

NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee
10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235 – Telephone (518) 457-3738

STATE COMMITTEE MEETING

April 20, 2004-Albany

Present: D. Hill, G. Proios, B. Aman, J. Dickinson, Voting Members; R. Kaplewicz, Executive Director; M. Latham, Assistant Director; B. Steinmuller, J. Ten Eyck, S. Lanthier, SWCC Staff; L. Miller, SWCC Staff (Dutchess SWCD); B. Brower, SWCC Staff (Essex SWCD); B. Silvestri, SWCC Staff (Schenectady SWCD), T. Brace, SWCC Staff (Wyoming SWCD); J. Curatolo, SWCC Staff (USC); R. Lewis, NYACD; D. Cordier, R. Christensen, R. Zimmerman, R. Moore, N. Rudgers, T. Pezzolesi, T. Lindberg, NYS DAM; G. Chartier, NYSDEC; K. Lewis, NYSCDEA; J. Tausel, NYFB; D. Fox, J. Cherney Cornell; P. Kaczmarczyk, L. Wilson, NYS DOH; J. DelVecchio, M. Stephenson, B. Hopkins, NRCS; R. Weidenback, D. Frazier, Delaware County Dept of Watershed Affairs; P. Black, SUNY-ESF.

Call to Order D. Hill called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Review/Approval of Minutes

G. Proios moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting with corrections submitted by G. Proios; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.

Correspondence, R. Kaplewicz

Letters & Memos

1. Response letter from Charles Chadwell, CREP Program Manager, USDA, to Ron Kaplewicz regarding Federal funding for the State CREP program. Letter dated March 4, 2004.
2. Letters to Assemblyman Daniel Burling, 147th District, and Senator Dale Volker, 59th District, from Wyoming County SWCD District Manager Gregory A. McKurth requesting support in increasing funding to the NPS Pollution Abatement and Control Program. Letters dated March 1, 2004.
3. Letter to Ken Bush, Chairman, Chemung County SWCD from Joe Delvecchio, NRCS State Conservationist, regarding EQIP for 2004. Letter dated March 16, 2004.
4. Letter to Ron Kaplewicz from Pete Wright, Cornell Cooperative Extension, thanking Ron for his participation at the NorthEast Dairy Producers Association Conference on March 12, 2004. Letter dated March 31, 2004.
5. Letter from Gerald A. Barnhart, ENCON, Division of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources, to Ron Kaplewicz inviting him or his representative to participate in developing a comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy, as part of the State Wildlife Grants program. Letter dated April 5, 2004.
6. Memo to Shohreh Karimipour, P.E., Bureau of Water Permits, Division of Water, Albany, NY from Walter E. Grajko, State Conservation Engineer, NRCS, Syracuse, NY regarding the NRCS review and comments of the New York Standards For Erosion And Sediment Control document. Memo dated April 6, 2004.

Reports & News Letters

1. Franklin County SWCD 50th Anniversary (1953-2003) booklet.
2. Central New York Regional Planning & Development Board 2003 Annual Report.
3. CFA News - The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc., Volume 22, Number 1 - winter 2004.
4. Wyoming County SWCD 2003 Annual Report.
5. Buffer Notes, January 2004.
6. Herkimer County SWCD 2003 Annual Report.
7. Steuben County SWCD Annual Newsletter 2003.

8. Chemung County SWCD Natural Resource Activities Winter 2004.
9. What's Cropping UP? A Newsletter for New York Field Crops & Soils, Volume 14, Number 1, January-February 2004.
10. Susquehanna Guardian, a publication of the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, Volume 13, No. 1 - Spring 2004.
11. Bay Journal, The Chesapeake Bay Newspaper, Volume 14, No. 1, March 2004.
12. Westchester County SWCD Annual Report.
13. From Watershed to Well, February 2004. A publication of RCAP Solutions, Inc.
14. Trees and Shrubs Planting in New York 2004, ENCON publication.
15. The Empire Granger, March 2004.
16. Partners, January/February 2004, Vol. 22, No. 1, Publication of CTIC.
17. Suffolk County SWCD Year in Review.
18. Project News, Spring 2004, A publication of the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board.
19. The Volunteer Monitor, Winter 2004, Vol. 16, No. 1, The National Newsletter of Volunteer Watershed Monitoring.
20. FY 2004 EQIP Allocations to States Map.
21. NASCA Spring DC Members Meeting, March 14 and 15, 2004 Draft Minutes.
22. Farm & Forest Participant 2003 Annual Report, Special Edition 2004, Vol. 2.1.

Conferences & Seminars.

1. Actions Toward A Sustainable Great Lakes, May 4-6, 2004. Sheraton Cleveland City Center Hotel, 777 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. For more information contact Rita Straith at (734) 971-9135. Conference web side is www.glc.org/sustainable.
2. New Generation Resource Policy for a Region in Transition: Land Use, Agriculture, Environment and Health in the Great Lakes Region. Maumee Bay Resort and Conference Center, Oregon, Ohio May 12-14, 2004.
3. NYS GIS 2004, 20th Annual Conference - October 18-29, 2004, Hudson Valley Resort & Spa, Kerhonkson, NY.
4. Community Forestry At Its Best, National Conference June 28-20, 2004, Nebraska City, Nebraska. Presented by The National Arbor Day Foundation.

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Grant Program, B. Steinmuller ROUND X

The EPF grant awards for Round X were announced on March 22, 2004. Through Round X, a total of 31 projects were funded for a grant total of \$6,134,000. All successful applicants have been notified and plans of work are due on April 30th.

Round XI TAC Meeting Summary

B. Aman may apply for funds through Round XI so he voluntarily recused himself from this and any subsequent discussion and decisions relating to Round XI.

B. Steinmuller announced that a Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held on April 6th to discuss Ag. NPS policies and procedures and develop recommendations for Round XI. The notes from that meeting were sent to the State Committee the previous week. R. Kaplewicz and B. Steinmuller explained to the Committee some of the highlights from that meeting. B. Steinmuller told the Committee that the TAC developed the following recommendations for State Committee discussion and approval:

The TAC recommends dedicating a portion of the agricultural appropriation of the EPF to establish consistent funding for AEM inventories and assessments (Tier I and II).

It was recommended that dedicating a portion of the EPF and establishing a cap for assessment proposals could be a way to establish consistent funding for planning for AEM. It was recommended that the State Committee staff research the average cost of completing Tiers I and II and establish a flat cost share rate for each. It was also recommended that dividing the appropriation should be based on a dollar amount and not a percentage. However, the amount should not exceed a certain percentage of the total Ag. NPS funds appropriated.

Discussion ensued regarding this recommendation. It was noted that this policy would help in achieving the long-term goal of inventorying and assessing every farm in the state. It will also provide education to farmers on how they rank for implementation funds by assessing their priorities in relation to other agricultural water quality priorities identified in their home watersheds, developed using the program goals of the AEM program. AEM has been identified as the consistent planning base for conservation programs in NYS. It was stated that this policy recommendation would provide an approach that would identify and assess serious problems before money is invested in implementation. It was stated that noncompetitive planning dollars would strengthen the AEM program and promote higher participation by farmers. Concerns were raised about reducing available funds for implementation. It was stated that a substantial need for implementation funds already exists and the question was raised, will there be enough money as assessments are completed and additional implementation is identified in the plans? In response to that concern, it was reiterated that a specific dollar amount would be set aside each year and that amount should not exceed a certain percentage of the total allocation. Additionally, funding all implementation is not a realistic objective and this process will help us to clearly define priorities for funding of BMP's on farms. R. Kaplewicz advised the voting members that they would be voting to approve the concept of dedicating a portion of the EPF for consistent AEM funding and the details on how to accomplish this task will be brought back to the Committee at a later meeting.

G. Proios moved to endorse the concept of dedicating a portion of the agricultural appropriation of the EPF to establish consistent funding for AEM inventories and assessments (Tier I and II) and authorize the SWCC staff to work on the details of how to accomplish this; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

B. Steinmuller asked for the Committee's endorsement for the following TAC recommendation:

The TAC recommends requiring for Round XI, that AEM Tier II assessments, at a minimum, be completed on farms prior to applying for funds for BMP implementation.

The point was made that the best way to assure that the most important problems are being addressed is to properly assess each farm's environmental concerns within the watershed. By establishing consistent funding for AEM assessments, the Districts will be better equipped to execute this requirement. It was also stated that NRCS requires that AEM Tier II assessments be completed within the last two years to be eligible for EQIP funds. This policy recommendation brings the State's grant program closer in line with the federal EQIP program.

J. Dickinson moved to approve the TAC's recommendation to require for Round XI, that AEM Tier II assessments, at a minimum, be completed on farms prior to applying for funds for BMP implementation; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

Program Summary

STATUS OF ROUNDS I-IX

Of 318 projects, 129 are active, 4 are pending, and 185 are complete. All originally funded Round IX projects are active. An additional two projects are being funded through the Bond Act in Suffolk County, and five additional projects were awarded EPF funds. Contract development is continuing for these Round IX projects. There is one pending contract in Round VI and one in Round VII.

Amendments for State Committee Approval

1. Montgomery SWCD – Otsquago Creek BMP – Round VII – C700640

Request 1: change of landowner

Reason 1: original landowner is retiring

Request 2: time extension from 3/31/04 to 3/31/05

Reason 2: additional time needed to implement BMP on the potential replacement farm

Previous amendments: 1 time extension

G. Proios moved to approve the change of landowners and extend the contract to 3/31/05; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

2. Jefferson SWCD – Sandy Creek/South Sandy Creek Nutrient Management Project – Round VI – C700594

Request: time extension from 12/31/03 to 12/31/04

Reason: additional time needed to complete CNMPs

Previous amendments: 2 time extensions

J. Dickinson moved to approve the time extension; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

3. Rensselaer SWCD – Tomhannock Reservoir Watershed Ag. Project – Round VI - C700617

Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 12/31/04

Reason: additional time needed to implement BMPs due to weather related delays

Previous amendments: 2 time extensions

J. Dickinson moved to approve the time extension; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.

4. Ulster SWCD – Wallkill River-Rondout Creek Nutrient Management Implementation – Round VI – C700606

Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 12/31/04

Reason: additional time needed to complete BMP installation due to weather related delays

Previous amendments: 2 time extensions

B. Aman moved to approve the time extension; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

5. Cayuga SWCD – CNMP in the Watersheds of Cayuga County – Round IX – C700703

Request: change of landowners (resulting in a loss of one landowner)

Reason: farmers are withdrawing due to financial limitations

Previous amendments: none

G. Proios moved to approve the change of landowners; seconded by B. Aman. Motion was denied pending more information.

J. Ten Eyck and B. Steinmuller gave the State Committee more information regarding this request.

G. Proios moved to reconsider the change of landowners; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.

G. Proios moved to approve the change of landowners; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.

6. Wyoming SWCD – Buffalo River Ag. BMP Implementation Project Phase III – Round VII – C700660
Request: change of BMP (resulting in a loss of one BMP)
Reason: landowner no longer requires BMP
Previous amendments: 1 time extension, 1 change of landowner, 1 change of BMPs

J. Dickinson moved to approve the change of BMPs; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried

Staff Approved Amendments

1. Rensselaer SWCD – Tomhannock Watershed Partner IV Project – Round VII - T700648
Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 7/31/04
Reason: additional time needed to complete planning activities
Approved by L. Miller/B. Steinmuller 4/5/04
2. Jefferson SWCD – Ag. Waste Management Plan Development for CAFO Farms – Round VII – C700634
Request: time extension from 12/31/03 to 12/31/04
Reason: additional time needed to complete CNMP due to extensive workload of planner
Approved by S. Lanthier 3/30/04
3. Jefferson SWCD – Riparian Buffer Strip Project – Round VIII – C700680
Request: time extension from 12/31/03 to 12/31/04
Reason: additional time needed for the completion of BMPs
Approved by S. Lanthier 3/30/04
4. Orleans SWCD – Johnson Creek Watershed Protection Project Phase II – Round VII C700646
Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 3/31/05
Reason: additional time needed for the completion of BMPs
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 4/5/04
5. Tompkins SWCD – Rotational Grazing Implementation in Cayuga and Owasco Lake Watersheds – Round IX - C700064
Request: change of landowners
Reason: original landowners cannot meet financial obligations
Approved by J. Schumacher 2/23/04

6. Niagara SWCD – Mud Creek/Tonawanda Creek Sub-watershed Ag. Management Project – Round VII – C700642
Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 2/28/05
Reason: additional time needed to construct BMPs
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 4/5/04

7. Cayuga SWCD – Tidd Manure Management Project – Round VIII – C700059
Request: move state funds from contractual services and other direct expenses to engineering services
Reason: the funds in those two line items will not be needed and it will be needed in engineering services *Approved by J. Schumacher 4/6/04*

8. Herkimer SWCD – Otsego & Canadarago Lakes Watershed Ag. Environmental Implementation Project – Round VII – C700633
Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 2/28/05
Reason: additional time needed to complete BMPs due to weather related delays
Approved by J. Schumacher 3/5/04

9. Tompkins SWCD – Rotational Grazing Implementation in Cayuga and Owasco Lake Watersheds – Round IX - C700064
Request: change of landowners
Reason: original landowner bought a new farm with existing grazing system already installed
Approved by J. Schumacher 3/8/04

10. Wyoming SWCD – Buffalo River Ag. BMP Implementation Project Phase III – Round VII – C700660
Request: change of landowner
Reason: original landowner is withdrawing due to financial limitations
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 4/19/04

11. Seneca SWCD – Seneca Lake Watershed Prescribed Grazing Project – Round VIII – C700694
Request: change of landowner
Reason: original landowner does not require the cost share to complete BMPs
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 4/19/04

12. Schuyler SWCD – CNMP in the Seneca Lake Watershed – Round VII – C700652
Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 6/30/04
Reason: additional time needed to complete planning activities
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 4/19/04

13. Genesee SWCD – Oak Orchard Creek AEM Planning Project – Round VIII – C700678
Request: time extension from 3/30/04 to 6/30/04
Reason: additional time needed to complete planning process
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 4/19/04

14. Ontario SWCD – Northern Watersheds Ag. Program Phase II – Round IX – C700717
Request: change of BMPs
Reason: two operations are changing their management of silage requiring the need for heavy use area protection BMPs as opposed to silage leachate control systems

Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 4/19/04

15. Dutchess SWCD – 8 Whole Farm Plans in the Wappinger Creek and Ten Mile River Watersheds – Round VII – C700629
Request: change of budget
Reason: funds were not needed for other direct expenses but were needed for personal services
Approved by L. Miller/B. Steinmuller 4/19/04
16. Columbia SWCD – CNMPs on 10 CAFOs – Round VII – C700624
Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 9/30/04
Reason: additional time needed to complete CNMP certification process
Approved by L. Miller/B. Steinmuller 4/19/04
17. Albany County CAFO CNMP Planning Project – Round VIII – C700669
Request: time extension from 2/28/04 to 8/31/04
Reason: additional time needed to complete planning activities
Approved by L. Miller/B. Steinmuller 4/19/04

Land Use Planning and Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Commissioner N. Rudgers welcomed John Dickinson, the new voting member to the State Committee and everyone to the new office of the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets at 10 B Airline Drive. Commissioner Rudgers addressed the Committee on land use issues relating to the loss of farmland in NYS. He challenged the Committee to frame its thinking on how Districts and the State Committee may become involved with protecting the state's agricultural resources. Commissioner Rudgers noted that Districts and NRCS have a direct role in optimizing the quality and quantity of farmland through the protection of the farm's natural resources. He stated that the conversion of that farmland to nonagricultural use rests it from District and NRCS control. He stated that Districts and NRCS should have a vested interest in maintaining agricultural land. Commissioner Rudgers explained to the Committee that he is not stating that Districts should have a direct role in local planning. Districts have enjoyed a long history as a technical assistance agency invaluable to farmers. Districts and NRCS, in their technical capacities, may be able to educate farmers on what parcels of land can support housing development, which consequently will not impact the best agricultural resources of the farm. He stated that programs such as Farmland Protection and Agricultural Districts and Enhancement Zones provide a great tool for preventing the loss of farmland. However, regardless of the millions of dollars spent on these programs, farmland is still disappearing at an alarming rate in many states including New York. Commissioner Rudgers asked the Committee if Districts could be a resource for landowners that are concerned about the pressures to develop their land.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to have comprehensive information on the fate of our land resources in New York State. The Agricultural Census was mentioned as an important tool. It was stated that the more we know about the fate of the land, the better we can propose policies to protect it from development. G. Proios told the Committee that Long Island is currently facing pressure that the rest of the State will be facing if the trend continues. He stated that there are not enough financial resources to mitigate the loss of farmland on Long Island. It was stated that this issue has relevant importance around the State, but more importance in areas experiencing strong development pressure. Commissioner Rudgers requested that the State Committee develop a recommendation on how to address this issue. *R. Kaplewicz told the Commissioner and the Committee that a follow up discussion will be on the agenda for the May meeting.* D. Hill thanked Commissioner Rudgers for taking time to address the Committee on this important issue.

Grass as a Biofuel, J. Cherney

J. Cherney, from the Department of Crop and Soil Science at Cornell University, gave a presentation on the use of grass pellet biofuel. Currently, perennial grass can be pelleted and used successfully as a heating source. Europeans are currently pelleting grass with on-farm equipment and burning it in pellet stoves in Hungary and other countries. Grass pellet stoves have the ability to heat private homes or small businesses including greenhouses and large farm buildings. These new appliances have been designed specifically to burn materials with relatively high ash content while minimizing emissions. Cornell research in 2003 started the process of identifying management strategies to minimize ash content in perennial grass in New York State. J. Cherney went on to discuss the many environmental and economical benefits for the use of grass pellet biofuel.

Discussion ensued. D. Hill thanked J. Cherney for taking time out of his schedule to address the Committee.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) in New York, B. Hopkins

B. Hopkins, Area Conservationist for NRCS, gave a presentation on the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program. B. Hopkins distributed an informational handout. AMA is a voluntary program for agricultural producers that provides technical assistance and cost share funds to address natural resource concerns. In New York, AMA funds are available to implement practices relating to Prescribed Grazing Management, Erosion Control on Cropland, the transition to Organic Production and Pest Management.

For more information on AMA and other federal conservation programs, contact a local USDA Service Center or SWCD. D. Hill thanked B. Hopkins for addressing the Committee on the AMA program.

Development of State Committee Annual Work Plan, R. Kaplewicz, M. Latham

M. Latham distributed copies of the Soil and Water Conservation Committee/Division of Soil and Water Annual Work Plan. The revised work plan includes items that were identified by the State Committee at the February meeting. G. Proios advised the Committee that farmland protection should be included in its Strategic Plan. K. Lewis advised the Committee that participation in the Employees' Association Annual Meeting should also be included in the work plan. J. Dickinson noted that it takes a long time to effect change because of a lack of resources. He added that the state is not keeping up with the demands of implementation. He identified a need for increasing engineering support for the design and construction of BMPs. Discussion continued.

B. Aman moved to approve the Soil and Water Conservation Committee/Division of Soil and Water Work Plan; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

The following Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Plans of Work were approved:

Allegany	Cayuga
Jefferson	Montgomery
Oneida	Orange
Suffolk	Tioga
Ulster	Yates
Erie	Fulton

Program Updates, Staff

CREP

M. Latham gave an update on CREP. He distributed a memo from R. Kaplewicz to all Districts regarding technical assistance agreements. The memo states that Districts who wish to provide technical assistance for CREP are asked to develop individual contribution agreements with NRCS. Payment will be at a rate of \$500 per CREP contract. This is based on the assumption that it takes approximately \$1,000 worth of time to plan and implement BMPs for an average CREP contract. Districts are being asked to track actual hours this year. The results of tracking hours may lead to an increase, a decrease or maintaining the \$500 reimbursement for next year. M. Latham also told the Committee that outreach materials are being drafted for CREP. M. Latham advised the Committee that representatives from USDA-FSA, DEC, NRCS and the SWCC met to go over the full list of eligible watersheds. FSA is in the process of officially amending the list.

CAFO

J. Ten Eyck told the Committee that the DEC received 40 comments from 12 entities regarding the draft CAFO Revised Rule. He noted that farmers were noticeably absent from commenting. J. Ten Eyck advised the Committee that 250 medium CAFOs have not completed a CNMP. Medium CAFOs must have a plan complete and submit an Appendix B to the DEC by June 30, 2004. He told the Committee that the DEC is firm on this deadline and they are developing a compliance strategy to address this issue. The Certification subcommittee is proposing to ask the Districts to provide feedback on where the farmers in their counties are in the process of developing a CNMP. J Ten Eyck advised the Committee that a CAFO Work Group meeting is tentatively scheduled for 5/10/04. *It was stated that this issue be addressed at the May 18th State Committee meeting.*

Stormwater

L. Miller distributed a Stormwater Subcommittee Report.

District Technical Stormwater Training

A meeting was held to discuss technical training needs for District employees. Don Lake provided a list of suggested courses for the 2004 Conservation Skills Workshop. L. Miller will contact the planning committee for the Conservation Skills Workshop to discuss ideas for the fall session.

Stormwater Specialist Positions

Four of the five new stormwater specialist positions have been filled. The new staff includes: Tom Bowring (Region 3), Josh Carvajal (Region 4,5,6), Ellen Hahn (Region 7) and Paula Smith (Region 8 and 9). Suffolk County reported that final approval for the Region 1 Specialist would be made at the County Legislature meeting on April 20.

Stormwater Management Position

The Stormwater Management position has been offered to Deb Caraco and she accepted the position. She will be starting in May.

Review of Mini-Grant Suggestions

In an effort to assist DEC in preparing an RFP for the next round of mini-grants, a list of possible projects was created and distributed. The subcommittee reviewed this list and some changes were recommended. These changes will be made and the list will be sent to all sub-committee members for further comment.

Stormwater Guide and Appendices

Louise King gave a presentation on the draft Stormwater Guide for Communities. The guide covers construction and post-construction requirements of regulated communities. One appendix includes a list of available tools and resources that communities may refer to and identifies contacts for assistance. L. King is working on adding html links for all the resources that will make access easier. A limited number of draft copies have been distributed for preliminary comment.

TMDL and Cap Loads in the Susquehanna River Basin,

R. Weidenbach, District Manager for the Delaware County SWCD and J. Curatolo, Upper Susquehanna Coalition Coordinator gave a presentation on the pending Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Chesapeake Bay and its Watershed, including New York State, by 2011. The TMDL sets a maximum limit for pollutant levels in the Chesapeake Bay and its watersheds. Those levels are reached and maintained through permits and other regulatory means. Both J. Curatolo and R. Weidenbach stressed the impacts that a TMDL will have on municipalities, businesses, farmers, residents and others. They expressed to the Committee that the challenge is to prove that the water quality of the Bay is improving and will be fully restored by 2010 in order to stay ahead of a restrictive TMDL. They highlighted many of the Upper Susquehanna Coalitions successes in addressing water quality concerns in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Other Reports and Comments, All

AEM

M. Latham presented to the Committee two research proposals that the AEM Steering Committee would like to transmit to the DEC for funding consideration:

- Investigation of the extent that Static Pile Composting of Cows Destroys Pathogens.
- Investigation of Nitrate-Nitrogen Contamination of Groundwater in an unconfined Aquifer: A case study in the Town of Preble, Cortland County, NY.

G. Proios moved to forward the proposals to the DEC for funding consideration; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried

CEM

R. Lewis gave an update and distributed an informational packet on CEM. B. Silvestri discussed the CEM Statewide Implementation NYSDEC/NYSSWCC PPG 2004 Funding Proposal.

Objectives of this Funding Proposal:

1. Complete the development of core CEM Worksheets (9 currently in draft form) and companion Resource Guides. Year 1 - \$8500
2. Test 9 core CEM Worksheets and companion Resource Guides with eight CWQCCs in eight regions of New York State to ensure statewide adoption of CEM. Year 1 - \$64,000
3. Design, program, post and maintain CEM webpage and guide based on field test results. Year 2 - \$10,000
4. Modification of Environmental assessment worksheets and guide based on field test results. Year 2 - \$10,000
5. Adoption by the NYSSWCC and NPSCC of worksheets and guide for statewide use. Year 2 – no cost
6. Conduct four regional training sessions for CWQCCs on CEM tools, new AEM tools and updating their Water Quality Strategies using modified WRAPS approach to reinvigorate, refocus and strengthen CWQCCs statewide. Year 2 - \$10,000

7. Establish the role of CEM as a consistent statewide method for addressing NPS at the community level. Year 2 – no cost
8. Reinforce the role of AEM as the umbrella program for addressing Ag NPS and as an integral part of USDA NRCS Farm Bill Conservation Programs. Ongoing – no cost

Funding Needed:

Two years of funding support is needed to replicate our AEM successes with a complimentary community-based environmental stewardship effort.

Total Year 1 - \$77,500

Total Year 2 - \$20,000

Total Requested - \$97,500

B. Silvestri asked the Committee for consensus on submitting this proposal to the DEC along with the funding requests for AEM support. Discussion ensued regarding this funding proposal's consistency with the resolution passed by the State Committee recommitting its leadership for the CEM initiative. The Committee was in consensus to allow this proposal to be submitted to the DEC for consideration.

M. Latham advised the Committee that NRCS has taken issue with some of the references and technical information in the Stormwater Manual. They have provided feedback to the DEC requesting appropriate changes. If these changes are not made, they have respectively requested that they be removed from the manual as a reference.

M. Stephenson advised the Committee that the proposals for the Farm and Range Land Protection program RFP are due on May 3rd.

G. Chartier advised the Committee that the next meeting of the Nonpoint Source Coordinating Committee is being held on April 28th. He also announced the 15th Annual Nonpoint Source Pollution Conference to be held on May 25th – 27th at the Fort William Henry Hotel and Conference Center in Lake George.

R. Lewis distributed a handout that describes the issues that NYACD discussed at the recent Legislative Days held last month.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Next Meeting will be held on 5/18/04.