



NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

Annual Meeting

March 22, 2022

2PM

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85910110356?pwd=WjB0UXk5MlhsZkVldEhTVng1UVFhZz09>

MEETING AGENDA

PLEASE REVIEW THE PACKET PRIOR TO THE MEETING!

1. Call to Order- Welcome and Introductions (5)
2. Roll Call of Districts (5)
3. Reading and approval of 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes (2) Pg 2-75
4. Review Slate of Officers- Chastity Miller- Past President (2)
5. Treasurer's report for 2021 (5) Pg 76-77
6. Review and Approval of 2022 Budget (3) Pg 78
7. Partner Reports
 - New York Association of Conservation Districts (5) Pg 79-80
 - New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (5) Pg 81-87
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (5) Pg 88
8. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association Reports (5) Pg 89-90
9. New Employee Recognition- (Mailed out) Pg 91
10. Service Recognition (Mailed out) Pg 92
11. Officer Reports (5) Pg 93-96
12. Division Reports: (5) Pg 97-114
13. Committee Reports (5) Pg 115-123
14. By-Law Changes (5) Pg 124-126
15. Resolutions (3) None Submitted
16. Other Business from the Floor (5)
17. Election of Officers- Chastity M. (3)
18. Awards (30)



Annual Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2021
Zoom

Executive Committee Members

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

Partners

Brian Steigmuller, Assistant Director, New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee
Blake Glover, New York State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Guests

Richard Ball, Commissioner of Agriculture, New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets
Dale Stein, Representative-At-Large, NYS SWCC

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

Blanche Hurlbutt, Executive Director, New York Association of Conservation Districts



Minutes

I. Call to Order: Welcome and Introductions – President Chastity Miller called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. She welcomed everyone to virtual 42nd annual Water Quality Symposium, and thanked the planning committee. She introduced the Executive Committee and Division Representatives, and mentioned that a copy of the annual report was emailed in advance of today's meeting.

Commissioner Ball thanked the CDEA for the opportunity to share some time virtually, and for their commitment to strengthen Districts state-wide, especially over the last year. He commended Soil and Water Conservation Districts state-wide for their continued work and program achievements. The pandemic took a tremendous toll on the agricultural community, and the many who support that community. Through it all, Districts adapted to a different way to do business, and continued to provide technical assistance to farms and communities.

Trainings and board meetings took place virtually. Field work resumed when it was safe. He mentioned the importance of reflecting on what Districts accomplished in the most difficult of circumstances, and being proud of our ongoing successes and achievements. This work is important, and this year brought so many challenges, but we got through it together. The Department of Agriculture is proud of the accomplishments that were achieved during this crisis. Partners worked together to ensure that the agricultural community operated safely. The Department developed guidance documents, advocated for federal relief funds, and provided farms with face coverings and hand sanitizer. Nourish NY was launched, and 3 rounds allocated millions of dollars to New York State’s food banks buy purchasing New York agricultural products from farmers and providing food to those in need. Nourish New York was an incredible success. The Department will continue to connect New Yorkers with fresh and local food while protecting the stability of the agricultural economy. The Department and partners helped food banks purchase 21 million pounds of product from New York producers, supporting 1.3 million families in need across the state while reaching 4,100 farms. We are working hard to build back better, and these partnerships will help us move forward. The budget sees a historic commitment to agriculture, and an increase in state aid to Districts in the Environmental Protection Fund. This growth must meet state goals including the threat of climate change. July 18, 2019, Governor Cuomo signed the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act with goals for climate change, emissions reduction, and carbon neutral. Agriculture is at the table for climate change efforts. Districts are essential to farmers with programs including AEM and Climate Resilient Farming. We ask a lot of Districts, and we stand with Districts by supporting local needs and state environmental goals. The Commissioner thanked Districts for their continued efforts, bold strategies, and increasing commitment to conserving natural resources that sustain us today and in the future.

II. Roll Call of Districts – Secretary Caitlin Stewart and Miller performed the roll call, and the following 41 Conservation Districts were present:

Albany	Cortland	Herkimer	Oneida	St. Lawrence	Tompkins
Cayuga	Delaware	Jefferson	Onondaga	Saratoga	Warren
Chautauqua	Essex	Lewis	Ontario	Schenectady	Washington
Chemung	Franklin	Madison	Orange	Schoharie	Wayne
Chenango	Fulton	Monroe	Orleans	Seneca	Wyoming
Clinton	Genesee	Montgomery	Oswego	Steuben	Yates
Columbia	Hamilton	Niagara	Otsego	Suffolk	

III. Reading and approval of the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes – Stewart mentioned that Judy Bennett submitted spelling and grammar corrections.

- **A motion was made by Gerry Smithson, seconded by Allen Fagan to dispense with the reading and approve the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes as written. Carried.**

New York Association of Conservation Districts President Sam Casella reported that the National Association of Conservation Districts annual spring fly in will be virtual this year, as was the annual meeting. He continued that New York State’s Conservation Districts are leaders

in program execution. NYACD is grateful for state government, administration, Commissioner Ball, and Districts who get the work done. People look to New York State for guidance. The Department of Agriculture does fine work on behalf of Districts, and this work is being noticed across the United States.

IV. Review Slate of Officers – Past Conservation District Employees’ Association President Steve Lorraine reviewed the slate of officers and asked for any further nominations. None were made. He mentioned that nominations will be open until the end of the meeting. Miller mentioned it is not too late for others to add their name to the list.

- President – Dustin Lewis
- Vice President – Caitlin Stewart
- Secretary – Joann Burke
- Treasurer – Chastity Miller
- Member At Large – Dean Moore

V. Review and approval of the 2020 Treasurer’s Report – Treasurer Kristin White reviewed the report. Kelly Emerick inquired if a credit card fee was for Square for the 4-Hour Course. Miller replied that the expense was to purchase IScreen software for the course. White mentioned that protocol will be set for how income from the 4-Hour Course will be spent. Emerick inquired where the blue book expense was listed. White replied the blue book expense was listed as a new line item: Field Resources. The report is appended to the minutes.

- **A motion was made by Shawn Murphy, seconded by Judy Bennett to approve the 2020 Treasurer’s Report as presented. Carried.**

VI. Review and approval of 2021 Budget – White reviewed the budgets. Amanda Barber inquired if the balance of funds will be carried over into 2022. Miller replied yes. Emerick inquired about funds for Divisions. Miller replied that there is a line item in the budget for Divisions who want to host additional trainings in addition to their annual Division Meeting. If needed, Divisions may request more funding from the CDEA to hold trainings. The budget is appended to the minutes.

- **A motion was made by Caitlin Stewart, seconded by Ann Marie Calabro to approve the 2021 budget as presented. Carried.**

VII. Partner Reports

a. New York Association of Conservation Districts – Miller mentioned that NYACD Executive Director Blanche Hurlbutt was unable to attend the meeting, and her report is in the packet. Miller asked Districts to review the S4722 bill, A5386 bill, and s4162 bill, and send comments to Hurlbutt. The report is appended to the minutes.

b. New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee – Dale Stein, SWCC Representative-At-Large, mentioned that face to face meetings work very well, and he misses in person meetings, especially the CDEA Annual Meeting. Virtual meetings do draw a good crowd.

Brian Steinmuller, SWCC Assistant Director, shared highlights from the report, included in the packet and appended to the minutes. He thanked Miller and the CDEA. He reported that SWCC staff are still working remotely during this different and challenging time. Reflecting on the work that CDEA did on behalf of all SWCDs early on during the pandemic, the Association organized numerous managers meetings, set up resource pages on SharePoint, and went through unprecedented times and events as a team. CDEA Vice President Lewis and Miller established communication platforms, sent frequent emails, and facilitated meetings, giving Districts a network and support that was needed to work through the pandemic. Excellent classes have been held during this year's Water Quality Symposium.

c. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service – State Conservationist Blake Glover shared highlights from his report, included in the packet and appended to the minutes. He thanked Miller for her leadership, and the CDEA and 4-way partnership who all worked for the betterment of producers across the state. 2020 was one heck of a year for all of us, and he cannot say enough of the 4-way partnership that got us to the finish line. NRCS has great employees. When systems became bogged down, NRCS staff worked around the clock to obligate 100% of funds by the end of the year. A new Acting Chef started 4 weeks ago. Financially, money used for producers around the state has not changed for FY 2021. Looking to the 3rd quarter, NRCS hopes to make operational decisions, agreements, and purchase new vehicles. NRCS now has a great opportunity in hiring through a direct program. Glover mentioned that NRCS has 16 open positions in state, and to please spread the word about these vacancies. He is looking forward to returning to face-to-face gatherings and meetings.

Larry Underwood thanked Glover for his partnership that kept things going through the pandemic. NRCS efforts at the agency and local level are appreciated. Underwood thanked Steinmuller for the hard work on pandemic issues at the state level. The State Committee made state funds a priority, and ensured those funds were released to Districts. We need to focus on the fact that we will get through this, and hit the ground running. Underwood wanted to state his appreciation for the SWCC, Commissioner Ball, Steinmuller, Glover, and NRCS.

VIII. Northeast and National Conservation District Employees Association reports - Velynda Parker reported that Jeff Parker was unable to attend the meeting. She mentioned that the report is in the packet. Jeff Parker will attend a meeting on March 18 of the Northeast Association Planning Board. Miller thanked Parker. The report is appended to the minutes.

IX. New Employee Recognition - Each Division Representative recognized new employees during the Division meetings. The list of new employees is appended to the minutes. New employee gifts were mailed. Miller congratulated and welcomed the new employees, and asked staff to share their knowledge with them.

X. Years of Service Recognition - Each Division Representative recognized employees with 10 and 15 years of service during the Division meetings. Kristin Ballou recognized employees with 20 years and over of service during the Annual Meeting. Pins and certificates were mailed.

XI. Officer Reports

a. President – Miller mentioned that her report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She thanked Districts for the opportunity to serve as CDEA President, and looks forward to moving forward with more improvements.

b. Vice President – Lewis mentioned that his report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. He thanked the Water Quality Symposium planning committee who worked so hard to make the event a success. He looks forward to returning to in-person trainings.

c. Member at Large – Moore mentioned that his report is in the packet and appended to the minutes.

d. Secretary – Stewart mentioned that her report is in the packet and appended to the minutes, along with the Invasive Species Advisory Committee report. She mentioned that it has been a pleasure and fantastic learning experience to serve as CDEA Secretary. If elected as Vice President, she will serve in a more involved role. She encouraged all District staff to consider serving on the CDEA Executive Committee, as a Division Representative, or join a committee. These are wonderful opportunities to help and become more involved.

XII. Division Reports

a. Division I – Collins mentioned that his report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. He congratulated Division I for progress on climate resilient farming. He won the election and will serve another term.

b. Division II – Buchta mentioned that his report is in the packet and appended to the minutes.

c. Division III – Dulanski mentioned that her report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She won the election, and will serve another term. Please support the Frank Bratt Scholarship by donating directly to or bidding during the silent auction.

d. Division IV – Murphy mentioned that his report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. He thanked Dulanski for her assistance with organizing the silent auction.

e. Division V – Ballou mentioned that her report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She won the election and will serve another term.

f. Division VI – Luke mentioned that her report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She mentioned that fertilizers will be available in 2022.

g. Division VII – Sommerville mentioned that her report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She won the election and will serve another term.

h. Division VIII – Calabro mentioned that her report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She thanked the CDEA, SWCC, and NRCS for their support of Districts.

XIII. Committee Reports

a. Envirothon – Miller mentioned that Hurlbutt submitted her report, available in the packet and appended to the minutes. The state and regional event will be virtual, and more information is available on the website. New York State will host the national event in 2024. Volunteers and donations are needed.

b. Environmental Education Foundation - Miller mentioned that Mark Gaston submitted the report that is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She continued that one new member is needed. When you purchase from Amazon Smile, you financially support the EEF.

c. Conservation Skills Workshop – Tom Eskildsen mentioned that the report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. He thanked everyone who helped with the 2020 virtual event, and hopes to return to a traditional model this year.

d New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program – Miller mentioned that Jessica Verrigni submitted the report that is in the packet and appended to the minutes.

e. Empire Farm Days - White mentioned that the report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She has not heard about this year's event.

f. New York State Fair – White mentioned that the report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. She does not know if the event will be held this year.

g. 4 HR On-Line Sediment and Erosion Control Training for Contractors – Miller reviewed the financial report, including income. CDEA will create a policy for funds generated by this program. She thanked everyone involved who helped develop the training.

h. Frank Bratt Scholarship – Collins encouraged everyone to apply for the scholarship. His report is in the packet and appended to the minutes. He reviewed the proposed by-laws change.

XIV. By-Law Changes – Miller mentioned that she emailed the proposed changes to the by-laws state-wide. She displayed the suggested changes on Zoom, and reviewed them.

- **A motion was made by Aaron Buchta, seconded by Ann Marie Calabro to accept the NYS CDEA By-Law revisions to the Frank Bratt Scholarship and the Environmental Education Foundation. Carried.**

XV. Resolutions – Miller mentioned that she emailed a state-wide request and did not receive any resolutions, and none were received from the floor.

XVI. Other Business from the Floor – none.

Miller encouraged everyone to ask questions, to reach out to the Executive Board members and Division Representatives with thoughts or concerns.

XVII. Election of Officers – Lorraine reviewed the slate of officers, and asked for any other nominations from the floor. None were made.

- **A motion was made by Nichelle Swisher, seconded by Aaron Buchta to close the nominations and have the secretary cast one unanimous ballot for President (Dustin Lewis), Vice President (Caitlin Stewart), Secretary (Joann Burke), Treasurer (Chastity Miller), and Member At Large (Dean Moore). Carried.**

Suspended for a break with music at 3:16 PM.

Reconvened at 3:22 PM.

XVIII. Awards – Murphy and Calabro hosted the CDEA Awards Program.

Miller thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Lewis thanked the Water Quality Symposium track chairs and those involved with the event. He looks forward to an in-person symposium in 2022 at the Double Tree Hotel in Syracuse. He thanked Miller for putting together a phenomenal meeting.

XIX. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Nichelle Swisher, seconded by Shawn Murphy to adjourn the 2021 Annual New York State Conservation District Employees' Association Meeting at 4:19 p.m. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secret

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2020 Bank Report**

	<u>Dec 31, 20</u>	<u>Dec 31, 19</u>
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING		
General NYSCDEA Funds	59,424.64	51,642.87
4-Hour Online Course	284,226.11	103,113.20
Conservation Skills	19,528.37	18,638.56
Golf Tournament	4,332.48	4,228.85
Leadership Conference	2,863.13	2,863.13
NYSESCC Program	3,453.60	4,050.00
NYS Envirothon	71,597.69	42,305.57
NYS Fair	5,989.45	6,350.50
Resource Training Checking	5,331.80	5,000.00
Sunshine Fund	907.93	907.93
Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING	<u>457,655.20</u>	<u>239,100.61</u>
Envirothon Scholarship Savings	9,090.87	10,588.15
Frank Bratt Scholarship Savings	31,222.61	28,356.33
Resource Training Savings	<u>27,058.23</u>	<u>27,050.69</u>
Total Checking/Savings	525,026.91	305,095.78
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable		
Envirothon Receivables	-8,500.00	0.00
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-8,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Accounts Receivable	<u>-8,500.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Assets	<u>516,526.91</u>	<u>305,095.78</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>516,526.91</u>	<u>305,095.78</u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
Credit Card - Kristin-2353	493.85	0.00
Total Credit Cards	<u>493.85</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Total Current Liabilities	493.85	0.00

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2020 Budget vs. Actual**

ACCOUNT	2020 Budget		2020 Actual	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,670.00	\$4,247.90
Field Resources for Districts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,647.08
Training Sessions:				
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00		
CSW	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$889.81	
WQS	\$130,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$115,690.00	\$94,696.95
4-Hour Online Course	\$100,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$183,836.90	\$2,723.99
NYS ESCCP	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$11,438.15	\$12,034.55
Trainings		\$8,000.00		\$132.62
WQS Resource Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,647.54	\$2,308.20
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		\$5,000.00		\$4,875.00
Donations:				
Envirothon Scholarship		\$2,500.00		
Donations-Other-EEF		\$1,500.00		
Executive Board		\$7,000.00		\$1,969.93
Insurance		\$3,500.00		\$3,025.61
Promo/Website		\$500.00		\$637.80
National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting (NACD)		\$2,400.00		
National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Meeting (NACDNE)		\$3,000.00		
National Conservation District Employees Association Dues (NCDEA)		\$200.00		\$200.00
Newsletter		\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00
Sunshine Fund		\$200.00		
Office Supplies		\$5,000.00		\$3,459.19
Ronny Raindrop™		\$8,000.00		
Division I		\$500.00		
Division II		\$500.00		
Division III		\$500.00		
Division IV		\$500.00		
Division V		\$500.00		
Division VI		\$500.00		
Division VII		\$500.00		
Division VIII		\$500.00		
Carryover				
TOTALS	\$248,500.00	\$237,800.00	\$320,172.40	\$136,458.82

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2020 Budget vs. Actual**

Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fish Challenge			\$500.00	\$200.00
Frank Bratt	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,842.28	\$1,976.00
NYS Envirothon	\$58,715.00	\$58,715.00	\$25,057.00	\$4,264.88
2024 NCF Envirothon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,020.00	\$0.00
Envirothon Scholarships	\$2,500.00	\$9,050.00	\$2.72	\$1,500.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$5,400.00	\$6,982.25	\$5,200.00	\$5,561.05
Golf Tournament	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,730.00	\$1,626.37
SSA Totals	\$73,115.00	\$81,247.25	\$42,352.00	\$15,128.30
Grand Total	\$321,615.00	\$319,047.25	\$362,524.40	\$151,587.12

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2021 Proposed Budget**

ACCOUNT	2020 Budget		Actual 12/31/2020		2021 Budget	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$5,670.00	\$4,247.90	\$ -	\$ -
Field Resources for Districts	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,647.08	\$ -	\$ -
Training Sessions:						
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00			\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
CSW	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$889.81		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
WQS	\$130,000.00	\$105,000.00	\$115,690.00	\$94,696.95	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
4-Hour Online Course	\$100,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$183,836.90	\$2,723.99	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
NYS ESCCP	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$11,438.15	\$12,034.55	\$ 18,500.00	\$ 14,500.00
Trainings		\$8,000.00		\$132.62		\$ 8,000.00
Leadership Conference						\$ 3,000.00
WQS Resources Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,647.54	\$2,308.20	\$ -	\$ -
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		\$5,000.00		\$4,875.00		\$ 5,000.00
Donations:						
Envirothon Scholarship		\$2,500.00				\$ 2,500.00
Donations-Other-EEF		\$1,500.00				\$ -
Executive Board		\$7,000.00		\$1,969.93		\$ 7,000.00
Insurance		\$3,500.00		\$3,025.61		\$ 3,500.00
Promo/Website		\$500.00		\$637.80		\$ 100.00
National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting (NACD)		\$2,400.00				\$ 2,400.00
National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Meeting (NACDNE)		\$3,000.00				\$ 3,000.00
National Conservation District Employees Association Dues (NCDEA)		\$200.00		\$200.00		\$ 200.00
Newsletter		\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00		\$ 3,500.00
Sunshine Fund		\$200.00				\$ 200.00
Office Supplies		\$5,000.00		\$3,459.19		\$ 5,000.00
Ronny Raindrop™		\$8,000.00				\$ 16,000.00
Division I		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division II		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division III		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division IV		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division V		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division VI		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division VII		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Division VIII		\$500.00				\$ 500.00
Carryover						
TOTALS	\$248,500.00	\$237,800.00	\$320,172.40	\$136,458.82	\$ 159,500.00	\$ 146,900.00

**New York State Conservation District
Employees' Association, Inc.
Treasurer's Report: 2021 Proposed Budget**

Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fish Challenge			\$500.00	\$200.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00
Frank Bratt	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$4,842.28	\$1,976.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
NYS Envirothon	\$58,715.00	\$58,715.00	\$25,057.00	\$4,264.88	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 60,000.00
2024 NCF Envirothon	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,020.00	\$0.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -
Envirothon Scholarships	\$2,500.00	\$9,050.00	\$2.72	\$1,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$5,400.00	\$6,982.25	\$5,200.00	\$5,561.05	\$ 5,200.00	\$ 5,200.00
Golf Tournament	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,730.00	\$1,626.37	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
SSA Totals	\$73,115.00	\$81,247.25	\$42,352.00	\$15,128.30	\$ 80,700.00	\$ 74,400.00
Grand Total	\$321,615.00	\$319,047.25	\$362,524.40	\$151,587.12	\$ 240,200.00	\$ 221,300.00



New York Association of Conservation Districts
c/o Steuben County SWCD
415 W. Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
www.nyacd.org

Legislative Days – I am still making appointments for Legislative Days as request have been made and waiting for Legislators to respond. I am starting to schedule Legislators for Monday instead of our usual Tuesday meetings since all of Tuesdays time slots are filled. Chastity Miller, CDEA President has volunteered to cover a few of the meetings along with myself with Legislators that their Districts have not signed up to meet with.

There will be no Monday evening discussion this year. I have completed letters and information for those attending in will mail &/or email to those attendees the points of discussion to share with the Legislators.

The proposed 2021 state budget includes the EFP funds with an increased for Soil & Water Districts by \$1 million. It is our hope to share this with the Legislators and encourage them to support that increase after they see and hear what SWCD's do for NY's soil & water.

I have received good reports regarding this year's Legislative booklet. Which is always nice to hear from folks enjoying the booklet.

Upcoming CDEA Meeting – I have written a report to provide at the upcoming CDEA meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday morning January 28th at 10:00 a.m. I will not be able to stay for the whole meeting due to Envirothon meeting at 11:00 a.m. If anyone would like to attend as well let me know & I will provide you with the Zoom link.

CDEA Annual Meeting – Reports for the CDEA WQS annual booklet has been completed and forwarded to Chastity Miller, CDEA President.

Upcoming Meetings - Thursday, January 28th meeting with NYS Envirothon & 2024 NCF-Envirothon NY. There will be a discussion on the state committee hosting a statewide regional event to help Districts that would like to host one but are unable to.

2021 NYACD Annual Meeting - I'm hoping this can be a face-to-face meeting but waiting on the Governor to determine if this is possible. Once I know more, I will keep everyone updated and move forward accordingly.

NYACD Meeting – Next NYACD meeting is Wednesday evening, February 24, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Blanche

Blanche L. Hurlbutt
NYACD Executive Director
January 28, 2021



NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Report to the 2021 CDEA Annual Meeting

From the Office of the State Committee

The State Committee wishes to thank the CDEA for continued service and support. 2020 has been a very different and challenging year, testing our resolve and ability to improvise, adapt and overcome. It has been my observation and experience that County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have risen to meet these challenges and with the leadership demonstrated by each of you and your respective Boards, Districts continue to perform at the highest levels to get conservation on the ground. You should all be commended for developing and implementing plans to continue to safely provide incredibly important services to your farms and communities.

Thank you for your continued service!

Brian Steinmuller
Assistant Director

Notable Activities and Program Overview

State Aid to Districts Behind the Numbers:

The 2020 State Aid to Districts Program was reviewed in late February 2021 and will be processed in mid-March 2021. With over \$10.5 million available, a Conservation District that earns full Part A reimbursement, receives \$6,000 in conservation project funding, and meets all Performance Measures will receive an estimated total of **\$178,000**. Part C awards are estimated at a total maximum earned of **\$112,000**. This is the second time Part C funding eclipsed \$100,000. This continues a positive trend with more Districts meeting and exceeding Performance Measures each year. Performance Measure funding is weighted high with **\$6.4 million** distributed across all participating Districts.

Policies and procedures continue to evolve over the 14 years that the State Aid Program has included a multi-tiered approach. The State Committee endeavors each year to improve its procedures, solicit feedback, and execute the program in both an effective and efficient manner. Regional Field Staff continue to make themselves available to assist Districts in meeting PMs throughout the reporting year and to review program reports to help ensure accuracy and completeness.

The State Committee worked with the Department of Agriculture and Markets in 2019 to ratify recent changes to the law through the Rules and Regulations process. In February 2020, the regs were adopted providing a consistent path forward in delivering the State Aid to Districts Program.

Due to COVID-19, the State Committee made extensive changes to the 2020 State Aid to Districts Part C Performance Measures in April 2020.

- PM1: the award has been reduced to 0%. Questions remain the same but there is no money tied to this PM. Failure to complete questions or not meeting the intent of this PM will not result in any penalty.

- PM2: the award has been increased to 15%. Questions 2a & 2b have been combined into one question that includes all the items for presentations, reports, publication, education, and outreach. Only 3 of these items are required. 2c: Annual Plan of Work is required and due to SWCC Regional AEs by November 1st.
- PM3: the award has been increased to 35%. Only 2 of the 7 questions need to be completed to meet the requirement. Question PM3.2 (partnerships between the District and different local, state, federal, or private entities) only 2 partnerships are required.
- PM4: the award has been increased to 50%. Only 3 Natural Resource Conservation Programs are required.
- PM5: the award has been reduced to 0%. Questions remain the same but there is no money tied to this PM. Failure to complete questions under this PM would not result in any penalty.

Source Water Buffer Program:

The Source Water Buffer Program was launched in January 2019 and was revamped July 2019. Led by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the goal of the Source Water Buffer Program is to protect active sources of public drinking water and support, expand or enhance water quality protection through the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands. Such projects shall preserve or establish buffers for surface or ground waters which serve as or are tributaries to public drinking water supplies.



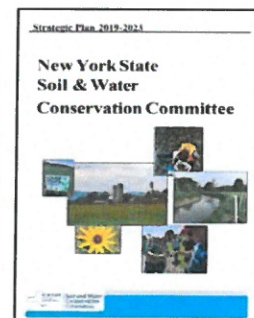
\$4.9 million in program funds are available for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands that support, expand or enhance water quality protection of active public drinking water sources. Program funds will also be available for the implementation of Riparian Buffer Systems within the conservation easement area that will provide further protection to water quality. For more information, please contact Bethany Bzduch, Associate Environmental Analyst, bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov.

State Committee staff provides support of District Operations:

Regional Coordinators assist District staff and Directors at monthly Board Meetings to aid in discussions and decisions for the advancement of Districts. Staff in the Albany Office have focused on providing programmatic, operational and technical support through the development of policies, training modules, and facilitation of training events. Monthly reports are provided to each State Committee region that includes program deadlines, funding opportunities, information related to State Committee meetings and important agenda items, and regionally significant achievements/opportunities. Since COVID-19 forced many SWCD Boards to meet remotely, Regional AEs have been able to attend many more meetings, in some cases, multiple meetings in a single day.

2019-2023 State Committee Strategic Plan Approved:

The 2019-2023 State Committee Strategic Plan was approved in July 2019. The Strategic Plan begins with recognition of the Committee members and stating the Committee’s mission, vision, and values. It then moves into the goals the Committee expects to achieve/advance over the five-year planning horizon. Each of the three major areas (Conservation District Operations/Technical Services/Program Delivery, Comprehensive Natural Resource Management, and Cooperative Conservation) begins with a goal, and continues with objectives to meet those goals. The goals reflect an overarching, long-term



vision for how the Committee and Districts can grow in that area. The goal is refined into an achievable framework through measurable objectives for the 2019 – 2023 planning horizon. The Strategic Plan can be found on the recently updated SWCC website at: <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/about-soil-water-conservation-committee#reports-and-publications>.

AEM Program – AEM Planner Certification and AEM Base:

A total of 51 certified planners are now doing CNMP work across the state, with 18 of those SWCD employees across 16 Districts.

Developed in 2019 and launched January 1, 2020, the State Committee made a new non-competitive cost-share component available for the AEM Base Program. In order to make this possible, the State Committee set aside over \$11 million from the AgNPS EPF Budget line. Round 16 includes up to \$100,000 over a two-year period for the implementation of AEM Tier 3 plans. This program places more authority in the hands of District Boards to prioritize projects for funding without having to compete for limited resources. In addition to the cost-share component, technical assistance reimbursement is available: \$220,000 will be available for a two year period for a District who has a certified AEM Planner on staff; \$170,000 will be available for a two year period for a District who has a Certified Crop Advisor or NRCS Certified Planner on staff; and \$130,000 will be available for all other Districts.

AEM Base Program R16 – Action Plan Numbers

52 Districts (up from 51) submitted AEM R16 Action Plans

- 45 for Technical Assistance (TA) + Tier 4 Cost-Share (CS) Tracks
- 7 for TA Track

\$11.2M awarded

\$7.1M for TA Track (work through the 5 AEM Tiers)

\$4.1M for new AEM Tier 4 CS Track implementation projects

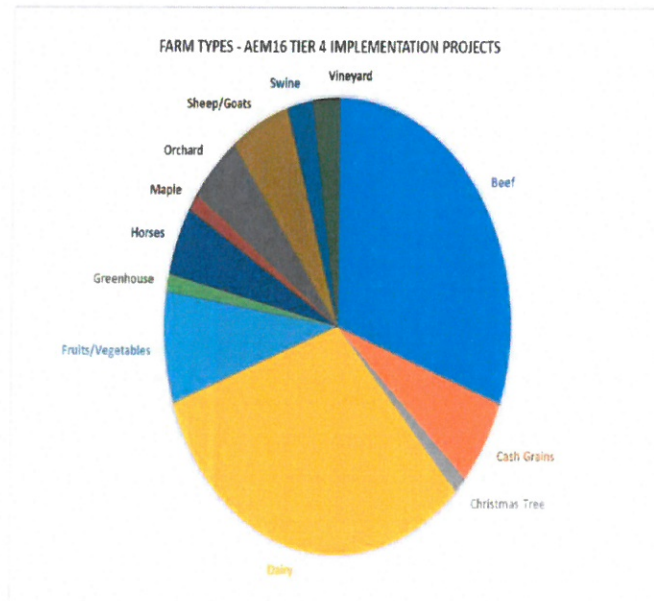
163 Tier 4 CS projects on as many farms!

Avg. Tier 4 CS projects per District = 3.6 (Range: 1-11 projects)

Avg. State share per farm project: ~\$25K

Avg. Landowner share per project: ~\$13K

Broad range of farm types and BMP



AEM Base Program Years 1 – 15 (2005 – 2019) - Comparison of Accomplishments

Deliverable	Yr15*	Yr14	Yr13	Yr12	Yr11	Yr10	Yr9	Yr8	Yr7	Yr6	Yr5	Yr4	Yr3	Yr2	Yr1
Inventories (Tier 1)	380	531	427	563	523	442	456	556	605	605	537	873	1041	1263	2119
Assessments (Tier 2)	248	398	280	329	401	312	230	341	382	433	393	593	651	961	810
Conservation Plans (Tier 3)	275	319	227	244	185	202	241	220	266	280	240	406	333	387	197
BMP Implementation (Tier 4)	254	211	236	258	250	231	267	242	259	241	278	283	210	97	-
BMP Implementation (ACRF)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	42	268	-	-	-	-	-	-
Evaluation – Update of Assessment (Tier 5A)	123	174	203	223	224	131	81	104	101	131	113	87	91	99	188
Evaluation – update of cons. plan or evaluation of BMP (Tier 5B)	378	449	381	447	351	372	392	327	301	314	287	257	129	112	82

*AEM 15 spanned eight months rather than the 12-month period historically used for AEM Base Program years.

Statewide AEM/Leopold Conservation Award:

Sang Lee Farms of Peconic has been selected for New York’s inaugural AEM-Leopold Conservation Award (LCA). Awarded by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the AEM-LCA award honors Sang Lee Farms, along with the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, for their efforts to protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality while ensuring farm viability for future generations.

Sang Lee, one of Suffolk County’s largest vegetable farms, is owned and operated by father and son, Fred and William Lee. The family grows more than 100 varieties of specialty fruit and vegetables on their 97-acre certified organic farm. An early adopter of the AEM program, Sang Lee Farms uses modern technology and environmental best practices, including annual crop rotation to aid pest management, and inter-seeding of cover crops to suppress weeds, increase soil fertility, and to protect and conserve water resources.

For the first time, New York’s longstanding Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award has joined forces with the nationally recognized Leopold Conservation Award® program. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo



Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award (LCA) recognizes farmers, foresters and other landowners across the U.S. who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on working land. The award is presented to landowners in 21 states.

AEM/Leopold Award Applications for 2021 are due to AGM by April 1st, 2021. For more information, please contact Judy Littrell at judy.littrell@agriculture.nv.gov.

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program:

In October 2019, grants were awarded to Districts under Round 25 of the AgNPS Program totaling \$16.3 million. Grant awards were made to 47 project proposals. State Committee staff are managing 166 active contracts, representing roughly \$60 million invested in agricultural conservation efforts across the state.

The Round 26 RFP was released in December 2019 and currently program awards are pending. When Round 26 is released, it is expected to add another \$15 million in awards.

Climate Resilient Farming Program:

On July 26th, 2019, \$2.3 million was awarded to 20 different Districts for Round 4 of the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program. Projects were funded on 24 farms with the aim of reducing farms impact on climate change (mitigation) and helping farms to be more resilient to the impacts of climate change (adaptation). Funding was awarded in three tracks: Manure Storage Cover and Flare; Water Management; and Soil Health.

Round 5 of the CRF Program was also released in December 2019 and project proposals were due on March 2nd, 2020. Round 5 was awarded on February 17th, 2021 with \$4 million across three tracks of funding: \$2 million for Manure Storage Cover and Flare; \$1 million for Water Management, and \$1 million for the Healthy Soils NY Program. This is the largest funding round thus far, with continued program growth expected into the future.

State Committee staff are managing 56 active CRF contracts, representing roughly \$5.8 million invested in climate change mitigation and agricultural and community resiliency efforts across the state.

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA):

The CLCPA was signed into law in July 2019 and took effect early in 2020. The CLCPA sets very ambitious goals including a 40% reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030, and 85% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, which taken together with a carbon sequestration goal, carbon neutrality achieved by that same year. The CLCPA also sets goals for the State's electricity grid to be carbon neutral by 2040. In order to accomplish these goals, the state will be drafting a scoping plan by 2022 that will cover major economic sectors as well as considerations of equity and just transitions to a clean, to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

The CLCPA sets up a Climate Action Council and a number of advisory panels of experts in various sectors to build out recommendations for the scoping plan. The Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel is chaired by AGM Commissioner Richard Ball and includes 18 professionals representing academia, public policy, farming and forestry interests, and Soil and Water Conservation District activities. The panel has met eight times since September and is nearing completion of a set of recommendations in the following subtopics for Climate Action Council consideration and approval:

- Forests and Forestry Management
- Avoided Forestland and Agricultural land Conversions
- Bioeconomy
- Soil Health/Nutrient Management
- Livestock/Dairy Management
- Agroforestry



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service



FY 2020 Partner Report



BLAKE GLOVER
STATE CONSERVATIONIST NY

The 2020 Annual Meeting was the last gathering I attended before our lives were abruptly changed by the pandemic. So much has changed in the past year, challenging us all both personally and professionally. Who would have thought that ZOOM would become our lifeline and such an integral part of how we communicate? Now, we can't live without it!

As an organization, NRCS seemed to pivot overnight. While we experienced many hiccups along the way, our 2020 conservation story is a success due to the hard work and adaptability of employees and partners alike. The word "gratitude" comes to mind when I think back on 2020, gratitude for our employees and partners rolling up their sleeves in cooperation to get conservation on the ground despite seemingly untenable circumstances. The past year proves we can accomplish great things when we work together and set our minds to it.

I sincerely look forward to the future as we strive to address the conservation needs of both rural and urban communities across this great state.

FUNDS OBLIGATED IN FY2020

Environmental Quality
Incentive Program
(EQIP)
\$12,010,545.33

Conservation
Stewardship Program
(CSP)
\$2,708,767.20

Easements
\$1,230,762.48

Total Obligated Funds
are more than
\$15,000,000

*(not all programs with funds
obligated are listed)*

2021 brings Exciting Opportunities in Urban Agriculture

Urban agriculture pioneers are taking action in their communities, growing not only fresh, healthy produce, but also providing jobs, beautifying their neighborhoods, and offering access to fresh, healthy food in areas where grocery stores are sparse.

As American agriculture continues to grow in new directions, NRCS conservation assistance is growing along with it. NRCS NY is providing **TECHNICAL** assistance and **\$600,000** in **FINANCIAL assistance** through our **Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)** program in FY2021 for urban growers in areas such as **Soil Health, Irrigation and Water Conservation, Weeds and Pests, and High Tunnels**

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.



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

Jeffrey Parker
NYSCDEA Representative/President

Due to the COVID pandemic last year, the annual meeting of the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees was cancelled to allow Conservation Districts to focus on how to maneuver and function through this time. The NACDE Executive Board felt this best to allow Conservation Districts to adjust to new ways of doing business and servicing customers.

A meeting was held couple of weeks ago to move forward where we, Northeast Association Conservation District Employees board, left off in 2019 on developing a strategic plan, complete an updated delegate & employee contact listing, planning for future Regional meetings with delivery of a leadership education program and producing 2021 newsletter (the Nor'Easter).

The 2020 Northeast Regional Conference hosted by New Hampshire was cancelled as well to COVID pandemic. The planning committee has been actively discussing logistics of holding the meeting; however, nothing has been decided upon at this time. A zoom meeting is being plan for March on the possibility of delaying the meeting for a couple of months or to hold it virtual on some type of platform.

As a reminder, the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees (NACDE) has a travel stipend to attend the Northeast Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference. The stipend will be offered to employee applicants that are active in the affairs of NCDEA, or who may enrich their district, state or regional program by their attendance. If you have never attended a Northeast Region meeting before, I encourage you to do so this year and apply for the stipend.

The NACDE Conservation offers an Awards Program which includes an Employee and District Official award. The District Official award is for regional impacts and the employee award is for impacts at the local level. If there is a worthy candidate for either awards, please submit their name for consideration. Be on the lookout for the nomination form within the next couple of months.

Lastly, don't forget about the Don Aron Scholarship Award which is offered to conservation employee and their immediate family who is participating in a resource conservation curriculum while enrolled in an accredited college or university. The eligibility consists of employment of one year by Conservation District and have demonstrated integrity, ability, and competence in their work and possess skills gained through training or experience along with providing information of enrollment at an accredited college or university. The individual applying could receive up to \$1,000. You can find the form at www.ncdea.us.

Northeast Facts:

States in the Region

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

1,420 District Employees in Region

5 States with organized Employee Associations

4 District Employee Reps on state TLCs

5 States with organized Employee Committees

New Employees January 1 2020 - December 31, 2020				
Division I				
Emelyn Bell	Wyoming	District Technician	Nov	2020
Division II				
Dan Bowen	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	July	2019
Conor Larkin	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	January	2020
Christopher Travis	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	January	2020
Crystal Bailey	Yates	Senior Account Clerk	Jan	2020
Division III				
Andrew Haslauer	Madison	District Technician	Sept	2019
Laura Romanowicz	Oswego	Secretary/Treasurer	May	2020
Division IV				
Bailey Park	Broome	Natural Resource Assistant	Mar	2020
Andrew Glaspell	Cortland	Conservation Aide	Sept	2020
Justine McNeilly	Delaware	Technician	January	2020
Connor Hubbard	Tioga	Environmental Engineering Technician	Aug	2020
Division V				
Christopher Ballou	Franklin	District Technician	Jan	2020
Jaime Parslow	Hamilton	District Technician	Feb	2020
Division VI				
Doris Munro	Schenectady	Book Keeper	March	2020
Division VII - no new employees				
Division VIII - no new employees				

Years of Service Pin Recipients 2021					
Division I					
Scott Alsworth	Allegany	Agricultural Environmental Planner	Feb	2011	10
Christopher Fry	Erie	Conservation District Engineer	May	2011	10
Katie Sommerfeldt	Orleans	District Manager	May	2011	10
Melanie Saunders	Erie	Secretary/Treasurer	April	2006	15
Division II					
Kristin White	Monroe	Principal Office Account Clerk	March	2006	15
Eric Jensen	Onondaga	Resource Conservation Specialist	Sept	2006	15
James Sroka	Monroe	Soil & Water Resource Technician	June	2001	20
Doug Kierst	Cayuga	Executive Director	Dec	1996	25
Division III					
Alexis Lyndaker	Lewis	Watershed Ag Conservation Specialist	May	2011	10
Rhonda Redder	Jefferson	Administrative Assistance	March	2006	15
Mike Durant	Lewis	District Technician	Nov	2006	15
Carl Bartlett	Madison	District Technician	April	2006	15
Patty Casler	Madison	District Clerk/Treasurer	August	2006	15
Tim Wimmer	Oneida	Resource Conservation Specialist	Feb	2006	15
Joe Chairvolotti	Oswego	District Manager	Jan	2006	15
Division IV					
Kyle Buel	Delaware	Technician	March	2011	10
Angel Hinckle	Tompkins	Resource Conservation Specialist.	Aug	2011	10
Gideon Frisbee	Delaware	Technical Coordinator	Oct.	2006	15
Gale Neale	Delaware	Stream Technician	Sept	2001	20
Mike Jura	Tioga	Conservation District Technician	May	2001	20
Charles McElwee	Broome	Executive Director	Jan	1996	25
Stacy Russell	Cortland	Natural Resource Program Specialist	Jan	1996	25
Division V					
Lois Sayward	Essex	Secretary to the Board	March	2011	10
Division VI					
Scott Monica	Saratoga	District Technician	Feb	2006	15
Susan Lewis	Albany	Executive Director	June	2001	20
Nick Halford	Rensselaer	District Agronomy Technician	Oct	2001	20
Dave Pidgeon	Schenectady	Working Crew Leader	Aug	1996	25
John Kehoe	Schenectady	Heavy Equip. Operator	Jan	1991	30
Division VII					
Michele Lindsay	Columbia	Administrative Assistant	June	2011	10
Brenden Wagner	Sullivan	Stream Restoration Coordinator	Oct	2011	10
Bobby Taylor	Ulster	CSBI Coordinator	May	2011	10
Michelle Yost	Greene	WAP Coordinator	June	2006	15
John Kline	Sullivan	Engineering Tech	Jan	2006	15
Division VIII - no years of service recipients					



Presidents Report- Chastity Miller Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District

Well 2020 was a very different year for everyone! We made it! It was a doozie! Shortly after WQS, I mean the following Monday we all went into lock down. Many not going back to the office for a few months after WQS. Many worked from home in makeshift offices with their now remote kiddos running around. Zoom meetings are now the norm, and it is acceptable to have the cat run across the screen while you are giving an update on a program.

The most important part: Districts have shined more than ever in 2020 by continuing to do amazing projects and helping many of our community members. Tree sales went to deliveries and drive throughs, new partnerships with other districts to provide services and plans, more hydroseeding, more cover cropping, alternative field visits, many zoom calls, a virtual Conservation Skills Workshop, and let's not forget the quote of 2020 "Your on mute!" More people are soil sampling, water testing, planting trees and looking for at home projects than ever before. And through this all, Districts have continued to keep construction projects going, tree sales planned and online activities for the home-schooled remote learning kiddos!

Water Quality Symposium is officially all virtual. This will be interesting. We have over 280 people signed up and less classes, so there are many participants in each class, some are even at over 100 attendees. A huge thank you goes out to everyone who has worked hard on planning WQS. While virtual maybe seem easier, it is not. Thank you Dustin, Kristin White, Kristin Ballou, Caitlin, Dean Moore, Al Fagan, Jessica V, Bethany and Diana for all your hard work on putting these classes together.

While I hope you are reading this ahead of time and not while in the meeting... consider running for a position on the executive team of the NYSCDEA. We all encourage competition so if you are interested throw your hat in, contact me or Past President Steve Lorriane. We defiantly need candidates for the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Please consider running. It is a meeting every other month that can last from 2 to 4 hours and a few emails in the middle. Depending on the position there is a bit more or less to it. We are also shifting our 4-hour online course to new software and automating the payments and certificates a bit so it is less work on our Treasurer. As we kick start 2021 let's remember what we are thankful for, lets reach out a hand and help each other out, lets take a moment and connect to a District staff member you do not know and lets continue to be great just like we know Soil and Water Districts are! 2021 is going to be great! We have this! We are going to rock it!

I want to thank everyone who serves as a representative and/or as a committee member for the NYSCDEA. You all are absolutely amazing! It takes alot of time and energy to work on many of the projects that the employee association is involved in. There are so many that I cannot list everyone, since I am sure I would miss some! THANK YOU!

What can you do to help? Get involved, let us know what you want, offer to help out a bit even if it is just sending some items for donations to the State Envirothon, offering up coordinating a class for WQS, working a shift or 2 at the state fair, attending Legislative Days, sending a press

release, photo or article to the NYSCDEA newsletter, and serving on a committee! All this helps! Allot, so please consider it. You will make connections with others and network.

So this is the end of my 2 years as president and 2 as Vice President on NYSCDEA. It has been awesome, crazy, busy, challenging, a huge education, and inspirational! I have had the opportunity to forge relationships with people that I am not sure I would have had a chance to otherwise. I have learned how things are determined and policy's have been made. I would like to think that I have had the opportunity to have an influence on some positive growth and support for our Districts. I hope I can continue this also. I am truly grateful for my time on the NYSCDEA board so far and I hope I have represented Districts fairly and honestly.

Most importantly, a huge thank you goes to the staff at Franklin County Soil and Water! They have done just as much if not more than I have to make this event come together! THANK YOU Kristin, Allycia, Chris and Donna! You all are priceless!

Thank you everyone for your support, I am always here to help and to serve. We all have soil and water districts in our blood. We are a family and are amazing! I urge you to do your part. Find out what CDEA is and how you may be able to help. Sometimes it seems like the same people always step up. Please take a moment and do a little something, it has a huge impact on everyone. Soon we may be asking more people to review documents and plans, to serve on a committee or to volunteer a few hours. Please consider it. It is important and it does make a difference. My door is always open, you can call or stop in if you are up north! I am always willing to chat! Thank you everyone!



Coming up on the end of my second year as CDEA Vice-President it seems like only yesterday that I was elected. It also seems like only yesterday that we were all gathered in Syracuse talking about a new illness that was popping up across the country. Unfortunately, it will be another year before we are back in Syracuse participating in the high-level training that we are used to receiving at the Annual Water Quality Symposium. I also look forward to the afterhours get togethers where we would solve the world's problems over a pint or two.

This year's Symposium is one for the books where all of our classes and our annual meeting/awards banquet will be virtual. Fortunately, District staff along with our partners are known for their ability to adapt to new situations and overcome when needed. As a result, our Symposium carries on despite restrictions put in place. This year's Symposium boasts 24 classes over five days with more than 300 attendees. We have attendees from Districts spanning three states and welcome 27 students from the Ranger School. I am happy to see the NYSCDEA leading the way and helping to educate the District Employees of the future.

A special thank you to our other partner agencies that have helped this year, including the Natural Resources Conservation Service who you will find on the list of instructors. I would also like to thank the organizations listed below for their hard work making another successful and highly educational Symposium:

- Cornell University
- American Farmland Trust
- Ag and Markets
- Office of the State Comptroller
- NYSDEC
- EJ Prescott
- Xerces Society
- Town of Potsdam Town Clerk
- NYS Town Clerk's Association
- Alfred Piombino
- NIACS
- American Dairy Association North East
- Northeast Bowie Sales llc
- NYSDOL – PESH
- Empire State Forest Products Association
- CCE Dutchess County
- SUNY-ESF

The NYSCDEA was formed in March of 1975, was incorporated in 1983, and received it's 501(c)6 tax exempt status in 1989. The Association has focused resources on creating and fostering opportunities for employee networking, professional development, and district outreach and promotion. It is made up of 58 Soil and Water Districts in NYS, and has 13 members of the board that you elect! There are 8 Divisions across the state:

- 1- Frank Bratt Scholarship (Scott Collins)
- 2- Historical Archives (Aaron Buchta)
- 3- Silent Auction/ Bucket Raffle- Assist with State Fair (Raeanne Dulanski)
- 4- Silent Auction/ Bucket Raffle- Assist State Fair (Shawn Murphy)
- 5- New Employees (Kristin Ballou)
- 6- Fertilizer Tablets (Amber Luke)
- 7- Awards (Erin Sommerville)
- 8- Awards (Ann Marie Calabro)



There are many committees/programs:

- Frank Bratt- Scholarships for educational opportunities
- State Fair- Outreach and education
- Environmental Education Foundation- Assistance to the State Envirothon
- Municipal Assistance Subcommittee- committee for all other than agriculture
- TAC- technical agricultural committee
- Operations Manual- how districts work
- Conservation Skills- another awesome educational opportunity
- State Envirothon- teaching the future in a competition setting.
- Invasive Species- outreach and education
- Ronny the Raindrop- Our mascot

As I hand over the reigns of the Water Quality Symposium to a new brave soul, I would like to put in a plug for working on the WQS. Every year a dedicated group of individuals from across New York State comes together to plan one of the largest and may I say best training opportunities for District staff and Partners alike. There is a great deal of work that goes in to this undertaking, even when it is held virtually, like it is this year. I would recommend that everyone seriously consider being part of planning this event. It is a great opportunity to have a say in what is presented as well as work with partners from around the state.

I am very much looking forward to seeing you all back at the Doubletree Hilton in Syracuse the week of March 14th in 2021.

CDEA Secretary and ISAC Report

The 2020 Water Quality Symposium was, for me, the last mass gathering before the Covid-19 pandemic shut down New York State. As we make the final preparations for the first ever virtual Symposium, I find myself feeling downhearted about the inability to hold valuable in-person trainings, build relationships beyond the District office, and cut loose in the hospitality suite. Being an optimist, I must find a glow of light in this dark situation. Record numbers of people have signed up for Education Track courses. I have gotten to know our presenters well before their classes during practice Zoom meetings. When we can meet again in person, I think we all will value those times even more.

Our CDEA Executive Committee, Division Representatives, and partners have been indefatigable throughout the pandemic. 2020 was an epic year for conservation. CDEA minutes are posted on the website at www.nyscdea.com

I publish the CDEA Newsletter bimonthly, and encourage you to submit your stories, photos, special recognitions, and save the dates to caitlinstewart@frontier.com. Special columns include the cover photo, CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour, and Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop? Please keep your news rolling in!

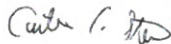
As the Conservation District member to the New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC), I attend quarterly meetings. Invasive Species Council (ISC) agencies, partners, or specialists, including other states, regions, and programs with successful invasive species initiatives, presented status reports and project findings during the meetings. Some of the 2020 ISAC initiatives include:

- Collaboration with NYIS.INFO, CCE IS Program, ISCU, ISC, and PRISMs, support the implementation of the 2016 -2021 Education and Outreach Strategic Plan including hosting events for Invasive Species Awareness Week and supporting the implementation of Invasive Species Prevention Act regulations, as needed/requested
- Foster learning and information sharing through regional/state/northeast cooperation
- Review Invasive Species Comprehensive Management Plan (ISCMP) and develop ISAC strategies for implementing the ISCMP
- Provide guidance on draft legislation and regulations, as needed/requested

Since 2017, it has been an absolute privilege to serve as CDEA Secretary. Now that I have finally memorized all the acronyms, I am stepping down from Secretary and am thrilled to run for Vice President. If elected, this position will give me the opportunity to be involved with CDEA on a deeper level.

I sincerely thank our CDEA Executive Committee, Division Representatives, and partners for their diligent work that often goes unnoticed. District staff members are New York State's boots on the ground for conservation. I wish you all a healthy, safe, and productive 2021!

With gratitude and good health,



Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Secretary



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.

Dean L. Moore

Member at Large – NYS CDEA

Sr. District Technician

Warren County SWCD

Member at Large – Report for 2020

Request for Reimbursement's (RFR's) have been down a little this year. But for those that are sent in, they are typically responded to in a day, after signing and forwarding to Kristin and usually cc'd to original sender. All 2020 requests were accurate and appropriate. This job is made easy as Kristin White is good at what she does.

I have been relaying information on the municipal assistance subcommittee back to the CDEA board with the help of Ryan Cunningham and PJ Emerick. Covid-19 has set back the time line for progress in this area as the lack of partners meetings added to the delay in communication. During this frustrating hiatus, Chastity created a base template for Districts to use for data collection that can assist with grant applications. We continue to press forward to develop this program and resource for Districts.

I have been assisting Dustin Lewis NYS ESC Certification committee as needed. There has been no activity in the Management Training Program. I am happy to assist any on this path or wish to know more about the program.

I have been in communication with several division representatives throughout the year that have reached out to me to discuss topics including Envirothon, Hydroseeding and Forestry Site visits.

Respectfully,

2021 Division I Annual Report

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

As the Division I Representative it is my task to make sure that the Frank Bratt Scholarship Application announcement gets out to everyone and to oversee the applications. Additional changes have been made to the Frank Bratt bylaws to make funding available quicker and clarify allowable costs within the scholarship. I hope everyone takes advantage of any training/workshop opportunities that can benefit their roles in the district.

A Division I meeting will be held on February 24, 2021 to discuss program updates and other training opportunities. Division meetings are an important and good opportunity to meet other District employees to share opinions and concerns on the topics of the day and network collectively among partners.

As a summary of Division I county activity I reviewed the Climate Resilient Farming Round 5 awards. Division I counties were awarded funding 9 projects costing nearly \$700,000 dollars (17.5% of total budget) in state funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for extreme weather events caused by climate change. In addition, Division I counties submitted multiple joint and independent applications under other rounds/programs hopefully securing additional grant funding for water quality in the region. Great job Division I, in addition to all the other quality grants, programs and services you provide such as: AEM planning, watershed planning and lake initiatives, stormwater technical assistance, streambank restoration, environmental education/outreach, tree and shrub programs, invasive species removal, municipal assistance etc. etc. etc.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome new members to District employment in Division I for 2021. They include district technicians Olivia Dickenson (Cattaraugus Co.) and Emelyn Bell (Wyoming Co.).

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Collins, Niagara County SWCD, Division I Representative



NYS Conservation District Employees Association
www.nyscdea.com

Division II Report
2020 Annual Report

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

Cayuga: No Report Submitted

Livingston: No Report Submitted

Monroe:

- 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:

- Completing many projects in the Otisco Lake Watershed funded in part with OCWA assistance: two grazing projects, one roof runoff structure under a manure dry stack, and multiple cover crop and nutrient management reimbursements.
- 1,978 acres of cover crop planted throughout the county (excluding the Skaneateles Lake watershed).
- Completing revisions to CNMP submitted by former employee for beef operation in Ninemile Creek watershed.
- Pasture System completed for beef farm in Upper Tioughnioga watershed.
- Working with the Tully-Cortland Kettle Lakes Association on an Environmental Shorescaping (Buffer) program.
- Completed a Pasture Management System on sheep operation in the Oneida Lake watershed.
- Preparing four 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)
- 1 acre 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 galon manure storage
- 1,118 acres of cover crops planted on corn silage ground
- 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
- 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
- 3.5 manure storages will be constructed in the County this construction 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
- 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
- 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 with a 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.
- .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:

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 Submitted*

Submitted by,

Aaron Buchta
Resource Conservation Specialist
NYS CDEA Division II Representative



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

The responsibilities of Division III include assisting with State Fair and working with Division IV to organize and coordinate the Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction at the Water Quality Symposium.

Division III Unique Projects Showcase:

Herkimer County – Hydroseeding in the Adirondacks project

In September of 2020, a large hydroseeding project took place in the Town of Webb. YMCA Camp Gorham contacted the District to hydroseed more than 48,000 square feet of bare soil as a result of recent improvements to their wastewater management system. This critical area seeding was crucial in preventing soil erosion that would impact the water quality of Dart’s Lake. Dart’s Lake is one of many lakes in the Adirondack Park that is rich in history from the late 1800s to present-day. The property was originally settled in the 1870s by William Henry Dart as a trapper’s camp. Since 1960, the property, now known as Camp Gorham, has been owned and operated by the non-profit YMCA of Greater Rochester.



Lewis County – 2020 Highlights

The Lewis County Soil and Water Conservation District had a busy year in 2020 despite of the chaos of Covid-19. Here are just a few of the highlights in 2020. Installation of the Lewis County Fairgrounds green infrastructure project began in September which comprised the construction of bioswales, pervious pavers and roof runoff collection and reuse. The District painted the world green again by hydroseeding over 17 municipal projects amounting to 22,660 feet of ditches and road/stream banks. The District assisted 25 local farmers planting over 1,151 acres of cover crops with the Interseeder and no-till seeder. Finally, the staff assisted residents of Beaver Lake who are concerned about drastic water level changes in the lake causing erosion and property damage. This District installed 5 pressure transducers around the lake to track water input from different subwatersheds and determine what tributaries contribute most to the drastic fluctuations. The landowners of the lake are in the process of forming a lake association and will examine the results from the sensor level readings.



Madison County – Erosion Control Project utilizing AEM Tier 4 Funding

The District was contacted by the farm to assist them in solving a severe erosion problem at the farmstead. As a result of severe storm event over the past few years water conveyance structures at the farm have been overwhelmed and significantly damaged. Working with the farm the District designed a series of grassed waterways, drop inlet structures with underground outlets, rock lined waterways and a large diversion to safely carry the water of the farmstead and away from the cropland that was being flooded during these events. Photos below: (L) The newly established diversion that is used as the safe outlet for the work completed above and protects the cropland below. (Center) The newly constructed rock lined waterway that carries runoff water from the road above the farmstead and to the diversion below. (R) Drop inlet structure with underground outlet carries runoff water to a safe outlet below.



Oswego County – Tree Planting Project

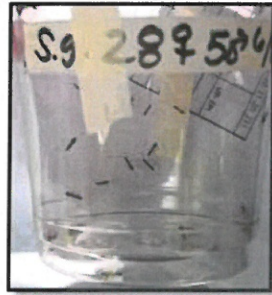
The annual Oswego County Conservation Field Day (CFD) was held in a virtual format for 2020, and despite wondering initially if there would be interest in such a format, it turned out to be a highlight of educational programming for the year! Six schools participated with a total of 325 students. Two schools took part in the program for the first time in many, many years. To set up the program, all previous presenters were contacted and asked if they would like to submit a video or have the CFD program coordinator go to their location and record the presentation. Presenters were also asked to supply an activity if possible. In the end, 15 videos and 8 activities were made available to participating teachers via a Google Drive folder. Twelve videos were submitted and 3 were recorded by the CFD Coordinator. As a follow-up activity, teachers were asked to have their students write thank-you letters to the presenters. The letters were then forwarded to the presenters who enjoyed reading the feedback and comments from the fifth graders. The letters are part of the in-person CFD and it was important to carry on the tradition as it is not only beneficial for the students to have an activity to re-cap their experience, but the presenters really look forward to the letters. Two photos clipped from the videos are shown below. (L) Bird Watching and Nature Exploration and (R) Trapping as a Wildlife Management Tool (the presenter is using 2 containers of water to demonstrate the population fluctuation in a beaver pond). To any District considering a virtual CFD, our experience was completely positive and the teachers (particularly the ones who were 100% teaching remotely) were thrilled to have access to the videos and activities. Virtual CFD turned out to be the next best thing to the in-person event.



St. Lawrence County – Slow Ash Mortality Project

The District providing assistance with a USDA APHIS and Forest Service Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) integrated pest management study that is currently underway. This study will look at the survivorship between parasitoids and EAB populations over the next 10 years and the efficacy of biocontrol's in protecting regeneration of aftermath ash forests.

The District Forester found suitable release sites, the presence of EAB larvae, did the parasitoid releases, and helped with laying out a sampling grid, tree tagging and tree data collection. These trees have been/will be treated (200 trees) over the next 10 years to keep the parasitoids alive and then they will stop treating them to see if the biocontrol can keep up and protect the trees after EAB populations collapse in the aftermath forest.



Respectfully submitted,
Raeanne Dulanski
NYSCDEA Division III Rep



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

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 – 2020/21

Division Updates:

Adaptation and resiliency-

Since last year's Water Quality Symposium (WQS), our County Soil and Water Conservation Districts have proven how well they can adapt, facing the shared challenge of Covid-19. Interrupting the status quo and providing some of us a crash course in current technologies, the past year has challenged us to flexibly implement conservation and provide service to our respective communities. We utilized more social media including website and blog posts, videos and virtual tours and workshops to educate about conservation in a contact-less way of doing business.

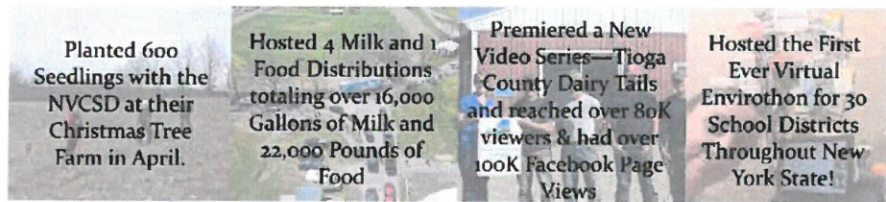
While we didn't have a true Division meeting since the last WQS, we all managed to keep tabs on each other via bi-monthly CDEA meeting inquiries and updates, managers meetings and participating in our shared watershed related activities and programs. A virtual Conservation Skills Workshop, normally based out of Cortland, was obviously different this past year, however many employees from across our Division and beyond pitched in to plan and facilitate the successful event. From our Division (Tioga County) came the virtual regional Envirothon and a recent training session to make us all feel a little more comfortable about holding our own virtual classroom type events.

We raised a few items of concern over the course of this past year at the state employee association level including discussions leading to the proposed Frank Bratt Scholarship bylaw changes and inquiries regarding employee safety trainings and PESH (Public Employee Safety & Health) that have resulted in a class being offered on the topic at the 2021 WQS.

District Spotlight:

Tioga:

In addition to moving regular implementation efforts along, Tioga County embraced reaching out both virtually and through other mechanisms to engage and assist the community. "Despite the hurdles 2020 brought to continuing education and outreach, the District persevered and made a push to reach our audience on a virtual scale more than ever. As in past years, this year the District was still able to play a key role in both community and academic events." Reaching the residents of Tioga County is key, as it helps us teach community members about the value of agriculture and natural resource conservation. Though education and outreach looked a little different this year, we were able to reach more people this year than in any year past!"



To see a sampling of Tioga County's year in review, check out the 2020 Annual Report of Activities at: <https://www.tiogacountyny.com/media/9092/tcsxcd-2020-annual-report-compressed.pdf>

Chemung:

Chemung had multiple projects and accolades from 2020 captured in their annual report and one interesting tidbit was provided by Jessica Verrigni, Stormwater Technician: In 2020, the District upgraded their drones. The new drone can be used for topographic surveys when used in conjunction with ground control points set by survey equipment which the District purchased through a Water Quality Improvement Project grant. We tested this new technology with a gravel mine permit renewal. Utilizing free flight survey software and data processing software we were able to create a real-time current topographic map of the gravel pit. This topographic data lines up perfectly with the 2005 Chemung County LIDAR data which verifies the quality of this technology to us. The map below shows the gravel pit topo map with the new data and the old LIDAR.



To see a sampling of Chemung County's year in review, check out the 2020 Annual Report of Activities at: https://www.chemungcountyswcd.net/uploads/6/8/8/0/68802399/chemung_county_2020_newsletter.pdf

Cortland:

Cortland SWCD, in a time of reduced in-person Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) boat stewarding, finished the installation of a CD3 unit at one of the local launch sites. The unit is an easy to use, self-serve, waterless cleaning system that reduces the spread of invasive species.



The unit installed is solar powered and includes a wet/dry vacuum, air blower system, tethered hand tools and lights. A "smart" piece of equipment, the system provides usage reports and automated maintenance alerts.

To see more of the conservation activities of the Cortland SWCD visit their webpage at www.cortlandswcd.org or visit them on Facebook at @cortlandswcd

Schuyler:

Vineyard Management Innovation - Schuyler County SWCD was able to secure funding to purchase an under the vine mower in a demonstration effort with multiple vineyards in the County. Row middle management is a key to limiting erosion on our steep vineyard soils. Our vineyards utilize cover crops, as well as mulch to help maintain permanent cover in the vineyard row. However, it has always been difficult to limit competition with the grape vine itself. This has traditionally been achieved with the use of herbicides. The under the vine mower has provided a mechanical means to help reduce and in some cases eliminate the need for herbicides to manage competition within the vine row. Over 250 acres were managed with this mower this year and the project has already seen expansion from an additional vineyard purchasing its own mower. We feel this is a project that could be expanded and have a significant reduction in herbicide usage.



To see a snapshot of 2020 activities, check out the Schuyler County SWCD 2020 Annual Report: http://www.schuylerswcd.com/uploads/1/1/5/2/11520284/2020_annual_newsletter.pdf

Steuben:

Steuben SWCD has placed its project spotlight on "Improving In-Stream Habitat Through Fish Passage". After conducting 79 NAACC assessments in the Cohocton River Watershed, two sites were selected to enhance fish passage in the Town of Cohocton.

Culverts were embedded and their size increased eliminating plunges on the outlet side and allowing for easy fish passage. A stone step stair set was installed on one project allowing fish to easily navigate 4 feet in elevation change over a relatively short length of 14 feet.



To see more of the projects and happenings at Steuben SWCD visit them on Facebook at @SteubenSWCD

Respectfully submitted by Shawn Murphy, Division IV Representative



Division V – Covering Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and Warren Counties

The responsibilities of Division V include regularly polling Districts to update the employee database, keep track of promotions for recognition at the annual meeting/training session. The Division is also responsible for coordinating the marketing for Ronny Raindrop.

Division V Unique Project Showcase:

Clinton County – AEM 16 Implementation – Rubber Belt Diverter Installations



Clinton County worked alongside Franklin County and Essex County Soil & Water to install 7 rubber belt deflectors, 6 culverts, and 1 rock lined ditch with rock check dams in a 3,000 tap sugarbush. Selective cutting was done in 2014 to improve the health of the forest stand. No Forestry BMP's were installed by the logging contractor during the harvest. The main skid trail leaving the landing is on a 17% slope. After the harvest trails were severely rutted and were not graded or stabilized causing areas of erosion to grow.



As part of the 3A Forestry Plan, 7 rubber belt deflectors were installed along the main forest trail to reduce the amount of water and speed of flow and to divert water into stable vegetated areas. They were constructed onsite using recycled conveyor belting and pressure treated 2x6's. These diverters will allow machinery to easily maneuver the trails while ensuring all flow is captured and directed off the trails. These rubber belt deflectors will allow vegetation to reestablish; protecting trails from erosion and allowing access to the sugarbush during sugaring season.

Essex County – Part B and C 2020 – Riparian Buffer Planting



Essex County SWCD partnered with Trout Unlimited and the Boquet River Association in October 2020 to plant willows along the Boquet River in the Town of Lewis. The two farms where the plantings occurred helped by pre-drilling holes for the plantings. More than fifteen hardy volunteers planted over 700 willow cuttings along the North and South side of the river, covering 3400 feet on each side.





Franklin County – CAFO Round 1 – Satellite Manure Storage

This year we also completed a CAFO Round 1 Grant for the installation of Waste Storage and Transfer System in Chateaugay, Franklin County, New York. Bilow Farms, LLC “Where Cows Come First” is a 38-year-old family owned and operated dairy farm in the North Country. This dairy farm operates at over 3,000 dairy cows. Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District applied for a CAFO grant in 2017. This project installed a satellite 4.92-million-gallon concrete manure storage. The District was able to assist with funding for planning, engineering and the installation of the storage. This project has just been completed in the Fall of 2020. The District was able to provide \$270,563 worth of State reimbursement for this \$677,762 project.



Hamilton County – Part B 2020 – Protecting Water Quality with Stormwater Control

This project maintains the integrity of water quality in Hamilton County by addressing stormwater issues at Arrowhead Park, Town of Inlet. After a heavy rain event or snowmelt, runoff flows over the landscape into the parking area, puddles on impervious surfaces, and flows directly into the channel, carrying with it pollutants like



automotive oil, fertilizer, pet waste, and road salt. After consulting with the Warren County SWCD, the District chose to install TRUEGRID® PRO PLUS® permeable pavers at the project site to protect water quality by decreasing stormwater runoff. These pavers provide 100% pervious cover, detention, and stormwater management. They collect 3,200 gallons of stormwater runoff from impervious surfaces at Arrowhead Park, prevent flooding, and decrease the



amount of pollutants entering the Fourth and Fifth Lake Channel. Having the green infrastructure installed in such a public, high traffic location affords an important learning and educational opportunity. This project will serve as a demonstration of how green infrastructure technology reduces stormwater runoff. Funding for this project was provided by Part B, the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, and Town of Inlet Highway Department. This project's success, vocalized by the superintendent and highway crew, has allowed green infrastructure to gain traction in our county.





Warren County – NACD Urban Agriculture Grant – Implementation of Soil Health Conservation Practices at the Warrensburg Community Garden

In February 2020, the District received a grant through the National Association of Conservation Districts Urban Agriculture Initiative to demonstrate soil health conservation practices at the Warrensburg Community Garden. Despite the setbacks from COVID-19, the District was able to work with community gardeners to create demonstration plots that would display the implementation of soil health practices such as establishing long and short-term crops with no-till methods, cover crops, row covers for pests, and the benefits of mulching and composting for water conservation. The District also teamed up with NRCS Soil Scientist, Olga Vargas, to complete an in-depth soil health analysis of the garden beds and trace metal testing for the site.



Workshops related to conservation practices including cover

cropping, no-till methods, and composting were offered for the Warren County agricultural community. The District implemented cover crops at the community garden by offering 25lbs of a pea and oats cover crop mixture for gardeners to try at their plots. The District even worked with the gardeners to install a 250sqft native plant

hedgerow that promotes beneficial insects while reducing stormwater runoff to Schroon River. Grant funds were also used for building a new three composting unit for the community gardeners to learn about the benefits of creating onsite compost. After the growing season came to a close in the fall, the District staff visited the garden and found a sea of the pea and oat cover crop mixture growing on the majority of the raised beds. This NACD grant allowed the District to work closely with the side of our agricultural community that has little to no access to growing space on their property and relies heavily on community-oriented agriculture for producing vegetables. Seeing the cover crops and lack of bare soil at the end of the growing season is a testament to the success of this program.



Division VI: Fertilizer tablets

Division VI is responsible for the Fertilizer tablet program. Proceeds go directly to the Conservation District Employees Association general fund. The amount of fertilizer tablets ordered by districts has decreased sustainably since 2011 but has seemed to level off in the past 3 years. The Tree and Shrub Sale programs are viewed by most districts as being a good service to provide to the community and a great way to reach a lot of people and promote conservation even though profits have been decreasing. Many districts want to keep this program alive even if the public interest seems to be decreasing over the years.

The CDEA must have the order for Fertilizer tablets in long before the orders have come in. This makes for a delicate balance between the number of cases sold and the number ordered each year. The CDEA tries to keep the price per case of fertilizer tablets down by just trying to off-set the cost from the supply company. Due to this even slight overordering will cause the CDEA to go into the red for this program.

COVID-19:

This year due to COVID-19 and all the uncertainty surrounding COVID- 19 it was the CDEA executive boards decision to hold off on ordering Fertilizer tablets this year. With WQS being held virtually this year there was no clear way to handle the delivery, the breakeven cost and with the need to order early (October) the board could not see an easy way of doing the fertilizer tablet program. *We fully anticipate having the Fertilizer Tablet program back next year for Water Quality Symposium 2022!*

	Expense	Net Income	Cases Sold
2011	\$7,033	\$2019	146
2012	\$9,350	\$1004	167
2013	\$7,038	\$219	110
2014	\$5,600	\$1034	107
2015	\$0.00	\$5766	93
2016	\$5,107	\$ 411	89
2017	\$5,952	\$1,587	96
2018	\$3,971	\$1,573	90
2019	\$3,518	\$1,333	77
2020	\$4,083	\$1,461	88
2021	COVID-19		0

Amber Luke
Natural Resource Technician
Washington County SWCD
Division VI Representative
Amber.luke@ny.nacdnet.net

Division VI Annual Report:

Division Wide:

2020 was a tough year for districts across the state but overall districts in Division 6 were able to get many good projects completed and they were able to hold successful tree and shrub sales, No till drill rentals and many other great programs. We did not hold a Division wide meeting this year due to already having so much on everyone's plate but we have all been keeping in contact through emails as much as possible.

District Reports:

Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District

The district had many successful programs in 2020 despite COVID restrictions including a successful Tree Sale, Fish Sale- Spring and Fall, Part B- Community Garden/Green Space, No-till seeding program, a Tire Recycling and Ag-plastic recycling events. We successfully implemented Federal and State Grant work on 12 different farms completed many other projects including the implementation of the Chuctanunda Trail- City of Amsterdam, Eagle Trail- Town of Amsterdam and Burbine Forest, trail and disc golf course- Town of Charleston. The county had Envirothon teams at both regional and the state level.

Community Garden- Esperanza Verde Park

- City of Amsterdam
- Provide permanent green space
- Partnership w/ several community groups
- Allows community to learn about growing vegetables & composting organic materials



Tier 4 Grazing Plan

- The farm has begun work to implement a rotational grazing system designed by the District
- It will increase from 21.6 acres of overgrazed and denuded pasture to an intensively rotated 124.3 acres of pasture
- The plan will also convert over 10 acres of currently managed row crops into permanent sod.
- This new management will increase soil health and organic matter, sequester more carbon and reduce erosion



Climate Resilient Farming Project

- ▶ 71 acres of a grain corn and soybean rotation was converted to permanent grass and legume pastures, leading to reduced erosion, increased organic matter in the soil and sequestering carbon
- ▶ The project included a riparian buffer from the stream corridor, intensive rotational management, a spring development with a waterline system



Manure Containment System on a Fonda Dairy Farm

In 2019, 2 covered barnyards and a manure storage were installed, along with fencing and stream crossings as part of CRP. In 2020, the final project to eliminate contaminated runoff from the Manure Spreader fill-room was implemented by installing a covered Heavy Use Area with clean water collection. The project was Hydroseeded to ensure proper growth prior to winter.





Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District

24 Hetcheltown Road, Glenville, NY 12302
Telephone: (518) 399-6980 Fax: (518) 399-5040
Nicholas Klemczak: Executive Director;
E-mail: nickklemczaksswcd@yahoo.com

2020 District Highlights

Rustic Benches at Plotter Kill Nature Preserve:



Small foot bridge at Plotter Kill Nature Preserve:

This foot bridge was constructed over a small gully that formed on steep hillside within the Plotter Kill Nature Preserve. In order to keep the trail safe and to minimize erosion this bridge was built by Conservation District Staff and volunteers from Schenectady County's Trail Committee and members of the Environmental Clearinghouse.



Summer Youth Program:

The Schenectady County Conservation District participated in the Schenectady Job Training Agency's, Summer Youth Program. The Conservation District hired a Crew Leader for an 8-week period during the 2020 summer. The Crew Leader was tasked with supervising a group of 4 youth. During the 8-week period they group helped with maintenance within the County Owned Nature Preserves and mowing/trimming along the Mohawk-Hudson Bike-Hike Trail. The youth learned many new trail building and maintenance skills that they would not have otherwise had the chance to learn without their enrollment in this great program. We also enjoyed having them along with us to share our love of nature and the outdoors.

Adopt a Space Flower Program:

Our annual Adopt a Space Flower Program was another success despite COVID19. Flowers provided by the Conservation District were distributed to municipalities and residents with the help of Cornell Cooperative Extension. Municipalities planted the flowers around municipal buildings and in public areas. The residents who received the flowers have adopted a street island that they have volunteered to take care of. Many of these islands have flower beds where flowers are planted each year to provide native pollinators with the habitat necessary for their survival

Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow



Beaver Deceiver Project:

The Schenectady County Department of Public Works asked for our assistance with a beaver problem they have dealt with for many years. They finally had enough and with new pavement in jeopardy they wanted to take care of the problem. The Conservation District has some experience with beavers, but this situation was a little different than what we have worked with in the past. With a little research we devised a plan and constructed the “beaver deceiver”. The device is designed to protect the end of the culvert and eventually discourage the beavers damming habits. Due to the shape of the device, as the beaver dams the sides closest to the culvert entrance it is forced further from the culverts mouth. As the beaver gets further from the mouth of the culvert their sense of water flowing into the culvert is diminished and they eventually give up. We were excited to see that the device did function just as the research said it would. This is a great way to live with these amazing creatures instead of trapping and killing them.

Culvert before the any action was taken.



Community Garden Expansion, Fencing and Pollinator Habitat:

The Conservation District completed a community garden project at the Schenectady County Compost Facility. The project involved expanding the current garden, constructing a fence that would keep rabbits, woodchucks, deer and racoons out and creating a buffer of native pollinator plants/flowers to keep encroaching weeds and invasive species out of the garden.



Compost Facility Highlights:

The Conservation District administers the Schenectady County Compost and Recycling Facility. At the facility we accept yard waste that would normally go to the landfill and turn it into compost and wood mulch. The compost is then sold to the public to be used as a soil amendment. The wood mulch is sold as well to provide a quality mulch that is used to keep moisture in the ground around trees, shrubs, flowers, and vegetables and help to minimize weed pressure. In conclusion the facility is a “win/win” for the public and the environment. This year the Compost Facility diverted approximately 28,000 cubic yards of yard waste from a landfill.

Providing Today, Protecting Tomorrow

Schoharie County 2020 Highlights

Jefferson Town (Part B)

The "Schoolhouse Trail" was established to connect a historic one-room schoolhouse to an old mill site which both sit on the outskirts of Jefferson near the Town Hall. The Fuller District #4 schoolhouse was moved from its original site and donated to the Town of Jefferson in 2005. The Mann Mill was erected in 1890 and operated for many years using the stream that runs nearby for some of its power. The trail created a walking path and picnic area for residents and visitors to enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. Construction started in mid-June for the 350' of trail. The trail was made using filter fabric and stone to reduce erosion and keep weeds down. In addition, the area was cleared of scrub brush which will reduce the chances of invasive species coming in. Landscaping of the Mill site and areas all around the site were also done, including the picnic area. This new trail connects to an already established 1/2-mile trail through land that is also owned by the town and is for public use. Informational signs were installed for both the schoolhouse and the mill site history, another at the trail head and markers for common plants and trees along the path. The historical society will do outreach, promoting the use of this area to the local school which can incorporate it into their curriculum. The school and the public have unlimited access to this area to teach them about the importance of preserving natural habitats and the resources within them. The town has seen an increase of tourists and locals wanting an area to hike and learn more about nature. By using this trail, people will be able to learn about how important these areas are to keep animals, plants, wetlands and streams healthy.



Waste Storage Implementation (AGNPT)

Town of Schoharie Round 23 grant to install a 3.2-million-gallon waste storage system on a farm. The storage will also include the milk house waste.



Town of Schoharie (NY Rising)

Schoharie SWCD provided technical assistance and funding through the NYS Governor's Office of Storm Recovery to restore over 1,200 linear feet of Stony Brook. Project included replacement of two undersized culverts, realigning the stream at two locations, providing grade control, in-stream diversion structures, and riparian buffer plantings. Project construction was completed in December of 2020.

Before



After



Riparian Buffer Planting Manor Kill Conesville, NY (CSBI)

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.



SUNY Cobleskill students and staff and Greene and Schoharie

Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District - 2020 Highlights

Despite COVID restriction the District was still able to hold a successful tree and shrub sale Selling 2,215 trees and a fish sale selling 2,350 fish. The No-Till drill program was still able to help many farmers with no-till plantings. The district was able to assist farms in completing many construction projects funded by Ag NPS and conduct multiple landowner assistance request for various smaller issues. In addition, the district was able to partner with multiple agencies (NRCS, Trout Unlimited, Ag Stewardship Association, ETC.) to get many great projects completed in 2020.

Ag Non-Point Source Grant- Round 23

The district helped to implement a 895,000 gallon concrete manure storage on a farm. This project included repairing the existing bunk silo and installing a VTA to treat silage leachate. The project also included concrete additions to the barnyard as well as gutters to help control barnyard runoff.



Part B-

The District worked with Trout Unlimited with cooperation from the landowner to restore habitat connectivity to protect and restore wildlife and aquatic habitat on Coulter Brook a valuable trout stream in the county. This project involved installing 7 grade structures in order to raise the stream bed to eliminate a 12" to 16" outfall at the end of a 6-foot culvert therefore connecting 2 miles of cold-water habitat for aquatic species.



Before



After

No Report:

Albany County SWCD
Fulton County SWCD
Rensselaer County SWCD
Saratoga county SWCD

NYS CDEA Division VII Annual Report

Division VII is responsible for working with Division VIII to coordinate the Annual Awards Banquet held at Water Quality Symposium. This includes soliciting for nominations and organizing the awards presentation. The nomination information goes out in the Fall. We hope you consider submitting a nomination for next year's awards program!

The Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project

The Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project was kicked off in 2020 with the goal of implementing regenerative farming and soil health practices in the Hudson Valley

Dutchess, Columbia, Orange, Ulster, and Sullivan SWCDs will implement regenerative farming practices including soil health practices on no less than 8 commercial farms. Districts will establish a baseline through soil analysis using the Cornell Comprehensive Soil Health Test and an initial field assessment indicating past and present management practices. Soil samples will be collected before and after implementation to measure the changes in soil health. Soil core samples will be taken in a way that allows researchers to monitor change in topsoil organic matter and change in carbon content of subsoil layers. Additionally, the COMET-Planner will be used to estimate GHG emissions reductions per practice system.

Farms Involved – 20 farms

- 2 Sweet corn & vegetable
- Orchard - apple and stone fruit
- Organic Field crops
- 7 Dairy
- Organic Dairy
- Small Organic Vegetable
- Large Organic Vegetable
- 2 Black Dirt Operations
- 2 Mixed small livestock
- Grains
- Fruits & Vegetables

BMP Systems

- Soil conservation system – cultural
 - Basic & Multi-species cover crop - 560 acres/yr
 - Residue Management – 25 acres/yr
 - Mulching Natural Material – 5 acres/yr
 - Conservation Crop Rotation – 28 acres/yr
- Soil Carbon Amendment – compost application

- Manure and Agricultural Waste Treatment System
 - Composting Facility
- Water Table Management
- Prescribed Grazing
- Forage Harvest Management / Forage Biomass Native Perennials
- Riparian Forest Buffer

Outreach and education activities and materials will be developed to inform landowners and elected officials of the benefits of regenerative farming and soil health practices

- **Promoting Regenerative Farming** - Promoting regenerative farming and soil health practices in the Hudson Valley
- **Soil Health Training** - Conduct Soil Health training to educate regional farm community on the benefits of increasing organic matter in the soil, and the overall benefits of regenerative farming and soil health practices
- **Awareness Efforts** - Build awareness of project efforts and outcomes, and the partners involved in its delivery

*Submitted by Erin Sommerville
Division VII Representative*

Division VIII: Annual Report
Suffolk, Nassau, New York City, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester
Respectfully Submitted by Ann Marie Calabro Division VIII Representative

Division VIII: (partnered with Division VII) is responsible for Annual Awards Ceremony at the Water Quality Symposium.



Suffolk County SWCD



Sharon Frost – Retirement Announcement: At the end of September, Suffolk County SWCD said goodbye to long-time Soil District Technician, Sharon Frost, who has been working for the District for 20 years. Sharon has worked with dozens of growers, and facilitated numerous successful programs from an array of funding sources and organized many public events. The District wishes Sharon a Happy Retirement, spending more time with her family and friends.

USDA-NRCS Conservation Planner Certification: We are excited to announce that our very own Agronomist, Ann Marie Calabro, completed her NRCS Conservation Planner Certification! She is the only current Suffolk County SWCD staff member to hold this title. Ann Marie has worked hard to complete her certification and gain Job Approval Authority for many common LI practices and BMPs.

NYS AEM-Leopold Conservation Award: District Agronomist, Ann Marie Calabro, nominated Sang Lee Farms for the 2020 NY AEM-Leopold Conservation Award/Sand County Foundation. The award honors Sang Lee Farms and Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District for “efforts to protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality while ensuring farm viability for future generations.” Sang Lee Farms, one of the longest standing participants in our AEM program, is a certified organic farm in Peconic, NY that grows more than 100 different varieties of fruits and vegetables that they grow on 97 acres. Father and son, Fred and Will Lee, have been recognized for their commitment to their farm, community, and environment, as well as their unique combination of mixing old and new farming techniques for long-term sustainable farming.



Suffolk County COVID-19 Response – Temporary Reassignment: Since the start of the COVID outbreak in March of 2020, the Suffolk County SWCD had to work under restrictive conditions including working from home and very limited fieldwork. The summer and early fall gave us the liberty of returning to more a normal working schedule, however, the influx of COVID-19 cases this fall resulted in the District’s temporary reassignment dedicating all work hours towards aiding the Suffolk County Department of Health Services with the COVID-19 Response. From mid-November to the beginning of February, District staff worked full-time with the DOHS. Recently, case numbers began to decrease and District staff has been granted limited time to return to our regular job-duties.

2016 EPF Program

Suffolk County Soil and Water as a subcontractor of Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension executed and closed the 2016 Environmental Protective Fund grant. Suffolk Soil and Water contracted Dairy Nutrition Inc. to write 14 Nutrient Management Plans for local farms and greenhouses.

The implementation portion of the funds were used to optimize the pH in each field by creating a prescribed ag lime program for LI growers based on NMP recommendations and local guidelines for crops.



Ag NPS Round 24 Fuel Tank Program



With the retirement of Sharon Frost, Ed Compagnone began to manage the Round 24 Ag NPS grant for the Fuel Tank Replacement Program. So far 14 of the 44 farms become compliant with fuel storage and dispensing regulations (24 out of 80 total tanks). Other farms are in the process of coordinating with Suffolk County Department of Health Services to obtain inspections and permitting.

2020 Agriculture in the Classroom Program: The Agriculture in the Classroom Program is a grant program opportunity for Suffolk County K-12 schools to apply for funds for their agriculture-educational projects. Projects can be a range of different indoor and outdoor hands-on learning experiences, such as: hydroponic systems, aquaponic systems, grow lights/grow towers, raised garden beds, greenhouses, high/low tunnels etc.. This year, the District was able to help fund eight school projects, totaling the amount of school projects we've supported the past four years to 20! The District is looking forward to seeing what this year's winners will do with their projects in the coming months!



Soil Health Testing Program: The District has been administering the Soil Health Testing Program in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension's Agricultural Stewardship Program since 2018. Unlike a basic soil test which just focuses on nutrients, the Soil Health Testing Program follows the Cornell University's Comprehensive Assessment of Soil Health (CASH) Test. This year, we serviced 14 farms, despite obstacles created by COVID-19. The shutdown in the early spring limited our involvement with the program; and then the CASH Lab had also unexpectedly temporarily closed during that time. As a result, this stopped the Soil Health Testing Program for several months. Despite these issues, we were able to service 11 farms in the

spring and 3 farms this fall and hope to work with those growers to discuss implementing soil health BMPs in their operations.

Soil Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP): Soil HELP is a farm equipment loan program that the District has been administering for the past few years. Soil HELP was looking very promising at the start of the New Year, and the District was excited to see how the program was going to take off in March. Throughout the duration of the NYS Stay-At-Home Orders, District staff had to modify their programs. Thankfully, through innovation and cooperation, Kaitlin was able to continue to administer this program by creating a space to openly communicate with growers, and heavily rely on them to work together and pass the equipment off from one grower to another. Despite the setbacks, challenges, and delays from the COVID-19 pandemic, 12 growers were able to continuously utilize the program this year, and the District was even able to purchase a 1999 Milcreek 406 Row Mulcher from Cornell University's LIHREC. We hope to continue to expand this program by reaching more growers and introducing them to equipment that promotes soil health. We currently own seven pieces of equipment:



- New Holland 145 Spreader
- Milcreek 406 Row Mulcher
- (2x) ABI Manual Spreaders
- Unverferth (2-Shank) Zonebuilder Subsoiler*
- Unverferth (4-Shank) Zonebuilder Subsoiler*
- Truax FLEXII 88-SS No Till Drill (3 seed boxes)



*Both Zonebuilders are equipped with Strip Builder Attachments





NEW YORK CITY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Annual Highlights 2020

Despite the pandemic and the disruption resulting from it we were able to continue our partnerships with the SWIM Coalition, NY NJ Harbor & Estuary Program, Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts and others to focus our efforts on education, outreach and policy initiatives. Urban Soils Institute successfully hosted a series of virtual events for the Annual Symposium and expanded its partnership to more organizations around the country. We made lemonade out of lemons in 2020!

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

CSO Monitoring

For a variety of reasons, the District revised this project to partner with the Guardians of Flushing Bay and Temboo (an organization that provides technical assistance on data collection and analysis) to monitor a CSO outfall in Flushing Creek. Instead of a webcam to record CSO discharges, we will install sensors to continuously monitor turbidity and conductivity. Correlated with the precipitation data from the nearby LaGuardia Airport, we hope to identify CSO signatures. We will be installing the sensors in March 2021.



Stormwater Infrastructure Matters Coalition

The District continued to serve on the Steering Committee, providing feedback and direction for the Coalition Program Manager. SWIM focused much of its work on a few policy issues in 2020. SWIM participated in the Rise to Resilience Coalition with a focus on green infrastructure at the land-water interface (i.e., wetlands). SWIM also served as a member of the Green Roof Tax Abatement Working Group, which continued its work assisting the City in the development of priority abatement districts. SWIM also tracked progress on the water rate restructuring study undertaken by the DEP and its consultant.

GI Virtual Tour

The District had to abandon the bus tour in 2020 but was able to create virtual tours with four sites featuring green infrastructure. The sites are: NYC Parks Citywide Services Complex, Bronx River Foodway, Randall's Island Park Living Shoreline and Randall's Island Park Freshwater Wetland. At each site the video features a site interpreter with deep knowledge of the project.

Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts

The District continued its leadership role on the Steering Committee. The stormwater conference transitioned to a virtual conference over four days. We were able to provide professional development credits to engineers and landscape architects and the sessions were well attended.

DEC Endorsed 4-Hr Construction Site Inspection Training

The in-person workshop scheduled for mid-March was cancelled. However a handful of participants took advantage of the online workshop offered by the Conservation Districts Employees Association.

New York New Jersey Harbor & Estuary Program

Shino continued to work closely with the Citizens Advisory Committee leadership team. In 2020 HEP CAC officially began a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice (DEIJ) initiative, starting with a survey of its members and an annual conference with the theme of DEIJ. HEP CAC now has a DEIJ subcommittee on which Shino serves. Shino also served on the Water Quality Working Group and attended the Management Committee meetings.

NYC Envirothon

NYS Conservation Districts Employees Association successfully held a virtual Envirothon as Regional Envirothons. Seven teams from five schools in New York City participated. Three of the five boroughs were represented.

The winning teams participated in the State Envirothon (also virtual) and Stuyvesant High School and Staten Island Technical High School won second and third place for the first time in the history of NYS Envirothon! It was certainly a bright spot in an otherwise challenging year!

NYC Outdoors: Environmental Education Expo

Unfortunately we were not able to pull together the Expo as a virtual event. Hopefully in 2021 we will have a virtual Expo featuring a multitude of virtual resources that became available since the pandemic started.

School requests

Before the pandemic shut down schools, Shino had a chance to participate in the Wave of Action Partner Fair (a professional development event for teachers) to

make a presentation on water quality at the Genovese Environmental Center.

Shino also continued her participation in the Citizen Science Teacher Experimentation Program (CSTEP), led by the NYC Dept of Education, as a resource specialist providing assistance to science teachers. As part of this partnership project, Shino attended the Culturally Relevant Education Symposium for STEM educators in January. After a brief hiatus to allow teachers to transition to remote teaching, the CSTEP resumed in fall 2020 via virtual meetings.

In May, Shino successfully led a virtual water testing session with 6th graders from 75 Morton Middle School in Manhattan. She demonstrated how to measure the salinity and dissolved oxygen of the Hudson River water using a pre-recorded video and real time sampling in the office.

In October, Shino participated in the Day in the Life of the Hudson River by videorecording water testing on Pier 45. The video has been edited for use in virtual field trips, to be developed for 2021.

Soil Testing

There were a couple of dozen samples or so that were processed as usual for XRF heavy metal screenings, pH analysis, Total Dissolved Solids and NPK analyses before the pandemic shut down the operation. We managed to conduct a couple of site visits in February. A visit to the Gowanus Bay Terminal had the USI Team involved in multiple meetings, research and testing of the compost for cadmium

Workshops

We had several of our established annual workshops scheduled through May. Alas the workshops had to be canceled. Luckily we were able to develop virtual workshops to be included as part of the month-long Annual Urban Soils Symposium.

Four symposium workshops were offered over four Saturdays in October, covering a wide range of topics from exploring the intersection of art and science in "Dirtball & Multi-Species Spa," a virtual tour of a garden with horticulturalists, to "Soils Alive" on soil organisms and "Soils & Energy: A Discussion About The Energy Flows of Soil and Everything It Touches." Each workshop was attended by approximately 20 participants via Zoom. We were able to host one in-person, socially distanced workshop on soil testing on Governor's Island

Partnership Building

At the same Culturally Responsive Education symposium for STEM educators event, George connected with a NYC Department of Education representative who is very interested in our Every Kid Outdoors project in partnership with the National Park Service. Before the pandemic, we were in full-swing planning to provide workshops for teachers in soil science and field trips to fourth graders in NYC public schools.

We also developed a new partnership with Tree People in Los Angeles, which opens doors for exciting new education and outreach opportunities.

Urban Soils Education

George was able to utilize his teaching position with the New York Botanical Garden to create wonderful opportunities for partnerships and requests for our services. The staff at the Everett Children's Adventure Garden at NYBG asked George to give a workshop for their teachers and provide them with tips for teaching children soil science. It would have developed into a more robust partnership program but the pandemic has put a pause on it for the remainder of 2020.

For the Every Kid Outdoors National Park Service project, we had ~250 students lined up from two schools just for the month of May, with another dozen schools waiting to be scheduled. Unfortunately the in-person programming had to be suspended. We began working with the partners on transitioning to virtual programming.

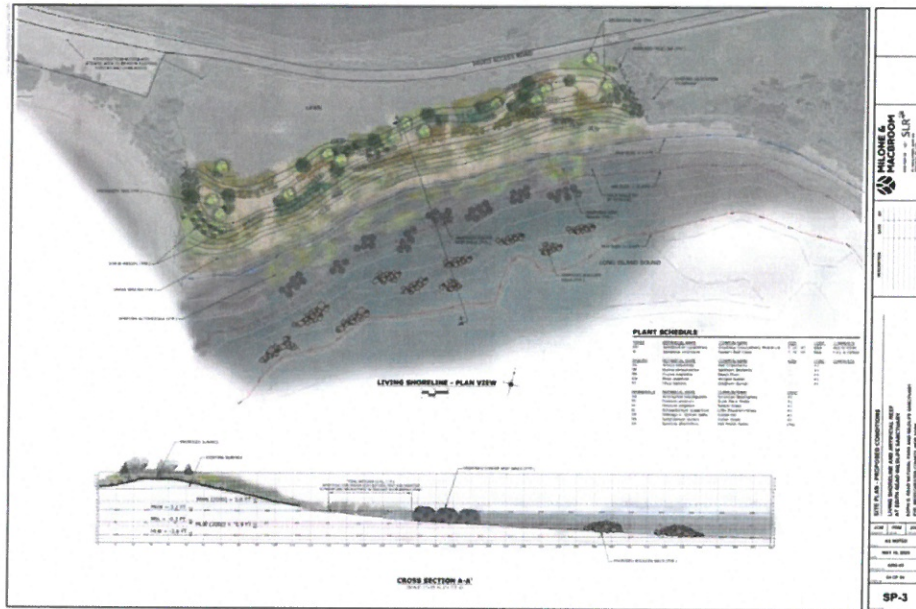
Annual Urban Soils Symposium

We were able to successfully transition our symposium to a virtual platform. Every Friday in October from 2 to 6PM, we hosted a panel of speakers followed by robust discussions by all participants. We organized the panels by themes, which included: Rights of Soil, Symbiogenesis, Gut Instinct and Gardenator.

Because of the virtual platform we were able to draw presenters and participants from all around the world, which enabled us to have great discussions with diversity of perspectives.

Westchester County SWCD:

The Westchester County Soil and Water Conservation District is helping to advance a living shoreline and artificial reef project in and next to Long Island Sound and straddling the Westchester County-owned Edith G. Read Natural Park and Wildlife Sanctuary and Playland Park, both in Rye. The District hired SLR in 2020 to develop a feasibility study with a conceptual plan for the project. Using additional District funding, project design and permitting is anticipated to be complete by the end of this year. County capital funding is being sought for the project's construction in 2022. This would be the first living shoreline and artificial reef project on the north shore of Long Island Sound in New York and would be modeled after another successful project at Stratford Point in Stratford, Connecticut. That project is currently the only existing project containing both living shoreline and artificial reef components on the north shore of Long Island Sound.



Nassau County SWCD: No Report

Putnam County SWCD: No Report

Rockland County SWCD: No Report



2021 NYS Envirothon CDEA Annual Report

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

The 2021 NYS Envirothon committee worked hard last year to pull off a statewide regional event. Since this was the first time, we had ever accomplished this we were able to do so with much work. The committee then went on to create a virtual NYS Envirothon event. This went off with little errors. Later in the day we were even able to host a short awards program. Much work was completed by JoAnn Kurtis, Miranda Palmer, and MaryLynne Malone!!

The present committee is as follows:

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair	Advisory Member Volunteer
JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair, Test/Resources	NRCS Earth Team Volunteer
Kristin White, Treasurer	Seneca - CDEA Representative
Susan Odell-Peppe, Secretary	Suffolk – Division VIII District Representative
Fred vonMechow, Oral Presentation	Advisory Member - Educator Volunteer
Tony Lufan Ye, Snacks	Advisory Member
MaryLynne Malone, Volunteers	Educator – Orange Co. Water Authority
Rachel Arnold	NYS DEC Representative
Ernie Swift	NYACD Representative
Al Fagan, Site Coordinator	Wyoming – Division I District Representative
Bob Shenk, Test/Scoring	Cattaraugus – Division I District Representative
Dean Moore, Oral Presentation	Warren District – Division V Representative
Miranda Palmer, Snacks/Awards	Tioga – Division IV District Representative
Chelsea Bartlett, Activities	Steuben – Division IV District Representative
Chas Miller, Publicity	Franklin – Division V District Representative
Paul Gier	Empire State Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society
Vacant	State Committee Ag & Mkts.

The following Divisions do not have members on the committee presently; Division II, III, VI, VII. If you would like to join the NYS Envirothon committee, please let one of the committee members know and we will provide you with the necessary papers.

The committee is working hard on creating a face-to-face event as well as the possibility of having to host another virtual NYS Envirothon event.

It is our hope that in 2022 we will be able to host a face-to-face event for the top statewide county winners.

The 2021 event is planned to be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY on Wednesday, May 26th & Thursday, May 27th, 2021. This may end up being a virtual event. We will keep you posted as we move forward hosting this event.

The 2021 NYS Envirothon oral presentation problem was created last year, but since we did not include an oral presentation in last year's event, it will be used again. The 2020 & 2021 NCF-Envirothon current issue topic "***Water Resource Management: Local Control & Local Solutions***". The same issue is being reused since Nebraska was unable to host the national event in 2020.

We are continuing to hold Zoom monthly meetings and if you are interested in attending please let myself or a committee member know. We will be happy to add you to our list of attendees.



2024 New York

We are moving forward with preparing for New York to host the 2024 NCF-Envirothon. The dates have been set for Sunday, July 28th-Saturday, August 3rd, 2024. There are many things to be doing before, during, and after the weeklong event.

We presently have the following committee members:

Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair & Registration	JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair & Testing
Chastity Miller, Treasury & Publicity	Vacant - Secretary
Susan O'Dell – Peppe, T-shirts	Miranda Palmer, Awards
Tony Lufan Ye, Transportation	Ernie Swift, NYACD Rep.
Katy Kemmeren	Mollie Schoharie Burgett
Chelsea White, Activities	Bob Shenk, Test Scorer
Allen Fagan, Logistics	Paul Gier, Empire State Chapter SWCS
Vacant – NYS DEC	Vacant – State Committee Ag & Mkts.
Dean Moore, Oral Presentation Chair	
Sub-Committee: Fred vonMechow & Danielle Parker	

We need many more committee & sub-committee volunteers as well as during the weeklong event.

A temporary A, B, & C budgets have been created. Budget A is if we raise enough funds to host special daily events, Budget B is if we raise some but not all to do what we are hoping to do, Budget C is a barebones budget with everything being done on campus. We are hoping to take the teams to Niagara Falls for a day, a special fun night, ice cream social, and other special fund things.

SPONSORS are import for us to carry out this event. Invoices have been mailed to all the Districts for your support that can be paid in full, over the next four years, or as you can donate. We are also working closely with the Environmental Education Foundation searching for grants and corporate sponsorship.

VOLUNTEERS are needed!!! There is no way we will be able to pull this huge event off without all the great volunteers. Please take the time to become part of the committee. .

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

Supporting Environmental Awareness
Through the Funding of Educational Programs



2020 Annual Report

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

their desire to learn more about our natural resources and environmental issues. The spirit of competition stimulates students' interests in environmental concerns and motivates them to further develop their skills and grow into environmentally-aware, action-oriented adults.



Environmental Education Foundation Fund Raising Efforts

Congratulations to all teams and specifically Mount Academy, Ulster Co, 2020 NYS Envirothon Winners!

The Foundation continued its efforts to raise funds by researching, writing and submitting grants to support environmental education programs in New York State. The Foundation received limited funds from various sources including individual donations. We appreciate the continuing support of these individuals.

Also in 2020 the Foundation introduced and promoted the use of an Amazon Smile account as a means to raise funds to support our mission. An individual just needs to login to <https://smile.amazon.com> and search for the Foundation. Once logged in you can shop normally and Amazon will make a charitable contribution based on your spending. It is a great way to support the foundation and environmental education at no cost.

In an effort to assist regional/local county Envirothon's as well as natural resource and environmental education, the Foundation accepted \$8,533.21 in grants and/or donations from companies/organizations that require that their funds go into a 501c3 organization. The funds are then passed on to those awarded. Contact a Foundation Board member for more information on how you might be able to benefit from this opportunity.

To reach out and bring awareness to the Foundation, our website has been updated. Foundation brochures and fact sheets are available for download, distribution and use at any state and regional event throughout New York.

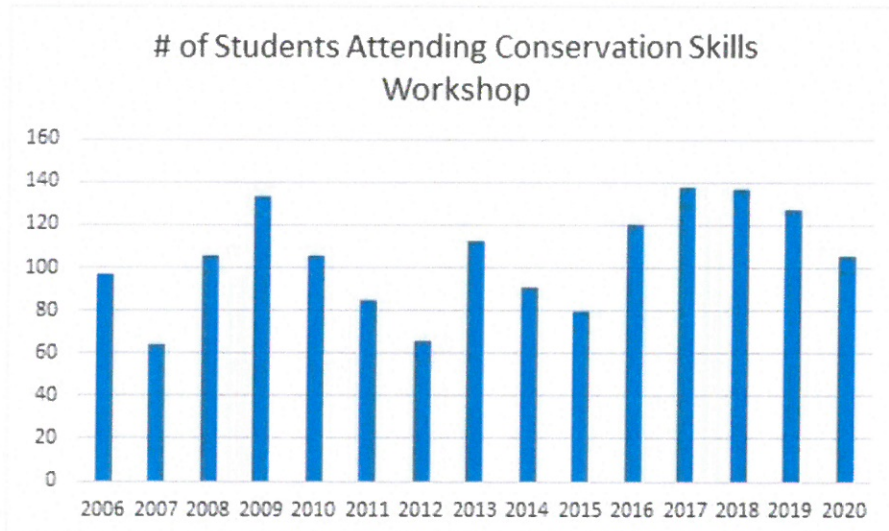
Get involved with the Environmental Education Foundation and send your financial support today - it's tax deductible! Help make a better future by supporting environmental awareness today! www.nyenviroed.org

The 2020 Conservation Skills Workshop certainly had its challenges this year but was still held using with the hard work of our coordinating team. Virtual training was held the week of September 14th and regional, single day field sessions were held the week of September 21st. The field sessions required all participants to submit to COVID-19 screening with masking and social distancing protocols all followed. Field sites were held regionally around NYS based upon an interest survey that was sent out for the topics being offered. It was another success! 106 folks registered (78 from SWCD's, 24 NRCS, 1 CCE, 1 SWCC, 1 ducks unlimited, and 1 from ag related businesses). The registration fee was reduced this year to \$10 a student for access to any requested classes.

Please know that new committee members and new ideas for topics and course instructors are always welcome. The committee has not yet set the 2021 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting, but most likely it will be held virtually in early May. Be on the lookout for information. **Please remember, this is YOUR training session for field-oriented topics. This event is as interesting as the topics that you suggest to us. We need your help to continue to make this a successful event.** We are hoping by the fall of 2021 to return to a traditional model of the CSW held in Cortland, NY.

A big "THANK YOU" goes out to the following committee members for making the 2020 training happen: NYCDEA President Chastity Miller, Tom Eskildsen, Mark Burger, Stacy Russell, Lindsey Gerstenslager, Josh LaFountain, Gerry Smithson, Steve Loraine, Jon Negley, Kristen Ballou, Caitlin Stewart, Greg Albrecht, PJ Emmerick, & Paula Bagley. There are many other "behind the scenes" people that help too. A special thanks to those folks as well as the course instructors that donate their time and efforts!

Other than a few technology issues, no major issues or problems were encountered and overall feedback seemed positive.



Webinar Classes

Number of Students	Class
37	NYS DEC Stormwater Construction Permit and MS4 review
52	Livestock Watering System Planning and Design
61	Cropland Overland Flow
31	AEM Tier 3 Basic Nutrient Management Planning Skills
45	Basic Soils

Field Classes

Number of Students	Class
21	Construction Site Stormwater Inspection – Monroe County
61	Livestock Watering System & Cropland Overland Flow – Essex, Onondaga, Ulster Counties
15	Cropland Overland Flow – Yates County
16	AEM Tier 3 Basic Nutrient Management Planning Skills
18	Basic Soils – Warren, Wayne Counties

Respectfully Submitted by: Tom Eskildsen, Mark Burger, & Stacy Russell

NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program

2021 Annual Report to the CDEA

The NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program is in its fourth 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 endorsed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The program is for anyone seeking professional certification that is knowledgeable in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control, meets the minimum qualifications, and passes the exam.

To date there are 40 active certificate holders, 1 suspended certificate, 2 terminated certificates and 7 individuals approved to sit for the Exam. 2 will be taking the exam via proctoring in March.

With the Covid-19 pandemic it has been difficult to gain traction for the program. I have been contacted by a number of people requesting more information but most decide to hold off on moving forward until we have another Implementation/Review Course scheduled. I have started a waiting list of people interested in signing up for the next course. The good news is that all of the contacts are private industry which means word is out that this program is recognized by NYS DEC to make individuals "Qualified Inspectors" for SPDES permitted projects. Moving forward, the instructors for the course will discuss where the next event will be and when it would be safe to host one. This will all be determined by gathering sizes and travel restrictions.

Over this past year we have completed the following items:

- Updated and refined policy documents, application, and renewal forms
- Hosted 2 Implementation Review Courses. 1 at 2020 Water Quality Symposium and 1 in Ballston Spa August 2020
- Implemented online payments for the program through the Employees Association website

Items to work on through 2021:

- Develop a Implementation/Review Course Manual
- Garner interest in becoming a proctor for the exam from the list of 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Trainers
- Find more qualified individuals willing to help teach the Implementation/Review Course around New York State

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

<https://www.nyscdea.com/nysesccp/>

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Verrigni, CPESC, CPSWQ
NYSESCCP Administrator

New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.



EMPIRE FARM DAYS & STATE FAIR BOOTH COMMITTEE

2020 REPORT

Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, both venues were canceled in 2020. But this did not stop the committee from getting things ready for 2021!

2021 Empire Farm Days

The dates have been set for August 3, 4, 5, 2021 at a new location; Palladino Farms - Heritage Hill Brewhouse, 3149 Sweet Road, Pompey, NY 13188. Alaina Robarge has been busy putting together a new display for us. We are planning to continue having our display alongside with the NYS SWCC displays.

The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts 2021 State Fair Booth

The 2021 dates are August 20, 2021 – September 6, 2021! We are using our 2019 Theme, **“Soil Health”**. We will display once again **“Soil My Undies”** (Thank you Jason Cuddeback) which shows the different stages of decomposition of underwear that were buried in different soil types along with the great wall display Erica Schreiner put together for us and some tools that are used for soil sampling along with other handouts.

Shift Schedule – There will be two shifts to choose from: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM or 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We will be using Signup Genius for shift sign-ups. Look for the link on the nyscdea.com website.

Shirts – New orange polo shirts featuring the new NYS CDEA logo, have been purchased and will be mailed to volunteers along with entrance and parking passes.

Give-Away Items – The committee purchased reusable shopping bags with the Ronny Raindrop™ logo, raindrop keychains, pencils, and for the guessing game prize we purchased beach towels with the Ronny Raindrop™ logo embroidered on them. We plan on using these as a prize for multiple years.

The guessing game will be brand new for 2021, so make sure to sign-up for a shift so you can take part in the game!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kristin White, Monroe County SWCD
Erica Schreiner, Oswego SWCD
Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD
Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD
Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD
Eva Brown, Onondaga County SWCD

4 HR On-Line Sediment and Erosion Control Training for Contractors

Income since program began: \$317,419.67

Expenses since program began: \$3,609

Net Income: \$313,810.68

2020- Income: \$181,112.91

2021- Income: As of Feb 22, 2021: \$29,583.90

Past:

- Monroe County assisted in the development and the setup of the class.
- Kristin White manages most aspects of the program and field all the questions.
- Utilized the program when Covid restrictions started and allowed Districts to use the program since they could not hold in-person classes.

Currently:

- Developing policy on what the funding collected can be used for.
- Updating formats and programs to assist in making things easier.
- Need to make the program more user friendly on the front and on the back.
- Invest in some assistance for management.

Future:

- Getting funding back to Districts through training.
- Updating the presentation.
- Coordinator/Contractor.

Frank Bratt Scholarship Program 2020 Annual Report

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

There were three applicants requesting \$860.00 for the June 1, 2019 round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$860.00:

- Olivia Dickenson, Essex County – Grasstravaganza
- Alice Halloran, Essex County – Environmental Sensitive Road Maintenance Boot Camp
- Kevin Preischel, Erie County – HeartSaver First Aid/CPR/AED

There were seven applicants requesting \$2,874.00 for the January 1, 2020 round of funding. The following individuals were recipients of scholarships totaling \$2,000.00:

- Matthew Everdyke, Seneca County – Soil Science college course
- Kevin Preischel, Erie County – Cornell Local Roads Program, Roadway & Roadside Drainage
- Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County – QuickBooks: A 60 Minute Crash Course
- Eva Brown, Onondaga County – Financial Accounting
- Maxine Appleby, Wayne County – Creating Story Maps with ArcGIS
- Pamela Price, Columbia County – Further Research in Environmental Education – Leadership and Careers

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

Starting in 2020, there will be several changes/clarifications made to the Frank Bratt Scholarship program. Some of these changes include:

- Increased spending to \$2,000 per round.
- Allowing districts to cover the cost of the training, in which case the district will be reimbursed
- Clarification on eligible costs (course registration and mileage).
- Page limit for applications to 2 pages (the application coversheet and **one** additional page for course/employee description).

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

Best of luck!

Scott Collins
Niagara County SWCD, Division I Representative

BY-LAW CHANGES- 2021



The biggest changes are the Frank Bratt Scholarship, the adjustments of the for the Frank Bratt Scholarship are questions that have been asked over the years, clarifications and concerns. We have also added the application form and the ranking sheet to the bylaws!

Page 19: Updated the Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship- See yellow.
Application and Ranking sheet have also been updated.

Added the Environmental Education Foundation By-laws to the appendix.

VI. Program Policy II: Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship

The Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship was initiated in 1990 to assist District employees with furthering their professional development and education. This scholarship can encompass a broad range of topics, with emphasis placed upon conservation related topics and subjects related to District function. Scholarships will be awarded based upon the supposed value of the course to the applicant, to be judged by the eight NYSCDEA Division Representatives.

The following policy covers the administration of the scholarship program.

- [1] The scholarship is available to members of the Association, and NYSSWCC staff only.
- [2] Eligible employees must hold a permanent position in their SWCD or NYSSWCC. Full-time or part-time employees are eligible. Employees in temporary positions are not eligible for the scholarship.
- [3] Scholarships may be used for credit or non-credit classes, workshops, or other professional development programs.
- [4] Eligible expenses include conference/workshop fees, tuition, online courses, fees for books/manuals and lodging when needed. Meals are only eligible if it is part of the conference/training registration. CDEA sanctioned functions are ineligible as well as mileage, other travel costs. Exam fees, equipment, software and other supplies that are not part of the course fee are ineligible.
- [5] Applicants must provide the following information within 2 pages:
 1. A completed scholarship application- 1 page.
 2. A brief description of the class and explanation of how the educational program will improve the employee's job performance.
- [6] Applications must be received by the application deadlines to be considered. The scholarship will be available and awarded four times per year. Applications deadlines are the 1st of March, June, September, and December. A special meeting may be called to approve awards.
- [7] Scholarships awards range from \$50 to \$500 per class/training. The number of scholarships awarded and the amounts are dependent upon number of applicants and funds available through the income and interest to the Frank Bratt Scholarship account.
- [8] All activities must be pre-paid. Scholarships will be paid upon submittal of NYSCDEA Reimbursement Request and proof of registration and successful completion of professional development activity, i.e. a class certificate or attendance sheet. A Soil and Water Conservation District can be reimbursed for an employee's training if they prepay on behalf of the employee.
- [9] Scholarship recipients have two years from the award letter to complete their training.
OR
Scholarship recipients can be reimbursed for trainings that take place before an application deadline as long as the training activity has been completed within the previous 4 months of the application deadline.
- [10] Successful applicants will be notified within one week following the next regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting that follows the application deadline.

Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship Application Rating Form

The NYS Conservation District Employees Association holds a scholarship program for District employees who are interested in furthering their education. This scholarship can encompass a broad range of topics, with emphasis placed upon conservation related topics and subjects related to District function. Eligible expenses include conference/workshop fees, tuition, online courses, lodging when needed and **books or manuals** required for the training. Food is only eligible if it is part of the conference/training registration. CDEA sanctioned functions are ineligible as well as mileage or other travel costs.

Scholarships will be awarded based upon the supposed value of the course to the applicant, to be judged by the eight NYSDEA Division Representatives. The minimum amount of the scholarship is \$50, and the maximum is \$500. Successful applicants will be notified within one week following the next regularly scheduled Executive Board meeting or a special meeting that follows the application deadline. Scholarship recipients have two years from the award letter to complete their training OR scholarship recipients can be reimbursed for trainings that take place before an application deadline as long as the training activity has been completed within the previous 4 months of the application deadline.

NAME OF APPLICANT: _____

NAME OF DISTRICT: _____

JOB TITLE _____

TITLE OF COURSE: _____

RATING

Relevance to applicant's current position description?

HI 5 4 3 2 1 LOW

Relevance of the course to technical conservation practice implementation?

HI 5 4 3 2 1 LOW

Relevance to direct district administration (bookkeeping, records retention...)?

HI 5 4 3 2 1 LOW

Relevance of the course to district program?

HI 5 4 3 2 1 LOW

Benefit to applicant and job performance?

HI 5 4 3 2 1 LOW

Has the applicant previously received funding? **If the applicant was partially funded in a previous round, they should not receive penalty (due to the cap of funds available).**

(5 years or more, would give a rank of 5, 4 years ago would rank 4, ... 1 year ago or less would rank 1)

No 5 4 3 2 1 Yes

Is this for a college degree?

No 5 1 Yes

Total Score: _____

NYS CDEA, INC.
BANK REPORT FOR ALL ACCOUNTS
As of December 31, 2021

	Dec 31, 21	Dec 31, 20
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Checking/Savings		
NYSCDEA-REG CHECKING		
General NYSCDEA Funds	31,985.93	57,229.39
Online 4-Hour Course	476,457.99	284,226.11
Conservation Skills	23,352.62	19,528.37
Golf Tournament	3,935.00	4,332.48
Leadership Conference	2,863.13	2,863.13
NYSESCC Program	9,690.27	3,453.60
NYS Envirothon	74,929.69	72,597.69
NYS Fair	8,413.61	8,184.70
Resource Training Checking	5,331.80	5,331.80
Sunshine Fund	907.93	907.93
Total NYSCDEA-REG CHECKI...	637,867.97	458,655.20
Envirothon Scholarship Savings	9,843.01	9,090.87
Frank Bratt Scholarship Savings	32,604.53	31,222.61
Resource Training Savings	27,063.64	27,058.23
Total Checking/Savings	707,379.15	526,026.91
Accounts Receivable		
Accounts Receivable		
Envirothon Receivables	0.00	-9,500.00
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	-9,500.00
Total Accounts Receivable	0.00	-9,500.00
Other Current Assets		
Undeposited Funds	500.00	0.00
Total Other Current Assets	500.00	0.00
Total Current Assets	707,879.15	516,526.91
TOTAL ASSETS	707,879.15	516,526.91
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Cards		
Credit Card - Kristin-2353	493.85	493.85

NYS CDEA, INC.
BANK REPORT FOR ALL ACCOUNTS
As of December 31, 2021

	<u>Dec 31, 21</u>	<u>Dec 31, 20</u>
Total Credit Cards	<u>493.85</u>	<u>493.85</u>
Total Current Liabilities	<u>493.85</u>	<u>493.85</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>493.85</u>	<u>493.85</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>493.85</u>	<u>493.85</u>

NYSCDEA

ACCOUNT	2021 Approved Budget		Actual Income and Expenses 12/31/2021		2022 Draft Budget	
	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fertilizer Tablets			\$120.00		\$ -	\$ -
Field Resources for Districts			\$0.00	\$750.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00
Training Sessions:						
Admin/Mgt Conf	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00			\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00
CSW	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,920.00	\$2,882.06	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00
WQS	\$12,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$11,566.95	\$2,833.59	\$1,000.00	\$10,000.00
4-Hour Online Course	\$120,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$196,202.42	\$4,344.55	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 80,000.00
NYS ESCCP	\$18,500.00	\$14,500.00	\$11,950.00	\$6,313.51	\$16,000.00	\$13,000.00
Trainings		\$8,000.00	\$5.41			\$80,000.00
Leadership Conference		\$3,000.00				\$3,000.00
WQS Resource Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -
Audit, Taxes & Legal Fees		\$5,000.00		\$393.15		\$ 10,000.00
Donations:						
Envirothon Scholarship		\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00		\$ 2,500.00
Donations-Other-EEF						
Executive Board		\$7,000.00		\$1,449.37		\$7,000.00
Promo Merchan...						\$1,000.00
Insurance		\$3,500.00		\$2,630.15		\$3,500.00
Promo/Website		\$100.00		\$99.00		\$100.00
National Association of Conservation Districts Annual Meeting (NACD)- 2 NYSCDEA BM & Rep		\$2,400.00				\$10,000.00
National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Meeting (NACDNE)- 2 NYSCDEA BM & National Conservation District Employees Association		\$3,000.00		\$975.53		\$6,000.00
Dues (NCDEA)		\$200.00		\$200.00		\$200.00
Newsletter		\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00		\$3,500.00
Sunshine Fund		\$200.00				\$200.00
Office Supplies		\$5,000.00		\$2,616.84		\$3,000.00
Ronny Raindrop™		\$16,000.00		\$3,000.00		\$12,500.00
Division I		\$500.00				\$500.00
Division II		\$500.00				\$500.00
Division III		\$500.00				\$500.00
Division IV		\$500.00				\$500.00
Division V		\$500.00				\$500.00
Division VI		\$500.00				\$500.00
Division VII		\$500.00				\$500.00
Division VIII		\$500.00				\$500.00
Carryover					\$ 87,300.00	
TOTALS	\$159,500.00	\$146,900.00	\$222,764.78	\$34,487.75	\$ 261,300.00	\$ 261,300.00

Self Sustaining Accounts	Income	Expense	Income	Expense	Income	Expense
Fish Challenge	\$500.00	\$200.00	\$204.10	\$277.15	\$500.00	\$200.00
Frank Bratt	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,492.51	\$2,946.12	\$4,000.00	\$4,000.00
NYS Envirothon	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$21,737.50	\$9,085.21	\$60,500.00	\$60,500.00
2024 NCF Envirothon	\$6,000.00	\$0.00	\$23,054.44	\$0.00	\$6,000.00	\$4,000.00
Envirothon Scholarships	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2.14	\$500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
NYS Fair/EFD	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,603.34	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
Golf Tournament	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$1,535.00	\$1,932.48	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
SSA Totals	\$80,700.00	\$74,400.00	\$52,825.69	\$17,344.30	\$ 81,200.00	\$ 78,900.00
Grand Total	\$240,200.00	\$221,300.00	\$275,590.47	\$51,832.05	\$ 342,500.00	\$ 340,200.00



New York Association of Conservation Districts
c/o Steuben County SWCD
415 W. Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
www.nyacd.org

by Blanche L. Hurlbutt NYACD Executive Director

2021-2022 has been a different year for NYACD with getting back into the swing of attending face-to-face meetings and still many Zoom meetings.

NYACD Board is staying in touch with Districts and each other by letters, emails, and phone calls.

NYACD was able to host their 2021 annual meeting and awards presentations face-to-face at the Hampton Inn, Cazenovia with over close to one hundred (100) attending. NYACD received no resolutions for 2021-2022 period.

NYACD have been hosting their monthly meetings by Zoom. The Board meetings are held the fourth Wednesday of the month. NYACD is happy to share the Zoom meeting contact information to anyone that would like to attend. Please reach out to the NYACD Executive Director.

The 4-Way Partners have been able to meet quarterly by Zoom and with the help of Caitlin Stewart they are working to find ways to reach out to potential employee candidates. Caitlin created a survey for districts to complete and once all necessary information received, we will move forward on how best to promote districts at colleges, universities, and job fairs.

The 2022 Legislative booklet was created with all Districts sharing their stories and photos. The booklet was mailed to Districts, Directors, and Legislators for review and sharing. The Legislators enjoy and learn just what districts do through-out the state. With this booklet we are able to show Legislators what Districts do with the funding the state provides. It is a great tool in educating others and Legislators what Districts are doing through-out the year & state to keep New York's soil & water quality where it should be.

Legislative Days went well this year and was spread over a two-week period. There were fifteen (14) districts that requested and attended the meetings with their Legislators. There were sixty-six (66) meetings set with Legislators. Our message this year was not only expressing our thanks and appreciation for their continued support, the increase in the EPF funding, and request for their continued support, but to share with them what Legislators do with those funds. Once again NYACD and Districts shared their concern regarding the Stream C bill created in 2019-2020 budget period vetoed by the Governor in 2020. The bill was reintroduced under bill numbers in the Senate #S4162 & Assembly #A6652. We were hoping & pushing for this bill not to be reintroduced, but since it has, we expressed our concerns and hardship this would cause the districts if they had to go through the NYS DEC permitting process. Once again, we are

encouraging the Legislature to not support this bill, but if they do exempt districts from the permitting process.

The annual 202 NYACD meeting will be on Tuesday, October 18 – Thursday, October 20, 2022, at the Hampton Inn, Cazenovia, NY. Details of classes, registration, etc. will be forwarded once things are set and finalized for this event. Request for silent auction/raffle items will be made along with award nominations.

We are lacking Division representation for Divisions III, VI, VII, and VIII. Please let me know if a director, within these divisions would consider stepping up and coming on to the NYACD Board. Tom Ryan is filling in as the NYACD Treasurer position on the board, we need someone to fill this position, so Tom does not hold both Secretary & Treasurer positions.

If you have any questions, concerns, or would like to be a part of the NYACD Board please reach out to me, Blanche L. Hurlbutt by phone #607-965-6316 (if calling home number is best, cell does not always come in) or email blanche_13335@yahoo.com



NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Report to the 2022 NYSCDEA Annual Meeting

From the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee (State Committee)

The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee wishes to thank the NYSCDEA for continued service and support. The State Committee and the Department of Agriculture and Markets continue to be in awe of Conservation District leadership and steadfast commitment to our ever-expanding conservation opportunities and challenges. The CDEA sets the tone for all Conservation District employees across the state and speaks in one voice when contributing to important environmental, conservation and farming policies, programs and strategies. This voice is so vital and essential for the SWCC, AGM, DEC, the state legislature, USDA and so many other partnering agencies to get it right. The CDEA will always have a seat at the table or in today's world a box in the WebEx or Zoom board room.

Thank you for your continued service to your farms, communities and county residents!

Brian Steinmuller
Assistant Director

Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Proposed Budget SFY2022-2023

Governor Hochul released the FY 2023 Executive Budget proposal in January 2022. This is a very strong budget proposal that will continue to elevate conservation programs and most importantly SWCD capacity. This is a true testament to the work you all do each and every day on your farms and in your communities. You should all be very proud of your work and know that it is making a big difference all across the state. **This budget proposal raises the total EPF from \$300 million to \$400 million and increases a number of the programs that SWCDs offer to farms and communities.** This Executive Budget is subject to modification and approval by the State Legislature by April 1st, 2022.

Environmental Protection Fund (see attached)

Overall appropriations for the FY 2023 EPF are proposed to be \$400 million.

- \$20 million for Farmland Protection, including up to \$1 million for the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (administered by DEC) and \$96,000 for the Cornell Land Classification and Master List of Soils
- \$1.75 million for Biodiversity Stewardship, including \$500,000 for pollinator protection
- \$20 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including \$2 million for Cornell IPM, \$500,000 for the CCE of Suffolk County and \$250,000 for Cornell PMEP
- \$15 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, increase of \$4 million over SFY2022 levels
- \$17.025 million for Invasive Species, including \$120,000 for the Cornell University Plant Certification program

- \$22 million for the Oceans and Great Lakes Initiative
- \$4.8 million for NYS Climate Adaptation, including \$200,000 for the Wood Products Development Council
- \$17.5 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including up to \$500,000 for the Cornell Soil Health program, increase of \$13 million over SFY2022 levels
- \$25 million for the Water Quality Improvement Program
- \$17 million for the Waterfront Revitalization Program

Notable Activities and Program Overview

State Aid to Districts Behind the Numbers:

The 2021 State Aid to Districts Program was reviewed in late February 2022 and processed just last week, March 2022. With over \$11 million available, a Conservation District that earned full Part A reimbursement, received \$6,000 in conservation project funding, and met all Performance Measures received an estimated total of **\$188,000**. Part C awards are estimated at a total maximum earned of **\$122,000**. This is the third time Part C funding eclipsed \$100,000. This continues a positive trend with more Districts meeting and exceeding Performance Measures each year. Performance Measure funding is weighted high with **\$6.9 million** distributed across all participating Districts.

Policies and procedures continue to evolve over the 15 years that the State Aid Program has included a multi-tiered approach. The State Committee endeavors each year to improve its procedures, solicit feedback, and execute the program in both an effective and efficient manner. Regional Field Staff continue to make themselves available to assist Districts in meeting PMs throughout the reporting year and to review program reports to help ensure accuracy and completeness.

Due to COVID-19, the State Committee made extensive changes to the 2020 State Aid to Districts Part C Performance Measures in April 2020. These changes were continued for the 2021 and 2022 year as many of the same COVID-19 challenges continue.

- PM1: the award has been reduced to 0%. Questions remain the same but there is no money tied to this PM. Failure to complete questions or not meeting the intent of this PM will not result in any penalty.
- PM2: the award has been increased to 15%. Questions 2a & 2b have been combined into one question that includes all the items for presentations, reports, publication, education, and outreach. Only 3 of these items are required. 2c: Annual Plan of Work is required and due to SWCC Regional AEAs by November 1st.
- PM3: the award has been increased to 35%. Only 2 of the 7 questions need to be completed to meet the requirement. Question PM3.2 (partnerships between the District and different local, state, federal, or private entities) only 2 partnerships are required.
- PM4: the award has been increased to 50%. Only 3 Natural Resource Conservation Programs are required.

- PM5: the award has been reduced to 0%. Questions remain the same but there is no money tied to this PM. Failure to complete questions under this PM would not result in any penalty.

The State Committee is planning to hold a State Aid to Districts meeting in 2022 with all interested SWCD personnel to discuss the future of the State Aid Program, review and make recommendations for changes including to Part C Performance Measures. For more information, please contact Ben Luskin at ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov.

Source Water Buffer Program:

The Source Water Buffer Program was launched in January 2019 and was revamped July 2019. Led by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the goal of the Source Water Buffer Program is to protect active sources of public drinking water and support, expand or enhance water quality protection through the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands. Such projects shall preserve or establish buffers for surface or ground waters which serve as or are tributaries to public drinking water supplies.



Nearly \$5 million in program funds was made available for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands that support, expand or enhance water quality protection of active public drinking water sources. Program funds may also support the implementation of Riparian Buffer Systems within the conservation easement area that will provide further protection to water quality.

Since the program's release, nearly \$300,000.00 has been awarded. The first award was made in June 2020 to the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District. The District partnered with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, to purchase a 6.4 acre conservation easement to permanently protect agricultural land along a tributary of Chautauqua Lake. This project is also proposing to exclude livestock from the easement area and protect 6.1 acres of herbaceous buffer. The second award was made in February 2022 to the Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District who will be partnering with the Adirondack Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy. This project will purchase a 16.6 acre conservation easement to permanently protect agricultural land along a tributary of Lake Champlain. This project is also proposing to implement a Riparian Buffer System that will restrict livestock access to the stream, improve stream crossings to allow for aquatic passage and reduce erosion of the streambank. Approximately 16.22 acres of forested buffer will be established and permanently protected.

State Committee staff provides support of District Operations:

Regional Coordinators assist District staff and Directors at monthly Board Meetings to aid in discussions and decisions for the advancement of Districts. Written monthly reports continue to be provided to each State Committee region that includes program deadlines, funding opportunities, information related to State Committee meetings and important agenda items, and regionally significant achievements/opportunities. Since COVID-19 forced many SWCD Boards to meet remotely, Regional AEs have been able to attend many more meetings, in some cases, multiple meetings in a single day. As COVID-19 challenges begin to ebb and more meetings are held in person, please coordinate scheduling with your Regional Coordinator early and often.

AEM Program – AEM Planner Certification and AEM Base:

A total of 51 certified planners are now doing CNMP work across the state, with 20 of those SWCD employees across 16 Districts. The AEM Certified Planner Program averages 10 planners actively working for certification at any one time. In addition, please note that Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning for Agricultural Environmental Management: AEM / NRCS CNMP Training will be held April 5-7, 2022. For details, please contact Ron Bush ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov.

Developed in 2019 and launched January 1, 2020, the State Committee made a new non-competitive cost-share component available for the AEM Base Program. In order to make this possible, the State Committee set aside over \$11 million from the AgNPS EPF Budget line. Round 16 has wrapped up and final reports are coming in. This program places more authority in the hands of District Boards to prioritize projects for funding without having to compete for limited resources. In addition to the cost-share component, technical assistance reimbursement is available: \$220,000 was made available for a two-year period for a District who has a certified AEM Planner on staff; \$170,000 was made available for a two-year period for a District who has a Certified Crop Advisor or NRCS Certified Planner on staff; and \$130,000 available for all other Districts. Round 17 Annual Action Plans were due on November 1st, 2022 and are moving forward for contracting. For more information, please contact Greg Albrecht, AEM Program Coordinator at greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov.

Statewide AEM/Leopold Conservation Award:

Table Rock Farm selected for New York's 2nd annual AEM-Leopold Conservation Award (LCA). Awarded by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the AEM-LCA award honors Megan Hauser and the family, friends, and employees of Table Rock Farm, along with the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, for their efforts to protect the environment through the preservation of soil, air and water quality while ensuring farm viability for future generations.

Table Rock Farm's owners and employees have long understood the importance of opening the dairy farm's barns and fields to researchers. Whether it's improving conservation, cows or crops, the results have a positive ripple effect throughout agriculture. At Table Rock Farm, 1,800 acres of corn and alfalfa are grown to feed a herd of 1,150 dairy cows. Crop rotations, conservation tillage and cover crops are utilized to promote soil health and prevent erosion. Cover crop techniques are the focus of a three-year study that soil health specialists from American Farmland Trust are conducting at Table Rock Farm. To protect fields from erosion during the winter, a cover crop is planted as corn silage is harvested.

Located just two hours from Cornell University, Table Rock Farm has hosted various studies with the university. Topics ranged from how often to test dry matter in cattle feed, seasonal swings in a cow's colostrum production and quality, and which grasses and seeding rates are best for planting into alfalfa fields.

The farm is best known for the innovative cover and flare system on its manure storage. To protect resources, reduce waste, and improve air quality, Table Rock Farm worked with a team of professionals, including New York's AEM and Climate Resilient Farm (CRF) Programs, to develop an intricate system that separates solids from liquids in cow manure, and prevents methane from being released into the atmosphere.



Separated manure solids are treated to reduce bacteria before being recycled into bedding. The clean and comfy product has resulted in better cow health and comfort. The manure system's cover keeps out rain, reduces odor, and allows spreading during optimum weather conditions. The entire project is the subject of a video used statewide to inform farmers, legislators and others about its benefits.

For the third year, New York's longstanding Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award partnered with the nationally recognized Leopold Conservation Award® program. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award (LCA) recognizes farmers, foresters and other landowners across the U.S. who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on working land. The award is presented to landowners in 21 states. The 2022 Award is currently out with a due date of May 1st. Please consider nominating an outstanding farm family or more in your County. For more information, please contact AEM Program Coordinator, Greg Albrecht at greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov.

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program:

In March 2021, grants were awarded to Districts under Round 26 of the AgNPS Program totaling \$14.9 million. Grant awards were made to 46 project proposals. Round 27 of the AGNPS program was released in May 2021 and awards were made to Districts in November 2021. A total of \$13.6 million was awarded to support 43 project proposals.

State Committee staff are currently managing 200 active contracts, representing roughly \$69 million invested in agricultural conservation efforts across the state. An additional 43 contracts are currently pending contract execution.

The Round 28 RFP was released in January 2022. Applications to this round of funding must be submitted by May 2, 2022. Awards for Round 28 projects should be announced later in 2022.

Climate Resilient Farming Program:

Round 6 of the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program was announced in January 2022. Two years of EPF funding were combined for Round 6 for a total of \$8 million available for projects that reduce on-farm GHG emissions and increase a farms resiliency to the impacts of climate change. Proposals for Round 6 are due March 28th for projects implementing: Manure Storage Cover and Flare Systems; Water Management Systems; or Soil Health Systems.

State Committee staff are managing 78 active CRF contracts, representing roughly \$7.7 million invested in climate change mitigation and agricultural and community resiliency efforts across the state.

CRF funds supporting Cornell Soil Health and Resiliency Initiative supported over 37 webinars reaching more than 1500 stakeholders in 2020-2021. The NYS Soil Health Working Group led by Cornell organized the 2020 Virtual Soil Health Center due to the cancellation of Empire Farm Days in 2020. The New York Soil Health Program created a second Soil Health Specialist Training Program consisting of 9 SWCD employees of the selected 29 agricultural professionals from across NYS to participate in the 2020-2021 NYS Soil Health Specialist Training. Additionally, the Characterization of Soil Health in NYS Technical and Summary Reports were published providing new insights into soil health and cropping systems.

The Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project is in its second year in 2021 implementing soil health practices on farms in Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, and Columbia SWCDs. Outreach partner, Scenic Hudson has helped promote soil health through videos highlighting some of the practices being implemented. Videos can be viewed here -

<https://www.northeastcarbonalliance.org/post/hudson-valley-carbon-farming-pilot-project-updates-from-the-field>.

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA):

The CLCPA was signed into law in July 2019 and took effect early in 2020. The CLCPA sets very ambitious goals including a 40% reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030, and 85% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, which taken together with a carbon sequestration goal, carbon neutrality achieved by that same year. The CLCPA also sets goals for the State's electricity grid to be carbon neutral by 2040. The state has drafted a Scoping Plan that is now out for public comment that cover major economic sectors as well as considerations of equity and just transitions to a clean carbon neutral economy by 2050.

The CLCPA set up a Climate Action Council and a number of advisory panels of experts in various sectors to build out recommendations for the scoping plan. The Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel is chaired by AGM Commissioner Richard Ball and includes 18 professionals representing academia, public policy, farming and forestry interests, and Soil and Water Conservation District activities. The panel has developed a set of recommendations in the following subtopics for Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan:

- **Soil Health** to reduce net GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits through adoption of soil health management practices
- **Nutrient Management** to reduce nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions while achieving desired crop yield and quality through continued and expanded nutrient management planning and implementation on crop fields, hay fields, pastures, orchards, vineyards, and other agricultural lands receiving nutrients.
- **Agroforestry** which is the intentional integration of trees into areas of agricultural production to reliably increase carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits.
- **Alternative Manure Management** to reduce methane emissions by implementing practice systems specifically planned and designed for each farm, such as cover and flare systems, anaerobic digester systems, and other innovative systems that collect, capture and destroy methane from manure storages or prevent methane production in the management of manure.
- **Precision Feed, Forage and Herd Management** to reduce methane from animal feeding while maintaining desired ruminant growth and milk production. This strategy includes the potential for the incorporation of feed additives that reduce enteric fermentation if deemed safe, cost-effective, and scalable for widespread use.
- **Avoided land use conversions** to maintain and enhance the state's carbon stocks and carbon sequestration potential through avoided forest and farmland use conversion to more greenhouse gas intensive development.
- **Forest Management** to increase carbon sequestration through improved, sustainable forest management practices, to secure forest regeneration, improve forest health and productivity, and restore degraded forests.
- **Reforestation** to improve tree stocks in existing or degraded forestland
- **Afforestation** or planting trees in underutilized or marginal lands
- **Urban Forestry** which focuses on increasing tree canopy cover in our urban/suburban areas through tree planting efforts on public and private lands to increase sequestration. Doing so has additional benefits such

as reducing cooling costs associated with heat island effect. This strategy also recognizes the need to manage and maintain these trees to help achieve a more mature canopy.

- **Climate-focused Bioeconomy** which focuses on advancing the portion of the economy that produces sustainable, renewable bio-based feedstocks, rather than fossil-fuel derived feedstocks that produce products that achieve both the climate and social justice goals of the CLCPA.

Keys to successful deployment of these strategies include increasing technical services through expansion of Conservation District capacity, increasing research, planning, and financial assistance to the farming and forestry sectors. This will improve access to programs and effective practices for all farmers and forest landowners. These strategies also prioritize disadvantaged communities by placing emphasis on access to agricultural and forestry technical assistance and funding programs to historically underserved and disadvantaged community members, such as the BIPOC farming community, low income, and beginning farmers.

The CLCPA requires that NYS track methane using a shorter time horizon in the atmosphere, 20 years rather than 100 years. This increases the potency of methane from 34 times that of CO₂ to 84 times. Consequently, here in NYS we will need enhanced and continued resources to help our livestock farmers, mainly dairy, to reduce and manage methane emissions while also making investments in soil health, nutrient management and woodlot/forest management.

The CLCPA also requires that the state increases research and development into novel approaches to drastically reduce emissions and increase sequestration potential. Further, it will require a robust and comprehensive benchmarking and quantification system to track emission reductions and sequestration potential.

The Draft Climate Action Council Scoping Plan is currently out for public comment. The SWCC encourages SWCDs and partners to review the plan and provide your comments by the deadline. To review the plan and provide comment, please contact: <https://climate.ny.gov/>.

Thank you for all the great things you all do. Here is to hoping we will be meeting in person in 2023!



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

FY 2022 Partner Report



Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)



\$10,966,000

(FY21: \$5,967,601)

+\$4.9M

CSP helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resource concerns.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)



\$14,549,000

(FY21: \$15,825,641)

-\$1.3M

EQIP provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers in order to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion and sedimentation or improved or created wildlife habitat.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)



\$4,120,645

(FY21: \$2,448,295)

+\$1.7M

NRCS, conservation partners and agricultural producers work together in RCPP to harness innovation, expand the conservation mission and demonstrate the value and efficacy of voluntary, private lands conservation.

Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)



\$500,000

(FY21: \$487,637)

+\$12K

CIG is a competitive program that supports the development of new tools, approaches, practices, and technologies to further natural resource conservation on private lands. Through creative problem solving and innovation, CIG partners work to address our nation's water quality, air quality, soil health and wildlife habitat challenges, all while improving agricultural operations.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)



\$2,622,763

(FY21: \$1,228,570)

+\$1.4M

NRCS provides funds to conservation partners to purchase conservation easements on private working lands. This program helps keep working lands healthy, especially in areas experiencing development pressure.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA)



\$271,000

(FY21: \$358,089)

-\$87K

New York focuses AMA resources on a special Urban Agricultural Initiative to ensure fresh food is available and accessible to urban areas.

Total Obligations FY22: \$33,029,408

(FY21: \$26,315,833)

+\$6,713,575

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

Jeffrey Parker
NYSCDEA Representative/President

The annual meeting was held on Tuesday, November 1 with six (6) of thirteen (13) states in attendance. Some topics of discussion included:

- ✓ Election of Officers: The slate of officers was presented to the attendees as Jeff Parker, President; Sandy Thompson, Vice President; Alisa Bentley, Secretary and Ines Zimmerman, Treasurer. There were no further nominations from the floor resulting the above slate of officers were elected for the next two years.
- ✓ Discussed at length on how to promote the NACDE awards to recognize District employees & Directors within the region.
- ✓ Travel Stipend was awarded to Gennifer Keller, Urban Agricultural Coordinator for Northern Rhode Island Conservation District. Another in-depth discussion took place on promotion of this opportunity within the conservation districts in the region.
- ✓ Discussion among the attendees took place on developing a platform to share information on policy, list serv, etc. Additional dialog and action will take place future meetings.
- ✓ Discussion/approval to place on additional fundraising opportunities beside the Sunday tour. One item that was discussed was donation from each Conservation District in the region which would have potential in providing additional funds to help support more than one District to attend northeast annual conference via the travel stipend. The Treasurer will develop a one-page donation flyer outlining the NACDE goals & accomplishments along with different levels of donation.
- ✓ The meeting will be January with day to be determined.

The 2022 Northeast Conference is being planned by the Maryland Association of Conservation District and proposed dates right now is Sunday, August 28 – Tuesday, August 30. NACDE board members will be working closely the MACD Planning committee to assist/coordinate the conference.

As a reminder, the Northeast Association of Conservation District Employees (NACDE) has a travel stipend to attend the Northeast Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference. The stipend will be offered to employee applicants that are active in the affairs of NCDEA, or who may enrich their district, state or regional program by their attendance. If you have never attended a Northeast Region meeting before, I encourage you to do so this year and apply for the stipend.

The NACDE Conservation offers an Awards Program which includes an Employee and District Official award. The District Official award is for regional impacts and the employee award is for impacts at the local level. If there is a worthy candidate for either award, please submit their name for consideration. Be on the lookout for the nomination form within the next couple of months.

The Don Aron Scholarship Award is offered to conservation employee and their immediate family who is participating in a resource conservation curriculum while enrolled in an accredited college or university. The eligibility consists of employment of one year by Conservation District and have demonstrated integrity, ability, and competence in their work and possess skills gained through training or experience along with providing information of enrollment at an accredited college or university. The individual applying could receive up to \$1,000. You can find the form at www.ncdea.us. Deadline for filing is **March 15** of every year.

The primary fundraising activity for NACDE continues to be the sightseeing tour held at the Northeast Regional meeting. Twenty-six individuals attended the NACDE fundraiser tour comprising of 10 District employees, 7 directors, 5 spouses, 1 partnering agency and 3 guests. The Coppal House Farm is a beef/lamb and produce farm and are very conscious of their carbon foot-printing. What does this mean? They use both mechanical equipment and horses – so depending on temperature and field conditions will determine what method will be used – mechanical or horse drawn. They grow and produce their own sunflower oil. They sell their farm products at their farm and local farmer’s market. The tour also consisted of stopping a local winery – Flag Hill. The owner spoke about how they work with other producers on sharing equipment, cover crops, different type of grapes grown to produce the wine. It was further mentioned that they grow their own grain to make spirits (whiskey) and if there is any grain remaining in the grain bins from previous year, they will be sold locally to a swine farm to allow the new grain to utilize the bins for processing



The Coppal House Farm



Flag Hill Winery

NACDE publishes a quarterly e-newsletter entitled “The Nor’Easter”. If you haven’t signed up to receive a copy electronically, reach out to Molly Allard at mallard.nricd@gmail.com.

NACDE is using the Squarespace for the website platform and the webmaster is Molly Allard from the Northern Rhode Island Conservation District. Check out the website online at www.NACDE.org

Northeast Facts:

States in the Region

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

1,420 District Employees in Region

5 States with organized Employee Associations

4 District Employee Reps on state TLCs

5 States with organized Employee Committees

New Employees January 1 2021 - December 31, 2021

Division I

Matt Schaefer	Cattaraugus	District Technician	November	2021
Hailey Brown	Chautauqua	Water Quality Technician	November	2021
Katie Pfeifer	Niagara	Secretary/Assistant Treasurer	June	2021

Division II

Eva Champion	Cayuga	Senior Account Clerk Typist	June	2021
Mike Warren	Cayuga	Motor Equipment Operator	August	2021
Jacob Kearney	Monroe	Conservation Program Specialist	December	2021
Peter Rao	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	April	2021
Megan Vandewarker	Onondaga	Conservation District Technician	June	2021
Anne Havelin	Seneca	Bookkeeper / Secretary	February	2021
Alex McGraw	Seneca	District Technician	September	2021

Division III

Gabrielle Lewosko	Herkimer	Conservation Aide	October	2021
Kaitlyn Doane	Oneida	Secretary	January	2021

Division IV

Michael Burud	Delaware	Data and Budget Specialist	September	2021
Josh Hamelin	Steuben	District Technician	May	2021
Thomas Flynn	Tioga	Conservation Technician	May	2021
Ranier Lucas	Tioga	Buffer Technician	October	2021
Heather Scott	Tioga	AEM Specialist	December	2021
Samantha Smith	Tompkins	Senior Account Clerk	April	2021

Division V

Kaylyn Wood	Clinton	District Technician	August	2021
Joseph Braun	Essex	Conservation Technician	February	2021

Division VI

Nicholas Blow	Albany	District Technician	November	2021
Judy Klapp	Albany	District Clerk	April	2021
Laura Bornt	Rensselaer	Conservation District Technician	July	2021
Drew Hoag	Rensselaer	Conservation District Technician	October	2021
Tyler Levy	Schenectady	District Technician	July	2021
Randy Spengler	Schenectady	Gate Keeper	July	2021
Lyndsy Hilder	Washington	District Technician	June	2021

Division VII

Cassandra Miller	Dutchess	Office Manager	Sept	2021
Amy Titcomb	Dutchess	District Technician	Sept	2021
Rich Andreassen	Greene	Conservation District Program Engineer	May	2020
Alex Johnk	Greene	Heavy Machine Equipment Operator	Nov	2021
Victoria Martino	Greene	Administrative Assistant	Aug	2020
Roland O'Dell, Jr.	Orange	Field Technician	Jan	2021
Mark Tollefson	Ulster	A.W.S.M.P. Watershed Technician	Nov	2021

Division VIII

Derek Betts	Nassau	District Manager	June	2021
Tom Parisi	Nassau	District Technician	September	2021
Sean Rooney	Nassau	District Technician	August	2021

Years of Service Pin Recipients 2022

Division I

Leonard Preston	Allegany	Watershed Technician / Engineer	November	2012	10
Allen Fagan	Wyoming	District Manager	June	2012	10
Donald Stribick	Erie	District Technician	September	1997	25

Division II

Wanda Jakaub	Cayuga	Principal Account Clerk	Sept	2007	15
Mike Riley	Cayuga	Working Foreperson	Sep	2002	20
Tad Gerace	Ontario	Conservation District Technician	Oct	2002	20
Ronald Thorn	Wayne	Conservation Field Program Manager	May	2002	20
Christopher Creelman	Seneca	District Technician	May	1997	25
Tom Eskildsen	Yates	Senior District Technician	June	1997	25

Division III

Elizabeth Gallup	St. Lawrence	Secretary/Treasurer	March	2012	10
Carla Yaw	Lewis	District Treasurer	June	2007	15
Donald Lynch	Oneida	Engineer	October	2007	15
Raeanne Dulanski	St. Lawrence	Manager	May	2007	15
Steve Lorraine	Madison	District Manager	June	2002	20

Division IV

Jeremy Waddell	Tioga	Wetland Biologist	July	2012	10
Russell Smith	Cortland	Natural Resource Conservationist	February	2007	15
Jody Applebee	Steuben	Conservation Assistant	May	2007	15
Chris Brogdale	Tioga	Watershed Technician	September	2007	15
Jessica Patterson	Delaware	Stream Technician	May	2002	20
Melissa Yearick	Tioga	Wetlands Coordinator	May	2002	20
Chris Savage	Delaware	Civil Engineering Technician	April	1997	25
Lawrence Underwood	Delaware	Executive Director	February	1992	30

Division V

Nicholas Rowell	Warren	Natural Resources Specialist	May	2012	10
Robert Bombard	Warren	Water Resources Specialist	March	2012	10
Dean Moore	Warren	District Technician	September	2007	15
Lenny Croote	Hamilton	Conservation Technician	August	2002	20

Division VI

Jacob Hart	Fulton	Resource Conservationist	March	2012	10
Lori Sheehan	Washington	Office Manger	October	2012	10
John Persch	Fulton	District Manager	May	1997	25
Paula Schaeffer	Schenectady	Administrative Assistant	July	1997	25
Corey Nellis	Montgomery	District Manager	June	1987	35

Division VII

Erin Sommerville	Dutchess	MS-4 Coordinator	Jan	2012	10
Stacie Howell	Sullivan	CSBI Coordinator	April	2012	10
Margarete Wagner	Ulster	Program Assistant	Dec	2007	15
Jake Wedemeyer	Ulster	Technician/Ed. Specialist	Aug	2002	20
Brian Scoralick	Dutchess	Executive Director	Mar	1997	25
Brian Brustman	Sullivan	District Manager	Dec	1997	25

Division VIII

Ann Marie Calabro	Suffolk	Agonomist	October	2012	10
Tatiana Morin	NY City	Director, Urban Soils Insitute	May	2007	15
R. Allan Beers	Rockland	Executive Director	January	1997	25



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

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

Welcome to our second Virtual Water Quality Symposium. This event has helped Conservation District Employees and our partners come together to develop our skills for over 40 years. Fortunately, we are planning to hold the 2023 Water Quality Symposium in person at the Double Tree Hilton in Syracuse.

Serving as the President of the Conservation District Employee's Association has been a great experience over the past year. We are an extremely busy Employee's association with many irons in the fire and these projects require a great deal of time from our all volunteer Board and committee members. I want to thank all of those Board and Committee members for their hard work and dedication.

I would also like to extend out an invitation to all District employees to participate on the Board, or on one or more of the committees that are out there. Contact myself or your division rep if you are interested in contributing.

Our Association has been blessed with regular funding from our New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Endorsed 4-Hour Sediment and Control Online Training. The funding from this training is only available as a result of the forethought and hard work of Soil and Water Conservation District staff that saw an opportunity and worked hard to make it a reality and last year we brought in almost \$200,000 to support our organization and our trainings. With the approval of our new policy at this year's meeting we will be able to use these funds to advance our activities.

With this financial stability we expect to offer training opportunities like the Water Quality Symposium and Conservation Skills Workshop at a reduced rate to Districts along with funding more trainings in the future. The increase of activities along with an ever-growing list of committees and meetings that are involved in the operation of the CDEA we have reached the point where an all-volunteer Board must make sacrifices to make all the associated meetings and commitments. To continue fulfilling our commitments and grow as an organization we are exploring the option of hiring an Executive Director to handle the day-to-day operations of the CDEA.

I am looking forward to the continued success of the CDEA and meeting in person next year to renew friendships and meet some of the new District staff that has joined since the 2020 Symposium.

CDEA Vice President and ISAC Report

Per our CDEA By-Laws, Vice President guidelines and responsibilities focus on organizing the annual training session, including but not limited to organizing menus, instructors' needs, lodging, registrations, and entertainment. Due to Covid-19, I recommended, and the CDEA Board supported, a virtual event for the 2022 Water Quality Symposium. The 2-week annual training session is packed with 32 classes spanning Agriculture, Non-Agriculture, Clerk, Forestry, and Education tracks. I profoundly thank our track chairs; class facilitators; SWCC and NRCS partners; instructors; CDEA Executive Committee and Division Representatives for dedicating their time, energy, and creativity to the 2022 Water Quality Symposium. Over 480 people from across the northeast and beyond will attend classes. This number is astounding! It is my intent to return to an in-person event in 2023, and my hope that we maintain or exceed this year's grand total. The New York State Water Quality Symposium is perhaps one of the most effective professional development experiences available to participants, and it is essential for our employees to have the opportunity to attend. What better way to grow knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and meet colleagues who can help address challenges and augment successes?

It has been my pleasure to assist with the development of the CDEA request for proposals for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Endorsed 4-Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Online Training Program and Policy for the Management of Funds Generated from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Endorsed 4-Hour Sediment and Control Online Training. Additionally, I head the Recruitment and Retention committee, and developed a survey that will be reviewed with partners this spring. I sought estimates for Ronny Raindrop costumes, and CDEA decided to contract with Fine Character to create 4 new costumes. Owner Elizabeth Woods met with me to review the old costume in person, and discuss the wish list for what should be included and excluded. Costumes will be completed by July 2022.

I publish the CDEA Newsletter bimonthly, and encourage you to submit your stories, photos, special recognitions, and save the dates to caitlinstewart@frontier.com. Special columns include the cover photo, CDEA Wine and Pint Glass Tour, and Where in New York is Ronny Raindrop? Please keep your news rolling in! Back issues are available at www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/.

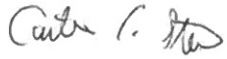
As the Conservation District member to the New York State Invasive Species Advisory Committee (ISAC), I attend quarterly meetings. The ISAC is a statutory body created in 2008 by Title 17, Section 9 of the Environmental Conservation Law (ECL) to provide information, advice and guidance to the Invasive Species Council. Some of the 2021 ISAC initiatives include:

- Compiled and shared an annual report highlighting the invasive species works performed by SWCD by county.
- New invasive species of importance: spotted lanternfly, box tree moth, soy bean nematoid
- Hosting events for Invasive Species Awareness Week
- Reviewed the aquatic invasive species transport bills (A7735-A/S7010-C) which expand the now sunset regulations about aquatic invasive species transport and spread prevention measures that are expected of all watercraft users on New York's waters. The ISAC supported the development of a self-certification program which would encourage watercraft owners to take steps to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by cleaning, draining, and drying their boats, trailers, and equipment.

Since 2017, it has been an absolute privilege to serve on the CDEA Executive Committee as Secretary and Vice President. I look forward to serving my second term.

I sincerely thank our CDEA Executive Committee, Division Representatives, and partners for their diligent work that often goes unnoticed and unrecognized. District staff members are New York State's boots on the ground for conservation. I wish you all a healthy, safe, and productive 2022!

With gratitude and good health,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Caitlin Stewart".

Caitlin Stewart
CDEA Vice President



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

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

Dean L. Moore

Member at Large

2021 Annual Report

2/25/22

Member at Large Annual Report

Another year of processing Requests for Reimbursement's (RFR's), credit card statement payment requests, payment authorizations and Fund Transfer requests has been completed. All requests are sent off to Chastity Miller typically the same day. I make every attempt to cc the sender of the original document so they are assured it is processed. All transactions were accompanied by a valid receipt and/or documentation.

I have happily served the board and assisted on sub committees as needed. I believe the fact that the meetings are face to face again and moving to different locations in the state allows for better networking.

I look forward to the Technicians Forum on Zoom we will hold in the very near future, to allow new technicians to network and share information to allow them to get up to speed quicker. There was no activity in the CDEA Management Development Certification Program.

Respectfully Submitted - Dean L. Moore

Dean L. Moore

Sr. District Technician, NYSESCC

Warren County SWCD

2021 Division I Annual Report

I would like to thank everyone in Division I for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the NYSCDEA Executive Board. I have found my responsibilities to be very rewarding. On December 10, 2021 a virtual Division I meeting was held to discuss program updates and other training opportunities. Division meetings are an important and valuable occasion to meet other District employees, share opinions/concerns on topics of the day and network collectively among partners.

In summary, Division I counties submitted multiple applications under several grant programs securing additional grant funding for water quality in the region. I reviewed the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Round 27 awards. Division I counties were awarded funding for nine projects costing nearly \$2.3 million dollars (17% of total budget) in state funding to reduce nutrients and sediment from entering streams. Great job Division I; In addition to all the other quality programs and services you provided such as: AEM planning, watershed planning and lake initiatives, stormwater technical assistance, streambank restoration, environmental education/outreach, tree and shrub programs, fish sales, invasive species removal, municipal assistance etc.

Division I representative responsibilities include overseeing the Frank Bratt Scholarship program. It is a great opportunity for all NYSCDEA employees, and I hope everyone takes advantage of any training/workshop opportunities that can benefit their roles personally and in the district. Please see the attached Frank Bratt report for 2021 program updates.

Any employee within the division is encouraged to participate in the NYSCDEA if and when the opportunity presents itself. Participation could be on the board itself or on a variety of different committees that require employee input. Please feel free to contact me at any time to discuss your participation.

I also want to take this opportunity to welcome new members to District employment within Division I in 2021. They include Katie Pfeifer (Niagara Co.), Hailey Brown (Chautauqua Co.) and Matt Schaefer (Cattaraugus Co.).

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Collins, Niagara County SWCD, Division I Representative



Division II Report
2022 Annual Report

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

Cayuga: No Report Submitted

Livingston: No Report Submitted

Monroe:

- One new staff member hired and one new Legislative Board member appointed in 2021;
- Steering Committee member for NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program;
- Maintain inventory of instructors from SWCDs throughout NYS for the 4 Hour E&SC Course;
- Maintained the CDEA website as a Division II member;
- Steering committee member for the NYS Coastal Lakeshore Economy and Resiliency (CLEAR) <https://dos.ny.gov/coastal-lakeshore-economy-and-resiliency-clear-initiative> initiative for Monroe County;
- Committee members for NYS Fair Booth Committee;
- Implementation of 0.6 acre Irrigation Reservoir on one farm under CRF Round 3;
- Installation of 60 acres of cover cropping on one farm under AEM Round 16 CS;
- Establishment of over 600 trees and shrubs on 0.45 acres of pasture for windbreaks under AEM Round 16 CS;
- Implemented an Urban Ag Community Garden in the City of Rochester under NYS Part B funding;
- Assisted 4 municipalities with NYS DEC MS4 Program Audits;
- Held 6 NYS DEC Endorsed 4 Hour E&SC Training sessions training 313 people;
- Held 5 Stormwater Training Series Courses training 140 people;
- Received 163 requests from 29 municipalities in Monroe County for technical assistance with drainage, streambank erosion, and stormwater post-construction inspection and assistance being the top requests;
- Distributed 20,285 trees, shrubs and plants to 443 customers;
- A Watercraft Steward inspected 3,714 boats for aquatic invasive species at two launch locations & encountered 6,497 people during the course of the season;
- 3,314 fish and 79 grass carp were distributed to 15 customers;
- Brockport High School participated in Regional and State Envirothon;
- 358 5th and 6th grade students participated in Conservation Field Days from 6 area schools over 2 days.

Onondaga:

The District and SLWAP, despite all of the setbacks with COVID and staffing issues, had a remarkable year! The staff, BOD, and WAPRC are recognized for their perseverance and dedication to conservation and all of the projects that they were able to plan, fund and implement under extreme financial, logistical and weather-related conditions.

- 1,231 TONS of water chestnuts harvested and spread on agricultural fields to build soil health

- 14.3 acres of Water Chestnuts were treated with herbicide, in conjunction with services provided by Oswego County SWCD
- Removed 2,490 ash trees from County rights-of-ways, parks, and other properties and 70 stumps have been ground
- -206 County and 145 Town of DeWitt high function and value Ash trees were treated in 2021 with a systemic insecticide to help to protect the trees against Emerald Ash Borer
- Replanted 67 non-ash, non-host trees in County parks to replace the functions and values of ash trees removed due to EAB. A community tree planting event was held in October where 31 volunteers planted a total of 50 trees at Pratt's Falls
- 616 Hemlock trees were treated 616 across Cayuga, Cortland, Onondaga, and Oswego counties in 2021. In total, 7,359 DBH inches of trees were treated with a basal bark spray treatment to protect the trees from Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)
- 798 stormwater site visits made
- Instructed 144 students the 4-hr NYS DEC ESC class
- Recycled 10,618 waste tires from 10 farms
- Prepared 132 Soil Group Worksheets for 3,051 acres
- 4,665 acres of cover crops planted by farmers across all watersheds in Onondaga County and the Skaneateles Lake Watershed
- One 5-million gallon manure storage implemented to better facilitate timing of manure nutrient applications
- Built 3 projects under new AEM Tier 4 cost-share program

Ontario: No Report Submitted

Seneca:

- 2 New Employees –
 - Anne Havelin, Bookkeeper / Secretary – 2/16/21
 - Alex McGraw, District Technician – 9/7/21
- Christopher Creelman, District Technician will be with Seneca County SWCD 10 years on 11/5/2022

Wayne: No Report Submitted

Yates: No Report Submitted

Submitted by,

Aaron Buchta
NYS CDEA Division II Representative



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

The responsibilities of Division III include assisting with State Fair and working with Division IV to organize and coordinate the Bucket Raffle and Silent Auction at the Water Quality Symposium.

Division III Unique Projects Showcase:

Herkimer County – Willow Stakes for Streambank Stabilization project

A large bank stabilization project took place along White Creek, a Class C(T) protected trout stream and tributary to the West Canada Creek, in the Town of Newport after a large storm event caused the streambank and a section of White Creek Road to wash out. The County Highway Department reached out to the District for assistance with the installation of willow stakes to help stabilize the stream bank after extensive construction took place to rebuild the roadway and create a functioning floodplain. The 2,000 willow stakes used in this project were cut from the BOCES Conservation Class plantation and installed by District staff in May of 2021. The Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) funding was allocated for our labor by the Herkimer County Water Quality Coordinating Committee. District staff spent many days working on this project and even watered the willow stakes with a large gas powered water pump during a dry period to provide adequate moisture for germination and root development.



Oswego County – Water Chestnut Control

Water chestnut is a highly invasive aquatic species found throughout Oswego County and has negative ecological, recreational and economic impacts. Therefore, the Oswego County Soil and Water Conservation District devoted staff and funding to controlling this invasive. In 2021, the District arranged for the herbicide treatment of approximately 120 acres of highly dense water chestnut mats on the Oswego River. Remnant and pioneer chestnut populations of lower densities were controlled between June and mid-August by four college interns who physically removed plants out of the water. Through this hand-pulling program, approximately 14,500 lbs of water chestnuts were removed from Oswego County waterbodies. Extensive mapping was also conducted by the interns and staff members in order to track progress, monitor populations and prescribe proper treatments next year.



A split image showing water chestnuts before treatment on top and the same area on the bottom approximately 3 weeks after treatment.



Four college interns actively removing water chestnuts from Rice Creek by hand-pulling.

Madison County – Abbert Road Flood Mitigation Project

Abbert Road in the Town of Madison has repeatedly experienced significant flood damage over the past 10 years. The Madison County SWCD was asked to complete a study of what was happening at this location and what could be done to reduce the likely hood of repeated flooding in the future. Through the course of the study it was determined there were two main causes of the problem. First the stream channel and the road share the same ground, meaning that the road was basically built in the stream channel many years ago and now with increased flows during storm events the stream is trying to use the road as the flood plain. Second as can be seen in the picture below at the start of the problem section is an undersized culvert that obviously cannot handle the flows of this stream. The planning process developed a design that would include upgrading the undersized culvert to allow greater flows through it, stabilizing the stream channel below the culvert where needed and installing a rock lined ditch along the road opposite of the stream bed that could handle significant flows during storm events and re depositing this water back into the stream at a point that the channel could handle these increased volumes of water.



Undersized culvert post storm



Newly installed arch culvert sized to handle a 500 yr storm

Lewis County – 2021 Highlights

LEWIS COUNTY
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GRANT FUNDING AWARDED	\$1,190,000
COVER CROPS IMPLEMENTED	1,000 ACRES
MINED LAND PERMITTED	29.6 ACRES
HERBACEOUS RIPARIAN BUFFERS	4.6 ACRES
CULVERT/STREAM PERMITS	9 PERMITS (27 CULVERTS)
STORMWATER CAPTURED AND TREATED	59,537 GALLONS
HYDROSEEDING FOR EROSION CONTROL	91 LOADS
PESTICIDE CERTIFICATION	2 TECHNICIANS CERTIFIED
POLLINATOR GARDEN IMPLEMENTED	1
WASTE STORAGE AND TRANSFER	3 PROJECTS (12 MILLION GALLONS)

2021
Achievements

St. Lawrence County – Installation of 2 Waste Storage Facilities

SLC SWCD assisted two farms with the installation of satellite waste storage facilities utilizing Ag Nonpoint Source round 24 and 26 funds. Both were synthetically lined storages, one was approximately 2.6 million gallons and the other was approximately 6 million gallons. The additional storage space allows for the farm to increase their storage capacity and improve a farm's ability to apply nutrients with the right timing, placement, and rate for use by crops.



Respectfully submitted,
Raeanne Dulanski
NYSCDEA Division III Rep

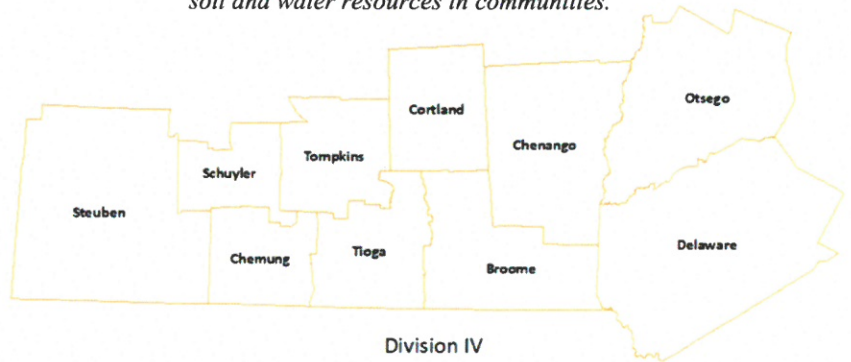


New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

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 – 2021/22



Division Updates:

We've continued to prove how our County Soil and Water Conservation Districts can adapt, flexibly implementing conservation and providing services to our respective communities. We still haven't had a true Division meeting since last year's virtual meeting at the WQS, yet we all managed to keep tabs on each other via bi-monthly CDEA meeting inquiries and updates, managers meetings and participating in our shared watershed related activities and programs. It was nice to have the Conservation Skills Workshop back in Cortland this past fall, where we were able to see some familiar faces, in-person. Hopefully, we can keep things trending in the right direction into this spring and beyond.

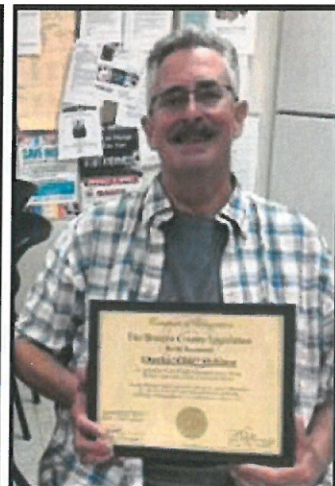
Division IV has seen a lot of leadership turnover this past year. Three district managers have retired and we'd like to wish Lance Lockwood – Chenango County, Charles "Chip" McElwee – Broome County and Mark Watts – Chemung County a long and happy retirement and thank them for their contributions to conservation in their respective counties and beyond.



Mark Watts - Chemung SWCD



Lance Lockwood - Chenango SWCD



Chip McElwee - Broome SWCD

We've also seen three district employees step up and fill the role of District Manager. Jennifer Kelly – Chenango County, Justin Puglisi – Broome County and Karen Tillotson – Chemung County. We wish them the best of luck continuing on with the work of their predecessors while leading their Conservation Districts into the future with renewed visions.



Jennifer Kelly
Chenango SWCD



Justin Puglisi
Broome SWCD



Karen Tillotson
Chemung SWCD

District Happenings:

Broome:

Broome's latest newsletter is available at [http://www.broomeswcd.org/broome/documents/winter2022\(4%20pages\).pdf](http://www.broomeswcd.org/broome/documents/winter2022(4%20pages).pdf) or visit the District on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064164806454>

Chenango:

View District activities on the web at <http://www.chenangoswcd.org/chenango/home.html> or visit the District on Facebook @chenangoswcd

Chemung:

View District activities on the web at <https://www.chemungcountyswcd.net/> or visit the District on Facebook @ChemungCountySoilWaterConservationDistrict

Cortland:

View District activities on the web at <https://cortlandswcd.org/> or visit the District on Facebook @cortlandswcd

Delaware:

View District activities on the web at <https://www.dcswcd.org/>

Otsego:

Otsego's latest newsletter available at <https://www.otsegoilandwater.com/newsletters> or visit the District on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100017877855721>

Schuyler:

To see a snapshot of 2021 activities, check out the Schuyler County SWCD 2021 Annual Report: http://www.schuylerswcd.com/uploads/1/1/5/2/11520284/2021_annual_newsletter.pdf or visit them on the web at <http://www.schuylerswcd.com/>

Steuben:

To see District activities visit Steuben SWCD on Facebook at @SteubenSWCD

Tioga:

View District activities on the web at <https://www.tiogacountyny.com/programs-agencies/soil-and-water/> or visit the District on Facebook @TiogaSWCD

Tompkins:

View District activities on the web at <https://www2.tompkinscountyny.gov/swcd> or visit the District on Facebook @TompkinsSWCD



Division V – Covering Clinton, Essex, Franklin, Hamilton and Warren Counties

The responsibilities of Division V include regularly polling Districts to update the employee database, keep track of promotions for recognition at the annual meeting/training session. The Division is also responsible for coordinating the marketing for Ronny Raindrop.

Division V Unique Project Showcase:

Clinton County – Lake Champlain Basin Program – No-Till Corn Planter Retrofit Project

In 2020, we wrote a grant for and were awarded a Lake Champlain Basin Program Agronomy grant that offered 7 farms on the NY side of the watershed technical and financial assistance towards the implementation of equipment upgrades that allowed for no-till corn planting.

Our local watershed group for Lake Champlain, CWICNY, selected 7 farms across the watershed to participate. Cornell Cooperative Extension Specialists were consulted to make recommendations and guide the selection of equipment. 7 farms in Clinton, Essex and Washington County participated and completed implementation of their planter retrofits. (Image to the right shows a corn planter in Clinton County after conversion)



As a result of this project, 380 acres of no-till corn were planted in Spring 2021. CWICNY members assisted the farms with planning, implementation and documentation of the conversion process. We are encouraged that our program has raised awareness of conversion to no-till corn planting and will lead to reduced tillage, less erosion and more farmers protecting the watershed.

Essex County – Water Quality Improvement Program – Boquet River Restoration Project



Through a NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Program grant Essex County SWCD installed a toe wood bench with a rock vane to stabilize 125' of streambank on the Boquet River. This project included tree plantings on 3600 feet of riverbank, in collaboration with

Trout Unlimited and with the assistance of volunteers, to improve riparian buffer areas.



Franklin County – National Association of Conservation Districts – Advancing Urban Agriculture Education in Franklin County

This year Franklin County Soil and Water was awarded an urban agriculture conservation grant through a partnership with the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to boost technical capacity nationwide. FCSWCD was one of 20 conservation districts across 14 states to receive funding. This funding was to educate residents through a triad of workshops which covered topics such as pollinators, soil management, and irrigation management.



The first of these workshops, a Pollinator Palooza, families learned about pollinators, what they are, why they are important, as well as how to attract them to their backyards. Participants built their own bee condos and received seed packets to start their own pollinator garden. The irrigation management workshop allowed the farming community to see drip irrigation and aerial irrigation systems first hand. Topics such as plant water needs, materials used in each system, water supply, and permits needed were also discussed. A starter irrigation kit was raffled off at the workshop, materials for this kit were purchased through a

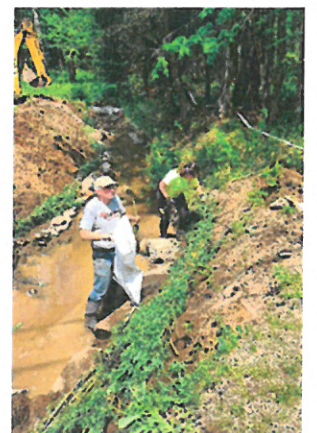
local supply distributor. The third and final workshop was a “Soil Your Undies”: Soil Health workshop. Presentations from NRCS, CCE, SUNY Potsdam Biologist and a Franklin County Producer covered topics such as basic soils, soil compaction, soil microbes- Knowing friend from foe, as well as minimal tillage in permanent garden beds and mulching techniques. A “Soil Your Undie” competition was also held, participants buried cotton underwear and entered to win prizes such as a soil probe, and starter irrigation kits. Winning underwear were on display at our booth at the County Fair. These workshops were all well received and all participants are excited to attend our 2022 workshops series.

Hamilton County – Part A and C 2021 – Marion Brook Stabilization Project

Over the years, streambank erosion occurred along Marion Brook, Village of Speculator, for two reasons. First, the shallow root system of cool season grasses that dominated the flood plain were not suitable for erosion control. Second, the 2019 Halloween Storm scoured and wiped out the stream and surrounding area. The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, Village of Speculator Department of Public Works, Natural



Resources Conservation Service, and the Bluman family partnered to stabilize 120 feet of Marion Brook’s streambanks. Bioengineering included grading streambanks, planting Streamco willow wattles in trenches, planting live stake willow cuttings, and hydroseeding. Natural Channel Design included installing rocks at the toe of the streambank to reduce erosion and protect willows, and installing J-hooks and cross veins to direct the flow of the stream away from the banks to the center of the channel. The Bluman family agreed to leave a riparian buffer along the newly repaired streambank located on their property. The willows are establishing wonderfully well, grass is growing, and the riparian buffer is beginning to take shape. Over time, willows will continue to hold soil in place, stabilize the stream bank, and prevent erosion. The rock structures will further protect the stream from erosion.



Warren County – Lake Champlain Basin Program – Greening up Interstate 87

For the past 3 years the District has assisted the Lake George Association (LGA) and the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) with projects located on I 87 and at exits 21 and 22 of the interstate. The improvements in 2021 include alterations to over



1,100' of stormwater swale, including the removal of 600' of asphalt. The swales were cleaned, reshaped and stabilized with hydroseed and turf reinforcement matting (TRM). The TRM consisted of 70% straw and 30% coconut fiber matrix incorporated into permanent matting that was pinned in along the swale. Heavy duty mats designed for protection of high scour and high velocity applications, were used in transition areas and at the seams. The hydroseed mix used in the swale included Little Bluestem along with a conservation seed mix, as well as biotic soil media to help with the nutrient depleted soils. Additional hydroseeding was completed at 2 separate locations using the soil



media, seed mix along with Little bluestem and purple love grass seed. These areas were sprayed on steep slopes to help stabilize the soils. LGA coordinated the work with NYSDOT and the District. The NYSDOT provided heavy equipment, labor and traffic control, while the District provided the hydroseeder, field equipment, vehicles, and labor. This project was part of an ongoing Lake Champlain Basin Program Grant and was completed this year. A big Thank You to the NYSDOT Region 1 Warrensburg Office for altering the mowing regime of this section of corridor, to help reduce invasive species and allow for the reestablishment of our native warm season grasses!



Division VI Report:

Submitted by, Amber Luke, Division VI Representative

Division Wide:

While COVID-19 Impacted the ability for Division VI to get together in ways we would've liked Division VI was still able to complete multiple conservation projects across the area. Many districts were able to increase their capacity over this last year as well.

District Reports:

Albany County:

- Held a successful 2021 Tree and Shrub Sale despite difficulties with COVID-19.
- Awarded 8 Schools with funding through their School Assistance Program totaling \$25,000 in funding.
- Staff worked to implement the "10,000 trees and growing" program through National Grid to provide municipalities with replacement trees as a result of the October 2020 windstorm.
- Staff helped with the design and installation of 4 educational signs at the Ann Lee nature Preserve.
- Albany County SWCD was able to provide 3 various size spill kits to over 30 municipal and first responder departments where fueling stations were located. Totaling over 290 kits provided.
- Staff helped to implement 3 boot brush stations at a county nature preserve for invasive species prevention.
- Hired a new technician, Nicholas Blow in November 2021.

Montgomery County:

- Worked on 11 different Farms through grant funding. Including waste storage facilities, silage leachate treatment, stream buffers and more.
- Installed 300ft of trail to upgrade an in-accessible area of trail in Burbine Forest.
- Designed and implemented a drainage system for sports fields in Veterans Park.
- Had record year for drainage and septic equipment sales.
- Finished the installation and had a grand opening for an 18-hole disc golf course.
- Currently working on funding Micro-enterprise grants within the County.
- Montgomery County SWCD is hosting a Residential Water Quality Program with part B Funding for 2022. Assessing and testing resident's water and installation of UV filters as needed.
- Held a successful sundae on the farm event in 2021. This was held on a conventional Dairy Farm
- Tire recycling, Ag-Plastic Recycling and no till drill rental programs were very successful in 2021.

Rensselaer County:

- Held a successful Spring Fish Sale in May 2021. This was the biggest sale in the history of the district, dispersing 13,000 fish. 20 residents were assisted in getting NYS DEC permits for stocking their ponds.

- Work continued implementing multiple grant projects include 2 Climate Resiliency Farming grants and 1 Ag. Non- Point source grant.
- The district worked with the County's Department of Public Safety to assist with the materials and funding for a dry hydrant to be installed at the county's new Emergency Services Training Center.
- Hired 2 new staff members to increase the Districts Capacity. These 2 new hires were previously Interns with the district.

Schoharie County:

- Schoharie County was able to complete the installation of multiple Waste Storage Facilities including a 3.2-million-gallon waste storage facility funded by a Round 23 Ag, Non-Point Source grant and a 2.6-million-gallon satellite storage funded by a CAFO Waste Storage Grant.
- Conducted a successful mini grant program using Part C funding. Through this program the district can fund smaller farm projects like Access roads.
- Provided various technical assistance including stream restoration and water quality assistance.

Schenectady County:

- Working towards a DEC permit modification to accept food waste at the Schenectady County Compost & Recycling Facility.
- Working with PaintCare to implement a paint exchange and drop off program for residents. This partnership will allow residents to bring their unwanted paint year -round and if they want to pick up paint for a at home project, they can at no additional cost other than the permit fee.
- Staff are working to supply their own wildlife houses for the tree and shrub sale. This includes building Wren, Bluebird, Wood Duck and Bat houses.
- Our District Technician worked hard to implement our AEM Round 16 Action Plan including planning and implementation projects.

Washington County:

- Staff Partnered with Ag Stewardship Association (ASA) to implement interceded cover crops on 3 farms and provide a field day for interested farms.
- Conducted oversight of the implementation of 3 waste storage facilities and 2 silage leachate control and treatment systems.
- Staff oversaw the implementation of a forage and biomass planting through AEM funding to create a 50ft- 250ft wide buffer of native perennial grasses along the Hoosic River.
- Staff conducted over 57 Landowner Assistance Requests including pond visits, soil health, and water management. Also, staff conducted 7 municipal assistance requests.
- Part B- Soil health project helped to provide multiple farms with soil and manure testing and allow the district to buy some new equipment to help landowners in the county.
- The district was able to purchase a drone and we are excited for the upcoming construction season to come so we utilize the drone.
- Hired a new Technician in June 2021.

No report: Fulton County & Saratoga County

Division VI: Fertilizer tablets

Division VI is responsible for the Fertilizer tablet program. Proceeds go directly to the Conservation District Employees Association general fund. The amount of fertilizer tablets ordered by districts has decreased sustainably since 2011 but has seemed to level off in the past 3 years. The Tree and Shrub Sale programs are viewed by most districts as being a good service to provide to the community and a great way to reach a lot of people and promote conservation even though profits have been decreasing. Many districts want to keep this program alive even if the public interest seems to be decreasing over the years.

The CDEA must have the order for Fertilizer tablets in long before the orders have come in. This makes for a delicate balance between the number of cases sold and the number ordered each year. The CDEA tries to keep the price per case of fertilizer tablets down by just trying to off-set the cost from the supply company. Due to this even slight overordering will cause the CDEA to go into the red for this program.

COVID-19:

This year due to COVID-19 and all the uncertainty surrounding COVID- 19 it was the CDEA executive boards decision to hold off on ordering Fertilizer tablets this year. With WQS being held virtually this year there was no clear way to handle the delivery, the breakeven cost and with the need to order early (October) the board could not see an easy way of doing the fertilizer tablet program. The CDEA board is very sorry for any inconvenience this has created, and we fully anticipate having the Fertilizer Tablet program back next year for Water Quality Symposium 2023!

	Expense	Net Income	Cases Sold
2013	\$7,038	\$219	110
2014	\$5,600	\$1034	107
2015	\$0.00	\$5766	93
2016	\$5,107	\$ 411	89
2017	\$5,952	\$1,587	96
2018	\$3,971	\$1,573	90
2019	\$3,518	\$1,333	77
2020	\$4,083	\$1,461	88
2021	COVID-19	N/A	0
2022	COVID-19	N/A	0

Amber Luke

Natural Resource Technician

Washington County SWCD

Division VI Representative

Amber.luke@ny.nacdnet.net

NYSCDEA Division VII Annual Report

Division VII is responsible for working with Division VIII to coordinate the Annual Awards Banquet held at Water Quality Symposium. This includes soliciting for nominations and organizing the awards presentation. The nomination information goes out in the Fall. We hope you consider submitting a nomination for next year's awards program!

Dutchess County

The Dutchess SWCD is the primary contractor for the Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project, coordinating 5 Hudson Valley SWCD's who are implementing innovative carbon sequestration and GHG reduction practices on over 20 farms of various types. In Dutchess, the pilot kept the staff busy with multiple implementation projects. One organic dairy farm implemented a cover crop and bale grazing program, while 777 trees, shrubs, and berry bushes were planted at another diversifying dairy as a buffer planting project. Interviews, aerial footage and photos of the project can be accessed through our website!

In 2021, the District staff was busy soil sampling, planning as well as implementation projects. There were 95 soil samples collected resulting in conservation planning on approximately 1000 new acres of farmland. Other projects that we have been working hard on are soil health practices and exclusion fencing for streams and waterways.

The District assisted a CAFO with no space for a traditional low flow collection and vegetative treatment area install with one of the first roofed silage storage and leachate collection facilities implemented, in part, using AgNPS Round 25 funding. The project consists of a 90' by 150' silage storage with 16' high concrete side walls that support a steel trussed roof system. Additional practices include a leachate collection system, temporary leachate storage, an automated pump transfer line to the existing waste storage and clean water collection and discharge practices. This combination of practices allows for silage storage to remain under roof while simultaneously collecting the silage leachate and properly disposing of it and removing the clean water before it becomes mixed with the leachate.

There are two new staff at the District. Amy Titcomb is a new district technician and Cassandra Miller is the new district secretary. Both joined the district in September 2021.

*Submitted by Erin Sommerville
Division VII Representative*

Division VIII: Annual Report
Suffolk, Nassau, New York City, Putnam, Rockland, Westchester
Respectfully Submitted by Ann Marie Calabro Division VIII Representative

Division VIII: (partnered with Division VII) is responsible for Annual Awards Ceremony at the Water Quality Symposium.



Suffolk County SWCD

EPF Implementation Program:

Suffolk County Soil and Water as a subcontractor of Suffolk County Cornell Cooperative Extension, is building a cover crop program that will promote the use of soil building mixes. The goal of this program is to reduce nitrogen inputs by increasing soil organic matter, fixing nitrogen with legumes, and incorporating green manure. Farms will be expected to commit to multi-year cover cropping systems and CASH analysis.

Ag NPS Grants:

Rd 26 Crescent Duck Farm Sequence Batch Reactor (SBR) Upgrade \$136,950 granted

Rd 27 Macon Bay Dairy Slurrystore \$154,275 granted

Ag NPS Fuel Tank Program:



Ed Compagnone continues to manage the Ag NPS grant for the Fuel Tank Replacement Program. Rd 26 Fuel Tank Replacement Program \$204,675 granted. Rd 24 Fuel Tanks: 60 out of 74 fuel tanks installed.

2020 Agriculture in the Classroom Program: This past years school projects range from constructing high tunnels and hoop houses, to creating hydroponic systems in classrooms, to building Pollinator Habitats and installing irrigation systems. From 2017-2021, the District has helped fund 26 school projects that focus on agriculture education for students who may not have previous learning opportunities with indoor and outdoor agriculture



Soil Health Testing Program: This past year, SWCD and CCE were able to collect 43 soil samples from 17 Suffolk County farms to analyze the physical and biological components of their soil. We collaborated with Ag Stewardship Program from Suffolk CCE and work with interested growers to determine which fields should be tested, a brief history of past field-use, and what their soil health goals are. In the past 4 years we've served approximately 80 growers by analyzing their soils, discussing their lab results, and provide suggestions on what soil health BMPs could be implemented.



Soil Health Equipment Loan Program (HELP): Soil HELP is a farm equipment loan program that the District has been administering for the past few years and it continues to be a very popular program. We currently own seven pieces of equipment:

- New Holland 145 Spreader
- Milcreek 406 Row Mulcher
- (2x) ABI Manual Spreaders
- Unverferth (2-Shank) Zonebuilder Subsoiler*
- Unverferth (4-Shank) Zonebuilder Subsoiler*
- Truax FLEXII 88-SS No Till Drill (3 seed boxes)



AEM: Round 16 closed meeting all goals for Technical Assistance. We Implemented 3 Tier 4 Implementation projects: 2 Pasture Renovations with Pipeline and Forage Planting and a High Efficiency Micro-Irrigation System.



NEW YORK CITY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Annual Highlights 2021

Despite the continuing pandemic, the NYC SWCD managed to continue our partnerships with the SWIM Coalition and NY NJ Harbor & Estuary Program for promoting green infrastructure and developing ideas for expanding GI on private properties in NYC. We also continued our GI tours in 2021 by hosting a walking tour of GI sites in Lower Manhattan. We visited a NYCHA property for its potentials for more GI, two playgrounds designed to infiltrate stormwater, a green roof and a school yard.

Urban Soils Institute also resumed soil testing through hosting public outdoor events on Governors Island. Members of the public were invited to bring samples to be tested and an opportunity to discuss the results with the USI staff. The USI also hosted its annual symposium virtually, which allowed presenters from all over the country and the world!



Nassau County SWCD: The biggest milestone for Nassau County Soil and Water this year

has been the progress made with our Septic Environmental Program to Improve Cleanliness (S.E.P.T.I.C.). With the initial funding we received last year we were able to offer Nassau County residents, small business owners, and non-for-profits up to \$10,000 dollars in reimbursement for the installation of Innovative and Alternative Onsite Water Treatments Systems (I/A OWTS). These environmentally friendly septic systems reduce household nitrogen output to below DEC approved limits. In addition to this original funding stream, The District then received a second tranche of support that increased our grant amount to \$20,000 in reimbursement for up to 200 Nassau County residents. This funding also allowed The District to hire a 3rd full time Conservation Technician, and to upgrade our computer and IT systems to better manage the County's S.E.P.T.I.C. Program. The Program launched last May, and our progress to date can be measured by the below summary information: Nassau County S.E.P.T.I.C. Statistics to date:



- 188 total Applicants out of 200 spots
- 156 Applicants Accepted
- 30 applicants have already signed design contracts
- Met with design professional
- Decided on which IA technology to use
- Received blueprints of property installation
- 15 Installer contracts signed
- 7 approved Designers, and 6 approved Installers
- Permitting requirements are being streamlined
- 6 installations complete



Rockland County SWCD:

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the Environmental Educator's Working Group:

Rockland County received ~\$63M towards the support of public health responses to COVID19, addressing negative economic impacts, services to disproportionately impacted communities, water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. These funds could also help promote a more sustainable Rockland addressing methods for a cleaner, greener, and more equitable County. Throughout the pandemic, visitations to outdoor spaces increased and more schools and institutions expanded their learning outside the classroom, providing a deeper connection with the outdoors as a place for learning and healing. In an effort to continue to provide nature-based education and experiential learning, the District is working with the Environmental Educators' Working Group of Rockland County. The Working Group is researching methods to incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice principles into youth employment programs and environmental education. The goal would be to provide more youth with access to the outdoors and empower them to teach the stewardship skills learned to their local community.

Water Assessment by Volunteer Evaluators (WAVE):

For this project, volunteers collect a sample of benthic macroinvertebrates from a stream site. Benthic macroinvertebrates are stream bugs that can be indicators of healthy or non-healthy habitats for stream dwelling organisms. 20 volunteers collected 8 samples from 8 sites throughout Rockland County. This is a program of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and samples are processed by NYS DEC staff. Results from this project will be available in the spring.



American Eel Project at Ferdon Dam:

Each year, SWCD staff work with the New York State DEC Hudson River Estuary program to install an eel ladder at the Ferdon Dam in Sparkill. This ladder is different from others in that it can be lowered and raised, like an elevator, along the dam by volunteers during monitoring. This year, a total of 27 volunteers monitored the ladder Sundays to Thursdays between July and September. They caught and relocated a total of four eels! The season ended early this year as the ladder sustained damage after Hurricane Ida.

Pollinator Garden Planting at Kakiat County Park:

The Rockland SWCD planted our first Pollinator Garden! We worked together with the Rockland County Division of Environmental Resources and Cornell Cooperative Extension's Master Gardener volunteers to design and plant the garden at Kakiat County Park. On October 7th, 2021, seven volunteers assisted staff to plant the garden. It was an incredible group who shared their plant knowledge and were not afraid to get their hands dirty! Once the garden becomes established, we plan to use it as an education station during our Conservation Field Day



TEMBOO on the Minisceongo Creek:

Part C funding was earmarked for a new pilot study to provide easier access to real-time flood data and communicate those results to watershed community members. Working with environmental software company Temboo, the District is now continuously collecting measurements of the creek's water level using wireless depth sensors. This will help the district understand flood behavior, educate the community on water levels, and supplement existing water data and models. The Minisceongo Creek watershed has dealt with major flooding and erosion issues over recent years. This study will help improve data sharing practices with the public as well as provide a stronger voice for the creek and its community members; which is the mission of the Minisceongo Creek Watershed Alliance. The site location of this sensor is just upstream of the Garner Holding Co. property. This study will continue from October 2021-October 2022.

Culvert Assessment Project:

We continued our culvert assessments within the Town of Ramapo. Two seasonal staff from the Rockland Conservation and Service Corps, Matt and Steven, assessed 96 structures in the Town of Ramapo between June and August. There are approximately 100 structures remaining and the SWCD plans to continue with assessments next summer. After data collection is complete, SWCD staff meet with stakeholders to prioritize culverts for right-sizing. Then SWCD staff create an inventory document of structures that is provided to the Town



Putnam County SWCD: No Report

Westchester County: No Report

NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program

2022 Annual Report to the CDEA

The NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program is in its fourth 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 endorsed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. The program is for anyone seeking professional certification that is knowledgeable in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control, meets the minimum qualifications, and passes the exam.

To date there are 41 active certificate holders, 6 suspended certificates, 2 terminated certificates and 4 individuals approved to sit for the Exam. 2 will be taking the exam via proctoring in March.

With the Covid-19 pandemic it has been difficult to gain traction for the program. I have been contacted by a number of people requesting more information but most decide to hold off on moving forward until we have another Implementation/Review Course scheduled. I have started a waiting list of people interested in signing up for the next course. The good news is that all of the contacts are private industry and NYS designated MS4s, which means word is out that this program is recognized by NYS DEC to make individuals "Qualified Inspectors" for SPDES permitted projects. Moving forward, the instructors for the course will discuss where the next event will be and when to have it. The goal is to have 2 courses per year.

Over this past year we have completed the following items:

- ◆ Reviewed and updated the exams that are given to applicants to make sure there are no errors.
- ◆ Updated the language in the application to make the one year of experience in combination with a degree from anywhere not just New York State.
- ◆ Submitted the implementation/review course to the Practicing Institute of Engineering for PDH credits and was approved for 10 PDHs. Minor paperwork will need to be submitted annually.
- ◆ Hosted 1 Implementation Review Courses in Horseheads, NY July 2021.
- ◆ Added 2 people to the instructor's roster for the Implementation/Review Course

Items to work on through 2022:

- ◆ Develop an Implementation/Review Course Manual
- ◆ Garner interest in becoming a proctor for the exam from the list of 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Trainers
- ◆ Find more qualified individuals willing to help teach the Implementation/Review Course around New York State

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

<https://www.nyscdea.com/nysesccp/>

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Verrigni, CPESC, CPSWQ
NYSESCCP Administrator

4 HR On-Line Sediment and Erosion Control Training for Contractors- 2021 Update

Income since program began: \$476,457.99

Expenses since program began: \$8,142.55

Average number of attendees weekly: 15-25

Past:

Monroe County assisted in the development and the setup of the class.

Kristin White managed most aspects of the program and field all the questions.

Utilized the program when Covid restrictions started and allowed Districts to use the program since they could not hold in-person classes.

Currently:

Developed policy on what the funding collected can be used for. That is up for approval today.

RFP was circulated to contract administration of the program and to update formats and programs to assist in making things easier.

Future:

Getting funding back to Districts through training, 4 hr policy.

Updating the presentation eventually.



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

STATE FAIR BOOTH COMMITTEE

2021 NYS Fair Committee Members

Kristin White, Monroe County SWCD

Kelly Emerick, Monroe County SWCD

Alaina Robarge, Ontario County SWCD

Eva Brown, Onondaga County SWCD

Erica Schreiner, Oswego County SWCD

Doug Kierst, Cayuga County SWCD

Jason Cuddaback, Cayuga County SWCD

The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts

2021 State Fair Booth

August 20, 2021 – September 6, 2021

Although the impact of COVID-19 was seen throughout the whole event, it was good to be back! The foot traffic was significantly reduced but nonetheless, we had many visitors with good questions.

The theme of 2021's Booth was "**Soil Health**". We had on display the "**Soil My Undies**" (Thank You Jason Cuddeback) which shows the different stages of decomposition of underwear that were buried in different soil types, a great wall display that Erica Schreiner put together for us, tools on display that are used for soil sampling, and handouts.

Our Guessing Game theme this year was "**Guess How Much the Cylinder of Soil Weighs**". We had a display of a clear cylinder filled with soil that fairgoers would submit a guess on how much it weighed. The correct answer was 4 pounds and the winner came from Webster, NY in Monroe County. Monroe County SWCD office mailed the winner a blue beach towel that had Ronny Raindrop® embroidered on it.

The Ronny Raindrop® Coloring Contest winners were from Onondaga County (0-5 Years), Chenango County (6-8 Years) and Wayne County (9-12 Years). Each received a certificate and check for \$25.

We offer a Volunteer Incentive to which we pick 5 names from the Sign In/Out sheets and the winners receive \$50. The winners for 2021 were Tim Schneider, Cayuga County; Paul Gier, Tompkins County; Christopher Fry, Erie County; Megan Myers, Rensselaer County; and Eric Jensen, Onondaga County. Congratulations to all!

The 2022 event has gone back to being 13 days long; August 24, 2022 – September 5, 2022. The committee is working on a new theme that will be used for the next two years. We will be sending out a sign-up request to all Districts by June.





2021 Empire Farm Days Palladino Farms, Pompey, NY August 3 – 5, 2021

Alaina Robarge from Ontario County SWCD put together the volunteer schedule and the display for Empire Farm Days. New for 2021, the event was held at Palladino Farms in Pompey where it had previously resided back in the 70's and 80's. The SWCD booth, however; continued to be co-located in a tent with NYS Agriculture & Markets.

It was brought to the committee's attention that not all Districts were aware that the NYS CDEA has a display at Empire Farm Days. Below is a brief history.

EFD History – When it was announced in 1988 that this event was going to be held in Seneca County, Nancy O'Connor who was the stenographer from Seneca County SWCD, brought the idea to have SWCDs represented at this event to the NYS CDEA State Fair Committee. The committee voted yes and the rest is history. Nancy worked hard to coordinate the set up and tear down, obtained nursery stock and mulch to decorate the tent as a whole, and organized the volunteer schedule. We were part of the USDA tent for a while before joining with NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets. So in summary, SWCDs have been represented at Empire Farm Days for the past 33 years.

From 1988 to 2019 this event was held in Seneca County at the Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls. The event had a change in management in 2021 and the location was moved backed to Palladino Farms in Pompey. This had been the location of Empire Farm Days in 1978, 1979, 1980, 1986, and 1987.

A Google Search will give you the whole history of Empire Farm Days.

The 2022 event will once again be at Palladino Farms on August 3, 4, 5, 2022. More information can be seen on their website at <https://empirefarmdays.leetradeshows.com/>.



2021 Empire Farm Days Display



Soil and Water Conservation Districts in New York State

Protecting Today, Preserving Tomorrow

Yates County Soil & Water Conservation District

417 Liberty Street
Penn Yan, New York 14527
(315) 536-5188 fax (315) 536-5136
tom@ycoilwater.com

2021 CONSERVATION SKILLS WORKSHOP REPORT

The 2021 Conservation Skills Workshop was held in person September 27 – 30th in Cortland with our traditional in-person model utilizing COVID protocols in place at that time including masking and social distancing. It was another success with 92 folks registering. Unfortunately, our NRCS partners were not able to participate in person last fall.

Please know that new committee members and new ideas for topics and course instructors are always welcome. The committee has not yet set the 2022 Conservation Skills Workshop kickoff meeting, but most likely it will be held in early May. Be on the lookout for information. We try to have an even mix of agricultural and non-agricultural classes.

Please remember, this is YOUR training session for field-oriented topics. This event is as interesting as the topics that you suggest to us. We need your help to continue to make this a successful event. Any class suggestions can be sent to your committee members at any point.

A big “THANK YOU” goes out to the following committee members for making the 2021 training happen: NYCDEA President Dustin Lewis, Tom Eskildsen, Stacy Russell, Lindsey Gerstenslager, Gerry Smithson, Katie Whitcomb, Jon Negley, Kristen Ballou, Caitlin Stewart, Chastity Miller, Greg Albrecht, PJ Emmerick, Ron Bush, Bendan Jordan, Tim Clark, & Paula Bagley. There are many other "behind the scenes" people that help too. A special thanks to those folks as well as the course instructors that donate their time and efforts!

We made a push to get additional committee members from each Division last year. For 2022 we will be looking for representation from Division 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8. This will make sure all geographic areas of NYS are represented!

Classes offered 2021

Number of Students	Class
15	Basic Surveying
15	AEM Tier 3A Farmstead Planning
18	Climate Resilient Farming – Track 3 Water Management BMP's
24	Stream permitting 101 – Assessment and information
20	Green Infrastructure
16	Today's Agro-Forestry Opportunities in NY
8	Restoring Ecological and Productive Function to Woodlands – a Field Practicum
25	Ponds – Ecology
13	AEM Tier 3a Cropland Risk Assessment and Planning

Classes offered on the NYS Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation course and Rock Products and Usage were cancelled due to low enrollment

Respectfully Submitted by: Tom Eskildsen & Stacy Russell



2022 NYS Envirothon CDEA Annual Report

By Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair

The 2021 NYS Envirothon committee worked hard to pull off a statewide regional virtual event. Since this was the second time, they accomplished this and were able to do so. The committee once again went on to create a virtual NYS Envirothon event. This went off with little errors. Later in the day we were even able to host a short awards program. JoAnn Kurtis, Chastity Miller, Dean Moore, and MaryLynne Malone once again did a wonderful job putting it all together.

The present committee is as follows:

Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Chair/Registration	Advisory Member Volunteer
JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair, Test/Resources	NRCS Earth Team Volunteer
Chastity Miller, Treasurer/Publicity	Franklin – CDEA Representative
Susan O'dell-Pepe, Secretar/Activities	Suffolk – Division VIII District Representative
Fred vonMechow, Oral Presentation	Advisory Member - Educator Volunteer
Tony Lufan Ye, Snacks	Advisory Member
MaryLynne Malone, Volunteers	Educator – Orange Co. Water Authority
Rachel Arnold, Snacks	NYS DEC Representative
Ernie Swift	NYACD Representative
Al Fagan, Site Coordinator	Wyoming – Division I District Representative
Bob Shenk, Test/Scoring	Cattaraugus – Division I District Representative
Dean Moore, Oral Presentation	Warren District – Division V Representative
Alice Halloran, Awards	Essex – Division V District Representative
Pete Gier	Empire State Chapter Soil & Water Conservation Society
Vacant	State Committee Ag & Mkts.

The following Divisions do not have members on the committee presently; Division II, III, VI, VII. If you would like to join the NYS Envirothon committee, please let one of the committee members know and we will provide you with the necessary papers.

The committee is working hard on creating a face-to-face event as well as the possibility of having to host another virtual NYS Envirothon event.

The 2022 event is planned to be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY on Wednesday, May 25th & Thursday, May 26th, 2022.

The 2022 NYS Envirothon oral presentation problem was created and is on the NYS Envirothon website www.nysenvirothon.org. The 2022 NCF-Envirothon current issue topic "***Waste to Resources***".

We have begun holding face-to-face monthly meetings with Zoom possible for those unable to attend in person. If interested in attending in person or by Zoom please let myself or a committee member know. We will be happy to add you to our list of attendees.



2024 New York

We are preparing for New York to host the 2024 NCF-Envirothon. The dates have been set for Sunday, July 28th-Saturday, August 3rd, 2024, and the location will be Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY.

We presently have the following committee members:

Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair & Registration	JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair & Testing
Chastity Miller, Treasury & Publicity	Susan O'Dell-Pepe - Secretary
Susan O'Dell – Peppe, T-shirts	Alice Halloran, Awards
Tony Lufan Ye, Transportation	Ernie Swift, NYACD Rep.
Katy Kemmeren	Mollie Schoharie Burgett
Bob Shenk, Test Scorer	Allen Fagan, Logistics
Paul Gier, Empire State Chapter SWCS	Vacant – NYS DEC
Vacant – State Committee Ag & Mkts.	Dean Moore, Oral Presentation Chair

Sub-Committee: Fred vonMechow & Danielle Parker

We need many more committee & sub-committee volunteers as well as during the weeklong event.

We need an Activities & Volunteer coordinator and are requesting YOU consider filling these positions to help this great program & event.

SPONSORS are import for us to carry out this event. Invoices have been mailed to all the Districts for your support that can be paid in full, over the next four years, or as you can donate. We are also working closely with the Environmental Education Foundation searching for grants and corporate sponsorship.

The districts are stepping up and sending funds to support this event. Some have paid in full, some in part, and others what they feel they can afford. This is really a great help to us.

Next year the NCF-Envirothon event will be held in Ohio & it is our hope that the committee members can attend to learn what their role and responsibilities are to host the event.

VOLUNTEERS are needed!!! There is no way we will be able to pull this huge event off without all the great volunteers. Please take the time to become part of the committee. .

Policy for the Management of Funds Generated from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Endorsed 4-Hour Sediment and Control Online Training

Background:

The 4-Hour Erosion & Sediment Control Training is a required course for certain contractors, subcontractors, consultants, and other qualified individuals that will be involved with the implementation of the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan on a construction site that has coverage under a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit for Stormwater Discharges from construction activity. The certification received by this course is viable for 3 years from the date that the training was completed. This course is required for new employees involved in such activity as well as individuals who have not taken the course within the past 3 years. Under the SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity, certain contractors (Trained Contractor) and certain Qualified Inspectors are required to complete 4 hours of Department endorsed training in the principles and practices of erosion and sediment control (E&SC) every 3 years. Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in New York State have promoted the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Stormwater Management Program through various opportunities including the NYSDEC's 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Course, benefiting not only the statewide program itself, but also the participating SWCDs since the course began in 2008. This course benefits the SWCDs not only in ensuring that developers, builders, contractors and inspectors are knowledgeable in managing soil disturbance activities on active construction sites, but also allows for enhanced training opportunities for SWCD staff as well. This course has been successful in generating earned income for SWCDs that participate in offering the course that in turn creates a source of income to implement local conservation projects to protect water quality, as well as funding to retain qualified staff.

In 2016, the proposal to create an online version of this course was presented to the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc. (NYSCDEA) where the participating SWCDs could continue to offer in-person training while the NYSCDEA could provide an online version for professional, accessible course delivery. In turn, the funds collected through an online training for this course would be used for SWCD training and programs that are in-line with water quality initiatives. NYS CDEA garnered support from NYSDEC in March of 2016 to develop this online training program, and with the support of the Monroe County SWCD Board of Directors, the Monroe County SWCD took the lead in developing this online course over a three year period with the launch of the course in 2019. The MCSWCD partnered with SUNY Brockport to assist with the audio of the course, NYS DEC to support the development of the course and offer review, Chemung and Ontario County SWCDs for assistance in audio and review, and Seneca County SWCD (NYSCDEA Division II) for assistance with putting the course on the CDEA website and setting up online payment.

The New York State Conservation District Employees' Association wishes to thank all individuals and organizations that have diligently worked to make this program and its resulting

funding possible, including but certainly not limited to Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District, Kelly Emerick, Josh LaFountain Jessica Verrigni, P.J. Emerick, Jim Liebrum, Kristin White, Dave Gasper, Don Lake, and SUNY Brockport.

Mission: Per the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association By-Laws, the purposes for which the Association formed were for the mutual advancement of the interests of members to consider and deal with common problems, and to strengthen local Soil and Water Conservation Districts by providing assistance and information to local boards and employees. To that end, the NYSCDEA has focused resources on creating and fostering opportunities for employee networking, professional development, and SWCD outreach and promotion.

Funds generated from the New York State Conservation District Employees' Association's New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Endorsed 4-Hour Sediment and Control Online Training shall only be utilized for SWCD's within New York State and for the above purposes including the following:

1. NYSCDEA member attendance of technical or educational workshops or programs that benefit the SWCDs of the state of New York and are supported and approved by the NYSCDEA Executive Board. This is not intended to replicate the Frank Bratt Scholarship, rather technical or educational workshops/trainings, or programs that are Division wide or statewide. For example, funds may be used to offset the cost of sending SWCD staff to statewide trainings like the Water Quality Symposium or Conservation Skills Workshop by providing a credit to each SWCD- Please see below.
2. Provide support of NYSCDEA's existing or newly developed educational and technical trainings or events currently benefitting the entire state of New York to educate and train Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Examples include the Leadership Conference, Water Quality Symposium, Conservation Skills Workshop, Statewide Managers Meetings, Administrative Management Conference, and the New York State Erosion and Sediment Control Certificate Program. This support can include but is not limited to providing funding for outside instructors to present at statewide trainings.
3. The maintenance and improvement of NYSCDEA Board approved current courses and the development of additional courses that act as earned income financial support of the NYSCDEA's educational and technical trainings and programs. For example, paying bills associated with moving the course to a new server or paying a contractor to develop/maintain course materials.
4. Assist in providing NYSCDEA contracting/staffing to support the delivery of the above activities that uphold the NYSCDEA mission.
For example, providing funding for a contract employee or contract with a Conservation District to manage the day to day NYSCDEA business.
5. Provide funding to Conservation Districts to create, update and/or deliver technical education workshops or programs that will benefit the entire state of New York and that are supported and approved by the NYSCDEA Executive Board. For example, providing funding to a Conservation District to take several trainings on the same topic and combine them into a comprehensive statewide training module that is freely

available to any other District in the state, or to hold a specialized training event like a leadership conference, post-flood emergency stream intervention training or other training of statewide importance.

6. Funds cannot be utilized for statewide competitions.
7. Funds are to be used for the benefit of NYSWCD employees only.
8. If a program/training is created using these NYSCDEA 4HR funds, it is expected that NYSWCD employees will be able to utilize these programs at little or no cost.
9. A complete financial report will be compiled in the Annual Packet outlining the usage of funds.

The funds generated by this program will be housed in a separate interest-bearing account and will only be transferred out of this account once the NYSCDEA Board deems that any use of these funds meets one of the above stated goals.

To request funding:

1. For a local New York State Soil and Water Conservation District to apply for Item #4 would involve the NYSCDEA Board putting out a Request For Proposals (RFP) and would not be open to unsolicited applications.
2. Under Item #5 for an NYSWCD to apply for funding a program/training: an application must be completed. If applicable the application may include title, location, date, timing – length, audience, credits, materials, training flyer or advertisement, a description of the event or training to be created and how it will benefit all SWCD's in the State of New York, and a detailed budget (application will be created by the NYSCDEA). The budget must include a breakdown of costs associated with the event and any match to the funding being requested (amount and source). The request must also include goals and expectations of the event. A request form will be developed to outline these requirements along with the timeline for review and approval of funding requests.

Current trainings WQS, Conservation Skills, Leadership Trainings, Managers Trainings, Administrative Conference, and NYSCDEA Division trainings initiated by Division Reps will be supported by this funding and the amount determined by the Executive Board of CDEA.

All applications/requests are due to current NYSCDEA President at least 14 days prior to a NYSCDEA meeting. The Executive Board will vote on applications at every bimonthly meeting.

The Executive Committee reserves the right to reject applications or to utilize the funding for other purposes when it is deemed to be in the best interest of the NYSCDEA, Inc.