



Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2026
Special Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee Members

Jessica Armstrong, President
Nicholas Klemczak, Vice President
Joann Burke, Secretary
Alice Halloran, Member at Large

Partners and Guests

Lydia Brinkley, USC
Dustin Lewis, Saratoga County SWCD

Division Representatives

Rebecca Campbell, Division I
Curtis Davis, Division II
Carla Yaw, Division III
Jim Diederich, Division IV
Scott Davis, Division VI
Amber Gray, Division VII

Absent

Mikaela Perham, Treasurer
Katie Whitkovits, Division V
Olivia Cunningham, Division VIII



Minutes

I. Call to order – President Armstrong called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

II. Introductions – Conducted.

III. Correspondence – Campbell Division I Meeting – Armstrong reported she received an email from Campbell with a letter from Cattaraugus County SWCD Secretary, Jacquie Barber requesting up to \$100 for lunch at the Division I Clerks Annual Meeting. Discussion ensued.

IV. Standing Committees

a. Legislative Committee – Armstrong reported that the Legislative Committee met and developed an RFP for a lobbyist which was emailed to the Board prior to the meeting. The lobbyist will start October 1st with a contract for one year and 3 months. Discussion ensued.

- **A motion was made by Klemczak, seconded by S. Davis to approve and send out RFP to lobbyists. All in favor. Carried.**

- b. Afforestation Subcommittee** – Armstrong reported at the January 21-22, 2026 meeting, the board approved for Lydia Brinkley to chair the Afforestation Subcommittee. Brinkley gave a brief update on the Afforestation Subcommittee. She discussed FEN, Forest Expansion Network, a group of partners that has been convening to bring forward afforestation initiatives from throughout the state. There is an opportunity for SWCD representation in this group, which needs a coordinator. SWCDs could be further engaged in afforestation; it would be helpful to know if SWCDs were interested and in what capacity. There is an opportunity to shape future program policy and be leaders in afforestation, instead of responding to state-generated opportunities. She will write an introduction to the subcommittee, ask for people to join, and potentially develop a survey to go out statewide to gauge interest and current capacity.

V. CDEA Activities

- a. Attorney** – Armstrong reported she has emailed and called the attorney multiple times and has received no response. She will contact him again today with an email then try calling him tomorrow. Armstrong will send out RFP for Attorney that CDEA used in the past as the current Attorney's contract is up for renewal. Discussion ensued.

VI. Other

- a.** Klemczak reported that Diana Thorn has stepped down as Clerk/Admin Track Committee Chair for Water Quality Symposium. He spoke to Kaitlyn Bemis who is interested in becoming the chair of this track. Nick Rowell is interested in becoming the chair of Non-Agriculture Track Committee.
- **A motion was made by Armstrong, seconded by S. Davis to approve Nick Rowell as the Non-Agriculture Track Committee Chair and Caitlin Bemis as Clerk/Admin Track Committee Chair for Water Quality Symposium. All in favor. Carried.**
- b.** Diederich reported that Kim Seymour has taken the position of Treasurer for EEF.

VII. Next meeting – August 27, 2026, Location: 121 Second Street, Oriskany, NY or Virtual

VIII. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Halloran, seconded by Klemczak to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m. All in favor. Carried.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Burke

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