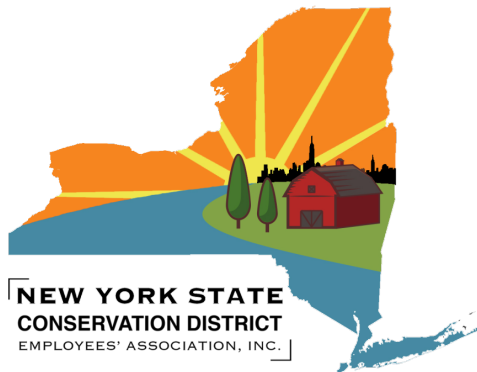




Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2026
Special Zoom Meeting

Executive Committee

Jessica Armstrong, President
Nick Klemczak, Vice President
Joann Burke, Secretary
Mikaela Perham, Treasurer
Alice Halloran, Member at Large

Division Representatives

Rebecca Campbell, Division I
Curtis Davis, Division II
Scott Davis, Division VI
Amber Gray, Division VII
Olivia Cunningham, Division VIII

Guests

Megan Myers, Rensselaer County SWCD
Jim Bittner, Niagara County SWCD BOD
Corrinna Aldrich, Washington County SWCD
Jennifer Kelly, Chenango County SWCD
Ryan Belanger, Steuben County SWCD
Zachary Barnard, Steuben County SWCD
Joseph Braun, Schenectady County SWCD

Absent

Kristin White, Interim Treasurer
Carla Yaw, Division III
Jim Diederich, Division IV
Maren Stoddard, Division V



- I. **Call to Order** – President Armstrong called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.
- II. **Introductions** – were conducted.
- III. **Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarships review and approval** – Campbell reported she received three applications this round and reviewed the ranking sheet.
 - **A motion was made by Halloran, seconded by Perham to approve the Frank Bratt Memorial Scholarship applications in the amount of \$1,500: Rebecca Olsen, \$750; Scott Davis, \$351; and Christopher Travis, \$399. Scott Davis abstained. All in favor. Carried.**
- IV. **4-Hour Online Fund applications review and approve** – Armstrong reported she received two applications and reviewed them. Tioga County SWCD applied for a Precast Concrete Tour in the amount of \$800 and Warren County SWCD applied for Forestry Functions: Perspectives and Projects for \$2,500.
 - **A motion was made by Campbell, seconded by Cunningham to approve the Precast Concrete Tour for \$800 and Forestry Functions: Perspectives and Projects for \$2,500. All in favor. Carried.**

V. Correspondence –

- Armstrong received an email from Bethany Bzduch inviting CDEA to give an update at the Regional Managers Meetings that will be held soon. Armstrong stated she plans to write an update and inquired if CDEA Board members would be interested in sharing this update at their Regional Meeting. Klemczak, Halloran, Campbell, Curtis Davis, and Gray volunteered to give the updates. Armstrong will reach out to Jim Diederich to see if he will give the update at his Regional Meeting. Armstrong mentioned that the next TAC meeting is scheduled for April 16th and Jason Cuddeback was the CDEA Representative. She is looking for a new representative. No one volunteered and she will discuss this at the next CDEA meeting to seek any interest.
- Armstrong reported she received an email from Jennifer Kelly, Chenango County SWCD and SPAC chair, requesting support for a Soil and Water Training Program in the development stages by SPAC and SWCC members. Kelly reported they are working on a Basic Technician Training curriculum for new technicians that would encompass both virtual and a 3-day intensive field day. NYS Department of Ag and Markets has an RFP out for the Agriculture and Food Systems Development Grant Program that Kelly is interested in writing a proposal for this training curriculum. CDEA supports this training but until a budget is received no allocation of funds will occur.
- **A motion was made by Halloran, seconded by Campbell to support the Soil and Water Training Program. All in favor. Carried.**

VI. Next Meeting – Armstrong discussed future meetings and will send a doodle poll to the board to schedule upcoming meetings.

VII. Adjournment

- **A motion was made by Klemczak, seconded by Davis to adjourn the meeting at 11:54 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Joann Burke

Joann Burke
CDEA Secretary