



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. 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 a 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

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 4th annual Farm and Home safety Day. 5th 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 14th.

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?

NYSCDEA 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 8th and 9th 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**

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 31st, 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 2nd 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 25th.

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

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.nationalconservationplanningpartnership.info or 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

President	Jeff Parker (NY)	Vice President	Sandy Thompson (PA)
Secretary	Alisa Bentley (DE)	Treasurer	Ines Zimmerman (NJ)
Past President	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



Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2020
Zoom meeting

Executive Committee Members

Chastity Miller, President
Dustin Lewis, Vice President
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary
Kristin White, Treasurer
Dean Moore, Member at Large

Partners

Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC
Blake Glover, NRCS
Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD

Others in attendance

Tom Eskildsen, Yates County SWCD
Velynda Parker, Steuben County SWCD
Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC
Erin Peruzzini, NYS SWCC
Ben Luskin, NYS SWCC
Victor DiGiacomo, NYS SWCC
Nick Klemczak, Schenectady County SWCD
Corey Humphrey, Suffolk County SWCD
Megan Webster, Ontario County SWCD

Division Representatives

Scott Collins, Division I
Aaron Buchta, Division II
Raeanne Dulanski, Division III
Shawn Murphy, Division IV
Kristin Ballou, Division V
Amber Luke, Division VI
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

Absent

Erin Sommerville, Division VII



Minutes

I. Meeting begins and introductions – Miller called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM. She thanked everyone for joining the Zoom meeting.

Dean Moore joined at 9:08 AM.

II. Reading and approval of the January 2020 meeting minutes.

- A motion was made by White, seconded by Moore to approve the January 2020 meeting minutes. Carried.

III. Correspondence – Miller mentioned that she received a thank you note from Dale Gates for his Partner Appreciation award. He was very grateful, and enjoyed himself at the CDEA Awards Banquet. Miller will forward the note to the CDEA board. No other correspondence was received.

IV. Treasurer's report – White reviewed the Treasurer's report while Miller displayed it. White mentioned that under receivables, Envirothon credits were included for those Districts that chose to put this year's \$500 registration fee towards the 2021 registration fee. There was a credit card Envirothon expense for \$189.43 for portfolios that are on backorder. White mentioned that the internal, full audit with the CDEA accountant is still moving forward via online meetings.

Blanche Hurlbutt joined the meeting at 9:11 AM.

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

V. Reports

i. Division Reports

a. Division I – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes.

b. Division II – Buchta shared his report, appended to the minutes. He mentioned that Lindsey Gerstenslager inquired about a timeline for her to develop the new employee pamphlet. Miller responded that she would follow up with Lindsay, and there is no deadline or timeline.

c. Division III – Dulanski shared her report, appended to the minutes.

d. Division IV – Murphy shared his report, appended to the minutes. Murphy mentioned that he received some inquiries from Districts in his division, including if there are any opportunities to host stream trainings beyond what is offered at Water Quality Symposium, if there is a need for more technical training across the state that could be held during Division meetings or the Conservation Skills Workshop, if there is any guidance for safety training / employee health, and if there is a way to help Districts with online meeting platforms that would be beneficial to Districts and municipalities. Miller mentioned that a safety training was held at the Division V meeting a few years ago. She continued that she is unsure of how to approach a state-wide safety training, but will work on this.

e. Division V – Ballou shared her report, appended to the minutes.

f. Division VI – Luke shared her report, appended to the minutes.

g. Division VII – Somerville did not submit a report.

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

ii. Partnership Reports

a. NYS SWCC – Steinmuller shared a brief summary of the April 30 TAC Committee meeting report, appended to the minutes.

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

c. NRCS – Glover mentioned that hopes everyone is safe. He continued that the NRCS operational status is 1 person in the office at any given time, and maximization of telework. The national plan was received last Friday that dictates how to gradually move forward on a county by county basis. Employees working in office will depend on their comfort level. NRCS will continue to administer programs. Regarding EQIP, cost sharing on pits is moving forward, partners should let Glover know of livestock slaughters due to the COVID-19 situation, and there is an emergency sign up for producers facing challenges with livestock due to the pandemic. There is not a cost share on any poultry mortality pits because poultry is owned by the company themselves. There is a cost share on beef and pig mortality pits. Regarding FSA, the president and secretary announced the coronavirus food assistance program that starts May 26, with \$16 billion for producers. NRCS offers parking lot space at their buildings for sign-ups with producers. Glover will share the FSA guide with Miller and Stienmuller that details pandemic procedures for partners who are co-located in NRCS building. 25 districts have signed MOAs with NRCS, and those signed agreements were sent back to SWCC, and the agreements will be mailed to Districts. Glover said to stay safe during these times. Murphy inquired if there are NRCS guidelines to follow for EQIP construction projects or other construction. Glover replied that construction of NRCS practices falls back on the landowner or producer, and the agreement with the contractor.

VI. Committee / meeting reports

i. Conservation Skills Workshop – Tom Eskildsen mentioned that the committee met in May to discuss this year's workshop. Questions arose weather the workshop could even happen this fall with the uncertainty around the pandemic. If planning does not begin in early July, the workshop cannot be held. Eskildsen asked for CDEA's thoughts and input, and inquired if the committee should wait a bit more to begin the planning process, or proceed with a stripped-down schedule as traditional workshops will not be feasible. Moore a webinar though a Zoom, and continued that the RAAMP program could still have a successful sign in sheet via Zoom. Calabro inquired if limited class size would help for in-person field workshops. Eskildsen replied that social distancing could be achieved with a class size of 10 to 15 participants, filled first come first served. He continued that hotels may not be open for business, and commuting may be the only way to accommodate in-person trainings. Miller suggested that, for field sections, producers may feel comfortable offering trainings on their farms. Eskildsen mentioned that single day classes with small class sizes could be organized. Ballou inquired if Districts would be willing to send staff. Dulanski inquired if topics would work with a 1-day session. Eskildsen

replied yes, one day topics would be easy to organize, and those that need 2 or 3 days would be offered another year. Steinmuller suggested that instructors could be videoed in the field and those videos could be shared with class participants. Miller mentioned that stream and safety trainings would be good options for videoed classes for the workshop. She continued that a committee meeting will be held in mid-June to discuss ideas and how to modify sessions. She continued that the CDEA Zoom account is available to everyone, and Miller can arrange meetings. Lewis suggested that a 2-day class could include a zoom meeting and a videoed field component, eliminating the overnight.

ii. Envirothon Committee – Blanche mentioned that a statewide regional Envirothon was held, and 29 teams participated from 15 counties. Warren and Herkimer counties hosted their own event. 16 teams are registered for the state competition, and the online event will be hosted next Thursday. Miranda and Joanne are doing a great job with organizing the event. The national Envirothon has been canceled. June 18 is the next state Envirothon committee meeting. Miller inquired about payment for the national event. Blanche replied that that payment will be refunded. White added via PayPal.

iii. Frank Bratt Scholarship – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes. Discussion ensued regarding trainings that were already held or will be held before scholarships are approved during CDEA meetings. Collins inquired if additional deadlines could be established on March and September, with \$1,000 per 4 rounds. Miller mentioned that the bylaws would need to be changed. Webster inquired if CDEA would consider reimbursement payments. Miller replied that would be difficult, and this is a conversation that occurs frequently. Webster mentioned that reimbursement based or retroactive payment awards would be more useful and flexible to Districts. White inquired about what the bylaws stated. Miller replied that the training must take place after the Frank Bratt Scholarship deadline. Buchta supports reimbursement. Dulanski supports increasing applications to 4 times per year. Murphy supports an application period every 3 months and reimbursement. Dustin inquired if unused funds roll over to the next round. Collins replied that there is \$2,000 per round, and funds do not roll over. Lewis suggested rolling over unused funds. Miller mentioned that scholarship recipients have 2 years from date of the award notice to successfully complete the course. Miller continued that a change to the bylaws for the Frank Bratt Scholarship procedure would have to take place at the 2021 Water Quality Symposium, and that this discussion will continue. Discussion continued regarding rolling over unused funds and the scholarship procedure.

iv. State Fair Committee – White mentioned that the Governor has not said either way if the fair will or will not be held. White read online that the NYS Fair is unlikely to take place as scheduled in August and September unless economy is fully opened, and no cancellation has been announced. White inquired if District volunteers would go if the fair does take place.

v. Environmental Education Foundation Committee – Calabro mentioned that she had trouble hearing the phone conference call. Discussion ensued about Envirothon funds and fund raising. Miller mentioned that she will help notify people that Amazon Smile supports the New York State Envirothon. The committee sends a funding request packet to potential donors. The committee almost

has a full board, and they are moving forward. The National event that will be held in New York State will have associated expenses, and NRCS may be able to help with funding. Miller will set it up a Zoom conference call for the next meeting.

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

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

viii. New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee – Stewart mentioned that she did not attend the March 11, 2020 meeting due to the Water Quality Symposium. The next meeting is June 4, 2020.

ix. Municipal Assistance Subcommittee – Moore mentioned that there is nothing new with the subcommittee, and asked for questions or input. Cunningham mentioned that he and P.J. Emerick made a tentative agenda for a meeting in April, but the meeting was canceled due to the pandemic. Cunningham continued that the meeting will be rescheduled, with topics including the Community Resiliency RFA, municipal environmental management, and DEC stormwater. Cunningham will notify Moore of the upcoming meeting.

x. Operations Manual Committee – Miller mentioned that the Zoom meeting that was scheduled that was postponed.

xi. TAC – Miller mentioned that Stienmuller already gave the update.

xii. Other – Mill inquired if there were any other committee reports. Moore mentioned that he will send Miller management certificate program updates and ideas. Miller inquired about a technical accreditation program at the state level. Steinmuller replied that Ohio created curriculum but never got the program of the ground, and the program included financial resources and engineers to provide training and oversight. Curriculum could be used as the CDEA develops workshops for the Water Quality Symposium and Conservation Skills.

Murphy inquired about PECS (Public Employee Safety and Health). Miller replied that she has struggled with PESH. Stienmuller, Ballou and Stewart will serve on the Safety Committee.

Break at 11:00 AM

Reconvened at 11:09 AM

Murphy inquired about Zoom meetings. Miller mentioned that the CDEA has an account for unlimited meetings.

VI. Old Business

i. Update for CDEA stormwater online 4 hr. course – White mentioned that 3 – 4 registrations occur per day. Josh suggested Learn Dash, a one-time purchase in the amount of \$189. Miller mentioned that she was contacted by Brian Scoralick of Dutchess County Soil and Water Conservation District, who mentioned that, due to the pandemic, Districts are not able to hold the 4-hour class, and no other classes have been scheduled. It is important to inform Districts of the online 4-hour class that is available to contractors and staff. Discussion ensued regarding 30% of the total registration amount going to the hosting District. White inquired about tracking. Miller replied that county could be listed on the registration form. White mentioned this would be complicated for her to track. Miller mentioned that a decision does not need to be made today. Lewis inquired if Districts could offer a live 4-hour course via Zoom for \$75. Miller mentioned that DEC should be contacted. Lewis mentioned that DEC could approve online trainings that Districts host. Calabro mentioned the importance of checking IDs. Buchta mentioned that he will ask his District Manager to provide more details and follow up with Lewis.

ii. Follow up on NYS ESC Certification – Miller mentioned that she did not ask Jessica Verigin for an update. 6 people sat for the exam held at the Water Quality Symposium. Some requested a copy of questions they got wrong. Discussion ensued if this would be acceptable. Answers cannot be provided, but it may be possible to provide scores for each part of the exam so that people know the topics they need to review.

iii. 2 hr. NYS DEC MS4 inspector training program for Districts – Miller mentioned that no movement will occur until new MS4 permit is issued. The permit is under review. Miller mentioned that Josh is assisting with logistics of the 2-hour course.

iv. 2020 Water Quality Symposium – Lewis mentioned that the event went well. Lewis thanked Miller and all who assisted with the event, organizing classes, and running sessions. The event took in \$17,768.75 over expenses. Attendance was down this year, and that impacted the finances. 54 attendees responded to online questionnaire, and comments included a need for more clerks' classes. Lewis mentioned that we tried our best this year, and no one lead the clerks class course. An email will be sent out state-wide asking for someone to head the Clerks' Track. A meeting for the 2021 Symposium will be held soon after the Doodle poll is emailed. Lewis mentioned that complaints were received about the same food every year, and he will send in a new bid for a different menu. Miller and White worked hard to arrange call-ins for instructors who could not attend in person. Multiple instructor courses received high ratings. Discussion ensued about entertainment. Miller suggested the band on Tuesday night and game night on Wednesday. Moore mentioned that game night was well received and all inclusive.

v. 2021 Water Quality Symposium – Lewis mentioned that 3 hotel bids met requirements for the event, including the Double Tree, the Sheridan, and the Holiday Inn, all in Syracuse. Lewis reviewed concerns with each hotel, and discussion ensued about the pros and cons of each venue.

- **A motion was made by Calabro, seconded by Stewart to accept the bid from the Double Tree Hotel east Syracuse for the 2021 Water Quality Symposium. Carried.**

Lewis mentioned that District budgets will be tight next year due to the pandemic, and training may suffer from budget cuts. Discussion ensued about ways to lower the registration fee for the Symposium.

- **A motion was made by White, seconded by Moore to put \$35,000 of 4-hour online course funds towards the 2021 Water Quality Symposium registration fee to lower the registration fee. Carried.**

Calabro inquired if the CDEA should again send the registration packet to collages. 1 professor attended the 2020 event. Miller mentioned CDEA should reach out to collages again, and to save the dates of March 9 – 12, 2021.

vi. Leadership Conference – Murphy mentioned that it was announced at the Water Quality Symposium that the conference would be held this year at the Ranger School. Miller mentioned that Sally Crosier is interested in participating. Murphy mentioned that the event would have to be held in August before classes begin, and food service employees would be available for the event, but there is no guidance from SUNY about reopening. Murphy inquired if the event should be postponed until 2021 given the current pandemic situation. It was agreed to cancel the 2020 Leadership Conference and hold the event in 2021.

vii. Other old business – Calabro mentioned that Ronny Raindrop costumes are in the following counties: Montgomery, Otsego, Orleans, Cortland, Hamilton, and Wayne. Stewart was supposed to investigate purchasing new costumes. White mentioned that new costumes are included in the budget. Miller will speak with Blanche Hurlbutt about where to purchase costumes.

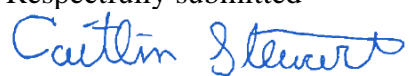
VII. New business – now new business was brought forward.

VIII. Next meeting – July, date to be determined.

IX. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Stewart, seconded by White to adjourn at 2:13 PM. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Caitlin Stewart". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line extending from the end of the word "Stewart".

Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary

Division I Report
May 20, 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.

Niagara County

- Applying for 5 NYSG&C grants and 4 Ag Nonpoint Source Grants
- Started construction for a heavy use manure handling facility and a covered barnyard/manure storage
- Started contacting homeowners about Japanese knotweed removal within the county
- Annual seedling program sold 30,000 trees to over 500 customers
- Still working with homeowners with our pond stocking program
- Assisted CCE with regional distribution of PPE
- Baseline water quality monitoring program restarted April and will continue until March 2021
- Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern
 - Preparing to share data gap findings from the US Army Corps of Engineers with the Remedial Advisory Committee
 - Attended a virtual AOC conference with NYSDEC, USEPA and other regional partners
 - Extending mink survey to include a non-impacted reference site

Genesee County

- The District is in final design and procurement of 4 AEM cost share implementation projects, which should all be completed this year.
- Ag Nonpoint applications are being wrapped up for final submission.
- The Tree and Shrub Program went very well considering the COVID-19 situation. The program consisted of a drive through pick up with no shopping.
- Water quality monitoring is back up and running after a hiatus, and now includes a rotational sub-watershed segment analysis.
- Numerous Ag Nonpoint and CRF grant projects are in or nearing construction and should close out this year.
- Fish program is upcoming

I did not hear back from any other county.

Submitted by: Scott Collins, Division I Representative



NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nyscdea.com

Division II Report
May 2020

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

Cayuga: No report submitted.

Livingston: No report submitted.

Monroe: No report submitted.

Onondaga:

- Hydroseeding season is in full swing w/ goal of 50+ miles of municipal road ditch seeded
- Injection of ash trees to commence in June to protect ash trees in county parks that provide high function and values for stormwater management and urban heat island issues
- Non-ash tree replanting occurring on small scale due to virus
- Starting site showings for multiple projects commencing
- Preparing for budget cuts at local level; first cut already handed down
- Provided updates to our Congressman on status of lakes in our County
- SWCD looking at new opportunities to diversify our services/support
- Staff authoring multiple grants to leverage additional funding for conservation projects

Ontario: No report submitted.

Seneca: No report submitted.

Wayne:

Wayne SWCD is doing well. We are all working about 80% from home/field. We plan on being back in office and running phase 1 of our reopening starting May 26th through June 19th; then a phase 2 to follow. We have two birthdays this month, so we will socially distance celebrate with Red Velvet Cupcakes and M&M cookies at our first in person staff meeting (outside our office) in 10 weeks.

Yates: No Report Provided

Respectfully submitted by,

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



NYS Conservation District Employees Association

www.nyscdea.com

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

All Division III Counties are in NYS Phase 1 of reopening. Districts are all working on reopening plans. I reached out to the Division and no Districts reported back with questions or concerns for this meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Raeanne Dulanski
NYSCDEA Division III Rep



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.
2041 U.S. Route 20, Suite 2, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
www.nyscdea.com

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.

DIVISION IV REPORT – 5/20/2020

Counties in Division IV:

Broome, Chenango, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, Tioga

County News and Updates:

Chemung: Chemung County SWCD is in full swing building projects with their own equipment. They've had some flooding issues and their municipalities rely on them to correct road damage etc. Other than that, normal implementation proceeds as of now.

Cortland: Cortland County SWCD recently wrapped up their Urban Agriculture Grant received from the NACD. Highlights included building a local gleaning network with a large vegetable producer, developing information resources available on the SWCD website, countless educational workshops and activities, contests and cultivation of partnerships for future Urban Ag work.

Cortland SWCD is excited to be working with the USC, NYSDEC and local municipalities to develop riparian forest buffers along watercourses on publically owned land over the next couple of weeks.

Steuben: COVID-19 - Office operation is being rotated among the staff and still maintaining the social distancing. Staff is starting to go in the field and board meetings are being held via teleconference. At this point, they have not been notified that our appropriations will be reduced this year.

Streambank Stabilization - There are 24 projects listed for this year totaling \$355,077 and to date three (3) have been completed.

AgNPS/AEM/CAFO - Some landowners are moving forward with their projects as planned and a no cost time extension is being sought for a CAFO WSTS project.

US Fish & Wildlife Project – They have an agreement with USF&W & Region 9 DEC for culvert installation on Indian Creek and Springs Mills in Allegany County. Working out the details for trucking of the stone because the quarry in Bath cannot supply the needed the material. Stone quarry being used is approximately 2.5-3 hrs away from the project site; not very convenient and/or efficient.

Internship - Their intern will start in May on an as need basis for now.

Trees 4 Tribes – They're working with two (2) landowners on planting a riparian buffer for streambank stabilization. 370 trees/shrubs will be planted by District Technician, Intern and landowners.

Tree Program – Has been a successful program while dealing with COVID-19 requirements.

Tioga: Tioga SWCD offices remain closed to the public; they have staff working remotely and some from the office. They are currently allowing equipment rentals including post pounder, and no-till drills. They assisted with the coordination of an online regional Envirothon competition. Tioga SWCD was able to coordinate the distribution of 3888 gallons of milk that went to local food pantry and banks as well as being distributed through a dairy drive thru event held at the County Fairgrounds. They are still working to deliver conservation in these uncertain times and will continue to move forward as the Southern Tier region re-opens with AGNPS, CRF and WQIP project implementation.

Discussion Items:

Stream Training: Cortland SWCD District Manager and staff wondered what the needs were for more/different stream training beyond what was offered at the latest WQS? Should this be further discussed at the Conservation Skills Workshop Committee level, how should feedback/needs be determined and/or should this be a Division led, open to the State, training? Thoughts?

Safety Trainings/PESH: Preface – I did not know what PESH meant so I thought I'd share with others: NYS Department of Labor, Division of Safety and Health – Public Employee Safety and Health. That said, there is a request for more information related to what the association may or may not be able to provide related to safety trainings and PESH. For example, is there a list of mandatory annual trainings or condition of employment trainings that are required for all positions (such as annual sexual harassment training, etc.) and are there position/task specific trainings available for let's say landfill monitoring related positions, hydro-seeding, or other programmatic positions of responsibility. Another example is that some State Contracts, through various divisions, may require certain trainings have been completed for example. How can this information be provided/developed; is it something that the association may want to consider looking into further?

Training Facilitation: With a realization that more and more meetings/trainings may need to be completed remotely, are there ways the Association may support Districts in these efforts? Perhaps ways to purchase and provide availability to remote delivery platforms such as Webex, GoToMeeting, Zoom, etc.? A way to ensure that the Association is able to not only train District staff, but a way for staff to be able to train municipalities or the public moving forward while in-face meetings may become less prevalent/practical? Is this something that can be done on a scale greater than District by District?

Respectfully submitted by Shawn Murphy, Division IV Representative

Division V Report

Clinton County

- The District office is closed to the public with one staff member at a time in the office.
- We are still trying to keep field work and office work moving as well as we can.
- Working on closing out Round 22 grant
- Keeping busy moving our No Till Drill, Post Pounder and Aerway
- Jillian working on CRF project and AEM
- Working on COVID-19 Safety and reopening plans

Essex County

- We had a successful tree sale pick-up event.
- We're working on AgNPS applications and moving forward on some AEM implementation and CRF grant projects.
- Workplans are being completed for the DEC grants and we've worked with some municipalities on post Halloween storm projects and roadside stuff.
- The District assisted CCE by transporting and distributing hand sanitizer for farms.
- We've assisted landowners with streambank erosion, permit, and drainage questions.
- We've had many requests for hydroseeding but ours is waiting for a part which we hope comes soon.

Franklin County

- The District is open but still taking the public by appointment.
- We are still trying to keep field work and office work moving as well as we can.
- Closed out a Round 1 CAFO
- Kristin and Chris have been surveying culverts and moving the hydroseeder and no-till around.
- Allycia has been working on grants and AEM planning.
- We have also been working on our 8 year review for Ag District!

Hamilton County

- 7 poets submitted amazing poems for the 12th annual Arbor Day Poetry Contest for senior citizens. District staff delivered certificates and bundles of trees to the winners' homes.
- Artists of all ages were invited to create an art piece for the Earth Day Art Contest that represented what Earth Day means to them. Jaime is selecting the winners and will mail certificates and prizes.
- The purpose of Mud Season Scavenger Hunt is to inspire our community members to get outside, be active, and enjoy our natural spaces during the pandemic. Participants could submit a picture, video, or drawing of the first flower of the season, signs of animal activity, a place where water created something new, or natural ice creations. People enjoyed sharing their mud season observations on our Facebook page.
- The pandemic created challenges for the Adirondack Tree and Shrub Sale that the Soil and Water team creatively and efficiently resolved. The Board agreed to hold this year's sale, and staff utilized strict social distancing and masking procedures to pack and double check orders. Marj and Jaime contacted

customers to request their physical address, and Lenny delivered orders to their homes. In the coming weeks, residents will plant 1,682 non-invasive trees and shrubs that will control erosion, improve wildlife habitat, and create privacy screens, windbreaks, and valuable wood for production.

- Our “Mindful Moment Mondays” and “Wednesday Wisdom” social media posts share conservation quick facts with our Facebook followers, and have become a hit. Since January, conservation posts have reached 19,040 people.
- Get all the dirt in our Spring Conservation Corner newsletter, available on our website
- Visit our website to take a virtual tour of Cherry Brook, and learn simple steps that you can take to protect water quality.
- Lenny is assisting municipalities with Halloween Storm flood mitigation efforts involving the FEMA process. He is assisting with hydrologic and hydraulic studies, culvert sizing and specs, and obtaining necessary DEC, APA, and Army Corps permits.
- Our Board approved the purchase of a 6-inch trash pump that processes 2,000 gallons of water per minute. The District can assist highway departments with bridge repairs and culvert replacements, and the trash pump will facilitate these projects.
- Our hydroseeding season kicked off on May 19.
- Preparations for our Lake Monitoring and Water Testing Programs

Warren County

- Actually we’ve been busy with field work, lots of site visits. With people home they have time to meet and I think notice more resource related issues.
- Our tree and shrub handout was the best that we ever had. The way it was set up with the drive up worked very well and most people followed the guidelines. We are likely to follow this method in the future.
- We are slowly starting our municipal grants, as the highway departments are the ones who conduct the construction. We are on their time frame.
- Nick and Maren have done more ag related work this year than last, more people are thinking long term sustainability.
- Dean successfully developed an online Envirothon. We had 4 teams, supposed to have 6-7, but better than nothing. The participants liked it and appreciated it.
- Just finalized a draft operations for the office that will be approved at our May 26 Board meeting. This meeting will be available via zoom and any director can attend at the office.

NYS CDEA Meeting
May 20, 2020 @ 9:00 AM
Division 6 Report
By Amber Luke

Washington County:

- 2020 Tree and Shrub sale was successful. A modified drive through version was held this year due to COVID-19.
- Working on round 26 Ag NPS grants.
- 4 grants in active construction that are trying to finish up Construction
- We had one Technician (Amber Luke) Receive Certified Crop Advisor Certification

Albany County:

- Held a successful T&S Sale with over 200 customers; drive thru style pickup – included giving away 2000 Liatris flower bulbs as part of our Pollinator Initiative
- Assisting NRCS with site visits/mapping for EQIP applications
- The Albany County Legislature passed a pollinator-friendly resolution in 2019 - the District is now working with the County DPW to plant pollinator seeds at various sites around the county.
- District technicians have started a large soil sampling project for a beef operation; to update their CNMP
- School Assistance Program to provide funding for conservation related projects was advertised but is now on hold
- Staff are busy fielding customer phone calls – tree planting questions, soil testing questions, pond weed identification, stream erosion, etc.
- Educational signage for a local preserve have been completed and will be printed in the next month for installation.
- Staff members are participating in several educational webinar during the Covid19 shutdown

Rensselaer County:

- Staff helped to transport Masks and hand sanitizer to the Rensselaer County Fairgrounds for CCE to make available to county Farmers.
- Held a successful online regional Envirothon with 2 teams participating. With one team planning to participate in the online State event.
- Expecting 2 new interns to help with summer workload.
- Working on completing CAFO grant from Round 1 and other active stream bank stabilization projects.

Suffolk County SWCD
423 Griffing Avenue
Suite 110
Riverhead, NY 11901
www.SuffolkSWCD.org



Corey Humphrey, CPESC
District Manager
(631) 852-3285

Rob Carpenter
Chairman



NYS CDEA May 20, 2020
Division VIII Report

Suffolk County: Ann Marie Calabro

Suffolk SWCD staff has been directed to work at home and is currently not permitted to conduct any field work since March 17th. We have been working through this hurdle with creativity and cooperation from the producers. SWCD Technical Staff have been able to continue most of our programs including AEM, Soil HELP, NPS Implementation Projects and Grant Writing for Future Projects, and Employee Training (web based). We have also submitted a nomination for the AEM Leopold Award. Staff have used some of this time to organize files and databases as well as prioritize projects moving forward. NRCS has offered proficiency exams for some Conservation Planner Designation courses, staff is taking advantage of this opportunity. Below is a list of programs:

Ag in the Classroom

- Within the past month, all projects have been ranked. Within the next few weeks, we will alert the highest participants who receive the award. Administering this program will depend on the "new norm" for school opening in the fall.

WQIP 2020

- Been reaching out to other partners in search of a WQIP project to apply for this summer. The Town of Southold cannot commit to any projects this year due to COVID-19. The district has reached out to several other municipal colleagues as well as Peconic Estuary Partnership for any potential projects we can help fund.

Soil Health Sampling/Testing and Equipment Rental Program (Soil HELP)

- Prior to the closing, soil samples were collected. Some of them shipped and others are in cold storage until we can continue with field work. The Cornell University Soil Health Lab is currently CLOSED and not accepting samples. The program has been put on hold as no further samples can be collected or assessed at this time.

Soil HELP

- The Soil HELP Program has still been running despite working from home. Three of the six pieces of equipment are still in the storage location at West Hampton Beach SC location. The two ABI spreaders and the 2 shank zonebuilder cannot be loaned out, but the No Till Drill, New Holland Spreader, and 4 Shank Zonebuilder have been utilized by growers. The No till Drill has been passed from grower to grower on a weekly basis from mid-march and will continue into June. 7 growers have been utilizing the program, 5 of which are new to the program, and 2 additional growers have reached out and are interested to use the equipment at some point. s

NonPoint Source Grants

- Working on closeouts and new applications.
- Fuel Tank Replacement - Suffolk County Department of Health Services has performed fuel tank inspections on farmers' land. The inspections that were scheduled have been deemed essential, since the farmer had most of the construction work done before the epidemic. We have been able to work remotely with SCDHS and the farmers to coordinate these inspections.

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.

Education/Outreach

- LI Envirothon was Cancelled
- Pending confirmation, the Coastal Connectivity Workshop will be rescheduled to take place on September 9th and September 10th.

AEM

- Planning efforts continue despite current circumstances. Several irrigation designs (prior to closing) have been installed and inspected. NRCS has been able to go do field inspections on new installations and technical assistance has been provided wherever possible.

New York City: Shino Tanikawa

Here is a very brief update from NYC.

I have been remote working from home but we have moved everything to the cloud and have been using Zoom, so the transition has been smooth. I go into the office every other week or so to check the mail and bills.

The Urban Soils Institute team had already been working mostly remotely. However, we have had to suspend our soil testing services for the duration of the NYS on Pause. We are also moving ahead with the annual symposium planning as a series of remote events (tentatively scheduled for early October - unlikely a mass gathering will be possible).

We had 7 teams from 4 schools participate in the Envirothon and 3 of them will participate in the State event! I am working with a middle school teacher on remote teaching water testing. I'll videotape myself taking water out of the river and then demonstrate water testing synchronously via video conferencing. A new day for the District Education Program!

I still participate in stormwater outreach and education meetings with a variety of coalitions and programs. We have become pretty adept at using Zoom or WebEx to have productive conversations.

I hope our colleagues and their families are all safe and healthy across NYS.

Putnam County: Lauri Taylor

I've been working from home and just trying to stay afloat so not a lot is happening. I am working on the Agricultural District Inclusion conducting farm visits and mapping. I am also the County's Climate Smart Coordinator so spent a lot of time learning the program. Working on educational signage/kiosk for my green infrastructure practices that were installed at the County owned farm. I've been keeping all my agricultural landowners informed on COVID-19 assistance. Working with the farmers on providing food to local pantries in partnership with Glynwood who has funding to purchase the produce from the farmers. Finished the Annual MS4 report. Also working with the Hudson Highlands Land Trust in achieving a Highlands Trail across the County that incorporates portions of the Appalachian Trail. I guess that's it for now. Hope you are well and staying safe!!

Lauri

Nassau County: No Report

Rockland County: No Report

Westchester County: No Report

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

TAC Summary

Meeting was held on April 30, 2020

AGNPS Round 27/AEM Base 16 (Year 2) Split – G. Albrecht presented a recommendation for the AEM Base 16 (Year 2) funding split from Round 27 of the AGNPS program. The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee approved \$4,000,000 in Technical Assistance Track funding for the first year (2020) of the new two-year AEM Base Program Round 16 (AEM16) during the September 17, 2019, meeting. This fund was split from the AgNPS Round 26 (2020) budget allocation. With the AgNPS Round 27 budget allocation approved, we're requesting the funding split for the second year (2021) of AEM16 Technical Assistance Track work.

The 52 Soil and Water Conservation Districts participating in AEM16 were awarded a total of \$7,109,639.72 for Technical Assistance Track funding for the two-year program. With \$4,000,000 of that total approved from the AgNPS Round 26 budget, we're requesting that the remaining \$3,109,639.72 be funded from the AgNPS Round 27 budget.

NYS SWCC Soil Health Policy Review – Jennifer Clifford presented a revised NYS SWCC Soil Health Policy for review. The proposed revision would establish per unit payment rates for Soil Health Practices (i.e., cover crops etc.). The proposed rates will be based on the average of the past three years of EQIP rates plus a 20% incentive payment (following a model established by the Maryland Department of Agriculture). These rates would be set for a three-year period to allow for a consistency of rates between separate programs as well as allow for rates to be set based on actual costs of implementation over-time. When new rates are released they will supersede previously released rates. Additionally, for consistency **Districts will no longer be allowed to set their own rates for practices that have a set State rate. The set State rate would only apply for State cost-share programs.** The TAC supported this policy. The draft policy will be sent to the committee for further review and comment.

Conservation vs. Engineering Practices – Tim Clark discussed the NRCS reclassification of several of their conservation standards to engineering for purposes of extending JAA to districts. These include stream crossings, trails and walkways, and livestock pipeline. Under the reclassification SWCDs would now be required to have the designs for these practices to be signed by a professional engineer. T. Clark presented several options for moving forward which including maintaining the status quo, adopting the new classification, engaging the NYS Board, or developing NYS SWCC C/E determinations. The committee discussed this topic at length. Chastity Miller will reach out to SWCDs for further input.

Round 27 AGNPS Policy Considerations – B. Bzduch discussed that the development of the Round 27 AGNPS will begin. She discussed the potential to adopt a synthetic liner requirement for any earthen waste storage funded through the AGNPS program. This would be consistent with policies that were established through other cost share programs (CAFO WSTSP). The group generally supported the concept, but discussed the financial impacts of imposing this change now. It was suggested that this discussion be postponed until a future round of funding.

CNMP Requirement for Waste Storages – R. Bush presented the current CNMP requirement for waste storages funded through the AGNPS program. Presently, CNMPs are not required at the time of application. He

discussed the potential to revise the current policy to require CNMPs to be developed prior to submitted an application. This would allow cost estimates to be more accurate and would allow the farm to understand exactly what is involved when implementing a waste storage. B. Bzduch added that about 70% of the current applications submitted for waste storages on non-CAFO farms indicate that CNMPS are already completed. The Committee supported this revision and the NYS SWCC will proceed editing AGNPS program documents.



New York Association of Conservation Districts

c/o Steuben County SWCD

415 W. Morris Street

Bath, NY 14810

NYACD Zoom CDEA May 20th Meeting Report:

A 4-Way Partner meeting was held. It was great seeing our partners and updating everyone with all that is happening with each of us through-out New York. All partners shared what they are doing to keep their programs moving forward. It is amazing to see how everyone is working hard to keep their “doors open” to continue to serve the folks as best they can. The 4-Way Partnership MOU has been put on the back burner for now, but we expect to have it updated and ready for signing by all partners soon.

NYACD has a new website with the same domain name www.nyacd.org. Check it out!!! We hope you will take a few minutes and check it out. I tried to make it more user friendly and provide you with updated material. In the future things will be added, changed, &/or deleted. It is my hope that in the future when we host events you will be able to register online as well as in paper form.

Presently under the Covid-19 concerns we are considering our options on how we should or should not proceed with the annual NYACD meeting event. We will keep you posted on any changes that may be made related to this event. We are hoping that all things considered we will be able to host this annual event and our annual business meeting. If we are unable to the present officers will continue in their positions until an annual business meeting can be held for elections to take place.

Bill A08349 Assembly & 7366 Senate Stream C has been put on hold until we are able to reach out to our Legislators when they are back in sessions. In the meantime, you can write letters of support of the SWCD/NYACD/Farm Bureau changes to the classification of this bill.

We received a check for \$1,000.00 from NACD for the work involved with helping a local soil & water district receive funding related to the TA Grant through NACD. That was a pleasant surprise, because I was not aware that NYACD would be awarded anything for doing this on behalf of a district.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blanche

Blanche L. Hurlbutt
Executive Director NYACD
24 North Street
Edmeston, NY 13335
Telephone: 607-965-6316

Frank Bratt Report
May 20, 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
Matthew Everdyke	January 2020	500.00
Kevin Preischel	January 2020	50.00
Caitlin Stewart	January 2020	99.00
Eva Brown	January 2020	375.00
Maxine Appleby	January 2020	500.00
Pamela Price	January 2020	476.00

- Received 3 applications for the June 2020 round of funding totaling \$1,500.00.
 1. Jeremy Paris, Monroe County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for HEC-RAS Computer Workshop (Workshop was held in May 2020)
 2. Angel Hinickle, Tompkins County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for River Morphology and Applications (Workshop was held in April 2020)
 3. Miranda Palmer, Tioga County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for Geology 315 – Earths Fury (Course ends July 13th)
- One applicant concerned they may not be able to complete their course due to class cancellations

Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees
"Together We Achieve the Extraordinary"

NYSCDEA Meeting
May 20, 2020

Northeast Regional Conference

Velynda and I have been participating in the Northeast Region Conference Planning committee teleconference with New Hampshire. The planning committee has discussed at length if the conference still could be held even if the pandemic was lifted it was uncertain if individuals would be willing to travel. It was discussed the financial aspect and what this would mean to NHACD. The Planning Committee has decided to cancel the Northeast Region Conference in the best interest of the participants. Working with Maryland Association of Conservation District (MACD), the New Hampshire Association of Conservation District will host the Northeast Region Conference in 2021 followed by Maryland in 2022. The New Hampshire Planning Committee will begin working on the 2021 conference in the coming months.

Northeast Regional Meetings

To date no regional meetings have been held due to COVID-19; however, will be developing a doodle poll on a June meeting to get back to normalcy and to begin planning for 2021 conference tours and the possibility of hosting a Leadership Conference for district employees.

Respectively Submitted,
Jeffrey Parker
NACDE President/CDEA Representative



NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

NYSCDEA Meeting
May 20, 2020

Mission

To strengthen and promote the professionalism of conservation district employees and effectiveness of conservation districts.

VISION

A professional, diverse and highly skilled work force dedicated to the cause of conservation

Background

The National Conservation District Employees Association (NCDEA) was conceived in February 1984, in the basement of the Hilton Hotel in Denver. Three district employees met, discussed objectives and benefits and shared their visions of what roles district employees could play on the national level. Their belief was that district employees are very valuable tools, which could be used to implement conservation programs and assist district officials serving at the national level as advisors. By laws of the NCDEA were adopted by the Committee of seven (7) regional representatives on February 3, 1992 at the NACD conference in Reno. The next day NACD council Members passed an amendment to NACD bylaws establishing NCDEA as a NACD affiliated organization. Since the inception of the NCDEA, district employees have been invited to participate in all NACD committees, tasks forces and special committees, various U.S. Department of Agriculture councils and committees, and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's national committees.

Meetings

The NCDEA board holds a teleconference monthly every third Tuesday at 11 AM EST.

The mid-year in-person meeting has been postponed; however, its being discussed to hold a virtual meeting in June to discuss 2019 agreement deliverables and other business items.

NCPP (National Conservation Planning Partnership)

NCPP was formed in 2015 by five core agency – NACD, NCDEA, NASCA (National Association of State Conservation Agency), NRCS and National RC&D Council - to advance voluntary conservation efforts on private lands and to reinvigorate conservation planning by implementing goals & actions that support proven approaches, offer new tools, and expand training to enhance the ability to the conservation workforce to deliver sound conservation planning assistance. This partnership works together to provide national conservation leadership on common vision ***“A productive nation in harmony with a quality environment”***.

NCPP meets every second Thursday each month where each of the Action Team (Communication; Partnership & Leveraging; Performance, Goal, Outcomes & Accountability; and Training, Certification, Technical, Processes & Tools) provides an update on their respective committee. Attached is the latest Action Team Summary report.

The website contains event calendar, submit ideas, subscribe, conservation planning, training/certification/tools, and news/media. Check out the website at **nationalconservationplanningpartnership.com**.

Policies

Communication Platform - The Communication Committee has developed a draft communication platform policy that outlines NCDEA purpose, brand promise, key messages, brand attributes, key words/phrase, key audiences and communications tools to achieve the targeted outcome.

Financial & Record Retention & Destruction Policy - The treasurer recommended to the Board have a financial retention & destruction policy that will provide guidance on the designation of what should be kept via scanned & stored or physical copy with length of time designation. The treasurer is investigating an online google drive system to help with organization of such file. A draft policy is currently being developed.

Strategic Plan

The current Strategic Plan will expire at the end of 2020 that outline eight (8) goals consisting of:

1. Provide resources for conservation district employees via the NCDEA website, webinars, & other avenues
2. Development a Process to Improve & Coordinate the Core Partner's Contact Databases
3. Increase number of State District Employee Associations
4. Expand & Improve Networks and Communication (Internal & External)
5. Encourage & promote professionalism of District Employees
6. Maintain & Build Representation & Partnerships
7. Work towards every State & Territory Building a Full Functioning Partnership
8. Build Board Capacity & Maintain Effective Operations

The Board has been active on accomplishing the goals under the current plan and its anticipated the Board will be working on a new three year strategic plan; however, it unknown when this will take place since no in-person has been schedule at this time.

Events

The Board has been discussing hosting a Leadership Conference for district employees and conservation organization. Looking at a possibility of a NRCS agreement to host this type of training event.

COVID-19

This pandemic has all Districts thinking outside the box on providing assistance to their constituents and implementing conservation projects. Similar to Districts NY, the other states & territories are working from home and trying to conduct business as usual the best they can during this pandemic.

Lastly, just want to remind you to check out the NCDEA website at ncdea.us. We welcome any feedback, your news and job announcement. NCDEA can assist you in expanding your reach and provide a valuable service to the entire Conservation Partnership. NCDEA would be delighted to share news about members and conservation districts.

Respectively Submitted,
Velynda Parker
NCDEA Secretary

NCPA Action Team Summary Report – May 15, 2020

Communications and Messaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 7th GovDelivery message – USDA extended the deadline to submit project proposals for on-farm demos • NCDEA met with KAT Marketing to discuss the next steps for the website. The suggestion box that Rich sent was added to the website with no need for survey monkey • Will ask Frank Clearfield to help sort feedback from the website and forward to the right people • Holly will be added to the list to receive emails when suggestions/comments are submitted to help direct messages • Updated team charter
Partnership and Leveraging Capacity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalized questions for the producer survey (Conservation Plan of the Future Project) • Reviewed letter to producers regarding the survey and the letter from RCs to State Conservationists notifying them of the survey. Will work with Myron to finalize. • Reviewed the team charter and will have updates by the June Leadership Team Meeting
Performance, Goals, Outcomes and Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Xu and his team have been analyzing the TSP registry. In addition to database issues, they found that the number of certified TSPs has been decreasing. Some have never completed certification and others have not renewed their certification. The team will be researching this further to discover why the decreasing numbers and ways to encourage certification • Cycle-time studies have been completed for state field offices and the study is almost finished at National Headquarters • Jeffrey Chase will be doing a presentation on AgLearn dashboards for the POA team on June 5 • TSP – Kickoff meeting on May 14. Assigned people to teams for the 10 projects. Staff trained in CPI will be brought on as facilitators, working with Matt Drechsel to identify those staff. 14 are interested and will be assigned to teams. Project plans are being developed to move the teams forward and reference material will be shared with the appropriate teams. Goal to move policy/program changes through by July so there is time for policy review before the beginning of the fiscal year (October 1) • Updated team charter
Training, Certification, Technical Processes and Tools

- Had a kickoff meeting with Aaron Lauster and his team to initiate the first project. After a deeper dive into the Conservation Planning Policy, it seems as though 10% or less will need changes. There are opportunities to use feedback from the listening sessions. The team will figure out more ways to get apprentice planners certified and change the terminology “apprentice” to something more suitable. Looking into more ways to offer remote training. AgLearn and other online courses.
- Aarons team is planning to create a conservation planner registry that would place certified partner employees in the registry as well instead of relying on AgLearn for this
- Planning an NCPP national/regional training session(s) for FY21. Focus on soft skills, certification, leadership, economics, JAA, virtual components, local field trainings. Train the trainer; participants will take information back to states
- NRCS has released proficiency exams for courses. Instead of retaking an entire course, planners can take a proficiency exam to receive credit
- Working with Aaron’s team to notify people of the tools that are available for planning. There is a disconnect – some planners working on conservation practices don’t know where to find or how to use tools available to them. Working to incorporate these tools into CD and CART so everything is in one place.
- The team reviewed their top 4 projects
- Updated team charter



Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2020
Zoom meeting

Executive Committee Members

Chastity Miller, President
Dustin Lewis, Vice President
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary
Kristin White, Treasurer
Dean Moore, Member at Large

Partners

Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC
Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC
Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC
Victor DiGiacomo, NYS SWCC
PJ Emerick, NYS SWCC
Paula Bagley, NRCS
Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD
Nick Klemczak
Megan Webster

Division Representatives

Scott Collins, Division I
Aaron Buchta, Division II
Raeanne Dulanski, Division III
Shawn Murphy, Division IV
Kristin Ballou, Division V
Amber Luke, Division VI
Erin Sommerville, Division VII
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

Absent



Minutes

I. Meeting begins and introductions – Miller called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM with introductions.

II. Reading and approval of the May 2020 meeting minutes.

- A motion was made by Moore, seconded by White to approve the May 2020 meeting minutes. Carried.

III. Correspondence – Miller mentioned that she received none.

IV. Treasurer's report – White reviewed the Treasurer's report. Miller inquired about Envirothon receivables. White replied that Envirothon receivables are for Districts that have credit towards next year's registration fee instead of being refunded for this year's event. White

mentioned that an extra \$5.16 was accidentally transferred into the Frank Bratt account, and that the savings account is \$32,195.50.

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

White mentioned that Jessica Verrigni reported that she was receiving many credit card payments for the Erosion and Sediment Control Program. White set up Square account. Verrigni will tell White when people sign up, then White will email Verrigni the QuickBooks receipt after payment is received. Both Verrigni and White feel this system will work well.

White mentioned that she would like to open a credit card and checking account for the 2024 Regional Envirothon and a credit card for the New York State Envirothon to separate the event accounts and track finances. Miller inquired if there were any fees. White replied no. Dulanski, inquired if there was a statement in the bylaws regarding credit card limits. Miller replied no.

- **A motion was made by Dulanski, seconded by Moore to open one credit card for the New York State Envirothon, and 1 credit card and a checking account for the 2024 Regional Envirothon. Carried.**

White mentioned that the audit is still being conducted, the auditors are asking questions, and it is moving forward. Miller mentioned to ask the auditors for examples of conflicts of interest and whistle blowers. White inquired if the bylaws needed to be updated to account for money being taking in for the 4 hour exam. Emerick inquired how much money has been brought in by the 4 hour exam. White replied \$215,671.45, with 2 to 5 registrations per day.

Hurlbutt joined the meeting at 10: 16 AM.

Buchta inquired about the status of opening the safe. White replied that one of file cabinets was opened. Buchta mentioned that he could assist.

V. Reports

i. Division Reports

- a. Division I** – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes.
- b. Division II** – Buchta shared his report, appended to the minutes.
- c. Division III** – Dulanski shared her report, appended to the minutes.
- d. Division IV** – Murphy shared his report, appended to the minutes.

- e. **Division V** – Ballou shared her report, appended to the minutes.
- f. **Division VI** – Luke shared her report, appended to the minutes.
- g. **Division VII** – Sommerville shared her report, appended to the minutes.
- h. **Division VIII** – Calabro shared her report, appended to the minutes.

ii. Partnership Reports

- a. **NYS SWCC** – Steinmuller shared his report, appended to the minutes.

Buchta inquired if Districts are requesting no-cost time extensions, and if the SWCC is seeing a spike across the state. Steinmuller replied yes, 8 requests have been received for ag non point source extensions, and there is a noticeable increase in time extensions. There has not been many extensions for CRF grants, but it is anticipated that this will happen by the end of the year.

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

- c. **NRCS** – Bagley gave the following report:

NRCS Announced New Hires:

NRCS State Resource Conservationist: Valerie Podolec

NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Partnerships: Tammy Willis

Acting NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs: Elena Steele

NRCS Urban Conservationist - Joe Heller

NRCS Geologist covering NY/NJ/PA is set to start on August 3

Southeast Area has hired two new field engineers one in Highland and one in Walton

Southeast Area has hired two Pathway Engineering Interns

NRCS announced they will be having the following job opportunities soon to be announced on www.USAjobs.gov including:

Civil Engineering Technician in the West and Northeast Area

Civil Engineer in Marcy

Agronomist Position at the Plant Material Center in Big Flats

Assistant State Conservationist for Programs in Syracuse

Multiple Soil Conservationists and Resource Conservationists

A question about Program Sign Up Deadlines was asked by Chastity Miller: 2021 EQIP Gen and AMA Urban Ag - signup deadline is Aug 21, 2020

VI. Committee / meeting reports

i. Conservation Skills Workshop – Miller mentioned that this year’s event will take place virtually, followed by 2 weeks of in-field training of small groups across the state.

ii. Envirothon Committee – Hurlbutt shared her report, appended to the minutes. Miller inquired the date of the August meeting. Hurlbutt replied August 27.

iii. Frank Bratt Scholarship – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes.

- **A motion was made by Dulanski, seconded by Calabro to approve the June 2020 Frank Bratt scholarships totaling \$2,000, including Jacob Kelly (\$500.00), Jaime Parslow (\$350.00), Diana Thorn (\$500.00), Rebecca Mann (\$500.00), and Shawn Murphy (\$150.00). Stewart and Murphy abstained. Motion carried.**

Collins mentioned that during the last CDEA meeting, the possibility of expanding the Frank Bratt scholarship application deadlines from 2 to 4 was discussed. Each of the 4 rounds would be \$1,000, and unspent funds could roll over into the next round. Collins inquired if there were any other ideas to handle the scholarship for a faster turn-around. Ballou mentioned the possibility of offering reimbursement for a course that already took place. Murphy and Calabro mentioned they would like to help. Miller mentioned that a proposal is needed to change the bylaws, and must be adopted during the Annual Session in March. Miller thanked the Division Representatives for reviewing the applications.

iv. State Fair Committee – White mentioned that the New York State Fair has officially been canceled. Due to the late cancellation, the committee proceeded as if the event were happening and purchased shirts and promotional items. These items will be used for next year, August 20 – September 6.

v. Environmental Education Foundation Committee – Miller mentioned that there is a meeting on Monday, the committee now has a full group of members. They are researching funding source for the 2024 Regional Envirothon event. A documentation retention plan is being developed.

vi. Northeast Association of Conservation Districts – Parker submitted her report, appended to the minutes.

vii. National Association of Conservation Districts – Parker submitted her report, appended to the minutes.

viii. New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) – Stewart mentioned that she attended the June 22 meeting via conference call. The 7th Annual Invasive Species Awareness Week hosted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation took place, and partners held mostly virtual events that were fewer in number but observed by more

participants. Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs) provided updates. A presentation was given about the status of the National Invasive Species Council (NISC). The NISC disbanded in 2019 – 2020. The NISC has streamlined capacity and staffing, is coordinating with other interagency committees, and is protecting what matters. NISC is also connecting science to action via science, policy and management, and identifying thematic priority activities. Next ISAC meeting dates are October 1 and December 16.

ix. Municipal Assistance Subcommittee – Moore mentioned that he met with PJ Emerick and Ryan Cunningham. Efforts are ongoing to work with partners on existing programs and grants. Emerick updated the CDEA on talks with DEC regarding the upcoming new stormwater permit as well as the two-hour stormwater management officer training – more details to be announced this fall. The subcommittee is also discussing potentially having a remote meeting sometime this fall to cover topics such as DEC permits and local road BMP training.

x. Operations Manual Committee – Miller and Steinmuller mentioned that there is nothing new to report. Steinmuller mentioned that a meeting was planned for the spring, then postponed due to the pandemic. A meeting may be scheduled for the fall to review the manual in light of pandemic emergency actions, operations, and policies.

xi. New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certification – Verrigni submitted her report and budget, appended to the minutes. Discussion ensued about sign ups and when classes could be held. Murphy inquired if a link for printed copies of the Erosion and Sediment Control notebook and stormwater management design manual could be added to the CDEA website. Lewis reviewed the proposed budget. White inquired where funds come from to pay for the expenses. Lewis replied that the class pays for itself as long as there is 10 attendees. Miller inquired what happens when a total of 10 people are not signed up for a class. Lewis replied the class is canceled, and the flyer states there must be at least 10 people to hold a class. Lewis continued that for the Water Quality Symposium and Conservation Skills Workshop, the presenters decide if the class is canceled with less than 10 sign ups.

- **A motion was made by Dulanski, seconded by Murphy to to accept the New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certification 2020 proposed budget. Carried.**

Discussion ensued regarding payment for SWCD staff members who proctor exams proctors. Cunningham and PJ Emerick can help proctor exams. Miller mentioned that a list of people who can give the exam is needed. Steinmuller mentioned that the list should include AEAs. Lewis will have a conversation with Kelly Emerick and Verrigni, then report back during the next CDEA meeting.

xii. TAC – Cunningham mentioned that the next TAC meeting is August 25, 9 AM.

xiii. Other – No other items were reported.

Meeting suspended at 11: 47 AM.

Meeting reconvened at 11:58 AM.

VI. Old Business

i. Update for CDEA stormwater online 4 hr. course – White reported that she created an account for Learn Dash to produce the certificates and document registrations. Josh LaFountain is assisting with the transition of the course platform. 2 to 5 people a day sign up.

ii. 2 hr NYS DEC MS4 inspector training program for Districts – Miller mentioned that no movement will occur until new MS4 permit is issued. Lewis reported that a 2 hour MS4 class should be held soon, and was postponed due to the pandemic. Discussion ensued regarding presentation platforms, opportunities for an online class, and cost for the class. White will speak with Josh LaFountain and see if the course can be offered online on Learn Dash. White mentioned that we need to speak with the auditors about taking in money for class registration fees. Miller suggested the program could be part of the Conversation Skills workshop, and Districts could offer their new employees the course. The format could be interactive with Ispring. Emerick that a course is almost complete, but the MS4 permit is holding it up, this is on DEC's radar, and DEC is talking with a legal counsel to get the course and permit on track. Hopefully DEC will have something by fall or early winter. Lewis inquired if people who teach the 4 hour course can also teach the 2 hour course. Emerick replied that a train the trainer may be offered, but that is the responsibility of the DEC. Buchta mentioned that lead time for code enforcement officers is important so that the process is not rushed. Emerick mentioned that DEC is cognizant of the work load of Districts. Lewis will take the lead on this item.

iv. Leadership Conference – Murphy mentioned that there is nothing new to report.

vi. 2021 Water Quality Symposium – Lewis mentioned that a very successful planning meeting was held, and he thanked AG and Markets and NRCS. Lewis emailed the class schedule. He continued that this is a CNMP year. He is proceeding as if it were a normal year, but understands that impacts from the pandemic may occur. A facilitator is needed for the Managers' Forum on Tuesday afternoon. Discussion ensued regarding the registration fee cost, and how to help Districts save money and still attend the Water Quality Symposium during a challenging budget period. Buchta inquired if the hotel will send a reimbursement if another shutdown occurs. Lewis replied that the contract states if NYS does not allow the event to be held, CDEA is not responsible for payment to the hotel. Miller created a Google Doc registration form for instructors. Classes are due September 18. Stewart will get the quote for the band for Tuesday evening. Discussion ensued regarding the Farmers' Market and Resource Fair. Stewart will develop a procedure for the CDEA board to review. Calabro inquired about

the possibility of a virtual event if an in-person event is not possible. Discussion ensued about safety procedures if an in-person event is held.

vii. Other old business – No other items were discussed.

VII. New business – Miller mentioned to think about committee positions. Miller mentioned that we need to find a new Treasurer. Miller thanked everyone for joining the call, and appreciates everyone's time. White thanked Miller for her leadership. Murph mentioned that the golf tournament is next Thursday.

VIII. Next meeting – September, date to be determined.

IX. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Murphy, seconded by Stewart to adjourn at 1:13 PM. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary

July 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.

Niagara County

- Building closed to the public, we are maintaining normal business hours
- Started construction on a CAFO Waste Storage project
- Interseeded 123 acres of cover crops
- Completed VTA design modifications for a bunk silo
- Submitted 4 Round 26 grant applications
- Started construction for a heavy use manure handling facility and a covered barnyard/manure storage
- Continued work with Japanese knotweed removal within the county. Nearly all previously visited sites have been retreated. Continuing to treat new patches as they are reported
- Summer newsletter distributed to the public
- Baseline water quality monitoring program restarted April and will continue until March 2021
- Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern
 - Planning to remove a Restrictions on Dredging BUI, a public meeting is planned for July 30th through WebEx.
 - Eighteenmile Creek AOC is looking to submit a management actions letter before the end of the fiscal year
 - Semiannual/virtual RAC meeting took place to highlight findings from a USACE data gap report.

Genesee County

- We are wrapping many projects and look to complete and close out three open AgNPS, two CRF grants, two AEM implementation projects, two FLOWPA projects, and two EPA funded projects by the end of the year.
- We have submitted seven CRF and two AgNPS grant applications.
- Our water quality monitoring program has restarted after a few setbacks.
- In-person events, meetings, and trainings are put on hold due to COVID-19 concerns.

Orleans County

After several months of teleworking and switching days of when employees will be in the office, we are now all back to working in the office. Our doors still remain closed to the public, but we will continue to make site visits and do field work. We have submitted 12 grant applications through Round 26 Ag Non Point Source, NYS Grown and Certified Program, and the Irrigation Efficiency grant opportunity. Currently, we have several projects being installed such as Micro Irrigation projects, a Manure Storage and HUA, a Waste Transfer System and interseeding cover crops. We have been working on designs for several stream crossings, conservation cover,

Agrichemical Handling Facilities, and Micro irrigation systems. We have also surveyed and designed tens of thousands of feet of subsurface drainage tile systems for several farms, responded to many residential drainage issues throughout the county, and assisted the Highway Departments with ditch surveys, and culvert sizings.

Even though our work patterns have been disrupted, we are still getting conservation on the ground and improving our environment.

Cattaraugus County

- COVID -19 Update
 - Employees have been working in the office since June 15th.
 - Our building is still closed to the public but we are still resuming normal business & practicing social distancing.
- Happy Retirement!
 - Brian Davis retired on June 26th, 2020 with 30 years of service. Although COVID prevented us from having a retirement party the Board & Staff was still able to take him out to lunch to celebrate.
 - Megan Boberg, the Agricultural District Technician has been promoted to the District Field Manager.
- Flood Control Dams
 - Yearly inspections were conducted on May 19th & 20th, 2020.
 - Typical maintenance issues are being taken care of.
- Ag. Projects
 - AEM Cost Share Program
 - One of our producers completed their project, the other producer will be having a site showing soon and putting the project out to bid.
 - One project involved a roofed HUA at the primary entrance to the freestall barn. The other project involves a waste storage and transfer system on a pig farm.
- AgNPS
 - Two applications were submitted for Round 26, one in the Cattaraugus Creek Watershed and the other was in the Conewango Creek Watershed.
- LEWPA – Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance
 - Completing projects this summer from our Year 3 & Year 4 work plans. Projects include invasive species spraying for Eurasian watermilfoil, streambank stabilization, habitat improvement, hydroseeding and water sampling.
- WQIP- Cattaraugus County Long Term Ditch Stabilization Grant

- Many townships are completing rock lined ditch projects. The Towns that are participating in this part of the grant are allowed to spend \$20,000 on medium rock riprap with be used to rock line roadside ditches and build check dams. The grant pays for the rock while the Town has to install the rock. Many Towns throughout our County have taken advantage of this program.
- Hydroseeding has also kicked off for the summer although the last two weeks the hydroseeder has sat idle due to severe dry, drought like weather or the pop up storms that drop 6" of rain in an hour.
- This is the third summer of the WQIP grant program.
- Emergency Streambank Projects with Cattaraugus County DPW
 - Projects have been bid out, a contractor was awarded the projects and they will be going to construction soon.
- Technical Services
 - Multiple calls from landowners wanting to build ponds.
 - Stream permits due to the recent rain storms.
 - Surplus in agricultural assessments due to the county re-evaluating the towns.

I did not hear back from any other county.

Submitted by: Scott Collins, Division I Representative



NYS Conservation District Employees Association

www.nvscdea.com

Division II Report **July 2020**

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

Cayuga: No report submitted.

Livingston: No report submitted.

Monroe:

- All staff returned to the office in June under several policies and procedures for safety developed in conjunction with the County Attorney; our office is open to the public by appointment only; field work is being conducted with use of masking by MCSWCD staff and clients;
- 2020 Tree & Shrub Program was successful; implemented a drive through pick- up for distribution of pre-orders as well as for overstock sale.
- County Budget for 2021 submitted along with 2021 Annual Plan of Work and 2020 Annual Plan of Work with YTD Accomplishments. Told to expect at 10% cut in our appropriation for 2021;
- Conservation Field Days in-person event has been cancelled by our BOD. Working with other SWCDs to compile videos and activities/resources to distribute to schools for an alternate program. [Any District interested in participating in sharing these resources can access them on Sharepoint under the CDEA;](#)
- Continue to work with the Genesee River Watershed Coalition to implement Agricultural BMPs for sediment reduction within the watershed under EPA's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative program;
- Continue to work with the Genesee River Watershed Coalition and a contract with Bergmann Associates to create a database of Agricultural BMPs to track implementation efforts and benefits throughout the watershed;
- Partnered with Allegany County SWCD and awarded funding through Great Lakes Commission (GLC) to restore a section of Oatka Creek, a highly regarded Trout Stream in Monroe County;
- Working on implementation of BMPs through AgNPS Round 21, AEM Rnd 16 & CRF Round 3;
- Continue to provide erosion and Sediment control construction inspections on development sites; and post-construction stormwater management inspections through our new Coalition mapping and inspection program developed by Bergmann Associates;

- Cancelled March, May and June NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour E&SC Training sessions, but plan to restore in-person sessions in October;
- Cancelled one class for the 2020 WNY Stormwater Management Training Series, but rescheduling Construction Permit Class for late September/early October. [Cost for SWCD employees continues to be at the \\$100 rate;](#)
- Continue to work on 3 projects under WQIP Round 12 including a regional stormwater pond facility, and a stream restoration project;
- Continue to work on 2 projects under WQIP Round 14 for Stream Restoration on Black Creek with engineering from Dave Derrick and a Nature- Based Shoreline (NBS) project with Monroe County Parks on Irondequoit Bay. NBS project is near completion with wetland plantings remaining to be completed;
- Working on closing out our US Forest Service grant for forest canopy restoration due to Emerald Ash Borer Impacts;
- Coordinating our Watercraft Steward Program with Finger Lakes Institute for this year;
- Spring Fish Program was cancelled due to lack of orders and Covid-19;
- Received a grant award from FL-PRISM for survey and removal of the invasive Japanese Angelica Tree (JAT). Hired two graduate students from SUNY Brockport to complete the field surveys for 17 county parks and one state park. Currently working with County Parks on removal of infestation in Mendon Ponds Park.

Onondaga:

- SWCD is awaiting the start of the County budget process, which has normally been completed by now
- The City of Syracuse budget renewed July 1, and SLWAP is fully funded until June 30, 2021
- The 3- person Water Chestnut Hand Pulling Crew is working on a 25 miles stretch of the Seneca River in Onondaga County. They have a John Boat w/ 15 hp motor to use. They will exceed the record breaking year of 32,000 # as they have added in two more locations. Legislator Ken Bush, Jr also secured funding for weed harvesting at Cross Lake for 2020
- The County EAB program has undergone a significant budget cut due to COVID-19, and the tremendous progress cutting / removing Ash trees, which has been accomplished over the past 8 years on County ROW. A layoff has occurred and staff have been reassigned to new duties based upon their Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities
- 3.5 manure storages will be constructed in the County this season
- The SWCD hydroseeding crew is also ahead of past years in terms of acres seeded on municipally cleaned road ditches and other public benefit projects

Ontario: No report submitted.

Seneca: No report submitted.

Wayne: No report submitted

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*

I sent a request for questions and news to share to all my Counties. I also specifically asked about how their reopening was going, if they had construction projects moving forward, and what they are hearing as far as budgeting from their County. Here are the responses I received.

Jefferson – Reports that reopening has been uneventful. They are meeting with public by appointment only. Most visits seem to be on the farm, where social distancing can easily take place. They have two small farm projects that have moved ahead with construction, but none of the big farms have. Some of them are working on getting engineering completed. The small projects include an AEM project and the District did recently receive their advance, so should be able to pay that producer when they have completed. They are anticipating the need to get extension for two CAFO round 1 projects. They received a letter from their County for their budget request. The County asked that they stay at level funding but have been advised that there was still a chance for cuts, depending on what happened the next few months.

Lewis – About 50% of the staff is out in the field most of the time, the rest are able to socially distance in the office. They are required to check in daily with the County and check their temperatures. Public is not allowed in the building, they are mostly meeting with the public in the field. They are not accepting water samples to be tested by the lab. They are holding regular board meetings; they have a big enough room to socially distance. They have a green infrastructure project underway and anticipate two manure storages going sometime late summer/fall. As far as budget request from the County, they haven't heard much, but indications have been to keep funding requests level.

St. Lawrence – About 50% of staff are working in office/ out in the field while the others are working remotely. Meetings with public are by appointment only. Board meeting have continued remotely. The 2 manure storages that were going to be built this summer, have been postponed by the producers early this spring. They are planning on requesting level funding from the County, as advised by Board of Legislator reps.

Respectfully submitted,
Raeanne Dulanski
NYS CDEA Division III Rep



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.
2041 U.S. Route 20, Suite 2, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
www.nyscdea.com

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.

DIVISION IV REPORT – 7/29/2020

Counties in Division IV:

Broome, Chenango, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, Tioga

County News and Updates:

***Schuyler:** Schuyler County SWCD is in full swing building projects with their own equipment assisting local municipalities address a variety of concerns including but not limited to: culvert replacement, stream and ditch stabilization measures, road shoulder protection, flood control structures and more.*



In addition to purchasing excavation equipment and building a new equipment storage structure, the District has also acquired an under the vine mower for its vineyards and orchards to reduce pesticide use.



***Cortland:** Cortland County SWCD recently planted (and watered numerous times) a riparian forested buffer along the Tioughnioga River in the Town of Homer. This project included a trial of stone mulch around the planting stock, a technique tested by Stroud and implemented at this site by Cortland SWCD in order to minimize rodent damage and curb weed growth and vegetative competition.*



Cortland SWCD is trying to remotely engage county residents through a celebration of World Conservation Day (July 28th). For the entire week, SWCD is promoting citizens getting outside, appreciating the natural lands in their community and getting involved in conservation.

Activities promoted via the Cortland SWCD website, Facebook page, print and radio ads include: photo contests, scavenger hunts, litter clean-ups, Flat Ronny and more! Check it out #CortlandConservation #FlatRonny @cortlandswcd www.cortlandswcd.org

Discussion Items/Inquiries:

New Inquiries:

Frank Bratt Scholarship (FBS): A Tioga District employee brought up an issue with FBS. Mainly, the issue had to do with timing for summer courses (but is relevant for other times of the year as well). Currently, the scholarship is awarded 2x's per year and with application dates and then waiting periods until the next CDEA meeting, folks may have to wait nearly 8 months to hear a status on their application. Furthermore, the FBS currently doesn't allow reimbursement for previously completed coursework, making some courses with short announcement periods ineligible. These items were discussed briefly during the May meeting and will likely be discussed during the July meeting as well.

Ongoing Inquiries:

*Stream Training: Cortland SWCD District Manager and staff wondered what the needs were for more/different stream training beyond what was offered at the latest WQS? Should this be further discussed at the Conservation Skills Workshop Committee level, how should feedback/needs be determined and/or should this be a Division led, open to the State, training? Thoughts? **Inquiry awaiting feedback from CSW committee to determine next steps.***

Safety Trainings/PESH: Preface – I did not know what PESH meant so I thought I'd share with others: NYS Department of Labor, Division of Safety and Health – Public Employee Safety and Health. That said, there is a request for more information related to what the association may or may not be able to provide related to safety trainings and PESH. For example, is there a list of mandatory annual trainings or condition of employment trainings that are required for all positions (such as annual sexual harassment training, etc.) and are there position/task specific trainings available for let's say landfill monitoring related positions, hydro-seeding, or other programmatic positions of responsibility. Another

*example is that some State Contracts, through various divisions, may require certain trainings have been completed for example. How can this information be provided/developed; is it something that the association may want to consider looking into further? **Stienmuller, Ballou and Stewart on safety committee and will be looking at this inquiry.***

Respectfully submitted by Shawn Murphy, Division IV Representative

Division V Report

Clinton County

- No report submitted

Essex County

- Hired a summer intern
- Hydroseeding in the Upper Hudson and Lake Champlain Watersheds
- Received drone pilot licenses
- Work started on AEM Round 16 project
- Working on forestry assistance on town forest
- Working with town on culvert replacement
- Held a tire collection day

Franklin County

- We are back open.
- 2020 is an opt-in and opt-out year for Ag District so we are working on compiling those parcels!
- Submitted 3 AGNPS and 1 NYSG&C grant applications
- 1 CAFO grant under construction, another AGNPS is almost ready for construction.
- Field work is hot, literally! Forestry, EAB monitoring and planning for 2021 biocontrol releases, AEM farm visits, invasive species monitoring, construction inspections, and working with towns and the county on hydroseeding projects.
- Partnering with Clinton County on the implementation of a Forest Conservation Plan
- Due to COVID-19 the District took a cut from the county and is working on our next budget...that being said Does anyone have any different funding sources they would be able to share?

Hamilton County

- Lake Monitoring Rotation for June and July – 21 lakes are analyzed for pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, transparency, temperature, alkalinity, aluminum, calcium, chloride, chlorophyll a, nitrate + nitrite, total phosphorus, and sodium analysis.
- Hydroseeding
- June Water Testing Program: The District offers this program with certified results to municipalities, residents, and businesses. Testing is available for bacteria, lead and copper, and a water quality panel.
- FEMA flood mitigation – the District purchased a trash pump to assist with culvert replacements. Natural channel design is being used to protect bridge abutments. DEC and APA permit assistance for municipalities.
- Working on lake monitoring and living shoreline videos.
- Social media is booming! Mindful Moment Monday and Wednesday Wisdom are a huge hit with our followers.
- Assisting the county with Trails into Prosperity grant including hosting website information and a public survey. The purpose of the grant is to inventory Hamilton County trails with the hope of obtaining future funding for maintenance.
- Assisting the public with invasive species, erosion control, and species identification inquiries.
- Promoting our AEM program

- Spotted Lanternfly in person presentation for a youth rec group. Masking and social distancing worked well for outdoor education. Dotty the Spotted Lanternfly made her first public appearance, and students learned about this invasive insect and how they can protect their trees by checking for and scraping off egg masses.
- Conductivity sweep of Piseco and Oxbow Lakes as an indicator of faulty septic systems.

Warren County

- We were fortunate not to be cut for the second half of this year. From what I was told, we would be going into the county budget for 2021 flat.
- Projects are going along well, there are a few challenges as far as scheduling as the highway departments are playing catch up with work.
- The number of site visit that we have conducted has increased with folks being around.
- The AEM program has blown up as many 2nd home folks came up in March and plan on being here till at least November. Gardening/chickens/greenhouses are all the rage on the county.
- We are staffed 100% with DM and OM and 50% in office with technical staff. Everyone can be working in the field, but 2 of the tech staff cannot be in the office during the week. We allow them to grab a vehicle and as long as they follow out policy, they can work in the field. So far it has worked well.
- Looking at adding laptops this year with assumption that we will be at home and then converting towers to laptops over time.
- Staying very busy, maybe not quite what we usually are but this allows us to really get the details on projects and I believe create better projects and programs.

NYSCDEA Meeting-July 29, 2020-Zoom

Division 6 Updates

Submitted By, Amber Luke Division 6 Rep.

Albany County:

- Staff submitted 2 round 26 Ag NPS grants
- Conducted a spring Grass Carp stocking program
- Continuing work assisting NRCS with site visits and mapping for EQIP and CRP Grassland Contracts
- Staff have been conducting many site visits for drainage, erosion and pond weeds.

Rensselaer County:

- Hired 2 new interns
- Staff worked to submit 4 Round 26 Ag NPS grants
- The district help obtain a mini grant from the Soil and Water Conservation Society NY Empire Chapter for Babcock Lake to expand a Water Monitoring Project.
- Staff are working on a contribution agreement with NRCS to complete WRP monitoring of 30 Wetland easements
- The district has partnered with Trout Unlimited to further evaluate unassessed stream in the county.
- Staff are working on their fall fish sale set for September 26th
- The District is still planning to host a 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control class that was originally scheduled for March on September 16th.
- Various Stream stabilization projects are under way as well as staff assisting NRCS with EQIP site visits.

Schoharie County:

- Staff are currently busy construction inspections of a 2.8 million manure storage that was funded through Round 23 Ag NPS grant. Planned to be done the end of August.
- A CAFO Waste Storage Grant to install a 2.6 Million manure storage is currently in the bid process.

- The district has been using Part C money to implement a mini grant program. This year they had 19 applicants and 7 of those were funded for various projects including fence, heavy use area protection, and water management.
- Staff have been working on the district part B project with the Jefferson Historical Society to install a nature trail around an old Grist Mill and wetland. For this project they will work with the school to make signage for plants and other interesting things along the trail.

Washington County:

- Staff have been busy doing construction inspections of a Silage leachate control and treatment system funded through Round a 22 Ag NPS grant. This project has been completed.
- Staff have been working on construction inspection for a Agrichemical handling Facility at an orchard in the county. This was funded through Round 24 Ag NPS grant and construction has been completed.
- Staff have been working on Construction Oversight of a Livestock Heavy Use Area Runoff Management System funded through round 22 Ag NPS. Construction on this project has been completed.
- Staff have been working on Construction oversight on a round 23 Ag NPS grant to implement a Waste Storage and Transfer System, Silage Leachate Control and Treatment System and a Livestock Heavy Use Area Runoff System
- The district completed 3 Round 26 Ag NPS applications.
- Part C- Working on a Forest Management project. Staff have been inventorying trails and will start the forest inventory soon.

Division VII Report

July 2020

Submitted by Erin Sommerville

- Dutchess County has been working on hydroseeding projects.
- NAACC assessments are being completed with the goal of completing Town wide prioritization and management plans this fall.
- The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts is moving forward with holding the SENY Stormwater Conference as a virtual event.

Suffolk County SWCD
423 Griffing Avenue
Suite 110
Riverhead, NY 11901
www.SuffolkSWCD.org



Corey Humphrey, CPESC
District Manager
(631) 852-3285

Rob Carpenter
Chairman



NYSDEA July 28, 2020

Division VIII Report

Suffolk, New York City, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, Nassau Counties

Suffolk County: Ann Marie Calabro

Since our last meeting the Suffolk SWCD staff has been permitted to conduct field work and return to the office following CDC guidelines for social distancing and PPE. The County has reached phase 4 for reopening and we are slowly seeing progress towards the new normal as new cases continue to remain low, hovering around the 1% threshold. With extreme caution, the district continues to implement programs, with some modifications for safety. The last 2 months have been extremely dry and producers are suffering from the lack of rainfall. Farms where irrigation is needed productivity is low and crop losses are high, the district has several irrigation projects in the works. On the bright side ☺ Our Soil Technician, Ed Compagnone has made his 1 year milestone with the district and we are all excited to have him aboard for years to come. Below is a list of programs:

Ag in the Classroom

The Ag in the Classroom Program is slightly behind the "normal" schedule, but it is going well. Before alerting any applicants of their status, Kaitlin reached out to all potential winners last month and asked if they would be able to accept and use their funds despite the COVID-19, to which they all responded "yes". As of 6/19/2020, all applicants have been alerted and all winners were notified. Starting this week, she will be reaching back out to winners.

Soil Health Sampling/Testing and Equipment Rental Program (Soil HELP)

As of 6/17/2020, the Soil Health Lab in Ithaca has reopened and started accepting samples again. 28 samples were taken from 11 farms this year despite restrictions and limitations due to COVID-19. As of now, no more soil samples are planned for the rest of 2020.

The district is still able to lend out equipment. Throughout the quarantine, producers took on the responsibility of passing the equipment along for us. Since 6/18/2020 the district is once again transporting and inspecting the equipment. On 6/18/2020, the District purchased the Milcreek Row Mulcher to add to the diverse collection and transported it to Sang Lee Farms to be tested. Sang Lee is also conducting 4 different vegetable trials with our Zone Builder, placing two of the shanks directly behind the tractor wheels to virtually eliminate the risk of compaction. This program has provided a great knowledge base and innovative ways to utilize the equipment in different settings. Equipment in our inventory include 3 compost spreaders, 2 zone builders (2 shank and 4 shank), a no-till drill, and the new row mulcher.

Grants

Working on closeouts and new applications. The district is eagerly awaiting word from the state on several NPS and G&C proposals. In the meantime we continue to work on Fuel Tank Replacements, Nutrient Management Planning, RCPP, Ag Handling Facilities, and Tier 4 Implementation projects.

Education/Outreach

Coastal Connectivity Workshop has been rescheduled to take place on September 9th and September 10th. We are considering ways to adhere to safety guidelines. We are also looking to partner with Suffolk County CCE to provide 2 virtual training sessions, one on Biochar and another on Cover Crops. I will send out info statewide when these webinars become available.

AEM

Planning efforts continue despite current circumstances. During the past few months district staff was able to meet quarterly goals with creativity. The producers we serve were patient and helpful with working remotely but are grateful to have us return to the field. Implementation projects are moving along as planned.

New York City: Shino Tanikawa

Here is a very brief report for NYC. Thank you as always for representing us.

We have been working on a few projects. One is a grant funded project to monitor CSO outfalls in Queens. The project team has been meeting regularly to develop the logistics of monitoring CSO real time and is scheduling a field site visit in mid-July (socially distanced) to finalize the installation plan. We will be using submersible sensors for turbidity and conductivity.

We are also actively planning a series of virtual events for the Urban Soils Institute in lieu of the symposium. We will have presentations and discussions sessions virtually throughout the month of October on all things urban soils.

We were contacted by Brooklyn Grange, which operates three rooftop farms in Brooklyn and Queens. We conducted the AEM Tier 2 assessment and Shino made a visit to each of the three sites in late July (socially distanced visits).

We are now planning for a virtual GI tour!

Shino

Putnam County: Lauri Taylor

My report for this period is pretty much the same as the last one.

- Continue to keep the agricultural community up-to-date on the latest COVID information. Also assisted CCE in the distribution of the State sanitizer and masks to the local farms.
- Finalized the Ag District inclusion application reviews and site visits.
- Continued to work with Glynwood in their Local Food for Every Table project to pay farms grow specifically for hunger relief.
- Completed the County's MS4 Annual Report.
- Worked on a new web page for Climate Smart as the Climate Smart Coordinator.
- Participating in the update of the County's Hazardous Mitigation Plan.
- Working on additional GI Stormwater implementation at the County's Tilly Foster Farm.
- Working on the 2012 County Budget.

Let me know if you have any questions

Lauri

Westchester County: Rob Doscher

Here's something from Westchester,

The stabilization and restoration of Fulton Brook, a tributary of the Bronx River, has begun with the treatment and eradication of invasive plants. The contractor will begin the bulk of the work beginning in mid-September. The stream discharges into the Bronx River next to the Westchester County Center in White Plains. All work is within the Westchester County-owned Bronx River Parkway Reservation. The stream is largely culverted but "surfaces" next to the County Center. Due to the velocity of water exiting the culvert during storms, considerable bank erosion has occurred, undermining trees and threatening infrastructure. The stream channel is flanked by invasive plants and mowed lawn extends to the top of the banks. This project will eradicate the invasive plants, stabilize the banks through regrading and bioengineering techniques, and establish a naturally vegetated buffer along the top of the banks. The project is expected to be completed in the spring 2021.

Thanks,

Rob

Nassau County: No Report

Rockland County: No Report

Respectfully Submitted By: *Ann Marie Calabra, Division VIII Representative*

Technical Advisory Committee Report

Submitted by Brian Steinmuller

Meeting was held on April 30, 2020.

AGNPS Round 27/AEM Base 16 (Year 2) Split – G. Albrecht presented a recommendation for the AEM Base 16 (Year 2) funding split from Round 27 of the AGNPS program. The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee approved \$4,000,000 in Technical Assistance Track funding for the first year (2020) of the new two-year AEM Base Program Round 16 (AEM16) during the September 17, 2019, meeting. This fund was split from the AgNPS Round 26 (2020) budget allocation. With the AgNPS Round 27 budget allocation approved, we're requesting the funding split for the second year (2021) of AEM16 Technical Assistance Track work.

The 52 Soil and Water Conservation Districts participating in AEM16 were awarded a total of \$7,109,639.72 for Technical Assistance Track funding for the two-year program. With \$4,000,000 of that total approved from the AgNPS Round 26 budget, we're requesting that the remaining \$3,109,639.72 be funded from the AgNPS Round 27 budget.

NYS SWCC Soil Health Policy Review – Jennifer Clifford presented a revised NYS SWCC Soil Health Policy for review. The proposed revision would establish per unit payment rates for Soil Health Practices (i.e., cover crops etc.). The proposed rates will be based on the average of the past three years of EQIP rates plus a 20% incentive payment (following a model established by the Maryland Department of Agriculture). These rates would be set for a three-year period to allow for a consistency of rates between separate programs as well as allow for rates to be set based on actual costs of implementation over-time. When new rates are release they will supersede previously released rates. Additionally, for consistency **Districts will no longer be allowed to set their own rates for practices that have a set State rate. The set State rate would only apply for State cost-share programs.** The TAC supported this policy. The draft policy will be sent to the committee for further review and comment.

Conservation vs. Engineering Practices – Tim Clark discussed the NRCS reclassification of several of their conservation standards to engineering for purposes of extending JAA to districts. These include stream crossings, trails and walkways, and livestock pipeline. Under the reclassification SWCDs would now be required to have the designs for these practices to be signed by a professional engineer. T. Clark presented several options for moving forward which including maintaining the status quo, adopting the new classification, engaging the NYS Board, or developing NYS SWCC C/E determinations. The committee discussed this topic at length. Chastity Miller will reach out to SWCDs for further input.

Round 27 AGNPS Policy Considerations – B. Bzduch discussed that the development of the Round 27 AGNPS will begin. She discussed the potential to adopt a synthetic liner requirement for any earthen waste storage funded through the AGNPS program. This would be consistent with policies that were established through other cost share programs (CAFO WSTSP). The group generally supported the concept, but discussed the financial impacts of imposing this change now. It was suggested that this discussion be postponed until a future round of funding.

CNMP Requirement for Waste Storages – R. Bush presented the current CNMP requirement for waste storages funded through the AGNPS program. Presently, CNMPs are not required at the time of application. He discussed the potential to revise the current policy to require CNMPs to be developed prior to submitted an application. This would allow cost estimates to be more accurate and would allow the farm to understand exactly what is involved when implementing a waste storage. B. Bzduch added that about 70% of the current applications submitted for waste storages on non-CAFO farms indicate that CNMPS are already completed. The Committee supported this revision and the NYS SWCC will proceed editing AGNPS program documents.

NYACD Zoom CDEA July 29th Meeting Report:

The NYACD Executive Board met to discuss how or if NYACD should move forward with their annual training & business meeting. After much discussion of all the pros and cons it was decided that NYACD will not hold the training session of our annual event. However, it was determined that we would hold the annual business meeting. The Executive Board felt it was important for us to hold that portion of our annual session. After determining this it was decided that we would hold a virtual meeting. The details & agenda will be worked out in the next few weeks. Once everything has been set in place for the virtual meeting, we will notify the Directors & Districts. The annual business meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Resolution, news article forms and the NYACD award nomination forms for the annual business meeting will be forwarded to all Districts. Please be sure to discuss this with your full District Board and determine what, if any, resolutions you feel need presented, along with who you might consider to be nominated for an award. Do not forget any worthy news article you might want to share & have considered for the media awards.

Legislators regarding the Bill A08349 Assembly & 7366 Senate Stream C has been passed in the Senate and has gone back to the Assembly. We were not made aware that this bill was up for vote until after the fact. If it passes in the Assembly & forwarded to the Governor's office no one will be able to share their reasons for not wanting this bill to be passed. When Legislators were questioned on this, they felt the Governor would veto the bill

As most of you may know that the NYS Envirothon event was held online on Thursday, May 28th. and it was a great event. We have a great group of committee members who have worked hard all year to make this event such a wonderful program. We held an online awards program later that same afternoon & Miranda Palmer from Tioga Co. SWCD did a great job. We are looking forward to the 2021 at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY and hoping it will be back to a regular event.

GREAT NEWS!!! New York State will be hosting the 2024 NCF-Envirothon international event. We have sent out requests for folks to join the NY – NCF Envirothon committee. We have chair positions open such as Secretary, Volunteer Coordinator, and Treasurer, as well as we NEED subcommittee members. We need these folks to make this seven-day event a great success like we did back in 2007 when NY hosted the national Canon Envirothon. This is a great undertaking, but a very worthwhile event. District will receive our request for their support of this major event in several different ways. It is our hope that the Districts will support this

event with funding, staffing, and anyway they can. We understand budgets will be tight going forward, but Districts will have four years to show their support before the event happens.

NYACD, NYS Envirothon, & the NY-NCF Envirothon committee appreciates any & everything you can do to support these events. NYACD is discussing and making plans to help support this international event as well as continuing to support the NYS Envirothon.

We received a check for \$1,000.00 from NACD for the work involved with helping a local soil & water district receive funding related to the TA Grant through NACD. That was a pleasant surprise, because I was not aware that NYACD would be awarded anything for doing this on behalf of a district.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blanche

Blanche L. Hurlbutt
Executive Director NYACD
24 North Street
Edmeston, NY 13335
Telephone: 607-965-6316

**Frank Bratt Report
July 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	January 2020	50.00
Caitlin Stewart	January 2020	99.00
Eva Brown	January 2020	375.00

- Matthew Everdyke of Seneca County submitted a request for payment of \$500.00 relative to his award under the January 2020 round of funding. Approved by Scott Collins and sent to Member at Large.
- Pamela Price of Columbia County submitted a request for payment of \$476.00 relative to his award under the January 2020 round of funding. Approved by Scott Collins and sent to Member at Large.
- Maxine Appleby of Columbia County submitted a request for payment of \$500.00 relative to his award under the January 2020 round of funding. Approved by Scott Collins and sent to Member at Large.
- Received 12 applications for the June 2020 round of funding totaling \$4,975.00.
 1. ~~Jeremy Paris, Monroe County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for HEC RAS Computer Workshop~~ **Application withdrawn**
 2. Angel Hinickle, Tompkins County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for River Morphology and Applications
 3. Miranda Palmer, Tioga County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for Geology 315 – Earths Fury
 4. Jacob Kelly, Wyoming County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for Online AutoCAD Course
 5. Jaime Parslow, Hamilton County SWCD Employee - \$350.00 for 30-hour DEC Eligibility: 3A Ornamental Turf and 25
 6. Diana Thorn, Ontario County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for QuickBooks Live, Online 2-Day Class
 7. Rebecca Mann, Wyoming County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for Online AutoCAD Course
 8. Shawn Murphy, Cortland County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for Working Effectively with American Indians
 9. Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD Employee - \$124.94 for Project WET and PLTS Environmental Education Training
 10. Megan Webster, Ontario County SWCD Employee - \$250.00 for Dart Drones
 11. Katie Lafler, Ontario County SWCD Employee - \$250.00 for Dart Drones
 12. Pamela Price, Columbia County SWCD Employee - \$500.00 for Capstone Proposal MED 605/Internship MED 600

- After ranking the following are recommended for funding under the June 2020 round of funding totaling \$2,000.

1. Jacob Kelly	\$ 500.00
2. Jaime Parslow	350.00
3. Diana Thorn	500.00
4. Rebecca Mann	500.00
5. <u>Shawn Murphy</u>	<u>150.00</u>
	\$2,000.00



NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

NYSCDEA Meeting
July 2020

Mission

To strengthen and promote the professionalism of conservation district employees and effectiveness of conservation districts.

VISION

A professional, diverse and highly skilled work force dedicated to the cause of conservation

Meetings

The NCDEA board holds a teleconference monthly every third Tuesday at 11 AM EST.

A mid-year meeting was held via teleconference due to COVID-19. One the of first topic discussed consisted of four (4) questions relating to Districts and how they are dealing with pandemic an alternative method instead of an in-person meeting with Conservation Districts at the mid-year like its normally done:

- 1) How has your district been operating during this virus pandemic?
- 2) Are you able to service most client requests?
- 3) Have you had to cancel any fund raising projects and/or programs?
- 4) Is the outlook for your district operations ok for the next year?

It was reported that Districts were operating similar to NY on questions 1-3; however, question was 4 was a little different because some states don't have a designated fund in which Districts are able to tap into for some funding; however, there are some states in which their budget allocation will be affected not so much FY 2021 but in FY 2022.

Training

The Northern Plains and North Central Region Directors have collaborated together using their NCDEA training funds for hosting summer Leadership Conference in FY 2021 within respective regions using Convene. This company will provide employees with 12 monthly webinars, 1 in person training, 1 personalized webinar. We're allowed to have as many participants as we would like in the webinars for a cost of \$999/year for all of these services. The training event will be open to all District employees nationally if they wish to participant. More information will come when the Leadership Conference is finalized.

NCPP (National Conservation Planning Partnership)

NCDEA is engaging the NCPP Leadership Team and NRCS on obtaining an agreement on managing & branding the NCPP website.

There are Conservation District employees are actively working on NCPP mission and goals within the Action Teams. Attached is the updated Action Team summary report.

The website contains event calendar, submit ideas, subscribe, conservation planning, training/certification/ tools, and news/media. Check out the website at **nationalconservationplanningpartnership.com**.

Policies

Communication Platform – additional items are being added and once the final changes have been made the Board review and approve. Once approved this document will be placed on the website for easy access.

The Financial & Record Retention & Destruction Policy was adopted by NCDEA on July 22st will be posted to the website for easy access.

Strategic Plan

The Board has been active on accomplishing the goals under the current plan. The Board will work on the new three year strategic plan over the next several months via teleconference.

NCDEA Awards

The Awards committee has updated the nomination form as a fillable document with an online submission for both district employee or district director. The deadline for submittal to NCDEA is October 1. We are encouraging you to submit a nomination for a fellow conservation district co-worker or friend or Board member. The only two regions which have submitted nominations for consideration is Northeast and Southeast and the record shows that Southeast has been recipient of those nominations.

NACD

- Their board meeting was held via teleconference with 46 attendees including alternates which the bylaws interim report was signed to allow an electronic meeting as well as filing a report in New Orleans dealing with affiliate designation for NCDEA.
- It was further reported that Deb Bogar will be retiring in September.
- Adoption of the Diversity & Inclusion statement
- All Bootcamp training for this year has been cancelled and looking utilizing the funds towards Conservation Leadership Conference in FY 2021 for Conservation District employees and state leaders.
- Election acknowledgement for the incoming President Michael Crowder. Nominations will be held for 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Secretary & Treasurer.
- FY 2021 Annual Meeting is going to be in New Orleans. The Board will be meeting in August to make a final decision as moving forward or cancelling altogether.
- FY 2022 Annual meeting is currently slated for Orlando, FL.
- 2021 Summer Meeting will be held in Chicago
- FY 2021 budget was approved
- The next round of TA grants totaling \$6.5 Million will be or has been announced

Lastly, just want to remind you to check out the NCDEA website at ncdea.us. We welcome any feedback, your news and job announcement. NCDEA can assist you in expanding your reach and provide a valuable service to the entire Conservation Partnership. NCDEA would be delighted to share news about members and conservation districts.

Respectively Submitted,
Velynda Parker
NCDEA Secretary

NCPP Action Team Summary Report – July 10, 2020

Communications and Messaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• June GovDelivery message – NCPP accomplishments related to the listening sessions. The message will be sent Friday, July 10th• July message – importance of employee feedback and engagement• August message – employee recognition• Website – Continue to focus on internal communication and move on to external outreach to the public. At the July 16 Communications team meeting, NCDEA and KAT Marketing will present the marketing plan• At the North Central NACD board meeting, Melissa gave a report on NCPP. It is encouraged to try to get the NCPP message presented at the other board meetings and events.
Partnerships

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft producer survey was sent to the Leadership Team for review and comment. To make the project as effective as possible the team will use feedback from NCPP teams, the 2017 NCPP survey conducted by Frank Clearfield, Conservation Plan of the Future suggestions from states, listening session feedback from producers about their plans, and input from the focus group of producers for this project along with HHB award winners & nominees. NACD will host the survey through their Survey Monkey account, so the team will have flexibility with number of questions. It was suggested that questions be multiple choice instead of open ended. Once the survey is revised, it will be sent to the Leadership Team for final review. The team is working on a letter to notify State Conservationists of the survey. • Partnerships will review other projects to determine how they can assist other teams. • They will work with T&T to determine what role to play in the FY2021 training event – state breakout sessions. Could the team provide support to NACD for that last day to help establish higher functioning NCPP state level groups? • State Conservationist, Curtis Elke from Idaho will be joining the team.
Performance, Goals, Outcomes and Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team is getting back on track to work on metrics and update the logic model. During the last meetings, the team discussed metrics they will send out to ask for data • Meeting with Aaron Lauster to discuss some of the data that can come from CD and CART • Lee Norfleet will be available to do a CEAP presentation and answer questions. • It's possible that the OPO study Kevin Stein is involved with could help answer some questions the team is developing. • State Conservationist, Angela Biggs from Wisconsin will be joining the team
Training, Certification, Technical Processes and Tools
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared ideas of how the 4 designations of conservation planner can be improved. How can we change the name “apprentice” planner? • The draft agenda for the FY2021 training was sent to the Leadership Team for review. Comments were collected and suggestions will be considered. A virtual option is being planned • Stacy and Kristy shared an overview spreadsheet of conservation planner designations and required courses, courses in development, proficiency exams available, and how the courses relate to boot camp. Stacy also shared the idea of a conservation planner registry which would combine all conservation planners (TSP, partners, etc.) to allow for better tracking and assistance Team members are to become familiar with the spreadsheet and submit any questions or concerns to Rich and Kristy. This will be discussed at the next team meeting • State Conservationist, Ben Malone from Alabama will be joining the T&T team

NCPP Action Team Summary Report – July 24, 2020

Communications and Messaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NCPP Accomplishments GovDelivery message was sent July 10th• Next messages – importance of employee feedback and engagement, employee recognition• All messages are archived on the NCPP website https://www.nationalconservationplanningpartnership.com/news-and-media/news/• At the July 16th Communications meeting and the July 22nd Leadership meeting, KAT Marketing and Tim Riley, NCDEA, presented the marketing plan which includes 4 initiatives:<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. To create an NCPP-branded content marketing process2. To execute a website content planning and distribution strategy3. To implement a website acquisition strategy4. To incorporate website features• NCDEA will secure funding to carry out the marketing strategy• Will expand external communications as well as internal to deliver NCPP's message over a greater audience. Bring in the entire Partnership, brand NCPP and co-brand with partners, enhance communication
Partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft producer survey was sent to the Leadership Team for review. With the help of the POA team and others, the Partnerships team is revising the producer survey to include a variety of questions (both multiple choice and open ended). NACD is hosting the survey through their Survey Monkey account to allow for a larger number of questions. This survey will not replace other surveys/feedback that has been collected through listening sessions, etc. It is a continuation of the effort with questions developed during focus group meetings. Notifications will be sent out through partner leadership along with social marketing campaigns
Performance, Goals, Outcomes and Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The team reviewed the logic model during the last meeting. Conclusion – they need to get back on track with the logic model and metrics. The model includes a conservation planning value proposition along with critical success factors and indicators.• Metrics are being developed to forward to people who might have data the team is looking for. Develop the metrics first and seek out data.• Met with Aaron Lauster to discuss data that can be pulled from CD and CART. Specific reports can be produced• OPO, Cycle time, and other studies could be helpful to gain data

Training, Certification, Technical Processes and Tools

- Updated draft agenda for the FY2021 NCPP training was shared with the Leadership Team on July 22. Still open for comments
- Stacy and Kristy shared an overview spreadsheet of conservation planner designations and required courses, courses in development, proficiency exams available, and how the courses relate to boot camp. Stacy also shared the idea of a conservation planner registry which would combine all conservation planners (TSP, partners, etc.) to allow for better tracking and assistance
- The team is finalizing suggestions for conservation planning policy and procedure changes to be submitted to Aaron Lauster by September 1. Goal is to have changes in place by new fiscal year, October 1. Will be favorable to have federal policy that allows flexibility within states

NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program

January 21, 2020 to July 21, 2020 Report to CDEA Board

- The New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate program has been expanded to anyone seeking professional certification that meets the minimum qualifications.
- 2020 Water Quality Symposium- The symposium was successful for both the review course and the exam.
Review Course- 11 signed up
9 attended
Exam- 7 signed up
6 took the exam
3 passed exam- 3 failed
- Next Implementation/Review Course August 6th & 7th Ballston Spa, NY. To date 6 people are signed up to take the course. Registration closes July 31st.
- The Committee had a phone conference on June 17th 2020.
 - We discussed offering the exam and the ability for it to be proctored in different regions of the state. We then detail who could be eligible to proctor the exam, grading the exam and other issues that may come up.
 - The Implementation/Review course was discussed on how often and where to offer the course moving forward. The goal is to offer it 2 to 4 times per year. More instructors are needed. The next one and most likely the last class offered for 2020 will be in Ballston Spa, NY on August 6th and 7th, Saratoga County SWCD is hosting the event. The instructors will be Kelly Emerick, Dustin Lewis, Jim Lieberum, and myself. We also discussed the need for a Implementation/Review Course Manual. We pooled the audience at the March course and students thought it would be very helpful. This will only be available in electronic format and the individual would choose to print it off or not. The target date for completion is 2021.
 - A budget for this program needs to be approved to move forward. It is hard to plan for the Implementation Course and Review course when there is no budget to hold the event. A budget will be presented to the Board for review and approval at this meeting.
- To date, the program has collected **\$16,075** in application, course, exam and renewal fees. There are 30 active certificate holders and 3 suspended certifications.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions regarding this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Verrigni, CPESC, CPSWQ

Background:

The NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program is in its second full year. The program was originally developed as a NYS version of the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) program. This certification will allow someone to be a "Qualified Inspector" on SPDES permitted sites and is NYS DEC endorsed. A contract was signed in March of 2019 for the program administration between the NYS CDEA and Chemung County SWCD.

The fees are as follows:

Application Fee \$150

Exam Fee \$100

Yearly Renewal Fee \$100

NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Course \$125*

**This fee will be invoiced from the Program Administrator separate from WQS or Con. Skills fees if offered at these events.*

2020 NY Erosion & Sediment Control Certificate Program Course & Exam					
Proposed Budget					
Expense	WQS	Spring	Summer	Conservation Skills	ALL classes
Food	\$224.00	\$224.00	\$224.00	\$224.00	\$896.00
Room Rental	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$1,400.00
Instructor Fee	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,000.00
Mileage reimburse	\$460.00	\$460.00	\$460.00	\$460.00	\$3,612.00
Instruct. Hotel	\$452.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	\$440.00	
Copies/Supplies	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$600.00
Administrator fee					\$5,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$3,636.00	\$3,624.00	\$3,624.00	\$3,624.00	\$14,508.00
Income Course	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$5,000.00
Income Exam	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$10,000.00
Residual	\$114.00	\$126.00	\$126.00	\$126.00	\$492.00
# attendees	10	10	10	10	
			Total remaining		\$492.00
Food at 56 per diem (Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)					
Instructor Fee at \$500 per instructor for 4 instructors per class					
Mileage at 57.5 cents per mile for 200 miles					
Hotel at \$113 per room for 4 instructors per class					
Course income at \$125 per person					
Income from Exam includes application fee of \$150 and Exam Fee of \$100					
*Budget does not account for annual certificate renewals coming in for 2020 at \$100 per certificate holder					



Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2020, 9:00 a.m.
Zoom meeting

Executive Committee Members

Chastity Miller, President
Dustin Lewis, Vice President
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary
Kristin White, Treasurer
Dean Moore, Member at Large

Partners

Ben Luskin, NYS SWCC
PJ Emerick, NYS SWCC
Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC
Victor DiGiacomo, NYS SWCC
Blake Glover, NRCS
Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD
Corrina Aldrich, Washington County SWCD
Bethany Commela, Wayne County SWCD

Division Representatives

Scott Collins, Division I
Aaron Buchta, Division II
Raeanne Dulanski, Division III
Shawn Murphy, Division IV
Kristin Ballou, Division V
Amber Luke, Division VI
Erin Sommerville, Division VII
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

Absent

Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC



Minutes

I. Meeting begins and introductions – Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM with introductions.

II. Reading and approval of the July 2020 meeting minutes - Stewart mentioned that she appended the NYACD and Division VII reports to the minutes, and updated Municipal Assistance Subcommittee information.

- **A motion was made by Calabro, seconded by Sommerville to approve the July 2020 meeting minutes. Carried.**

III. Correspondence – Miller mentioned that she received none.

IV. Treasurer's report – White reviewed the Treasurer's report. Miller inquired about the undeposited funds in the amount of \$600. White replied it is for the 4-hour course certificate. White will send Miller a list of people who have paid for the Conservation Skills Workshop. Miller inquired about the audit. White replied that a Zoom meeting will take place, and she hopes to complete the audit soon.

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

V. Reports

i. Division Reports

a. Division I – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes.

b. Division II – Buchta shared his report, appended to the minutes.

c. Division III – Dulanski mentioned that no one raised any questions or concerns.

d. Division IV – Murphy shared his report, appended to the minutes.

e. Division V – Ballou shared her report, appended to the minutes. She mentioned that some Districts inquired when the Round 5 CRF and Round 26 Ag Non-point Source will be awarded. Miller replied that Bethany hopes soon, but the award release dates have been pushed back. Emerick replied that he has no information for CRF Round 5. Dustin inquired about Clinton County SWCD's forestry projects. Ballou replied that a Clinton County SWCD staff person had a forestry background and was in the process of assisting a landowner, but took a new position with another agency. Clinton County SWCD contracted with Ballou, who is writing the forestry plan, and this project will be used as an AEM implementation project to address soil loss.

f. Division VI – Luke shared her report, appended to the minutes.

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

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

ii. Partnership Reports

a. NYS SWCC – Emerick mentioned that there are no updates on the 4-way partnership. Luskin mentioned that monthly updates went out last month, and another will go out this month. He continued that payment discussions have taken place, there is a limited amount of money per month that is available to make payments, and the SWCC is prioritizing AEM, CRF, and Ag Non Point as best they can. Updates will follow on ranked lists, and CRF numbers when those are officially released. Until the SWCC is given permission to release money, they cannot move forward. Miller mentioned that a TAC meeting was held last week, and updates were provided for Round 27, the Ag BMP catalogue, and the soil health program / plan. She continued that the next SWCC meeting is on September 15.

b. NYACD – Hurlbutt shared her report, appended to the minutes. Murphy inquired if Hurlbutt could send information for what precisely is needed from volunteers for the NCF international Envirothon. Hurlbutt replied that she will follow up. Discussion ensued regarding the treasurer of the Envirothon. White reported that she will be opening a separate

checking account for the 2024 NCF international Envirothon to keep finances separate from the NYS Envirothon. Calabro inquired about the number of in person or virtual meetings is needed for volunteers, and what is necessary for responsibilities and duties. Hurlbutt replied that virtual meetings are now taking place, and in person meetings will be necessary as the event approaches.

c. NRCS – Glover mentioned that yesterday the Under-Secretary for Farm Production came to the area with the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, to tour produce farms south of Syracuse. The group also went to Tully for a Farmers to Family food box give out for those in need. Over 120 families were fed yesterday with a week's worth of food along. The NY Food Bank is also involved in the Farmers to Family food box give out along with producers that USDA is compensating for select goods.

Glover reviewed key leadership positions. There is no expectation to fill the acting chief position, and nothing will change for New York's priorities due to this vacancy. The new State Resource Conservationist starts September 13. The USDA will continue to move at a slower pace to keep tools in toolbox available to manage staff at the local level. It is important to keep a slow pace during the pandemic to make sure tools are still available to make localized decisions, and not move to fast where employees can't handle child care situations or care for elderly family members. He mentioned that he appreciates the SWCD offices that are co-located with NRCS that are still closed. Field officers are working to finish 2020 obligations in 29 days. NRCS has done an excellent job with obligating field level funds, and he thanked the IT staff. Technology is working, staff members are function well at home with 1 day in office and field. The new NRCS year begins October 1.

VI. Committee Reports

i. Water Quality Symposium – Lewis mentioned that planning is going well. He continued that he is hoping to be able to hold an in person event, but is thinking about a virtual event if needed. Stewart reviewed the Farmers Market Resource Fair procedure, and discussion ensued regarding the vendor registration fee, room rate, event expenses, and time of the event. The procedure is appended to the minutes.

- **A motion was made by Lewis, seconded by White to accept the Farmers Market Resource Fair procedure. Carried.**

Discussion ensued about a virtual event. Miller mentioned that the annual meeting can be held online. Ballou mentioned that 2 of the classes she is organizing can take place only online. Ballou inquired if the hotel is still willing to hold an in-person event. Lewis replied yes. He continued that, according to the agreement, the hotel will still hold the event as long as the state allows for a large gathering the size of the Symposium. If state regulations cannot accommodate an event the size of the Symposium, the hotel will let CDEA out of the contract. Lewis continued that a decision will be made at the end of the year regarding if the Symposium will be an in person or online event. This will allow 2 and a half months to convert presentations to an online format, if necessary. Miller mentioned the importance of contacting the hotel to determine what their cutoff date is to cancel the event. Ballou mentioned that a state-wide poll should be sent to determine how many people would attend an in-person event. Miller

mentioned to review the contract for the minimum amount of registrations, because the price will go up if we don't meet that minimum. Luke inquired if she should order fertilizer tablets, as the order needs to be placed in October. White mentioned that Districts can order them themselves if needed, and she can put a vendor link on the CDEA website.

- **A motion was made by Lewis, seconded by White to forgo CDEA placing an order for fertilizer tablets for Soil and Water Conservation District's 2021 Tree and Shrub sales. Carried.**

Lewis mentioned that class registration forms are due in 2 weeks, and he will follow up with a reminder. Miller mentioned that she has found it challenging to receive a commitment from presenters for an in-person event. Emerick mentioned that the SWCC is working on classes, and will submit the information by the deadline. Lewis inquired if there is a SWCC and NRCS deadline for determining an in person or virtual event for their attendees and instructors.

ii. Conservation Skills Workshop – Miller mentioned that as of yesterday, 99 people signed up for the workshop. Miller continued that an adjustment was made to the basic soil class, and 3 attendees will participate in the field portion at a new location. Ballou inquired about a comparison between the 2019 and 2020 participant numbers. Miller replied that 127 people participated in 2019.

iii. NYS Envirothon – Hurlbutt shared her report, appended to the minutes.

iv. NCF international Envirothon – Hurlbutt mentioned that volunteers are needed to assist with the event.

v. Frank Bratt Scholarship – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes. Collins reviewed the proposed changes to the bylaws. Discussion ensued. Sommerville inquired if points are reduced for a course that is being used towards a college degree. Collins replied yes. Scenarios were discussed for the reimbursement of courses that were attended before a scholarship was submitted.

vi. State Fair Committee - Lewis inquired if Districts who paid \$100 for the 2020 event will be asked to pay \$100 for the 2021 event as the 2020 State Fair was canceled. White mentioned that the committee proceeded with planning during the pandemic as if the event were taking place because they did not know otherwise, and purchased give away items and shirts. Miller mentioned that Districts are experiencing financial hardships due to the pandemic, and funds from the 4-hour course could be used to support 2021 fair expenses instead of District funds.

vii. Environmental Education Foundation Committee – Miller mentioned that a meeting was held in August, and the next is in October. She continued that the committee is working on grants for the Envirothon and other programs.

viii. NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certification – Miller mentioned that Verrigni sent the report, appended to the minutes. Lewis mentioned that he held a class in Saratoga with 12 attendees, and 1 person took and passed the exam. White mentioned that credit

card payments are working well. Ballou inquired about budgeting concerns when less than 10 people sign up for the class, and if there is there a plan if the class starts to lose money. Lewis replied that we are not at that point, and a class limit has been issued to prevent a loss of money. If 10 people do not register for the class, that class is not held. This prevents operation with a loss. Miller mentioned that renewal certification fees are not included in budget. Lewis mentioned that he will contact the committee for a more detailed budget that includes all items. White emailed Lewis a report for the certificate program.

ix. NYS 4hr Erosion and Stormwater On-line Class – White reported that 2 to 5 people register daily. White continued that Josh LaFountain is moving the platform to Learn Dash. Miller mentioned that the auditors may recommend a policy for the course.

White mentioned that her involvement with the CDEA is hindering her work with her District. She continued that she spends hours each day for the 4 hour course alone. White suggested a second CDEA treasurer, or another employee who could assist her with the workload and responsibilities that have grown considerably over the last 10 years. The 4 hour class is a business. White suggested a QuickBooks desktop version in the amount of \$1,399.95. She needs someone who is well versed in technology to assist with her duties. Dulanski mentioned that White goes above and beyond for her position with CDEA, and we have come to rely on her for more and more programs and services. Dulanski inquired if someone else could take over the 4 hour class to reduce White's time commitment for a more sustainable level, or if there were other items that White could pass off. White replied that another person would be helpful, as well as the desktop version of QuickBooks. Miller mentioned that this challenge will be addressed. Lewis suggested hiring a consultant to run the 4 hour course.

VII. Partnership and Sub-committee Updates

i. NACDE- Northeast Association of Conservation Districts Employee – Velynda submitted her report appended to the minutes.

ii. NCDEA- National Conservation District Employee – Velynda submitted her report appended to the minutes.

iii. New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) – Stewart mentioned that there is nothing new to report. Next ISAC meeting dates are October 1 and December 16.

iv. Municipal Assistance Sub Committee – Moore mentioned that he met with PJ Emerick and Ryan Cunningham. Ongoing efforts to work with partners on existing programs and grants. Emerick updated the CDEA on talks with DEC regarding the upcoming new stormwater permit as well as the two-hour stormwater management officer training – more details to be announced this fall. The subcommittee is also discussing potentially having a remote meeting sometime this fall to cover topics such as DEC permits and local road BMP training.

v. Operations Manual Committee – Miller mentioned that there is nothing new to report.

vi. Technical Advisory Committee – Miller mentioned that a meeting was held last week. Round 24 was discussed, and may come out in December along with next round of CRF. NYS grown and certified and irrigation are up in the air. Ron Bush is updating the ag best

management practice catalog. NRCS is updating their standards. Adjustments are being made to the soil health policy, including better cost share rates. Discussion ensued about the landowners who proposed a local law for loose livestock to the Farm Bureau. Murphy reported that the law was pulled. Miller continued that discussion took place regarding Round 27 categories of enhancement vs. mitigation. When writing applications, be sure to recognize what the reviewers are looking for, be clear about that the projects are for, and what the projects will fix.

vii. Other – nothing else was brought forward.

VIII. Old Business – Miller emailed the New Employee brochure developed by Wayne County SWCD. Discussion ensued regarding a video for new employees that showcases the different programs services that Districts across the state offer, as well as acronyms and partner connections. Stewart and Calabro will assist with the new employee materials.

Murphy reported that he reached out to the new director at the Ranger School regarding the leadership conference, but has not yet heard back. He will follow up again soon.

Miller mentioned that she received an email from Fickbohm inquiring if CDEA could purchase the Soil and Water Conservation Society's blue book for resale. Dissuasion ensued. Buchta mentioned that the book is available as a PDF file online. Lewis mentioned that the books can't be sold for more than it costs to print them.

IX. New business – Moore mentioned that there are New York State Envirothon committee vacancies, and encouraged younger District employees to become involved on the board. Moore continued that the committee is a fun group, and will need assistance with the 2024 Reginal event.

Collins thanked Calabro, Miller, and Murphy for their assistance with updating the Frank Bratt bylaws that will be up review at the 2021 Annual Session.

White mentioned that she forwarded an email to the CDEA executive committee regarding the new records retention schedule. She requested that the Executive Committee forward this information to Districts.

White will follow up next week with the auditors regarding conflict of interest and whistle blowers.

Ballou requested that Division Reps request specific topic ideas for the PESH class that will be held during the Water Quality Symposium. Stewart will follow up with an email.

X. Next meeting – November, date to be determined.

IX. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Moore, seconded by Lewis to adjourn at 12:14 PM. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary

Division I Report September 2, 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.

Niagara County

- Building closed to the public, we are maintaining normal business hours
- Michael Clifford has retired, everyone wish him a happy future!
- Interseeded 123 acres of cover crops
- Continued work with Japanese knotweed removal within the county. Nearly all previously visited sites have been retreated. All Summer employees have gone back to school or accepted new positions
- Baseline water quality monitoring program restarted in April and will continue until March 2021
- Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern
 - The virtual Restrictions on Dredging BUI removal presentation was a success with over 20 participants.
 - Submission of a final BUI removal report and management action letter are going to be submitted before the end of the fiscal year.

Genesee County

- We are wrapping many projects and look to complete and close out three open AgNPS, two CRF grants, two AEM implementation projects, two FLOWPA projects, and two EPA funded projects by the end of the year.
- We are waiting on results from seven CRF and two AgNPS grant applications we submitted
- Our stream water quality monitoring program is up and running well.
- In-person events, meetings, and trainings are mostly put on hold due to COVID-19 concerns.

Orleans County

- We are working diligently on closing out several grants.
- We have finished the installation of a 5 million gallon manure storage with a waste transfer system and 2 micro irrigation projects. We currently have another micro irrigation project and a Covered feedlot with manure storage that will be finishing installation this month. We have two stream crossings and another micro irrigation project that are out to bid and are working on several designs for projects that will be installed next year.
- We are working on our County budget request and coming up with scenarios for possible budget cuts due to the pandemic. We are putting together a presentation for the legislature on all the projects we have been working on this year and what we have in the works for next year, while stressing that we need to keep our allocation the same.
- We turned in 11 grant applications and are waiting to hear back if they were approved.
- Otherwise everyone is staying healthy and we are trying to continue with our regular operations.

I did not hear back from any other county.

Submitted by: Scott Collins, Division I Representative



Division II Report

May 2020

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

Cayuga: No report submitted.

Livingston: No report submitted.

Monroe: No report submitted.

Onondaga:

- SWCD is awaiting the start of the County budget process, which has normally been completed by now
- The City of Syracuse budget renewed July 1, and SLWAP is fully funded until June 30, 2021
- The 3- person Water Chestnut Hand Pulling Crew is working on a twenty-five mile stretch of the Seneca River in Onondaga County. They have a John Boat w/ 15 hp motor to use. They will exceed the record-breaking year of 32,000 pounds as they have added in two more locations. Legislator Ken Bush, Jr also secured funding for weed harvesting at Cross Lake for 2020
- The County EAB program has undergone a significant budget cut due to COVID-19, and the tremendous progress cutting / removing Ash trees, which has been accomplished over the past 8 years on County ROW. A layoff has occurred, and staff have been reassigned to new duties based upon their Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities
- 3 manure storages will be constructed in the County this season
- The SWCD hydroseeding crew is also ahead of past years in terms of acres seeded on municipally cleaned road ditches and other public benefit projects
- Working to complete projects for this construction season
- Following up with farms regarding cover crop installation, and utilizing both State and local funding sources to support cover crop implementation.

Ontario: No report submitted.

Seneca: No report submitted.

Wayne: No report submitted.

Yates: No Report submitted.

Respectfully submitted by,
Aaron Buchta
Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District
NYS CDEA Division II Representative



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.
2041 U.S. Route 20, Suite 2, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
www.nyscdea.com

*Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide
ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect
soil and water resources in communities.*

DIVISION IV REPORT – 9/2/2020

Counties in Division IV:

Broome, Chenango, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, Tioga

County News and Updates:

Steuben:

~COVID-19 - Office is open for business; however, the office is close to the public.

~County Appropriation - Still receiving this year's county appropriation. Seeking level funding for FY 2021.

~Streambank Stabilization - 40 projects have been completed so far this year totaling \$179,993.53 with 16 projects remaining on the list.

~AgNPS/AEM/CAFO - A 17 million gallon waste storage facility will be completed within the next month under the CAFO WSTS grant with District staff being SWPP inspector of said project. Seeking another time extension for one of our AgNPS projects. The AEM project is almost complete – the last BMP to be installed is the fencing which should be completed within the next month.

~US Fish & Wildlife Project - Starting the embedded culvert & rock riffles installation on Indian Creek and Springs Mills Allegany County this week. All three embedded culverts will be installed this week. USC Wetland Coordinator will be videoing the project for the website and for the newsletter.

~TNC (The Nature Conservancy) - Completed two embedded culvert projects in the Cohocton River watershed along with 425' of streambank stabilization with rock vanes for fish habitat. The TNC secured the grant thru US Fish & Wildlife Service on behalf of the District. The District also partnered with Trout Unlimited on planting trees along the streambank for shade to keep the water temperatures cool for the native trout habitat. The last deliverable for the ESI training under this agreement will take place next year due to the restrictions of holding events.

Cortland:

~COVID-19 - Staff are reporting to the office at least 3 days/week and the office is closed to the public.

~Cortland County SWCD has multiple active construction projects including two waste storages and a covered heavy use area, stream bank stabilization/culvert enhancement projects ongoing, with many others in the planning and design phases.

~Staff is actively engaged in a PRISM project mapping invasive terrestrials at one county owned park and surveying multiple lakes for aquatic invasives. This is in addition to an active AIS prevention program aimed at educating the public through media outlets, presentations and regular boat stewarding at public launches throughout the county.

~Upcoming activities include a fall fish fingerling sale, the Cortland County River Clean Up and Conservation Field Days.

~Check out the Cortland SWCD website, www.cortlandswcd.org and Facebook page, @cortlandswcd to see some of the other projects and activities the District has been involved in.



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.
2041 U.S. Route 20, Suite 2, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
www.nyscdea.com

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.

Discussion Items/Inquiries:

Ongoing Inquiries:

Frank Bratt Scholarship (FBS): A Tioga District employee brought up an issue with FBS. Mainly, the issue had to do with timing for summer courses (but is relevant for other times of the year as well). Currently, the scholarship is awarded 2x's per year and with application dates and then waiting periods until the next CDEA meeting, folks may have to wait nearly 8 months to hear a status on their application. Furthermore, the FBS currently doesn't allow reimbursement for previously completed coursework, making some courses with short announcement periods ineligible. **These items were discussed briefly during the May and July meetings and sent to a working group to suggest changes at the September Meeting.**

Stream Training: Cortland SWCD District Manager and staff wondered what the needs were for more/different stream training beyond what was offered at the latest WQS? Should this be further discussed at the Conservation Skills Workshop Committee level, how should feedback/needs be determined and/or should this be a Division led, open to the State, training? Thoughts? **CSW committee sent out a survey and stream related class was not one of this year's top priorities, discussion will continue at the SWCD/Division level.**

Safety Trainings/PESH: Preface – I did not know what PESH meant so I thought I'd share with others: NYS Department of Labor, Division of Safety and Health – Public Employee Safety and Health. That said, there is a request for more information related to what the association may or may not be able to provide related to safety trainings and PESH. For example, is there a list of mandatory annual trainings or condition of employment trainings that are required for all positions (such as annual sexual harassment training, etc.) and are there position/task specific trainings available for let's say landfill monitoring related positions, hydro-seeding, or other programmatic positions of responsibility. Another example is that some State Contracts, through various divisions, may require certain trainings have been completed for example. How can this information be provided/developed; is it something that the association may want to consider looking into further? **Stienmuller, Ballou and Stewart on safety committee and will be looking at this inquiry. Additionally, these items and more are set to be discussed at a WQS class in March.**

Respectfully submitted by Shawn Murphy, Division IV Representative

Division V Report

Clinton County

- No report submitted

Essex County

- Hydroseeding
- Roadside erosion projects through CWICNY and UH WQIPs
- Landowner assistance with permits, streambank and drainage issues
- No till drill to farms
- Forestry
- AEM implementation projects
- Assisted a municipality with a culvert replacement
- Held one tire drive.

Franklin County

- Hard to believe summer is coming to an end!
- Assisting towns and county with hydroseeding ditches and scraped shoulders.
- AEM Implementation: 1 prescribed rotational grazing has started and 1 pathogen management started. 2 other prescribed rotational grazing systems beginning soon.
- AEM Strategy update - 2 meetings held on Aug 12 with 15 attendees including agency reps, legislators and farmers. Follow up zoom meeting scheduled for the end of September to prioritize watersheds.
- Ag district public hearing held last week. 1,874.36 acres added, 78.17 acres opted out, leaving a total of 118,162.5 acres in the Ag District.
- We have an AGNPS Round 24 under construction for a Manure Storage.
- Planning in the works for AGNPS Round 25: 2 soil conservation (both will be implementing this fall) and 1 silage leachate
- CAFO Round 1 Satellite Manure Storage under construction
- Waiting on contracts from last year's WQIP planning grants.
- Invasive species monitoring for Japanese Knotweed 10½ towns complete and 7 ½ towns remaining. Inventory being conducted with the hopes of beginning a treatment and eradication program in the future.
- Forestry inventories and plans for Part B and AEM.
- Completed Forest Conservation Plan implementation in Clinton County utilizing AEM Implementation Funding.

Hamilton County

- Invasive plant management: herbicide and manual
- Lake Monitoring Rotation for August – 21 lakes are analyzed for pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, transparency, temperature, alkalinity, aluminum, calcium, chloride, chlorophyll a, nitrate + nitrite, total phosphorus, and sodium analysis.
- Hydroseeding
- July and August Water Testing Program: The District offers this program with certified results to municipalities, residents, and businesses. Testing is available for bacteria, lead and copper, and a water quality panel.
- FEMA flood mitigation – the District purchased a trash pump to assist with culvert replacements and bridge abutment protection projects. Natural channel design is being used to protect bridge abutments. Lenny has assisted municipalities with 23 DEC, Army Corps, APA permit assistance for municipalities.

- Completed the Love Your Lake with shoreline buffers, green infrastructure, and no mow zone video
- Social media is booming! Mindful Moment Monday and Wednesday Wisdom are a huge hit with our followers.
- Assisting the county with Trails into Prosperity grant including hosting website information and a public survey. The purpose of the grant is to inventory Hamilton County trails with the hope of obtaining future funding for maintenance.
- Assisting the public with invasive species, erosion control, and species identification inquiries.
- Promoting our AEM program
- Presentations: Water is Water and Outdoor Journaling – small groups but a great opportunity to get out some education AND fun!

Warren County

- We assisted with cleaning out 6 sediment basins in the LG watershed over a 2 week period. The Lake George Association spearheads the program and we provide personnel for erosion and sediment control, permits, flagging and stabilization afterwards. A long reach excavator is used and the local municipalities do the hauling of material.
- Our budget meeting with the county is set for Sept 4th. We are going in with a level county appropriation and hopefully that will be accepted. We were informed to do that and it should be ok.
- Our board approved purchase of 4 laptops and phone reimbursement (\$15/mo)/county phones for field staff.
- We are now in the snake business...City of Glens Falls located in the south end of the county contacted us for assistance with rattlesnakes (Northern Lake George has the largest population of Eastern Timber rattlesnakes east of the Mississippi). Two have been found in the city in the last week, one was run over. It is odd as they are a good 10-15 miles beyond their range. You never know.....2020.....
- One of the busiest summers we have ever had.

One concern division wide is finding out when the Round 5 CRF grants will be awarded (as well as the Round 26 AgNPS).

Respectfully submitted by,
 Kristin Ballou
 Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District
 NYS CDEA Division V Representative

Division 6 Updates

Submitted By, Amber Luke Division 6 Rep.

Montgomery County SWCD currently has 2 CAFO storage grants being implemented, and a third just had the design go out to bid and is expected to begin at any time. A CRF grant is just being finished up on a beef farm to implement watering systems, access control, and fencing for pasture rotation. An additional 7 projects that include AgNPS and EQIP funding are also well within the works at different stages. These projects include HUAP's, Manure Storage, Milhouse Waste Containment, VTA's, Access Control, Pasture Management, and more.

Outside of the agriculture realm, Montgomery County has paired with the County government to help implement a disc golf course through the recreational, forested park that the District already helps maintain. This will be an 18-hole course designed completely from scratch. The goal is to have the course set and "usable" for Fall of 2020, but to have a "grand opening" in 2021. Along with the disc golf, the district is helping with expansion and maintenance on 2 additional trails in the City of Amsterdam, as well as the Town of Florida.

Thus far in 2020, the office has assisted with many drainage projects, and the District is seeing an increase in the sale of tile, culvert, and septic material this year. The number of percolation tests has also greatly increased in the past month or two.

For the District's Part B project in 2020, the SWCD partnered with Centro Civico, Grow Amsterdam NY, City of Amsterdam, Cornell University, and Creative Connections Club House to implement 10 raised beds for a community garden. Soil was placed, and due to outside circumstances, the project was delayed, but cover crops will be installed for the year. A "green" wall of shrubs is to be installed in place of fencing, and a water hydrant will be installed for irrigations. The City is providing funding for a small picnic/playground area directly adjacent to the garden area as well.

Division VII Report
September 2020
Submitted by Erin Sommerville

Dutchess County

- Multiple waterway exclusion fencing and pasture fencing projects have been completed.
- Several grazing plans have been completed.
- A total of 143 NAACC assessments were completed over the summer.

Columbia County

Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation District Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center 2019-2020

During 2019, Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation District held 156 programs at Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center and throughout Columbia County with 958 adults and 2351 children attending. We hosted several in-house public education events, and we invited several guest speakers to visit. The NYSDEC visited twice to talk about Eels! and the Diversity and Values of Wetlands in Columbia County; Alan Devoe Bird Club joined us for a few bird walks, Two by Two Zoo stopped by for the Wild World of Animals program, Dorna Schroeter taught us about Biomimicry and Max Zimmerman brought his hawk to talk about Falconry.

As always, during 2019, in addition to the public events held on-site, we went out into the schools and community to provide educational opportunities. The Drop in Hudson program continued during 2019 with fishing at Nutten Hook (Stuyvesant) all summer. Envirothon was also a big part of 2019 - we worked with the Darrow School, Ichabod Crane and Hudson High School student teams. Hudson High School went to the New York State competition where they placed 6th overall - and finished with the highest score in the State in the Wildlife category! And, of course, we had a booth at the Columbia County Fair at Chatham Fairgrounds from August 28 through Labor Day.

We had high hopes for 2020 with the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and many exciting speakers planned, but COVID-19 put a stop to our guest and public events in March. Despite that obstacle, so far in 2020, we've been able to hold 46 in-person programs throughout Columbia County, with 161 adults and 519 youth participating. Together with partners Hudson Youth Department, Kite's Nest and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia County, CCSWCD was able to work with youth in person this summer using recommended safety protocols. We've also facilitated or participated in several virtual programs in partnership with these organizations as well as with the local libraries and local schools and have provided support to educators and parents with home-based environmental education lessons and materials.

Pamela Price, Certified Wildlife Biologist
Education Program Coordinator
pamela.price@ccswcd.org
518-267-3313
Columbia County Soil & Water Conservation District
Mud Creek Environmental Learning Center
1024 State Route 66
Ghent, NY 12075
www.facebook.com/MudcreekELC

Suffolk County SWCD
423 Griffing Avenue
Suite 110
Riverhead, NY 11901
www.SuffolkSWCD.org



Corey Humphrey, CPESC
District Manager
(631) 852-3285
Rob Carpenter
Chairman



**NYSCEA September 2, 2020
Division VIII Report**

Suffolk, New York City, Putnam, Westchester, Rockland, Nassau Counties

Suffolk County: Ann Marie Calabro

Since our last meeting the Suffolk SWCD hosted our first in-person Board of Directors Meeting with proper CDC guidelines for social distancing and safety being met. The meeting was attended by the entire Board of Directors and several staff members, no partners were present to provide reports.

Suffolk County is anticipating to continue to suffer from severe \$1.5 billion tax deficit due to the impacts that COVID has had. Tax revenues have fallen significantly from their projections. This includes obvious cuts to all departments including suspending all travel, overtime and expenditures, embargoing any available funds and called for major reductions in SWCD proposed 2021 budgets. The district was faced with nearly losing an employee to meet mandatory budget cuts but the District Manager and Board of Directors were able to agree on budget cuts and restructure funding for reimbursement to the county.

The SCSWCD is in the infancy stages of revitalizing the efforts of the North Shore Coastal Task Force in partnership with NYSeaGrant, Cornell University, NYSDEC and Suffolk County. The goal of this working group is to address the severe coastal erosion that is occurring on Suffolk County's northern shores such as in the communities of Southold, Riverhead, Brookhaven, Sound Beach, Stony Brook and Rocky Point. Additionally, the South Shore Estuary Reserve and the Technical Advisory Committee is pleased to report that the TAC will be focusing their immediate attention to developing a management plan for subaquatic vegetation (SAV) in the south shore estuary that stretches from Nassau County through Moriches Bay.

Below is a list of ongoing programs:

- **Soil Health Sampling/Testing and Equipment Rental Program (Soil HELP)**
Soil sampling will start to ramp up again in the fall, for now we are looking to purchase some needed supplies for the program to continue. The Equipment Loan Program has been running uninterrupted, producers continue to borrow the no-till drill, zone builders, spreaders, and the recently purchased row mulcher.
- **Grants**
Working on closeouts and new applications. The district is eagerly awaiting word from the state on several NPS and G&C proposals. In the meantime we continue to work on NPS Fuel Tank Replacements, NPS Nutrient Management Planning, EPF Nutrient Management Planning and Implementation, NPS Ebb & Flood Benches for Greenhouse, RCPP Planning and Implementation, Ag Handling Facilities awaiting no cost time extension, and Tier 4 Implementation projects. Lastly, the NPS Rd24 Fuel Tank Replacement requires a federal variance for a ten tank installation due to its proximity to the hoop houses. In the NRCS Standard it states that tank must be installed, "10 feet away from any building to limit the spread of a fire." Sharon is currently working with an engineer, Steven Ditta, to assist her in attaining Paula Bagley support for this variance.
- **Tire Recycling Program**
The second Farm Tire Recycling program pick up was held on 8/19/2020. We recycled 181 passenger tires, 48 truck tires, and 19 very large tractor tires from various farms.
- **AEM**
Round 15 has been successfully closed and final claim received. Planning and Implementation efforts for Round 16 continue as district staff are meeting quarterly goals ensuring success of the restructured program.

Office Hours: Monday through Thursday 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Friday 7:30 a.m. through 3:00 p.m.

- **Ag in the Classroom**

As schools will be reopening these projects will be moving forward. We are excited to see this program was able to survive COVID as it was uncertain for several months.

- **Education/Outreach**

The District will be cohosting Soil Health Webinars, a different soil health related topic every month for 4 months. The first occurred on August 27th with over 30 people tuning in to Deb Aller, CCE Ag Stewardship Specialist and Joseph Amsili, Extension Associate presenting on Cover Crops, Roots, and Soil Health with root biomass and structure demo to illustrate the environment created under the soil by beneficial cover crop varieties. This workshop was recorded and will be available shortly for public viewing. I will send the link statewide. Upcoming Virtual Events will tentatively be held and advertised statewide as follows:

*Sept. 24 th 4:30pm/5:00pm	Equipment demo
*Oct. 15 th or 20 th or 21 st 4:30pm/5:00pm	Soil Amendments
*Nov. 18 th or 19 th 4:30pm-5:00pm	Biochar

Coastal Connectivity Workshop has been rescheduled to take place June 2nd and 3rd due to spread of COVID-19. The situation surrounding COVID-19 has prompted the decision to postpone the workshop until late spring. Arrangements have already been made with Corbin Gosier of the DEC.

New York City: Shino Tanikawa

It's been a slow summer but here is a very brief report for NYC.

Much of our work is based on meetings (NY NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, SWIM Coalition, etc.). So we are able to continue our work via the digital meeting platforms.

We have been working on a grant funded project to monitor a CSO outfall using sensors (conductivity and turbidity). We have had regularly scheduled meetings for the last 6 months and are ready for installation in October.

Urban Soils Institute has been meeting regularly to plan the virtual symposium which will be weekly virtual events in October.

Hoping everyone is able to stay healthy and safe!

Westchester County: Rob Doscher

Work Begins to Restore Bronx River Tributary in White Plains

The restoration of a Bronx River tributary has begun with the expectation that the project will improve the river's water quality and curtail erosion next to the northbound and southbound lanes of the Bronx River Parkway in White Plains.

Fulton Brook's banks have been washing into the Bronx River with each heavy rainstorm. Pollutants from surrounding roads and parking lots attach themselves to eroded sediment particles and are carried into the river by stormwater runoff. The small tributary also has been a tangle of invasive vines, exposed tree roots and raw embankments incapable of withstanding the erosive forces of water.

The current restoration project will stabilize the banks using some stone and a lot of native grasses, perennials, shrubs and trees. The result will be a naturalistic stream emptying into the Bronx River just north of the Westchester County Center in the Bronx River Parkway Reservation, which is owned and managed by the county.

The restoration of approximately 500 linear feet of Fulton Brook is largely funded through a \$475,000 state grant administered by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. County capital funding covers the project cost balance of \$400,000. In addition to the stabilization materials, other project costs include clearing, grading and the replacement of drainage structures.

Putnam County: Lauri Taylor

. Here is a quick update which is pretty much the same as last time.

- Continue to keep the agricultural community up-to-date on the latest COVID information. Finalized the Ag District inclusion application reviews and site visits.
- Had a summer intern that was able to produce a new web page for Climate Smart.
- Continue to participate in the update of the County's Hazardous Mitigation Plan.
- Working on additional GI Stormwater implementation at the County's Tilly Foster Farm.
- Completed the 2021 County Budget and it went through the County Executive's review without issue.
- We completed our Ag district Annual Inclusion, however, the Ag District is now in the crosshairs of some towns and legislators.
- Partnering with CCE to develop and implement several pollinator gardens around the County.
- As a partner in the Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts we are working on offering several webinars in place of our Annual Stormwater Conference.
- I will be working on making the selections for the Annual Seedling Sale this month.

Nassau County: No Report

Rockland County: No Report

Respectfully 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

NYACD Zoom CDEA September 2, 2020 Meeting Report:

The NYACD Annual Business meeting will be a virtual meeting to be held on Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Reminder: Resolution, news article forms and the NYACD award nomination forms for the annual business meeting were forwarded to all Districts. Please be sure to discuss this with your full District Board and determine what, if any, resolutions you feel need presented, along with who you might consider to be nominated for an award. Do not forget any worthy news articles you might want to share & have considered for the media awards.

Legislators regarding the Bill A08349 Assembly & 7366 Senate Stream C has been passed in both the Senate and Assembly. It forwarded to the Governor's office for signing but is receiving opposition by the NYS DEC due to their workload. When speaking with Legislators they feel it will be vetoed by the Governor. I will keep folks updated as information is provided.

I attended a Zoom NACD Executive Directors meeting on Tuesday, August 25th and the main discussion was on NACD statewide annual meetings; if they were held, virtual or face-to-face, if training was included, costs, if virtual how it was processed, did voting take place & how that was handle. This was a highly informative meeting and helpful for preparing for NY's annual business meeting.

I attended the Zoom District Managers meeting on Wednesday, August 27th, and Chastity Miller, CDEA President did a great job with opening up topics for discussion. It was interesting learning & sharing with the NYACD Board how districts are working through the Covid-19 issues/concerns and still completing their workload. It was hard to hear how the Districts have to deal with their concerns of possible budget cuts and hoping they do not have to release any staff personnel.

I was asks to reach out to folks connected with NACD to see if they have a drone policy & would be willing to share with us. I have done this and when I hear back from folks through-out the country I will share with Districts/CDEA/Directors.

I am working on the August end of month Directors/District letter, which should be going out in the next week or so. The letter will include information on how NYACD will be conducting the annual meeting.

I have created a District web page on the NYACD website for Districts to share their news, sale items, job openings etc. So, please encourage your division folks to share their information with me, so that NYACD can help promote what the Districts do, and possible needs are.

I am working with Sam Casella, NYACD Pres., Bill Peoples, NYACD Treas. and Velynda Parker, NYACD Bookkeeper on the 2021 NYACD budget. Once we have things somewhat determined the NYACD Executive Board will review and present to full board.

2024 New York NCF-Envirothon met on Thursday, August 27th to discuss possible themes, sale items, budgets, funding, duties etc. This is still in the early stages, but we NEED a Secretary, Treasurer/bookkeeper, and Volunteer Coordinator Chair. I ask that you please encourage your Division folks to come on to this committee and help strengthen this program. We also need subcommittee members for each committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Blanche
Blanche L. Hurlbutt
Executive Director NYACD
September 2, 2020

24 North Street
Edmeston, NY 13335
Telephone: 607-965-6316



2021

Wednesday, May 26, 2021
&
Thursday, May 27, 2021
Hobart William & Smith
Colleges
Geneva, NY

Hosted by the
New York State
Envirothon Committee

A subcommittee of
the New York State
Conservation District
Employees Association

24 North Street
Edmeston, NY 13335

Blanche L. Hurlbutt
Chair

JoAnn Kurtis
Vice-Chair

Susan O'Dell-Peppe
Secretary

Kristin White
Treasurer

NYS Envirothon Report to CDEA for September 2, 2020 Meeting

Respectfully Submitted by Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

The NYS Envirothon Committee held their reorganization meeting on Wednesday, August 26, 2020 by Zoom. We usually host this meeting face-to-face but was unable to do so due to finding a suitable location.

The election of officers took place as follows: Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair, JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair, Kristin White, Treasurer, Susan O'Dell-Peppe, Secretary. The New York NCF Representatives elected were Blanche & JoAnn. The Environmental Education Foundation Representatives are Susan O'Dell-Peppe & JoAnn.

The committee Chairs will remain as before with two minor changes as follows; Susan O'Dell-Peppe will be handling the t-shirts and Tony LuFan Ye will be handling snacks.

Everyone is moving forward in the role, duties, and responsibilities. Many things for 2021 will remain as the 2020 event since we had a virtual event with the exception of the field exams. Nebraska has elected to remain as the 2021 host state and will have the same current issue presented for the 2020 event **"Water Resource Management Local Control Local Solutions."** Since NY did not host an oral presentation for 2020 event, we will use the same oral presentation problem for 2021. All of the 2020 test writers are willing to do the 2021 event.

We would ask Division Reps to reach out to their Districts to have them return the NYS Envirothon portfolios to a committee member or take to Steuben Co. SWCD. Steuben Co. SWCD is where our trailer is stored along with all our supplies.

The 2021 NYS Envirothon event will be held Wednesday, May 26th & Thursday, May 27th, 2021 at Hobart William & Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY.

The 2021 International event will be held at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska on July 25-31, 2021.

One concern the NYS Envirothon committee had and asks for me to bring to the CDEA Board is the NYS Envirothon CDEA by-law on voting members. Presently the Advisory Members are unable to vote. Only the eight districts, educational professional and partners are voting members. The following are the thoughts of the committee that they wanted me to share with you to request a CDEA by-law change regarding how NYS Envirothon committee members can or cannot vote.

- When the CDEA By-law policy on this matter was created was some time ago and times have changed. At that time there were eight Divisions represented, but now it is District staff representation not Division.
- There are a few volunteers on the committee who volunteer their time, work hard through-out the year for the program and should be able to have a vote in important matters.
- There are times when there are not enough voting members present at the meetings to have a quorum and business cannot be conducted.
- If other folks are aware that they can have a say and are allowed to vote they may be willing to become a committee member.

Frank Bratt Report

- 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	January 2020	50.00
Caitlin Stewart	January 2020	99.00
Eva Brown	January 2020	375.00
Jacob Kelly	August 2020	500.00
Jaime Parslow	August 2020	350.00
Diana Thorn	August 2020	500.00
Rebecca Mann	August 2020	500.00
Shawn Murphy	August 2020	150.00

- No applications have been received for the January 2021 deadline
- Review of Frank Bratt bylaws have several suggested edits including:
 - Including books/manuals to eligible costs
 - Increasing deadline to four times per year
 - Scholarships not fully funded in a previous round can reapply to receive a full amount without penalty
 - Reimbursing applicants for trainings completed within the previous 4 months of an application deadline.

NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program

July 21, 2020 to August 25, 2020 Report to CDEA Board

- The New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate program has been expanded to anyone seeking professional certification that meets the minimum qualifications.
- Chemung County SWCD will no longer have the ability to process credit card payments. I worked with Kristen White to set up online payments through the NYCDEA website. Most folks are utilizing this system now. Kristen and I have a system worked out to track payments through that.
- The application to sit for the exam had to be updated to reflect the correct credit card system. It has been updated and posted on the CDEA website.
- Implementation/Review Course August 6th & 7th Ballston Spa, NY. Dustin Lewis hosted this course and co-instructed with Jim Lieberum, Kelly Emerick and myself.
 - 12 Attendees
 - Following the review course Dustin proctored the exam for 1 individual. This person passed the exam.
- Saratoga SWCD will be proctoring the next exam on September 24th in Ballston Spa, NY. It looks like around 6 people will be sitting for the exam at this time.
- To date, the program has \$5,670 in the bank between CDEA and Chemung accounts
- There are currently 33 Active Certificate Holders and 3 Certificate Holders with suspended status.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions regarding this program.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Verrigni, CPESC, CPSWQ

Background:

The NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program is in its second full year. The program was originally developed as a NYS version of the Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) program. This certification will allow someone to be a "Qualified Inspector" on SPDES permitted sites and is NYS DEC endorsed. A contract was signed in March of 2019 for the program administration between the NYS CDEA and Chemung County SWCD.

The fees are as follows:

Application Fee \$150

Exam Fee \$100

Yearly Renewal Fee \$100

NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Course \$125*

**This fee will be invoiced from the Program Administrator separate from WQS or Con. Skills fees if offered at these events.*

NYS Erosion & Sediment Control Financials As of 8/25/2020							
NYS CDEA Account as of 8/19/20					\$1,295.28		
Chemung County SWCD program account					\$4,375		
Total Program Holdings					\$5,670		



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

2041 U.S. Route 20, Suite 2, Seneca Falls, NY 13148

www.nyscdea.com

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.

Farmers Market Resource Fair Procedure

Adopted at the September 2, 2020 CDEA Meeting

Purpose

The purpose of the Farmers Market Resource Fair is to facilitate an event where Conservation District staff, natural resource partners, and vendors network and exchange ideas, New York State products, foods, and beverages are showcased, and camaraderie is enhanced.

Procedure

- Invitations are sent to vendors in January.
- The one-day event is from 4:30 – 7:30 PM.
- Dinner is offered free of charge to all vendors.
- Rooms are offered to all vendors at the CDEA rate.
- Google Docs is used for online vendor registration, and checks are sent to the CDEA Treasurer.
- The Farmers Market vendor registration fee is free.
- The Resource Fair vendor registration fee is \$225.00.
- Registration fee funds support the entertainment fund.
- A passport game is organized to encourage attendees to visit all vendors. Those attendees who visit all vendors are eligible for a drawing of bucket raffle tickets.
- Alcoholic beverages are purchased from vendors for the hospitality suite.
- Banquet wine is coordinated with a vendor who attends the Farmers Market for ease of delivery.
- Set up begins half an hour before the event begins.
- Meats, cheeses, and crackers are purchased from local vendors and these hors d'oeuvres are available during the event as well as in the hospitality suite. Conservation Districts purchase food for the event and are reimbursed by CDEA.
- Tables may be an expense if the hotel charges for tables.
- A New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Farmers' Market Designation Application must be submitted that allows vendors to sell products.
- A poster listing all vendors is made and distributed state-wide to promote the event and encourage people to network with and purchase items from the vendors.
- The following items should be purchased if supplies from the previous year are inadequate: wine or pint glasses, paper plates, toothpicks, napkins, gloves, knives, cutting boards, serving platters, stickers for passport game.



NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

NYSCEA Meeting

September 2, 2020

NRCS Agreements

The 2020 proposal was submitted on August 13, 2020. It may not be signed and approved until later in October. We were given a verbal commitment, but nothing is finalized yet. New proposal will have a leadership conference proposal included.

Training

The Northern Plains and North Central Region Directors have collaborated together using their NCDEA training funds for hosting summer Leadership Conference in FY 2021 within respective regions using Convene. This company will provide employees with 12 monthly webinars, 1 in person training, 1 personalized webinar. We're allowed to have as many participants as we would like in the webinars for a cost of \$999/year for all of these services. The training event will be open to all District employees nationally if they wish to participant. More information will come when the Leadership Conference is finalized.

NCDEA Awards

The Awards committee has updated the nomination form as a fillable document with an online submission. National Conservation District Professional Award **and** the National Conservation District Board Member Award recognizes professionalism and dedication in the people behind the nation's conservation district programs. Award recipients are not only district professionals or board members – they are people that truly believe in conserving the natural resources and making the world a better place. The deadline for submittal to NCDEA is October 1. Consider nominating for a fellow conservation district co-worker/friend or Board member.

NACD

- There will be a second Leadership Conference under the umbrella of NCPP for all partners possibly in Memphis, Minneapolis, Kansas City, or St. Louis.

- Boot camp is currently on hold. There will be a meeting in the next few weeks to discuss how certification and training will be handled in the future.
- No decision has been made about the February Annual Meeting. A decision should be made around Labor Day. It may be a virtual meeting but the hotel moved the cancellation date back to November.

NCPP (National Conservation Planning Partnership)

Nominations for the 2020 Hugh Hammond Bennett Award for Conservation Excellence are being solicited. These prestigious awards recognize two outstanding individuals – a producer and a planner—for their dedication and commitment to conservation planning and implementation in honor of the legacy of Hugh Hammond Bennett.

To review the details of the nomination packet and award criteria, visit the [NCPP Hugh Hammond Bennett Awards](#) page. All nominations must be submitted through <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2020HHBAward> no later than **October 1**. If you have questions, please contact Stacy Koch, NCPP Coordinator, at Stacy.Koch@usda.gov or 570-925-5531.

Check out the website at nationalconservationplanningpartnership.com for additional information relating to the conservation planning movement.

Listed below is latest update on each Action Team progress:

Communications and Messaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hugh Hammond Bennett Award Announcement was sent via GovDelivery August 20th • The next GovDelivery message will be employee recognition. Kate Sayles, 2018 HHB Award nominee will be featured in the first employee recognition message. • Future messages will include NCPP accomplishments and encouraging employee feedback • REMINDER: All NCPP messages can be found on the NCPP website under the <i>News</i> heading https://www.nationalconservationplanningpartnership.com/news-and-media/news/ • Of the 12 <i>just do it</i> items assigned to the team, 6 have been completed and the goal is to complete the remainder by the end of the year
Partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft producer survey was sent to the Leadership Team for review. With the help of the POA team and others, the Partnerships team is revising the producer survey to include a variety of questions (both multiple choice and open ended). NACD is hosting the survey through their Survey Monkey account to allow for a larger number of questions. This survey will not replace other surveys/feedback that has been collected through listening sessions, etc. It is a continuation of the effort with questions developed during focus group meetings. Notifications will be sent out through partner leadership along with social marketing campaigns • POA team members are helping to ensure that survey questions align with other surveys(FPAC), capture everything we are looking for, and remain clear. A meeting will be held August 24 for the Partnerships and POA teams to discuss the survey, more information

will be provided to the Leadership Team during the September teleconference and a draft survey will be shared with the group for comments

Performance, Goals, Outcomes and Accountability

- Based on the same PRS data and the number of planners from the Planner Database, which was used in 2017, the average number of plans per planner is 16 in FY2019. This is an increase of 3 from the last time this was done.
- Data showing plans per planner by state and CEAP regions will be discussed at the next meeting and shared with the Leadership Team
- Continuing to develop a definition of conservation plan that will work broadly across the partners and programs. **Please submit any ideas for a definition to Dick Went by September 3rd.**
- Like other teams, POA is trying to determine how to measure quality of a plan
- The CPI process is moving forward with 10 teams. A lot of teams are beginning to reach out for data. Some teams have had their first tollgate meetings and have been touching base with Tim and Stacy. There is a lot of work to accomplish and we are hoping to meet the October timeframe. Some work could go past this timeframe. The launch of the new registry should help with a lot of issues.
- The team is in the process of assigning a new co-chair with Tim leaving that role

Training, Certification, Technical Processes and Tools

- The team is finalizing suggestions for conservation planning policy and procedure changes to be submitted to Aaron Lauster by September 1. Goal is to have changes in place by new fiscal year, October 1.
- A letter has been drafted to highlight recommendations along with an edited version of the Conservation Planning Policy. A meeting will be held with Aaron and Jimmy before final recommendations are made.
- A challenge will be to ensure quality assurance measures are being taken. Flexibility should be given to states and supervisors of planners will have responsibility to make sure quality work is being done.
- In response to the comments about “apprentice planner” the team suggests dropping this term and using four levels for certified planners. The team also suggests changes that include removing the linkage between JAA and the conservation planning policy, encouraging everyone to take proficiency exams (possible name change) and for new employees to participate in trainings, and for subsets of conservation planning roles to be carved out in specific situations. More information will be shared when recommendations are finalized
- Once updates roll out in October, we need to be sure to relay them to the partnership. At the FY2021 NCPP Training meeting, updates will be presented.

Lastly, just want to remind everyone to check out the NCDEA website ncdea.us. We welcome any feedback, your news and job announcement. NCDEA would be delighted to share news about members and conservation districts.

Respectively Submitted,
Velynda Parker
NCDEA Secretary



Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2020 10AM - 2PM
Saratoga County Soil and Water and Zoom Call

Executive Committee Members

Chastity Miller, President
Dustin Lewis, Vice President
Caitlin Stewart, Secretary
Dean Moore, Member at Large

Partners

Brian Steinmuller, NYS SWCC
Paula Bagley, NRCS
Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD

Guests

PJ Emerick, SWCC
Ryan Cunningham, SWCC
Scott Fickbohm, SWCC
Erin Peruzzini, SWCC
Victor DiGiacomo, SWCC
Lindsay Gerstenslager, Wayne County SWCD

Division Representatives

Scott Collins, Division I
Aaron Buchta, Division II
Raeanne Dulanski, Division III
Shawn Murphy, Division IV
Kristin Ballou, Division V
Amber Luke, Division VI
Erin Sommerville, Division VII
Ann Marie Calabro, Division VIII

Absent

Blake Glover, NRCS
Kristin White, Treasurer



Minutes

I. Meeting begins and introductions – Miller called the meeting to order at 10:03 AM with introductions.

II. Reading and approval of the September 2020 meeting minutes - Stewart mentioned that the minutes were provided via email state wide in advance of the meeting, and Murphy made a spelling correction from bay to pay under Committee Reports, section vi..

- **A motion was made by Murphy, seconded by Calabro to approve the September 2020 meeting minutes with the spelling correction. Carried.**

III. Correspondence – Miller mentioned that no correspondence was received

IV. Treasurer's report – Miller mentioned that White is unable to attend the meeting. White emailed the reports in advance of the meeting. Miller reviewed the financial reports and the

budget vs. actual report. Collins inquired about the \$3,000 for the national Envirothon. Hurlbutt replied the \$3,000 is a donation from Albany County. Miller inquired if anyone is hosting a Division Meeting. Division I may hold an online meeting, Division IV is contemplating a meeting, and Division V may divvy up the allocation for independent first aid and CPR trainings for staff.

- **A motion was made by Buchta, seconded by Calabro to accept the Treasurer's report and 2020 budget vs. actual report. Murphy abstained. Carried.**

Miller sent an email with the audit information. The information includes a financial statement shared by the auditors, profit, loss, opinions, tax documents prepared to date, and information the auditors utilized to collect the documents. The auditors reported that all income and expenses were represented fairly, and had no recommendations at this time other than the Conflict of Interest, Whistle Blower, Code of Conduct, and Ethics Policies. Miller will forward the audit documents again.

V. Review and approve policies - The Conflict of Interest, Whistle Blower, Code of Conduct, and Ethics Policies were emailed in advance of the meeting for review. Dulanski and Stewart made suggestions. Murphy suggested providing a space to list potential conflicts, and Miller made that addition. Calabro inquired if the CDEA Executive Committee and Division Representatives will need to sign the policies, and Miller replied yes. Miller asked for nominations among the Division Representatives for the Compliance Officer per the Whistle Blower policy.

- **A motion was made by Collins, seconded by Murphy to accept the Conflict of Interest, Whistle Blower, Code of Conduct, and Ethics Policies. Carried.**
- **A motion was made by Miller, seconded by Moore to elect Division II Representative Aaron Buchta as the Compliance Officer per the Whistle Blower Policy. Carried.**

VI. Reports

i. Division Reports

- a. Division I** – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes.
- b. Division II** – Buchta shared his report, appended to the minutes.
- c. Division III** – Dulanski mentioned that she sent an email request for updates, and none were sent.
- d. Division IV** – Murphy shared his report, appended to the minutes.
- e. Division V** – Ballou shared her report, appended to the minutes.
- f. Division VI** – Luke shared her report, appended to the minutes.
- g. Division VII** – Sommerville shared her report, appended to the minutes.

h. Division VIII – Calabro reported that no other counties returned her email request for an update. All technical staff at Suffolk County SWCD have been reassigned to COVID Case Investigation.

ii. 4 Way Partnership Reports

a. NYACD – Hurlbutt shared her report, appended to the minutes. Hurlbutt thanked Miller for her assistance with the virtual NYACD annual meeting and awards presentation.

b. NRCS – Bagley shared her report, appended to the minutes.

c. NYS SWCC – Steinmuller mentioned that the SWCC staff, along with Districts, are working to close out projects. While new rounds of funding programmatically are on hold, this is not slowing down great work with contracts or projects. The Albany SWCC staff has transitioned back into the office, but are keeping densities low. Staff are making payments on existing contracts, including executing AEM Base Round 16 contracts. SWCC has seen some projects already closed out. Prioritization is given to those CFPs along with close outs for ag non-point and CRF programs. SWCC asked for permission to make Part B Payments from this year's budget, and the Division of Budget approved those payments. Over the next couple of months, prioritization will be given to other programs to make sure the state aid program will be executed in its entirety for this year. This might result in some payments being bumped to a lower prioritization level. It is important to ensure that SWCC has the actual cash authority to make those payments to things like ag non-point. Part A is next, followed by Part C. Steinmuller is hoping to continue to receive funding every month to make payments. SWCC is working hard on the development of new program rounds for release at some point. Help is being provided for the Climate Action Council. Miller inquired about New York State Grown and Certified funding. Steinmuller replied that ag non-point, CRF, Grown and Certified, and Irrigation are all on the list and waiting for approval to release. Steinmuller has not received an update for the FY 2021-2022 budget. He thanked all Districts for submitting their Annual Plan of Work on time. APOWs will be approved at the next SWCC meeting. The SWCC is willing to help with the virtual Water Quality Symposium.

VII. Committee Reports

i. Conservation Skills Workshop – Miller mentioned that over 100 attendees participated, and the virtual event was a success.

ii. NYS Envirothon – Hurlbutt mentioned that the event will be held May 26 and 27, 2021, and will be a face to face event per regulations. The committee is also working on a virtual option if an in-person event can't be held. The oral presentation will be part of the event. Hurlbutt hopes that local and regional events will be held. The committee understands that some Districts may not be able to hold a local Envirothon event, and is available for assistance. Gerstenslager mentioned that she polled the Envirothon teachers in Wayne County, and they supported a virtual event because they are unable to participate in field trips. The teachers replied that a virtual event is better than no event. Gerstenslager mentioned the importance of being sensitive to times of funding challenges for Conservation Districts and schools, Hurlbutt

mentioned that a virtual and in person event is something to consider, and will bring this idea forward during the next meeting.

iii. NCF international Envirothon 2024 – Hurlbutt mentioned that she was approached by the Director for NCF, who wanted to sign a preliminary contract that states what will be in the final contract. Hurlbutt spoke with Miller, who supported signing the preliminary contract. For the first time, NCF will take an administration fee of 10 – 12% out of registration, adjust the budget accordingly. Meetings are being held, committee and subcommittee members are needed, and Hurlbutt hopes that District staff will assist. A Treasurer and Volunteer Coordinator are needed. Ballou mentioned that she contacted Franklin County’s Envirothon advisors, and they are unable to hold after school extracurricular activities, and the County has asked all school Districts to voluntarily shut down and go virtual. Unfortunately, there is no way that Envirothon teams can get together to study and practice, even for a virtual event.

iv. Frank Bratt Scholarship – Collins shared his report, appended to the minutes. Collins will send reminders to people with open scholarships and deadline reminders. Miller mentioned that the policy update will be voted on during the Water Quality Symposium.

v. State Fair Committee – No one had anything to report.

vi. Environmental Education Foundation Committee – Miller mentioned that Mark Gaston is handing out assignments for collecting money for the Envirothon, and Amazon Smile generates money for the Envirothon. Stewart mentioned that more information about Amazon Smile is in the CDEA Newsletter.

vii. NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certification – Lewis mentioned that a class was held a month and a half ago, and it went well. 11 attendees took the class, with 6 or 7 taking the exam. Miller reported that 37 people are certified in New York State.

viii. NYS 4hr Erosion and Stormwater On-line Class – Lewis send information to IT, and a detailed proposal has not yet been submitted containing cost and items that need to be accomplished. This is a well working, professional exam. Miller mentioned that the new version will streamline the class.

ix. Water Quality Symposium – Lewis mentioned that the 2021 Water Quality Symposium will be a virtual event due to the ongoing pandemic. The DoubleTree Hotel, East Syracuse, gave 3 options: (1) canceling the event at a later date with penalties, (2) wait until December 10 to cancel the event with no fees, or (3) roll the exact same contract over to 2022. Discussion ensued about the hotel options and online event logistics. Dulanski mentioned that she reached out to her Division to inquire about symposium attendance, and only 1 District was willing to attend in person, and the remaining Divisions preferred a virtual event. Dulanski supported option 3 to roll over this year’s contract into 2022. Miller mentioned that the annual meeting and awards ceremony could be held virtually. Lewis mentioned the fund raisers should still be held. Calabro mentioned that it would be beneficial to hire a technical service to run multiple classes online, record and upload them, and facilitate breakout sessions, resulting in a seamless event. Calabro supported option 3.

- **A motion was made by Calabro, seconded by Ballou to roll over the 2020 Water Quality Symposium contract with the Double Tree Hotel, East Syracuse, to 2021. Carried.**

VIII. Partnership and Sub-committee Updates

i. NACDE - Northeast Association of Conservation Districts Employee – Via email, Velynda Parker mentioned that there are no items to report at this time.

ii. NCDEA - National Conservation District Employee – Velynda Parker submitted her report, appended to the minutes.

iii. New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC) – Stewart mentioned that she attended the New York State joint Invasive Species Advisory Committee and Invasive Species Council WebEx meeting on October 1. Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management provided updates: management and early detection rapid response are in full swing, as well as educational outreach. Carrie Brown-Lima presented “Survey Results from Research Priorities Identified by NYS IS Network.” Rob Williams and Thomas Allgaier presented on the possibility of a pilot Weed Free Aggregate Initiative program that some Conservation Districts may be involved with if funding is awarded. Partners and agencies provided updates. Spotted lanternfly is on the move. The next ISAC meeting is December 16.

iv. Municipal Assistance Sub Committee – Moore mentioned that PJ Emerick and Ryan Cunningham are working to develop a roadside assessment form based on RRAMP and Pennsylvania Gravel Roads. An app will be developed to collect field data. The next meeting is on December 16, and people can provide input and feedback on the draft proposal of the roadside assessment form. During the meeting, the Department of Environmental Conservation will provide updates on the new stormwater permit.

v. Operations Manual Committee – Miller mentioned that there is nothing new to report. P.J. Emerick recommended that Division Representatives can let new managers know the document is available as a great resource. Steinmuller mentioned that a meeting was scheduled for the spring, but was canceled due to the pandemic, and has not yet been rescheduled.

vi. Technical Advisory Committee – Steinmuller mentioned that a meeting was held at the end of August, and another meeting will be planned by the end of the year. There is no clear timeline for the release of the new RFP.

vii. Other – None.

VIII. Old Business – Murphy mentioned that he reached out to the new director of the Ranger School about the Leadership Institute, who seems supportive of still hosting the event. While certain things are out of the director’s control, she is speaking with the main campus about the possibility of holding the event. Murphy mentioned that this event, unfortunately, can’t be held virtually, and must be in-person to build relationships.

IX. New business – Murphy mentioned that he received an inquiry regarding employee reimbursement for workwear like boots and field clothing. Murphy asked if Districts have a reimbursement or compensation program for Personal Protective Equipment, and how much is

budgeted for these items, and if this is considered taxable income. Buchta replied that his District allocates \$50 a year for safety toed boots for all employees. Ballou replied that her District has an annual allowance for steel toed boots of \$20 per year, and the compensation is not taxable. Ballou continued that her District also provided PPE. Calabro replied that her county does not offer reimbursement or compensation for safety equipment. Collins replied that his District does not have a reimbursement program, but the District purchases items like logo shirts and waders for the staff once a year. Stewart replied that her District provides all necessary PPE for field work to all staff, including hard hats, vests, ear and eye protection, chaps and personal flotation devices. Dulanski and Sommerville's Districts both provide PPE that is owned by the District. Miller recommending sending a state-wide email with this inquiry. Lewis's District has a policy.

Moore mentioned that Jim Liberum inquired if the CDEA could purchase New York Contractors Erosion & Sediment Control Field Notebooks and distribute them to District staff as a resource. Discussion ensued. Fickbohm mentioned that the Soil and Water Conservation Society has in its possession 136 blue field notebooks, and sells them for \$19 / book, and he is willing to pick up the books if CDEA would like to purchase them for Districts. Stewart mentioned that 136 books cost \$2,584. Miller mentioned that Districts could utilize the books or give them to contractors. Dulanski inquired if CDEA could purchase then resell the books. Miller replied that CDEA can purchase the books, then distribute them as we see fit.

- **A motion was made by Buchta, seconded by Moore to permit CDEA to purchase 136 New York Contractors Erosion & Sediment Control Field Notebooks to distribute to New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Dulanski opposed. Murphy abstained. Carried.**

Fickbohm mentioned that as the CREP coordinator, he received instructions from USDA on how to complete the CREP annual reporting. This year, online data entry will take place. The report can include suggestions for how to improve the CREP agreement. Collins encouraged Districts to submit recommendations on how to improve the program to him, and he will summarize the suggestions and add them to the report. Also, Districts who have been engaged in CREP projects can send them to him, and he will include them in the report to highlight riparian buffers. Buchta inquired if partnerships should be highlighted in the report, and what type of information should be submitted by Districts. Collins replied that all CREP projects are important to highlight, and projects that are contracted but not necessarily designed or implemented can also be submitted.

Murphy mentioned that he will assist with fund raising (raffles) held during the Water Quality Symposium.

Miller opened up discussion regarding the cost for Water Quality Symposium attendance. Lewis mentioned that we can keep cost minimal thanks to money generated by the 4-hour course. Lewis continued that if registration is low, the symposium classes will be available to as many Districts as possible. Miller agreed.

Miller asked that Division Representatives encourage District staff to run for a CDEA Executive Committee office or Division Representative. Calabro mentioned that it would be beneficial for the CDEA Executive Committee and Division Reps to write up a brief description of their duties.

More people may be encouraged to participate if they realize what is truly involved with each position.

Miller thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

X. Next meeting – January 2021, date to be determined.

IX. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Stewart, seconded by Calabro to adjourn at 12:12 PM. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary

Dean L. Moore
Member at Large – NYSCDEA
Sr. District Technician
Warren County SWCD

Member at Large – Report for 11/10/20 meeting

I have been in touch with Ryan Cunningham and PJ Emerick regarding activities on the **Municipal Assistance Subcommittee**. A draft roadside erosion assessment form based on RAMP and PA Gravel Roads is being developed by Chastity Miller into an iPhone / tablet application to be used in the field. The objective is to produce a base template for Districts initiating work in this area and allow them to have a resource to collect the data that can be used for grant applications and reports. Ryan and PJ will be scheduling a subcommittee meeting on December 16 via WebEx for input and feedback on the draft proposal. DEC representatives will be on the call for updates on the new stormwater permit as well. A final agenda and invitation will be sent out soon.

With regard to the **Water Quality Symposium**, I have pinned down Mr. Bombard from Warren County SWCD for the Pond presentation and will co present. We will be prepared to do this class virtually. Regarding the GIS class, my presenter will be unavailable, so I am back on the search.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dean L. Moore".

Dean L. Moore

Division I Report

November 10, 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.

Niagara County

- Building closed to the public, we are maintaining normal business hours
- Submitting several payments and photographs for Ag Nonpoint Source grants
- Finishing work with Japanese knotweed removal within the county. Nearly all previously visited sites have been retreated. All Summer employees have gone back to school or accepted new positions
- Baseline water quality monitoring program restarted in April and will continue until March 2021
- Eighteenmile Creek Area of Concern
 - Removed the Restrictions on Dredging BUI
 - Finalized paperwork to be Management Actions Complete
 - Fish community survey of Eighteenmile Creek and Oak Orchard Creek accepted into the Journal of Great Lakes Research

I did not hear back from any other county.

Submitted by: Scott Collins, Division I Representative



NYS Conservation District Employees Association

www.nvscdea.com

Division II Report

November 2020

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

Cayuga: No report submitted.

Livingston: No report submitted.

Monroe: No report submitted.

Onondaga:

- 59.16 acres of hydroseeding completed this year (a new record!)
- We are continuing County DOH sampling, but with more autonomy/self-governance in the wake of Dr. Russ Nemecek's retirement from County Health Department
- We are on track to potentially close out 6 grants at the end of the year
- Authored 2019 annual report for six SWCD/county region of Oneida Lake Watershed
- Combined efforts for Water Chestnut Management in the County generated 679 tons harvested & composted and 90 acres treated by herbicide spray treatment
- County EAB program still on "Pause" due to COVID-19.
- SLWAP's Eric Jensen initiated a County-wide pilot program to recycle seven tractor trailer loads of waste ag tires. These trailers required extra high lifts to load the tires over the 13.5 feet sidewalls of the semi-trailers. Smaller ag tires were added to fill in the void spaces to complete the trailer loads. The tires will be shredded into chips of various sizes and used for energy or other uses.

Ontario: No report submitted.

Seneca: No report submitted.

Wayne: No report submitted.

Yates: No Report submitted.

Respectfully submitted by,
Aaron Buchta
Onondaga County Soil & Water Conservation District
NYS CDEA Division II Representative



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.
2041 U.S. Route 20, Suite 2, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
www.nyscdea.com

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.

DIVISION IV REPORT – 11/9/2020

Counties in Division IV:

Broome, Chenango, Chemung, Cortland, Delaware, Otsego, Schuyler, Steuben, Tompkins, Tioga

County News and Updates:

Steuben:

~COVID-19 - Office is open for business; however, the office is close to the public.

~County Appropriations - Received level funding for FY 2021

~Streambank Stabilization - 50 projects have been completed so far this year totaling \$224,015.28 with 13 projects remaining on the list.

~Training - Jeff is working with Mike Lovegreen and Melissa Yearick on virtual 3-day ESI training. An initial site visit is being conducted to work out the specifics – more to come. Thursday, November 12th Jeff will be presenting on USC Watershed Wednesday on Improving In-Stream Habitat Through Fish Passage.

~Construction Projects - Working on wrapping up a couple AgNPS projects before winter comes. Conducting crop verification for both AEM and USC.

Cortland:

~COVID-19 - Staff are reporting to the office at least 2 days/week and the office is still closed to the public.

~Cortland County SWCD still has multiple active construction projects including two waste storages and stream bank stabilization/culvert enhancement projects ongoing, with many others in the planning and design phases.

~ Staff has been engaged in the Hazard Mitigation planning process, working with municipalities to assist in identifying and writing activities for their Hazard Mitigation plans. Many mitigation activities involve streams, storms and response to other natural hazards where SWCD is contacted to provide assistance and we want to be sure our communities are poised to act with a comprehensive plan.

~ Though Conservation Field Days was not held this year, numerous natural resource professionals who have been presenters in the past helped us to prepare, compile, and produce resources for teachers which are now posted on our website. There are short presentations or videos, suggested activities, and materials for use with children that will encourage them to get outside to enjoy and explore nature – an intrinsic part of the traditional CFDs program.

~Check out the Cortland SWCD website, www.cortlandswcd.org and Facebook page, @cortlandswcd to see some of the other projects and activities the District has been involved in.

Discussion Items/Inquiries:

New Inquiries:

Workwear reimbursement: An inquiry was made as to what other Districts represented at the executive meeting had for policies about workwear reimbursement. Do the Districts on the call have a policy?



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.
2041 U.S. Route 20, Suite 2, Seneca Falls, NY 13148
www.nyscdea.com

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.

How much and what type of gear can staff request reimbursement for? Do these items count as part of a compensation plan? Are the reimbursements then taxable income to the employees? What are other Districts doing?

Ongoing Inquiries:

Frank Bratt Scholarship (FBS): A Tioga District employee brought up an issue with FBS. Mainly, the issue had to do with timing for summer courses (but is relevant for other times of the year as well). Currently, the scholarship is awarded 2x's per year and with application dates and then waiting periods until the next CDEA meeting, folks may have to wait nearly 8 months to hear a status on their application. Furthermore, the FBS currently doesn't allow reimbursement for previously completed coursework, making some courses with short announcement periods ineligible. ***These items were discussed briefly during the May and July meetings and sent to a working with changes suggested at the September Meeting to be voted on, as a bylaw change at the annual meeting held during the WQS.***

Stream Training: Cortland SWCD District Manager and staff wondered what the needs were for more/different stream training beyond what was offered at the latest WQS? Should this be further discussed at the Conservation Skills Workshop Committee level, how should feedback/needs be determined and/or should this be a Division led, open to the State, training? Thoughts? ***CSW committee sent out a survey and stream related class was not one of this year's top priorities, discussion will continue at the SWCD/Division level.***

Safety Trainings/PESH: Preface – I did not know what PESH meant so I thought I'd share with others: NYS Department of Labor, Division of Safety and Health – Public Employee Safety and Health. That said, there is a request for more information related to what the association may or may not be able to provide related to safety trainings and PESH. For example, is there a list of mandatory annual trainings or condition of employment trainings that are required for all positions (such as annual sexual harassment training, etc.) and are there position/task specific trainings available for let's say landfill monitoring related positions, hydro-seeding, or other programmatic positions of responsibility. Another example is that some State Contracts, through various divisions, may require certain trainings have been completed for example. How can this information be provided/developed; is it something that the association may want to consider looking into further? ***Stienmuller, Ballou and Stewart on safety committee and will be looking at this inquiry. Additionally, these items and more are set to be discussed at a WQS class in March, District Manager input about what was needed has since been sought and incorporated into class planning.***

Respectfully submitted by Shawn Murphy, Division IV Representative

Division V Report

Clinton County

- Closed out our Ag NPS Rnd 22 Waste Storage grant
- Completed one of our AEM 16 Implementation projects
- Technician attended several Conservations Skills workshops
- Implemented 600+ acres of winter rye cover crop on 10 farms
- 2 tire recycling events held with 1,800+ tires collected
- Working on implementation of several Lake Champlain Basin Program Grants
- Summer interns assessed 178 culverts and hydroseeded 13 acres of roadside ditches
- Set up and monitored 9 Emerald Ash Borer traps; trapped EAB in 4 locations- First confirmation in Clinton County

Essex County

- With Trout Unlimited and the Boquet River Association we planted over 700 willow stakes on two farms along the Boquet River.
- We finished up an AEM implementation stream corridor and shoreline management system project.
- One CRF 3 water management system project is still underway and another CRF3 is in closeout.
- Wrapped up hydroseeding for the CWICNY and UH roadside grants which also included some seeding and matting in critical areas, check dams and drainage work.
- We held a tire drive just for farms and had our last county wide drive in Minerva.
- We applied for some LCBP grants and are partnering with CCE to hold Game of Logging 1 and 2 on Nov 14 and Nov 21.
- There is of course the AEM Strategic Plan and Annual Plan of Work, and we're also working with our WQCC to update the Essex County Non-Point Source Pollution Management Strategy (maybe we can shorten the name!).
- We've done some NAACC assessments to update missing and replaced culverts.
- Daniel is about to put out a timber bid, and we're all getting our snow tires on!

Franklin County

- Tons of field work!
- Forestry inventories, Tier 2 evaluation, AEM implementation projects, finished hydroseeding, checking culverts, construction inspections and even an attempt at catching a domestic goose (don't ask).
- Checking Cover Crops for a round 25 AGNPS.
- Closing out a CAFO Round 1 for a 5 million gallon satellite storage.
- Construction of a 3 million gallon on site manure storage and transfer for a Round 24.
- Writing grants for Lake Champlain Basin Programs.
- Reaching out to municipalities on what they need and how we can help, as far as hydroseeding, culverts, salt/sand storages...with the CFA not coming out we have had many municipalities approach us on what funding options are there. If anyone has any ideas throw them out please!
- This summer we had an increase in drinking water questions. So we are fielding allot of them and what to do and how to address "smelly" water.
- Continuing to look for additional options for funding.
- Beginning planning for next year Part C funding.

Hamilton County

- Virtual Black River Watershed Conference presentation: Water Quality: a 25 Year Plus Perspective for Hamilton County
- 2021 Annual Plan of Work
- Began work for the Part B Project: green infrastructure (porous pavers) in the Town of Inlet
- Organizing the 41st annual Conservation Field Day – we are going virtual on Google Meet!
- Attended the New York Association of Conservation Districts virtual annual meeting
- Invasive plant management: herbicide and manual
- Lake Monitoring Rotation for September – 21 lakes are analyzed for pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, chlorophyll, transparency, temperature, alkalinity, aluminum, calcium, chloride, chlorophyll a, nitrate + nitrite, total phosphorus, and sodium analysis.
- Hydroseeding
- Completed hydroseeding in the Indian River Watershed for the Upper Hudson Watershed Roadside Erosion Plan Implementation Phase II
- September Water Testing Program: The District offers this program with certified results to municipalities, residents, and businesses. Testing is available for bacteria, lead and copper, and a water quality panel.
- FEMA flood mitigation – permits, permit extensions for road/bridge protection
- Assisting the public with invasive species, erosion control, and species identification inquiries.
- Promoting our AEM program
- Paper and boat storage plastic recycling

Warren County

- Submitted 2 Lake Champlain Basin Program grants
- Submitting NACD grant
- APW submitted, all PM's complete, Part B submitted
- Challenges in the Ms4 program as the labs that we use for wq testing have been closed due to COVID
- 2 of our 2019 NYSDEC WQIP grants have been approved and moved from OMB= to our office
- One of our local Town Supervisor's appears to be our new NYS Assemblyman. Big SWCD supporter – for the office and projects. Should be good at state level, but he is on the minority party.
- Wrapping up year with projects and starting reports.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristin Ballou

Franklin County Soil & Water Conservation District

NYS CDEA Division V Representative

NYS CDEA Meeting
November 10, 2020 @ 10 Am
Division 6 Report

Submitted By, Amber Luke Division 6 Representative

Albany County SWCD:

- Wrapping up a Climate Resilient Farming grant – includes the installation of an irrigation reservoir, grassed waterway, and subsurface drainage
- Held 2 tire recycling events – collected over 1,825 tires from over 100 landowners
- Hydroseeded approximately 4 acres in the Town of Bethlehem at their compost facility and the Elm Avenue Park
- Funding 6 School Assistance Program applications; projects to be completed by December 18, 2020 - include an outdoor classroom, educational signage on a previously restored trail on school property, and pollinator gardens
- Expanding on our previous Pet Waste Disposal Station project by providing additional materials to all participating municipalities

Rensselaer County SWCD:

- The Rensselaer County SWCD recently had its 71st anniversary back on September 12th.
- A NYSDEC 4-Hour Erosion Control & Stormwater Training was successfully held on September 16 and hosted in partnership with both the Rensselaer County SWCD and Warren County SWCD. The Warren County SWCD converted this training to an Online Zoom Training, due to COVID-19. Funds raised through this training was donated to the Rensselaer County MS4.
- This year's Fall Fish Stocking Sale was a historical sale on 9.26.2020 in several aspects:
 1. SWCD sold more than \$8,000 in fish (including 2 bird boxes and 6 bags of fish food), despite a huge fish kill (trout) at the hatchery within less than 24 hours' notice, and then a breakdown of the hatchery delivery truck at 1-hour notice;
 2. This is the first time a Fish Sale has been hosted on a Saturday, this way, youth could participate in stocking, the working class could pick up the orders, and it allowed plenty of parking;
 3. Fifteen (15) fish stocking permit applications were submitted and obtained, all with SWCD assistance (otherwise, these individuals may not have ordered the fish without this assistance);
 4. A couple orders could not be picked up at the last minute, to make the sale work, SWCD delivered the fish orders, stocking in 5 local ponds;
 5. The SWCD assisted in obtaining permission from NYSDEC for two out of state fish hatcheries to now transport fish into NY, to increase our hatchery and fish options.
- Fish sales included:
 - 425: 3"- 4" Largemouth Bass
 - 602: 6"- 8" Largemouth Bass
 - 17,000: Fathead Minnows
 - 200: Channel Catfish
 - 585: Rainbow Trout
 - 50: Brook Trout

Schoharie County SWCD:
Youngs Spring Intake

Schoharie Co SWCD acted as sub-recipient on a NY Rising project to restore the Village of Schoharie's primary drinking water source. The intake pipes leaving Youngs Spring had been damaged during a seismic event triggered by Hurricane Irene in 2011 which left one of the intake lines inoperable. The project involved a hydrogeologic study, intake replacement, and site stabilization including rehabilitation of the cave entrance to the spring. The project cost was about \$84,000.



Entrance to Youngs Spring



Riparian Buffer Planting Manor Kill Conesville, NY

The Schoharie Co SWCD in partnership with Greene Co. SWCD and NYCDEPs Catskill Streams Buffer Initiative (CSBI) conducted a fall planting. The riparian buffer planting involved 80 trees and shrubs, and approximately 400 live Willow stakes harvested from SUNY Cobleskill's Plant materials Center. The planting team involved staff from both districts as well as several students and staff members from SUNY Cobleskill. The team was able to plant a 30-foot-wide buffer along 1100 linear feet of stream which will aid in flood and nutrient control, erosion protection, and habitat improvement for a C(TS) Trout stream which also happens to provide drinking water for NYC. The project cost to the landowner was \$0.



Willow staking on Manor Kill



SUNY Cobleskill students and staff and Greene and Schoharie Co. SWCD Personnel
Waste Storage Implementation

Schoharie Co. SWCD secured a Round 23 grant to install a 3.2-million-gallon waste storage system on a farm in the town of Schoharie. The storage will also include the milkhouse waste. Construction is nearing completion after being slowed due to the pandemic.



Schoharie Co. SWCD secured a CAFO Waste Storage grant to install a 2.6-million-gallon waste storage system on a farm in the town of Carlisle. It will be a satellite storage placed .3 miles from the farm and also have a waste storage constructed at the farmstead. Construction just began this past month due to the pandemic and contractor availability.



Part C – mini grants

The district uses part C funds to administer a mini grant program to eligible farms showing a need to improve water quality. These grants are used as seed money to start smaller projects like the one you see below. The farm has had major water issues in their access road mixing with feed and manure that flows directly into the road ditch. The engineered design called for 2 surface inlets, grading, filter fabric, base and crusher run stone.



Other fall tasks

- Hydroseeding- 5 miles of road ditch and one large CAFO Manure Storage project
- Tire Cutter leasing- Allowing local farmers the ability to remain compliant with DEC's Waste Tire Regulations
- Fall Fish Sale- Made Trout, Bass, and Grass Carp available to local pond owners

Washington County SWCD:

- Staff have been busy with Ag Non-Point implementation and Closeout:
 - Round 22- Implementation and closeout of 2 grants on 4 farms.
 - Round 23- finishing up construction on Waste Storage and Transfer System
 - Round 24- Two farms have construction underway with hopes to finish up this fall.
- 1- Round 3 CAFO Grant has began construction.
- Staff have been working on earning AEM hours
- Ag Assessments have been starting to come in so work has been starting on them as construction has began to wind down.
- Laura-

Saratoga County SWCD: No Report

Schenectady County SWCD: No Report

Fulton County SWCD: No Report

Montgomery County SWCD: No Report

Division VII Report
November 2020
Submitted by Erin Sommerville

- The Carbon Farming Pilot Project is underway with a Virtual Forum on November 12, 2020.
- The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts is hosting its annual Southeast New York Stormwater Conference now. The conference is being held virtually and there are 4 sessions.

NRCS Partnership Report: Update

Subject: RE: NYS CDEA meeting

NRCS State Tech Advisory Comm Meeting Held 11/4/2020

HR/Staffing

- Josh Hornesky – Team NE5 District Conservationist/December 6th
- Kim Farrell – ASTC-Programs/November 22nd
- NE ASTC-FO – Re-advertise/Expect announcement this week
- (4) GS-11 Resource Conservationist Vacancies/Close Nov 19th. (Middletown, Albion, Seneca Falls, Hamilton)
- (7) Entry level GS-5/7/or 9 Soil Conservationist/Closes Nov 25th. (East Aurora, Ithaca, LaFayette, Troy, Waverly, Millbrook, Watertown)

Covid:

- Numbers are starting to rise.
- 2 NRCS employees tested positive last week(Batavia)
- 5 Offices affected by positive test or potential exposure were closed for up to 14 days (Albion, Batavia AO and FO, Warsaw, Jamestown, Riverhead)
- USDA employees that have floated between multiple offices, will now only work out of one office thru November 30th. (cut down on potential spread)
- Attached the office operational status as of last Friday, 11/6/2020.

Continuing Resolution

– thru December 11th. Can use 19.7% of our FY20 budget until then. Budget numbers for NY-NRCS for FY21 look to be down about \$1.6mil

Programs

- Due to low application numbers for FY21, there will be another EQIP signup. Stay tuned for more info.

Frank Bratt Report

November 10, 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	January 2020	50.00
Caitlin Stewart	January 2020	99.00
Eva Brown	January 2020	375.00
Jacob Kelly	August 2020	500.00
Jaime Parslow	August 2020	350.00
Rebecca Mann	August 2020	500.00
Shawn Murphy	August 2020	150.00

- Diana Thorn of Ontario County submitted a request for payment of \$500.00 relative to her award under the August 2020 round of funding. Approved by Scott Collins and sent to Member at Large.
- Received 1 application for the January 2021 round of funding totaling \$320.00.
 1. Christopher Travis, Onondaga County SWCD Employee - \$320.00 for ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification



NATIONAL CONSERVATION DISTRICT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

NYSCEA Meeting

November 10, 2020

Meeting

The Board is in the process working on hosting an in-person meeting with an option of virtual attendance for those are concern about traveling.

Training

If you have registered for the training with Convene under NCDEA, you will be able to have access to the upcoming training topics as well as previous recorded topics.

Again, the North Central and Northern Plains Regions of NCDEA will be hosting a brief update on the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act and Family Medical Leave Act. Presenter Corey Walton with the US Department of Labor will discuss the employer's requirements under FFCRA and FMLA. This one hour session will be held on November 10 from 11 to 12 central time. Please plan to join us using the Zoom link below:

Time: Nov 10, 2020 11:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85159470223?pwd=NzREbGh2WVlvcEJwclJ2TTVoMVdhQT09>

Meeting ID: 851 5947 0223

Passcode: NCDEA

NACD

- In case you are not aware, the NACD annual meeting will be virtual
- The [Friends of NACD Program](#) enables individuals to support the nation's nearly 3,000 conservation districts through cash donations to NACD. As Friends of NACD, individuals contribute at four donation levels (between \$35 to \$1500), with each level entitling members to specific benefits. Included as a benefit to Friends of NACD is the opportunity to support individual conservation districts through the **Friends of NACD Grant Program**. As of Fiscal Year 2020, donations through Friends of NACD will support up to **four grants of up to \$2,500 each**. In February 2020, the first four Friends of NACD District Grants were awarded at [NACD's 2020 Annual Meeting](#) in Las Vegas, Nevada. The deadline for applications is **November 30, 2020**

NCPP (National Conservation Planning Partnership)

- Still working with KAT Marketing on updating the website
- Will be receiving an executed agreement for the next phase of the website for the additional items added to website

Award

The Hugh Hammond Bennett received five awards per category Producer and Conservation Planner. The awards have been ranked and submitted. Not sure how the awards will be given due to the NACD Annual Meeting is virtual.

Listed below is latest update on each Action Team progress:

Communications and Messaging
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The October message about the importance of local workgroups and locally led conservation was sent today, October 30th• Locally led conservation will appear in several messages as a series• The November message will include employee spotlight• In December we will amplify the Partnership Team's producer survey in our newsletter• REMINDER: All NCPP messages can be found on the NCPP website under the <i>News</i> heading https://www.nationalconservationplanningpartnership.com/news-and-media/news/• *If your team has project updates or key items you would like to share, please send them to Melissa and Kasey
Partnerships
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The survey was transferred to NACD's Survey Monkey account and the team is working with NACD to incorporate suggestions submitted by the Leadership Team• A link will be provided so everyone can test the survey before it is released• The survey will be available Dec 1 – Feb 15
Performance, Goals, Outcomes and Accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The team will be developing expectations for data collection and management to share with the partnership. Hopefully, new databases coming out will be able to talk to each other to allow for simpler data analysis• Will be discussing how to collect data across the partnership during the next team meeting• Developed a list of questions regarding CART and planner/TSP registry• The team is in the process of assigning a new co-chair with Tim leaving that role
Training, Certification, Technical Processes and Tools

- The team is working on details for the April 2021 NCPP training. Plans are being developed for virtual or hybrid meetings if the meeting cannot be in-person
- Re-scope items are being reviewed so those that need to be ranked as a project can be reviewed by the ranking team along with the NCPP marketing project
- Will work with Communications to get conservation planning policy and procedure updates out as soon as they are available

Lastly, just want to remind everyone to check out the NCDEA website ncdea.us. We welcome any feedback, your news and job announcement. NCDEA would be delighted to share news about members and conservation districts.

Respectively Submitted,

Velynda Parker

NCDEA Secretary