

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

STATE COMMITTEE MEETING
September 14, 2004—Walton

Present: D. Hill, B. Aman, J. Dickinson, G. Proios—Voting Members; R. Kaplewicz—Executive Director; M. Latham—Assistant Director; T. Brace, J. Ten Eyck, L. Miller, M. Moore, J. Schumacher, B. Silvestri, B. Steinmuller, E. Svenson, L. Travis—SWCC Staff; R. Christensen, D. Conable, J. Rusnica—NYS DAM; G. Chartier—NYS DEC; P. Kaczmarczyk, L. Wilson—NYS DOH; J. Tauzel—NYFB; J. Del Vecchio—NRCS; L. Telega—CCE; D. Fox—Cornell; P. Black—SUNY ESF; R. Weidenbach—Delaware Co. SWCD/NYS CDEA; E. Dalrymple—Schuyler Co. SWCD.

Call to Order/Introductions:

D. Hill called the meeting to order at 10:23 a.m.

Review and Approve Minutes:

J. Dickinson moved to approve the minutes of the July meeting; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.

Correspondence:

Letters & Memos

1. Letter from Susan A. Henry, Ph.D. CALS, and Helene Dillard, Ph.D. CCE, to Joseph Gergela, N.Y. Assoc. of Conservation Districts, Inc. regarding the establishment of an annual meeting to better serve the agricultural community. **Letter dated July 19, 2004.**
2. Letter to Ron Kaplewicz from Jerry Cosgrove, American Farmland Trust, regarding the coordination of a state farmland protection policy roundtable to develop several emerging state policy proposals. Session to be held on October 5, 2004 at NYS Dept. of Agriculture and Markets from 10:30 to 2:30. **Letter dated August 10, 2004.**
3. Letter to Jeff Parker, Steuben SWCD, from William S. Locke, Superintendent of Schools, Arkport Central School, thanking the district for securing funds and manpower to save school property from potential flooding. **Letter dated August 16, 2004.**
4. Notification from New York Farm Bureau, Inc. of their new address. It is now:
New York Farm Bureau, Inc.
NYFB Member Services, Inc.
NYFB Foundation for Agricultural Education, Inc.
159 Wolf Road, P.O. Box 5330, Albany, NY 12205-0330.
5. Letter from St. Lawrence SWCD regarding private, non-industrial forest land management. **Letter dated August 19, 2004.**
6. Letter from Jose J. Acevedo, NRCS. The USDA NRCS did not select the SWCC proposal for the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) program funding this year. **Letter dated August 26, 2004.**

Reports & News Letters

1. **Nursery Lines**, Summer 2004, Vol. 31, No. 3. A publication of the NYS Nursery/Landscape Association.
2. **USDA New Patterns of Hispanic Settlement in Rural America**. Rural Development Research Report Number 99.
3. **Clearwaters**, Summer 2004, Vol. 34, No. 2. New York Water Environment Association, Inc.
4. USDA, Farm Service Agency **Revised Information for New York State CREP**.
5. **Partners** – May/June 2004, Vol. 22. No. 3
6. **What's Cropping Up?** Volume 14, Number 4, July-August 2004.
7. **Bay Journal**, The Chesapeake Bay Newspaper, Vol. 14, No. 5, July-Aug. 2004.
8. **Farm and Forest Participant**, Stewardship Programs of the Watershed Agricultural Council in the NYC Watershed. Summer 2004, Vol. 22.

9. **CFA News** – The Newsletter of the Catskill Forest Association, Inc.
Volume 22, Number 3 – Summer 2004.
10. **Coastlines** – Summer 04. A publication of the New York Sea Grant Institute.
11. **CDEA News** – July 2004.
12. **The Empire State Granger** – June 2004.
13. **NRCS News Release** – USDA names new NRCS officials.
14. **Federal Register** – Department of Agriculture – Commodity Credit Corporation – Natural Resources Conservation Service – Conservation Security Program.
15. **A Management Strategy for Oneida Lake and Its Watershed: Interim Report**
CNY RPDB, Summer 2004
16. **Buffer Notes** – June and July 2004.
17. **ARC News** – ESRI – Summer 2004.
18. **New York State Agricultural Statistics, 2003 Annual Bulletin**

Conferences & Seminars

1. **The New York State Canal Conference** – Sept. 22-24, 2004, Queensbury Hotel, Glens Falls, NY
2. **NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Assoc.** – 2004 Annual Conference
Sept. 27-28, Genesee Inn Hotel, Syracuse, NY
3. **NYS GIS 2004 20th Annual Conference** – October 18-19, 2004.
Hudson Valley Resort & Spa, Kerhonkson, New York
4. **New York Farm Show** – February 24-26, 2005 at the New York State Fairgrounds, Syracuse, NY
5. **Great Lakes Commission 2004 Annual Meeting** – Toronto, Ontario
October 4-5, 2004.
6. **Watershed Summit – On the Delaware – Making the Connection** –
Wyndham Hotel, Wilmington, DE, September 13-15, 2004.
7. **2004 Watchable Wildlife Conference** – Preserving Communities Through
Sustainable Wildlife Tourism, Dubuque, Iowa, Grand Harbor Resort and Grand River
Center, October 5-7, 2004.
8. **Changing Face of New York's Landscape** – Annual NYACD Meeting, Hilton
Resort, Lake Placid, NY, October 26-28, 2004.

Correspondence Discussion

- R. Kaplewicz read the letter from Dean Susan Henry and Director Helene Dillard in response to the letter from J. Gergela, President NYACD. The November State Committee meeting will be held in Ithaca, where a session is planned to discuss the role of Cornell and CCE in SWCC and SWCD programming. A draft agenda for that meeting was distributed.
- R. Kaplewicz advised the Committee that American Farmland Trust (AFT) is coordinating a state farmland protection policy roundtable with agricultural and conservation partners to solicit feedback and coordinate development of several emerging state policy proposals. The session will be held on October 5, 2004 at the New York State Department of Ag & Markets in Albany from 10:30 until 2:30.

Discussion ensued regarding the ongoing dialogue about the State Committee's potential role in land use planning policies. The point was raised that, in thinking about farmland preservation, considerations must also be made to preserve the economic viability of the farmer. The Committee should also take into consideration that different groups have varying interests and ideas concerning preservation and may advocate for different strategies based on their own agenda. Committee members had questions about the leadership of the farmland protection initiative and the SWCC's role.
- R. Kaplewicz read a letter from William Locke, Superintendent of the Arkport Central School District to Jeff Parker, Steuben County SWCD, thanking them for their efforts in securing funds and manpower to save school property from potential flooding. R. Kaplewicz noted that this letter epitomizes what Districts provide to communities.

- R. Kaplewicz notified the Committee that the proposal “Protecting Prime Soils in Low-Density Development Environments” was not selected for Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) funding this year. This spawned a discussion led by D. Conable regarding Commissioner N. Rudgers’ charge to the State Committee to find alternative ways to preserve farmland beyond purchasing development rights.

D. Conable suggested that a workgroup be formed which would work to further enhance and pursue alternative means to support the concept behind the proposal submitted for CIG funding. Thinking of soils as a resource, if actions are not taken to maintain a critical mass of quality soils it will be difficult to sustain the agricultural industry in NYS. As a representative of the Department of Ag & Markets, D. Conable pointed out that it is the Department’s mandate to sustain the agricultural industry and promote the benefits of the industry to the rural economy. He also pointed out that these are the types of issues with which SWCDs are faced with every day. It is a natural evolution for the SWCDs to address land use planning and protection of soil resources. It was suggested to include this issue into the AEM worksheet process and pilot the program in selected counties. A handbook may also be developed that would help the SWCD representatives look at the whole farm as a hydrological system, soil system, and economic system in order to best address land use planning activities.

J. Del Vecchio pointed out that there may be other opportunities for funding and they should be pursued as the concept of preserving prime agricultural soils is an important one which the Committee should be involved with. He pointed out that it is not too early to think about the next round of Farm Bill appropriations and a new program addressing agricultural land protection may fit nicely into the Farm Bill.

G. Proios shared concerns that addressing this on a case by case basis may not have the significant impact needed to make a difference. He suggested that, at a minimum, land use planning should be looked at on a county wide or area wide basis. He pointed out that other state agencies, like the Empire State Development Corporation, do not have policies to address agricultural interests. D. Conable concurred that this concept is only one of many pieces needed to fully accomplish farmland preservation. There should be economic incentives to keep farmers in production, and townships need to identify their needs and put codes and ordinances in place to protect farming in their communities.

R. Kaplewicz suggested that a steering committee be formed that would examine and sort through this topic, and develop a pilot program. Further discussion on this issue will be brought forth at the AFT Roundtable discussion, as previously discussed.

- R. Kaplewicz read the letter from the St. Lawrence County SWCD in which they shared their concerns regarding private non-industrial forest land management. The letter stated that “Traditionally, forests have been addressed in SWCD conservation plans, but technical assistance has been delegated to other agencies such as the NYS DEC.” Their concern is that this may be an area that currently is being underserved. At one time DEC had 4 private land foresters in St. Lawrence County, now there are none. This may also make landowners ineligible for federal cost share money such as the Forestland Enhancement Program.

A second issue addressed in their letter concerns the Forest Practice Boards, which were established to advise the DEC on the management of private lands. These boards cannot meet unless a representative from DEC is present. However, it has become apparent that DEC staff has been directed to discontinue attending these meetings. St. Lawrence County requests that the State Committee and the Department work with DEC on these issues or take over the responsibility to fill the void of technical assistance to private landowners.

Discussion ensued regarding the role that both the Department and the SWCC could play in this issue. The Committee and the Department are engaged in discussions with DEC on this issue.

R. Kaplewicz will communicate with St. Lawrence County and let them know that both the Committee and the Department are aware of the concerns, recognize that there is a need to address these issues, and that some discussions are underway with NYSDEC.

New York State Budget Summary:

- R. Christensen reported to the Committee on the 2004-2005 NYS Budget, which is still subject to change.
 - \$32 million in EPF Funds for land acquisition

- \$10.8 million for Nonpoint Source to be shared with DEC
 - \$1.86 million for reimbursement to Conservation Districts
 - \$500,000 for a stormwater planning activities grant program was not approved
- In general, most of the Department of Ag & Markets programs took a 5% funding cut.

Ag Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program:

Status of Rounds I-IX

Of 318 projects, 121 are active, 3 are pending, and 194 are complete. There is one pending contract in Round VI, one in Round VII, and one in Round IX.

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. Contract development is continuing.

Round XI

The State Committee approved the Round XI RFP for competitive funding. The final RFP and attachments were released on August 25th and proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, October 25th.

Amendment Request

1. Schuyler SWCD – Watershed Protection in Two Sub-watersheds of Seneca Lake: Glen Creek and Reading Direct Drainage – Round VIII – C700693

Request 1: change of landowners (resulting in a loss of three landowners)

Request 2: change of BMPs and apply funds from the withdrawing farms to the remaining landowners to pay for those changes

Reason 1: three landowners withdrawing due to financial limitations

Reason 2: different BMPs were identified as needed to maximize benefit and costs of those changes are higher than the available funds.

No previous amendments

Discussion ensued regarding this amendment request. E. Dalrymple, Schuyler County District Manager, was present to provide more information regarding this amendment request. During the term of this contract NRCS policy regarding BMPs for barnyards has changed making three farms in this project unable to participate.

B. Aman pointed out that, the Committee should take into consideration that a reduction in deliverables may have altered the score of the original proposal and therefore changed its ranking. G. Proios noted that each amendment request brought to the Committee should stand on its own and not be compared to prior requests. However, R. Kaplewicz reminded the Committee that they have made previous decisions under similar circumstances and denied requests to reduce deliverables without returning EPF funds.

Discussion continued concerning Schuyler County's request, and although the circumstances were understood the Committee made the following motion:

G. Proios moved to deny these requests without prejudice and encourage Schuyler SWCD to cancel this project and reapply in Round XI; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

R. Kaplewicz notified the Committee that the State Staff would be addressing this issue and reviewing the amendment process at the upcoming staff meeting and will bring any recommendations back to the State Committee.

J. Del Vecchio stated that it is appreciated that NRCS standards are being utilized in this program and he encourages the Staff and the Committee to develop a policy to address cases when NRCS standards are revised in light of new research.

B. Aman suggested that the Committee might keep all money returned from projects in an account to be used when circumstances such as this arise, rather than shifting it into future rounds of the Ag. NPS grant program.

Staff Approved Amendments

1. Onondaga SWCD – Development and Implementation of WFP in the Skaneateles Lake WS
Round IX – C700715
Request: time extension from 12/31/04 to 12/31/05
Reason: additional time needed to complete implementation of manure storage BMP
Approved by J. Schumacher 8/9/04
2. Wyoming SWCD – Buffalo River Ag. BMP Implementation Project Phase III – Round VII – C700660
Request: time extension from 3/31/04 to 2/28/05
Reason: additional time needed to complete BMPs
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 9/10/04
3. Yates SWCD - Seneca Lake Tier IV Implementation Grant – Round 8 – C700063
Request: change of BMPs
Reason: BMPs were identified as a better fit for water quality
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 9/10/04
4. Tompkins SWCD – Pasture Management Cayuga and Owasco – Round X – 51-1
Request: change of landowners
Reason: two original landowners voluntarily withdrew
Approved by J. Schumacher 9/2/04
5. Tompkins SWCD – Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning in the Southern Fingerlakes –
Round VII – C700657
Request: time extension from 6/30/04 to 2/27/05
Reason: additional time needed to complete planning activities
Approved by J. Schumacher 9/13/04
6. Columbia SWCD – BMP Implementation on 3 CAFOs – Round VIII – C700676
Request: change of BMP
Reason: original BMP no longer needed, new BMP identified as needed
Approved by L. Miller/B. Steinmuller 9/15/04

AEM Report:

AEM Federal Earmark Update

Tiers 1, 2 and 3a will be eligible to receive funding through the non-competitive process.

Approval of AEM County Strategic Planning Guidance

A draft of the *County Agricultural Environmental Management Strategic Plan Components and Deliverables* was distributed to the Committee. AEM Teams will be asked to prioritize farms in their Districts in order to help match the money to the need.

J. Ten Eyck went over the components and deliverables of the Strategic Plan. By developing a strategic plan, Districts will be equipped to properly inventory and assess the need of the agricultural community in protecting natural resources. The strategic plan will also provide a way for Districts to match potential needs with other funding and resource programs that may be available. In time, the overall goal is to have this process complement the competitive program because it will set up the priorities within each county and on each farm, which will also make it easier for the review teams to identify and rank proposed projects against one another.

The AEM Steering Committee and individuals working on this project welcome any additional input and suggestions during the next couple weeks while these items are being finalized.

G. Proios suggested that each local AEM team will need a point person to bring the team together and evaluate whether or not goals are being met. J. Ten Eyck agreed that more emphasis should be placed on this in the sample strategy.

D. Fox shared concerns that Cornell Cooperative Extension may not be fully utilized or engaged on the local level. He asked what role Cornell should be playing in this process, and whether or not there should be a greater outreach component of this project. L. Telega concurred and added that unless the individual is a Water Quality Specialist, CCE agents are focused on a specialty in which water quality concerns may be peripheral to what they do. He suggested that there should be incentives for CCE to participate in this process.

L. Telega also noted that one difference between CCE and the Districts is in using one-on-one education. A workshop setting may be useful in some situations throughout this process and would be a better use of AEM Team resources and time. R. Kaplewicz acknowledged that small workshops could be melded into the strategic plan as a useful outreach component. However, he noted that there are certain priority farms where one-on-one is necessary to achieve the needed outcomes and is an important component of AEM. L. Travis agreed and said that every county will have to be looked at on a case by case basis in terms of their outreach capabilities and ability to engage other agencies in this process.

A draft agenda for the training session was distributed to the Committee members. The training will be held on November 16 & 17, 2004 beginning at 12:00 p.m. on the first day. J. Ten Eyck pointed out that the Steering Committee also recommended that an invitation to give remarks at the beginning of the session be extended to Congressman Walsh and others who helped secure the Congressional Earmark.

J. Ten Eyck pointed out that each county will have four slots available for AEM Team members to attend this training. However, at least one representative from the SWCD must be present in order for that county to be eligible to receive non-competitive funding. Other groups may choose to attend the training at their cost.

AEM Outreach

B. Silvestri distributed the *2003-2004 Agricultural Environmental Management Annual Report—A Watershed View in NYS* to Committee members. She reported that more than 2,000 copies have already been distributed at events such as Empire Farm Days and the NYS Fair. B. Silvestri also reported the AEM Display has been revised and reproduced, the AEM website is undergoing a re-design and update of existing materials, and the AEM brochure template was provided for the AEM Equine Operations brochure in order to ensure consistency for statewide use.

Approval of Equine Worksheets

The AEM Steering Committee recommended that the State Committee adopt the four Equine Worksheets. The Steering Committee also recommends that the "Wash Rack/Stall and Trailer Wash Area" worksheet be considered as a core worksheet.

Suggestions were made for a few minor formatting changes on these worksheets.

B. Aman moved to accept the four Equine Worksheets and give the staff the authority to make changes based on additional technical resources provided; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

The State Committee may need to examine how all worksheets are utilized and presented in the future.

Other Program Updates:

CREP—E. Svenson reported that the discrepancies regarding the CREP Watersheds have been addressed and currently there are 1,100 acres currently enrolled with many more acres pending.

Outreach tools were sent to Districts in early August and nearly 5,000 brochures have been distributed. The CREP display is available for District's to use along with the additional materials.

A sample CREP conservation plan is being developed to ensure that conservation plans for CREP contracts meet minimum criteria.

The next CREP Steering Committee Meeting is set for Wednesday, September 29, 2004 in LaFayette NY.

Stormwater—L. Miller reported that 15 SWCDs participated in the first full reporting period (1/1/04-6/30/04) of the stormwater reimbursement program. The total amount vouchered for was \$13,136.50, which was less than originally anticipated. The sub-committee started discussions with DEC to help find ways to utilize the allocated money more effectively.

L. Miller informed the Committee that Don Lake has scheduled 77 training days, including 14 courses in the SUNY ESF curriculum. She also reported that a stormwater track will be offered at the Conservation Skills Workshop held in October.

Dave Gaspar, the Suffolk County Stormwater Specialist has been appointed. A meeting has been scheduled for all the Stormwater Specialists at the October Conservation Skill Workshop.

L. Miller reported that a final version of the 2004 Mini Grants is still being finalized. Some details need to be worked out in regards to Level 1. It is expected that the RFP will be sent out by the end of September.

G. Proios initiated a discussion regarding Districts performing inspections for the private sector. As Districts continue to have more involvement in stormwater issues, concerns may arise regarding their work with both the public and private sectors. J. Rusnica reported that under District Law, SWCDs clearly have the authority to perform work, such as inspections, for the private sector. Although working with the private sector on stormwater issues would not affect reimbursement, the Committee will still need to check with DEC on whether it would impact their ability to receive grant money. Any ethical determinations would need to be made at the local level. These rules vary by county and SWCDs must follow either the District or County ethics code. G. Proios stressed the need for disclosure within the county. All county partners should know what the SWCD is working on. Districts may not be able to participate in any of the stormwater reimbursement activities on behalf of DEC for a particular site if they are working with the same site in a private capacity.

J. Rusnica will continue to look at the legal ramifications of these activities and will draft a memo to the State Committee in the coming weeks.

R. Kaplewicz suggested that the State Committee draft a policy regarding this issue once it has been fully examined.

The next Stormwater Sub-committee meeting will be an evening meeting on Monday, November 15, 2004 in Ithaca, NY.

Report on Northeast NACD Meeting: G. Proios, M. Latham

G. Proios summarized his conversations with Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight at the NACD meeting.

M. Latham commented that New York State was well represented at the meeting and that a clear vision for NACD continues to evolve.

NYACD Annual Meeting Overview: G. Proios

G. Proios informed the Committee of the latest details of the NYACD meeting to be held in Lake Placid, October 26-28, 2004. Business conducted at this meeting will include: Selection of a new NYACD President, Meeting of the Four-way Partnership, and a meeting with the Empire State Development Corporation to discuss the importance of the agriculture industry to New York State.

Approval of Annual Plans of Work:

**G. Proios moved to approve the following Annual Plans of Work, seconded by B. Aman
Motion passed; carried.**

- Columbia
- Schoharie

There are 45 annual plans of work completed to date.

Other Reports and Comments

- R. Weidenbach thanked the SWCC for coming to the Delaware County SWCD for today's meeting.
- G. Chartier notified the Committee that the DEC will not be releasing the non-agricultural NPS Request for Proposals until the winter. The Committee should understand that the DEC's NPS funding needs will not be identified by the time the Ag NPS program proposals are ranked.
- J. Del Vecchio reviewed the NRCS reorganization at the National and Regional levels. New appointments include Richard Coombe as the new Regional Assistant Chief for the East. NRCS has also established three new national technology support centers and three remote sensing laboratories as part of the agency reorganization. The northeast technology center is located in Greensboro, NC. Statewide changes include Don Pettit as the new Assistant State Conservationist and Peter Wright as the State Engineer starting October 4, 2004.

Other NRCS Program Updates:

- NRCS is still working to allocate EQIP funding. Two EQIP sign-ups are currently underway: the statewide sign-up for waste storage facilities, and the county sign-ups for conservation practices. Currently, there are 227 contracts.
- New York State received approximately \$8 million for the 2004 Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP).
- NRCS will be submitting 6-8 NYS watersheds for the next round of Conservation Security Program (CSP) funding. A report will be given at the next State Committee meeting regarding next year's CSP.
- L. Miller reported that the Fourth Annual Lower Hudson Coalition Stormwater Conference will be held November 9, 2004.
- G. Proios mentioned to the Committee the Suffolk County Report which contains information on:
 - 5 year plan targeted positions.
 - Ag stewardship director
 - Finalizing commodity worksheets
 - Submitted proposals for funding.
- J. Tazuel informed the Committee that New York Farm Bureau has recently moved to their new office on Wolf Road in Albany.
J. Tazuel also assured the Committee that NYFB is continuing to work with the Assembly to restore funding for agricultural programs cut through the Governor's veto.
J. Tazuel reminded the Committee of the proposed EPA "*Safe Harbor*" *Consent Agreement* discussed at previous Committee meetings. NYFB and Pro Dairy have submitted comments and are continuing to advocate for NY farmers regarding this issue.
J. Tazuel also mentioned that NYFB is in the Policy Development stage of the year where, through county level annual meetings, NYFB sets their agenda for the upcoming year.
- P. Black handed out a brochure for his October 1, 2004 workshop to be held in Onondaga County and encouraged members to attend.
- B. Steinmuller reported that there have been two meetings coordinated by K. Lewis to review the compatibility of the Ag NPS and EQIP programs. They will be meeting again on October 27, 2004.
B. Steinmuller also reported that the 2005 NYS Envirothon will be held at SUNY Oswego, May 25th - 26th. A planning meeting will be held in Oswego on September 21, 2004.
- Lloyd Wilson mentioned that DOH is currently revising surface water assessments, which will be in the annual water quality report next spring.
- P. Kaczmarczyk brought to the Committee's attention a possible water quality issue regarding the pesticide Cloprid. This pesticide has been detected in private wells sampled between January 2001 and April 2004.

- L. Telega notified the Committee that the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Society (SWCS) will be hosting the national annual meeting in Rochester, NY, July 31-August 3, 2005. This will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the work being done throughout NYS to people from all over the country. More information will follow regarding requests for displays and other assistance with the meeting.
- L. Travis reported that during his first 12 days as Region 3 AEA he has been working to set up his office and make contacts with the Districts.
- B. Aman shared with the Committee information about Vermont law in which agricultural and managed forest-lands are now taxed at current use rather than market value. Reducing the tax burden on farmland owners may encourage farmers in their conservation efforts. The law was intended to reduce the difference in net returns between urban and agricultural use, and thus slow the rate of farmland and forestland conversion to more intensive use. B. Aman encouraged the Committee to continue to learn more about this process in Vermont.
- R. Kaplewicz notified the Committee that we are in the process of hiring an Associate Environmental Analyst.
The announcement for the CNMP Planning Specialist should be released soon.
R. Kaplewicz also reminded the Committee of the previous discussion regarding forestry and he is continuing to meet with the NY Nurserymans Association on these issues. R. Kaplewicz has been placed on the agenda for NYNA's annual meeting to be held in January.
- D. Hill informed the Committee that the NYS Grange will be hosting the National Grange Meeting in Rochester, November 9-14, 2004. Commissioner N. Rudgers will be addressing the delegates at this meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting date has been scheduled for Thursday, October 28, 2004 in Lake Placid, NY.