 at Yaphank Educational Farm
- E&SC Trainings for Nassau and Suffolk Counties
- Year in Review - Distributed electronically and printed as well
- Soil H.E.L.P / Equipment Loan Program was showcased at Ag Forum. 5 different pieces of equipment were on display for producers.
- Ag Forum held January 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at Suffolk Community College. Well attended with over 200 registrants.

**AEM:** Farm planning interest is on the rise, we are finding more farmers seeking assistance without the grab of funding. AEM Base 16 with the Tier 4 Implementation was approved and we have hit the ground running with a new tracking system to reach our district goals. Correction from our last report: Preparing to close out Base 15, not 16. Interest in Grown and Certified program, more outreach and education may do this program some good in Suffolk.

#### **New York City: Shino Tanikawa**

We continue to work with partner organizations to conduct outreach and education on green infrastructure and stormwater management. We are particularly focused on communicating new policies and laws at the local level (e.g., green roof /solar panel requirements on all new buildings) to GI practitioners.

In late November we held our annual EE Expo, which was well attended by pre-service and in-service teachers as well as non-formal educators of all kinds.

Urban Soils Institute continues its partnership with the National Park Service and is offering outdoor hands-on soil science experiences for 4th graders (field trips only take place during the warmer months - we are in the planning and outreach mode right now).

I'm sorry but we will not be at the WQS.

Thank you.

**Nassau County: No Report**

**Putnam County: No Report**

**Rockland County: No Report**

**Westchester County: No Report**

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



**New York Association of Conservation  
Districts  
c/o Steuben County SWCD  
415 W. Morris Street  
Bath, NY 14810  
[www.nyacd.org](http://www.nyacd.org)**

**CDEA Report**

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Ex. Dir.

**Tuesday, January 28, 2020**

**Legislative Days** –. I have forty-eight (48) Assembly and Senators scheduled for appointments. I have been updating & making appointments as they come in. I have ten (10) counties registered. The deadline is January 31<sup>st</sup>, so folks still have time to register. I sent out reminders on Tuesday of this week.

I have updated & printed all the necessary paperwork to provide those attending the event. I have also updated & printed the information that needs to be mailed in advance of the event except for the scheduling section. Once I have the final count of who will be attending, I will match up appointments with District folks.



I have been working on items to be handed out during the Farm Bureau Monday evening March 2<sup>nd</sup> event in Albany. I secured 4-5 cases of bottled water I've created a video to have running during the Taste of New York. Mike with the Water Bottle company will be working on a banner to display their water.

**Legislative Booklet** – The booklet is completed & printed. I had 200 copies made for handing out to Legislators & Districts. I will be forwarding about 10-15 copies to Washington, DC for Sam to hand out to the Legislators at the Fly-In on March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Website** – I provided the Board with the necessary information on switching our website provider. The Board voted for us to change to Homestead instead of WordPress. Homestead is more computer friendly & will be easy for anyone to manage now & in the future.

**Resolutions** - Brian Stienmuller & I are working on meeting to discuss the resolutions voted on during the 2019 Annual NYACD meeting.

**Meetings** – Senator Rachel May made a formal invitation requesting NYACD to present an oral testimony at the New York State Senate public hearing on Tuesday, January 28 (today) on flooding. It will be in Hearing Room A of the Legislative Office Building in Albany. The purpose of the hearing is twofold: 1) to examine the effectiveness of current flooding emergency and mitigation efforts and 2) to discuss the need for future flooding assistance due to the increase in extreme weather events, such as this past October storm. We seek a range of informed perspectives to help us better understand the challenges and opportunities associated with flooding and begin to formulate next steps.

**Spring/Summer Meeting**- I have reached out to two Kathy Saville, VP of NY Gov. Finance Assoc. Kathy is willing to present one &/or two classes during the Face-to-Face NYACD. I spoke with Lance Irving, National Program Director with the Leopold Conservation Award. He is will to come & present and discuss this award. Sam was checking in to hosting it at the Ontario SWCD office. We have discussed an possible April date. We need to set a date, so I can move forward with the speakers.

**Monthly Director Letters** - The monthly January Director letter will be written at the end of the month & mailed.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING** – Next meeting date is **Thursday, February 27th, 7:00 p.m. teleconference.**



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

**Website: [www.ncdea.us](http://www.ncdea.us)**

### **Board Members**

- There is full board representation along with having alternates for the seven (7) regions.

### **Policies**

- By-Law were updated and distributed for review with approval at the upcoming meeting in February.
- Communications committee is working on developing a communications plan with hopes to having a draft the upcoming meeting.

### **Creation Employees' Association**

- NCDA President has been in contact with NACD President, Tim Palmer, who is a Conservation District Board member, on assisting Iowa on the creation of conservation district employees' association; however, this is proven to be difficult due trying to find the one individual committed to get the association started.

### **Agreements**

- NCDEA has an agreement with NRCS on development of NCPP (National Conservation Planning Partnership) website. The solicitation process was held and KAT Marketing was awarded the bid. A website core committee was formed to work closely with KAT Marketing on building the website. The website was officially launched on October 26 and there are few minor kinks that are being worked out. Check the website out [www.nationalcons-ervationplanningpartnership.info](http://www.nationalcons-ervationplanningpartnership.info) or [www.ncpp.info](http://www.ncpp.info). We are encouraging all conservation district employees to subscribed as a means to get the latest updates on news and training events. By subscribing, this aide the Communications Action Team in dissemination of the same message national among all five partnerships – NACD, NASCA, NCDEA, NRCS, RC&D.

### **Promotional Item**

- Stainless steel straws were purchased as promotional item to be handed out at the Partnership luncheon, employee reception, and regional meetings.

### **NACD Annual Meeting**

- NCDEA board meeting will be held on Saturday, February 8 from 10 AM – 6 PM and Tuesday, February 11 at 7:30 AM to finish any agenda items from Saturday's meeting
- Sunday, February 9 NCDEA will be hosting two tours – Hoover Dam & Spring Preserve
- Tuesday, February 11 will be the NCDEA Partnership luncheon where the new Board members will be recognized, regional activities will be presented, presentation of award District Official and District Choice

- Board members will be room moderators for the NACD training sessions
- NCDEA will host a training session on Wednesday, February 12 on Conservation District Innovative Partnerships. This session will showcase the innovative partnerships between Conservation Districts, producers and other entities on software technology such as PTMApp (the Prioritize, Target and Measure Application), on-farm trials for soil health, soil moisture and the successive cash crop in the arid 8-12" rainfall zone as a method of cost-effective management options. Additionally, Conservation Desktop (CD) and CART from the vantage point of a district employee in a co-located field office and in a non-co-located field offices will be addressed. The session will include a Q & A with audience involvement.

**Meetings**

- Meet monthly along with mid-year meeting this summer – place/date to be determined.

**NORTHEAST REGION REPORT**  
*“Connecting District Employees Together”*

**January 2020**

**Jeff Parker**  
**NYSCDEA Representative/President**

**Officers**

<b>President</b>	Jeff Parker (NY)	<b>Vice President</b>	Sandy Thompson (PA)
<b>Secretary</b>	Alisa Bentley (DE)	<b>Treasurer</b>	Ines Zimmerman (NJ)
<b>Past President</b>	Tim Thomas (NJ)		

**Purpose**

NACDE was officially created in 1988. Its mission is to strengthen and promote the professional development of conservation district employees; provide assistance and information to conservation districts, their governing boards and employees; strengthen the conservation district programs of the northeast and assist any agency, association, organization, municipality, group or individual who supports the conservation districts of the northeast with sound conservation practices and proper land use.

**Regional Information**

1,420 District Employees in Region  
 5 States with organized Employee Associations  
 5 States with organized Employee Committees

**Annual Meeting**

The 2020 Northeast Regional Conference will be hosted by New Hampshire and planning the event has begun. The date for conference will be August 29 – September 1 at Sheridan on the Water in

Portsmouth, NH. New Hampshire planning committee are working on the agenda. NACDE will be hosting another Sunday tour.

In addition to the annual meeting, there are monthly teleconference calls during the year. For the first time in several years, the NACDE Board decided to have an in-person meeting which was held in Morristown, NJ. Morris County Soil Conservation provided us with a conference room. Some of the agenda items included were: updating strategic plan, the By-Laws, Board Travel and Travel Stipend policies. Partnership reports was provided on NCDEA activities, Mid-Atlantic RC&D, and from Frank Minch on NJ State Soil Conservation Committee/NASCA NJ Rep. A 2020 Leadership Conference was discussed and a teleconference has been setup to specifically discuss logistics of the conference.

The delegate contact listing was divided up among the in-person meeting attendee for updating each state delegate. Good news – due to contacting the states, we have a new Connecticut and alternative representative. First step in the right direction for the northeast region.

### **Training and Professional Development Programs**

The NACDE executive board will be holding a meeting at the end of February to discuss the potential of hosting Leadership Training event, ideas of training courses and the logistics that goes along with the event.

### **Communications**

NACDE publishes a periodic newsletter entitled “The Nor’Easter” and should be out within the next couple of weeks.

NACDE has decided to remove the website due to the platform was outdated and updates were hard to perform. The Board discussed the different platforms and is looking for a Conservation District to volunteer on being the webmaster. A solicitation will be assembled for finding a volunteer to manage the website.

NACDE secretary maintains an email database for communications with state directors, officers, conservation partners, and state employee association/committee presidents. Sharing of information/event/training opportunities is sent through NACDE secretary via the distribution database list.

### **Awards Program**

The NACDE Conservation Awards Program guidelines have been distributed to state delegates for distribution in their individual states. The awards program includes District Employee Award and a District Official award for regional impacts and an employee award for impacts at the local level. The NACDE Board has decided to change the award applications to mirror the NCDEA application which will aide in submitting awards to NCDEA.

### **States in the Region**

Connecticut	Maine	New Hampshire	Pennsylvania
West Virginia	Delaware	Maryland	New Jersey
Rhode Island	District of Columbia	Massachusetts	New York
Vermont			

**Frank Bratt Report**

**January 28-29, 2020**

- Active Frank Bratt Scholarships:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Award Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alice Halloran	September 2019	500.00
Olivia Dickenson	September 2019	265.00

- Kevin Preischel of Erie County submitted a request for payment of \$95.00 relative to his award under the September 2019 round of funding. Approved by Scott Collins and sent to Member @ Large.
- Received 8 applications for the January 2019 round of funding totaling \$2,874.00.
  1. Maxine Appleby, Columbia County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for Creating Story Maps with ArcGIS
  2. Eva Brown, Onondaga County SWCD Employee - \$375.00 for Financial Accounting
  3. Matthew Everdyke, Seneca County SWCD Employee - \$500 for Soil Science
  4. Susan Hagar, Clinton County SWCD Immediate Family - \$500 for New England Interstate Water Pollution Conference
  5. Kevin Preischel, Erie County SWCD Employee – \$50 for Cornell Local Roads Program – Roadway & Roadside Drainage
  6. Pamela Price, Columbia County SWCD Employee - \$500 for Further Research in Environmental Education – Leadership and Careers Course
  7. Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County SWCD Employee - \$99 for Quickbooks: A 60 Minute Crash Course
  8. Jillian Zajac, Clinton County SWCD Employee - \$350 for Vermont Grazing and Livestock Conference (**Application withdrawn**)
- After ranking the following are recommended for funding under the January 2019 round of funding totaling \$1,500.
  1. Mathew Everdyke \$ 500.00
  2. Kevin Preischel 50.00
  3. Caitlin Stewart 99.00
  4. Eva Brown 375.00
  5. Maxine Appleby 500.00
  6. Pamela Price 476.00

\$2,000.00

*New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.*  
*Empire Farm Days/State Fair Booth Committee Report*  
*January 2020*



**Empire Farm Days**

I still need to contact someone at Ag & Markets to see if we can be put back into the tent for this year's display.

Alaina Robarge and Tucker Kautz from Ontario County SWCD office have volunteered to re-do our display for EFD. Lindsey Gerstenslager from Wayne County SWCD has also offered to help with our display.

This year's dates are July 29-31, 2020



**State Fair Booth**

The theme this year is once again Soil Health.

As you all may know, Governor Cuomo has extended the number of days to 18 this year. This means that we now have 5 more days to fill with employees and handouts. We have gone from having to fill 12 days to 13 days (2017) to now 18 days (2020).

Contracts are being mailed in mid to late February into March. They are due back to the State Fair by May 1, 2020. I'm not sure if the fee will be waived again for us or not this year. The last time we paid for our space was in 2016; \$425.

They have changed the time the buildings are open during the week to 9:00 PM instead of 10:00 PM.

I am using a platform called SignUpGenius.com for people to pick shifts from for both Empire Farm Days and the State Fair.

This year's dates are August 21-September 7, 2020.

Kristin White, Chairperson  
Seneca County SWCD