

**NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee Meeting
February 1, 2005
Utica, NY**

PRESENT: Voting Members – D. Hill, B. Aman, J. Dickinson, G. Proios; Executive Director – R. Kaplewicz; Assistant Director – M. Latham; SWCC Staff – T. Brace, J. Curatolo, R. Lewis, L. Miller, M. Moore, R. Rausch, B. Silvestri, B. Steinmuller, J. Ten Eyck, L. Travis; NYSDA&M – R. Christensen, J. Rusnica, R. Zimmerman; NRCS – J. DeVecchio, S. Page, D. Pettit; NYSCDEA – K. Lewis; NYFB – J. Tauzel; NYSDEC – G. Chartier; NYSDOH – P. Kaczmarczyk, L. Wilson; NYSDOS – B. Schmelz; SUNY ESF – P. Black; Rensselaer County SWCD – T. Sanford.

CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS:

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

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:

**G. Proios moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting; seconded by B. Aman.
Motion passed; carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letters & Memos

1. Letter to Ron Kaplewicz from Peter Pamkowski, Ag Protection regarding Agricultural Producers Security Program – Press Release and Program Brochure **Letter dated December 31, 2004.**
2. Letter to Dennis Hill from Gerry Chartier regarding Policy on SWCD Involvement with Private Sector in Regards to the NYSDEC Phase 2 Construction Permit (GP-02-01). **Letter dated January 5, 2005.**
3. Letter to the State Committee from Hugh O. Canham, FAD 2004 Planning regarding Forestry Awareness Day, Tuesday March 15, 2005.
Letter dated December 28, 2004.

Reports & News Letters

1. **Agricultural News** - Producers' prices received for December 2004, and 2004 New York Field Crop Summary.
2. **Bay Journal** – December 2004.
3. **Bay Journal** – January 2005.
4. **The Empire State Granger** – December 2004 issue.
5. **CDEA News** - December 2004.
6. **Waterworks (New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.)**
December 2004 issue.
7. **Partners Magazine.** September/October 2004 issue.
8. **Taking Root** – Fall 2004, No. 14
9. **Buffer Notes** – November 2004 and December 2004.
10. **Legislative Commission on Water – Resource Needs of New York State and Long Island –**
Fall/Winter 2004.
11. **Greater Adirondack Resource Conservation & Development Council 2004 Annual Report.**
12. Wayne County SWCD **Resource Preservation & Watershed Enhancement Project.**
13. **FYI** – NYACD newsletter – January 2005.
14. **What's Cropping Up?** November/December 2004.
15. **What's Cropping Up?** January 2005.
16. **Cattaraugus County SWCD Conservation Today** – Winter 2004 Issue.
17. **The Upper Delaware** – Quarterly newsletter – Winter 2004-2005.
18. **Conservation Connections** – Erie County SWCD Semi-Annual District Newsletter. January 2005.

Conferences & Seminars

1. **Great Lakes Commission – 2005 Request for Proposals.**
2. **New York State Agricultural Society 173rd Annual Meeting & Agricultural Forum.** Forum was held on January 6, 2005.

Correspondence Discussion

1. R. Kaplewicz noted that the press release for the Agricultural Producers Security Program has been distributed to Districts statewide.
2. R. Kaplewicz asked to defer the reading of the letter from G. Chartier regarding Policy on SWCD Involvement with Private Sector in Regards to the NYSDEC Phase 2 Construction Permit (GP-02-01) until later on the agenda. The committee agreed.
3. R. Kaplewicz read the letter from Hugh Canham regarding Forestry Awareness Day, Tuesday March 15, 2005. Discussion touched on the State Committee's possible involvement in the day, which happens to coincide with the next State Committee meeting. R. Zimmerman recommended that the Committee consider what the future may hold for District and Committee involvement in forestry activities. G. Proios suggested that the Committee form a subcommittee to take a more serious look at future activities and involvement in forestry issues.
4. R. Kaplewicz mentioned that the Commissioner had received a letter from New York Farm Bureau President, John Lincoln regarding confidentiality concerns with the AEM GIS reporting system. We were copied on this letter. Farm Bureau feels that, with the information entered into the AEM GIS reporting system, outside groups and organizations could potentially locate a farm participating in the program and possibly use that information in a damaging manner. NYFB would like to see policy developed that would clarify what confidentiality means to farmers participating in AEM and to keep any personal information that may have an identifying factor from reaching outside organizations.

The Committee discussed Farm Bureau's concerns. It was made apparent that the NYS Department of Health, who provided partial funding for the AEM GIS database, never received any personal and confidential information from the GIS database. M. Latham pointed out that a third party vendor was commissioned to create the database because DOH officials felt that confidential information would be subject to release had they been more involved in the development of the database.

It was suggested that the Committee look into developing a policy to further protect personal information, regardless of the fact that it may or may not also be accessible from other sources. It was noted that confidentiality will be addressed in the new revised AEM guide.

State Committee Staff will work to further define the Committee's policy on confidentiality and circumstances where release of such data may be required. Information regarding the confidentiality policy will also be placed on Tier 1 inventory worksheets and reports.

ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS:

Election of Vice Chair

R. Kaplewicz conducted this portion of the meeting.

B. Aman moved to elect G. Proios as Vice Chair of the State Committee; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

Meeting Schedule

Traditionally the Committee has met on the third Tuesday of every month. For scheduling purposes, R. Kaplewicz asked that Committee members mark those dates on their calendars. He mentioned that we are working with Peter Black to hold the May 17 meeting of the State Committee on the SUNY ESF campus and we plan to be focusing on forestry for that day.

AEM REPORT:

J. Ten Eyck discussed the question and answer document that had been developed as a result of feedback received from the November Statewide AEM Training. This document along with revised versions

of the Strategic Plan checklist, Tier 3A process, Tier 3A checklist, and Tier 5 process have been mailed to Districts. It was also noted that the revised Tier 5 process indicates a slight increase in payment for revising Tier 2 data. Revising Tier 2 data through a Tier 5 evaluation will also help identify reasons why a particular farm may not have moved onto subsequent tiers. The deadline for Strategic Plans is March 1, 2005.

State Committee Staff have been attending regional Manager's Meetings to help clarify any questions Districts may have about the Base Funding process. It was noted that through this process the AEM program will see new and improved programs in Districts.

Staff members are now preparing for the March Water Quality Symposium. Training sessions have been scheduled for Tier 3A and Tier 5. The CNMP (Tier 3B) training is once again being offered to individuals interested in becoming Certified CNMP Planners or Certified Planners looking for continuing education training. An air quality component has also been integrated into this year's CNMP training session. Other trainings of note include: "Changing Farms & Changing Communities," "Implementing Effective Watershed Strategies," and a half day Watershed Coalition forum.

J. Ten Eyck also discussed meetings held with NRCS regarding incorporating AEM into the Conservation Security Program (CSP) as an enhancement.

He also reported that the conversion of AEM Tier 2 worksheets into Microsoft Word is almost complete.

R. Zimmerman noted that the AEM Steering Committee was able to review the Strategic Plan and Base Funding materials at the January meeting. Collectively, the Steering Committee felt comfortable with the thoroughness that has gone into developing the materials and also the direction of the program.

AEM STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING:

R. Zimmerman summarized the activities of the AEM Steering Committee meeting held in January. Discussion on the planning for agriculture/farmland continuancy planning effort continued. The Department is moving forward on the notion of a better, more comprehensive approach to land use, farmland preservation, and the prioritization of those lands. They are looking for a way to provide guidance and possibly provide incentives to farmers and local governments in the area of land use and land conversion. A taskforce has been established to further discussions. The taskforce plans to make significant progress and will present details in the near future. R. Kaplewicz indicated that staff resources have been dedicated to the taskforce and the Department is currently seeking out other financial resources to dedicate to this new venture.

G. Proios remarked that local counties and town should be brought into the discussion, and a key element should be the use of Transferable Development Rights (TDR). TDR credits would have more value if they are free to move across municipal boundaries.

B. Schmelz indicated that as a part of the taskforce, DOS can be seen as a partner in this undertaking and they are looking at a number of issues and have offered their assistance and expertise to examine the notion of agricultural conversion and the opportunities to move this initiative forward.

AG NONPOINT SOURCE ABATEMENT & CONTROL PROGRAM:

Status of Rounds I – X

Of 348 projects, 132 are active, 11 are pending, and 205 are complete.

Round XI

The Ranked list was approved by the State Committee at the December meeting.

TAC Meeting, December 8, 2005

At the December TAC meeting, it was decided that the current amendment procedure is working well and should continue. However, concern was raised about the field staff's authority to approve the assignment of unused funds and to add deliverables to a contract. Currently, the field staff may approve this kind of request as long as the original deliverables were completed and if any contingency funds were used, that amount must be deducted from the available balance of funds. The question was raised, who owns the

unused funds? Should the funds be retained by the District to complete additional work, or should the funds be returned to the program? It was noted that if the objective of the program is to address a water quality problems in a watershed, why would it not be appropriate to allow the unused funds to be retained by the District to complete additional work in that watershed. The legality of this type of amendment was questioned. It was also stated that perhaps the assignment of unused funds is a matter of policy and the State Committee should be approving this type of request.

State Committee Discussion

G. Chartier noted that the NPS grant program is administered slightly different at DEC. Reimbursement is based upon documented cost at the end of each project, and the grantee does not own any undocumented cost. He suggested that the Committee examine whether or not this practice is a wise use of grant funds and whether or not it is even allowable in the contract language.

M. Latham commented that the current procedure encourages Districts to be efficient and further requires that the original water quality objectives in project watersheds be met.

R. Zimmerman suggested that the State Committee Staff gather data in terms of the amount of money that has been allocated to complete additional work beyond the original deliverables. The Committee should look at both sides of this issue. On the one hand, the current policy provides an incentive for Districts to be efficient, however, the overall integrity of the program may be strengthened if the money is returned and used to fund additional projects in other rounds.

B. Steinmuller noted that requests for additional work are considered only after each District has demonstrated that all other deliverables have been completed, and contingency funds cannot be utilized.

L. Miller commented that this practice happens infrequently and is a privilege that has not been abused. She mentioned that at one time or another every District in her region has also returned unused funds.

B. Steinmuller suggested that if the Committee would like to continue on with the current policy a blanket single source exemption may be requested from the Office of the State Comptroller. This exemption will clarify current policy.

G. Proios stated that he is in favor of the assignment of unused funds; however, the approval for such amendments should come back to the full Committee.

T. Brace remarked that in most cases these decisions must be made while the contractor is on the farm doing the work and additional BMPs are identified. Field Staff are in a better position to make that kind of quick decision being more connected with the individual projects.

G. Proios asked T. Brace for specific examples of instances in which a quick decision needed to be made in the field. Examples included heavy equipment that may already be in the field and the contractor is on the farm doing work and any delay in the decision would mean the contractor would have to come back at a later time.

G. Proios moved to ask the Office of the State Comptroller for a more definitive opinion on the use of unused project funds to complete additional BMPs after all other project deliverables have been met; seconded by B. Aman.

R. Zimmerman suggested that the motion for a more definitive opinion be directed to Counsel's office at the Department of Agriculture and Markets.

B. Aman moved to amend the current motion to ask Counsel's Office to work with the Office of the State Comptroller for a more definitive opinion on the matter of using unused project funds to complete additional BMPs after all other project deliverables have been met; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

Amendments for State Committee Review

1. **Orleans SWCD – Johnson Creek Watershed Protection: Phase II – Round VII – C700646**

Request: time extension from 2/28/05 to 3/31/06

Reason: additional time needed to complete project due to illness, financial constraints, and extremely poor weather conditions

Previous Amendments: 2 time extensions

Note: A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances. Tom Brace, Region 1 Water Quality Specialist recommends approval.

J. Dickinson moved to approve this amendment; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

2. Suffolk SWCD – Flanders Bay Animal Waste Treatment System – Round VI – C700047

Request: time extension from 12/31/04 to 12/31/05

Reason: project started late due to regulatory issues and the magnitude of project increased, due to additional equipment backup requirements

Previous Amendments: 2 time extensions

Note: A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances. Lauren Miller, Region 6 Water Quality Specialist recommends approval.

B. Aman moved to approve this amendment; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

G. Proios abstained.

3. Westchester SWCD – Whole Farm Planning for the Croton/Kenisco Watershed AEM Program – Round VII – C700659

Request: time extension from 9/30/04 to 9/30/05

Reason: additional time needed due to staffing shortage and subcontracting difficulties with the Watershed Agriculture Council

Previous Amendments: 1 time extension

Note: A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances. Lauren Miller, Region 6 Water Quality Specialist recommends approval.

G. Proios moved to approve this amendment; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

4. Rensselaer SWCD – Tomhannock Reservoir – Ag. NPS Partner III – Round VI – C700617

Request 1: time extension from 3/31/04 to 6/30/05 (the last extension granted was not signed by district, therefore never executed)

Reason 1: additional time needed to complete construction due to inclement weather conditions

Request 2: request additional funds to be allocated to one landowner to cover increased costs for grading, gravel, concrete, and additional fencing, and filter strip adjustment

Previous amendments: 3 time extensions

Note: the last time extension was granted in April 2004 but was never signed by District, therefore it was never executed. A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances. Rich Lewis, Region 5 Associate Environmental Analyst recommends approval of extension. The withdrawing of one landowner and returning of the appropriated State Funds does not require an approved amendment. The adjustment will be made at the close-out of the project. Assigning additional funds to one landowner to cover increased BMP costs is generally not approved by the Committee. If the increase BMP costs exceed the 10% contingency, the landowner is expected to absorb the additional cost.

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

B. Aman moved to deny part two of this amendment request, to reallocate unused funds from an uncompleted project to one landowner to cover cost overruns; seconded by G. Proios. Motion to deny passed; carried. J. Dickinson abstained.

5. Rensselaer SWCD – Tomhannock Reservoir Ag NPS Partner IV – Round VII – T700648

Request 1: time extension from 3/31/04 to 7/31/05 (the last extension granted was not signed by district, therefore never executed)

Reason 1: additional time needed to complete CNMPs due to staff illness and increasing scope and complexity of CNMPs

Request 2: withdrawal of one landowner and apply those funds to the four remaining CNMPs

Reason 2: the landowner's son took over the operation and does not wish to continue with the program.

Previous amendments: 1 time extension

Note: the last time extension was granted in April 2004 but was never signed by District, therefore it was never executed. A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances. Rich Lewis, Region 5 Associate Environmental Analyst recommends approval of extension.

The withdrawing of one landowner and returning of the appropriated State Funds does not require an approved amendment. The adjustment will be made at the close-out of the project. However, assigning additional funds to the remaining landowners to cover increased planning costs is generally not approved by the Committee.

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

G. Proios moved to deny part two of this amendment request, to reallocate unused funds from the withdrawal of one landowner and apply those funds to the four remaining CNMPs to cover cost overruns; seconded by B. Aman. Motion to deny passed; carried. J. Dickinson abstained.

6. **Monroe SWCD – Oatka Creek AEM Tier 3 – Round VIII – C700682**

Request 1: time extension from 12/31/04 to 9/30/05

Reason 1: extension will enable staff to complete an additional CNMP for this project

Request 2: add one landowner to complete a CNMP

Reason 2: additional funds remain to further the goals of the Oatka Creek AEM Tier 3

Time extension approved by L. Travis 12/29/04

B. Aman moved to approve the addition of one landowner to complete on CNMP; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

Staff Approved Amendments

1. **Delaware SWCD – Precision Feeding & Improved Forage Management – Round VII – C700627**

Request: time extension from 12/31/03 to 12/31/05

Reason: additional time needed due to staffing shortage

Approved by J. Schumacher 1/5/05

2. **Montgomery SWCD – Canajoharie BMP – Round VIII – C700683**

Request: time extension from 12/31/04 to 3/31/06

Reason: additional time needed to complete construction activities

Approved by S. Lanthier 1/10/05

3. **Broome SWCD – Short Duration Grazing Implementation for the Eastern Susquehanna River Basin in Broome, Tioga, & Chenango Counties – Round X – 3-1**

Request: change of landowners

Reason: original landowner unable to commit at this time

Approved by J. Schumacher 1/6/05

4. **Tompkins SWCD – Owasco Lake Inlet Watershed Protection Project – Round IX – C700730**

Request: change BMPs from a WASCOD to a diversion with a grassed waterway

Reason: after surveying and planning, the diversion and grassed waterway are a better fit for the area.

Approved by J. Schumacher 1/10/05

5. **Tompkins SWCD – E. Susquehanna River Basin Mgmt. Intensive Grazing – Round VII – C700658**

Request: change of landowners

Reason: the original farm was unable to complete their project due to prolonged and excessive wetness in their pasture area

Approved by J. Schumacher 1/10/05

6. **Yates SWCD** – Seneca Lake Tier IV Implementation Grant – Round VIII – C700063
Request: time extension from 12/31/04 to 12/31/05
Reason: additional time needed to complete construction activities due to adverse weather conditions and time constraints from engineering services.
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/20/05
7. **Lewis SWCD** – Mill Creek Environmental Assessment – Round IX – T700711
Request: time extension from 3/31/05 to 3/31/06
Reason: additional time needed to complete assessment activities
Approved by L. Travis 1/18/05
8. **Essex SWCD** – Lake Champlain – South Lake – Crown Point and Ticonderoga - Round VII - C700057
Request: time extension from 12/31/03 to 12/31/05
Reason: additional time needed due to necessary survey and design changes
Approved by S. Lanthier 1/27/05
9. **Erie SWCD** – CAFO/CNMP Project – Round VII – C700663
Request: change budget, \$1,500 request to be moved from contractual to personal services
Reason: the \$1,500 request covers a portion of the extra amount of in-kind support that Erie has completed for this project
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/20/05
10. **Ontario SWCD** – Canandaigua Lake Agricultural Program – Phase IV - Round VIII – C700686
Request: change BMPs from a silage leachate management system to a milkhouse waste collection system
Reason: the milkhouse waste issue was identified by agency staff as a higher priority
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/27/05
11. **Ontario SWCD** – Central Lowlands Till Plain – Phase II – Round IX - C700716
Request: change of landowners
Reason: planned practice is no longer appropriate for farm operation, new farm is considered a higher priority due to acreage and relation to watershed
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/27/05
12. **Ontario SWCD** – Northern Watersheds Agricultural Program – Phase II – Round IX – C700717
Request: time extension from 3/31/05 to 6/30/06
Reason: additional time needed to complete project deliverables due to contract delays
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/27/05
13. **Oneida SWCD** – Oriskany Creek Tier IIIB – Round VII – C700643
Request: change landowners
Reason: original landowner sold the farm
Approved by L. Travis 1/27/05
14. **Schuyler SWCD** – Watershed Protection in Two Sub-watersheds of Seneca Lake: Glen Creek and Reading DD – Round VIII – C700693
Request: time extension from 12/31/04 to 12/31/05
Reason: additional time needed to complete construction due to difficulty with design
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/31/05
15. **Rensselaer SWCD** – Hoosic River CNMP Ag-NPS EPF V – Round VIII – T700690
Request: time extension from 11/30/04 to 11/30/05
Reason: additional time needed to complete planning activities
Approved by R. Lewis 1/31/05
16. **Genesee SWCD** – Tonawanda Creek Watershed AEM Tiers I and II Assessment – Round X – C700710
Request: time extension from 3/31/05 to 3/31/06

Reason: additional time needed to complete planning activities
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/31/05

17. **Orleans SWCD** – Sandy Creek Planning Grant – Round IX – C700719
Request: time extension from 2/28/05 to 2/28/06
Reason: additional time needed to complete planning activities
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/31/05

CONSERVATION SECURITY PROGRAM (CSP) UPDATE – NRCS:

P. Webb presented the Committee with information regarding the 2005 CSP in New York State. Public information meetings and producer workshops have been scheduled throughout February and NRCS is looking towards a spring sign up for the five eligible watersheds in New York State. CSP is a voluntary program that provides financial and technical assistance to promote the conservation and improvement of soil, water, air, energy and, plant and animal life. For more information about CSP visit <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/>.

SOILS DIGITIZATION PROGRESS IN NEW YORK STATE – NRCS:

S. Page, Assistant State Soil Scientist presented the Committee with information regarding the NYS Soil Survey Program and a “Proposal to Modernize Soil Information Systems and to Deliver Soil Surveys on the Internet.” Currently, approximately 53% of New York’s soils have been digitized. The current push to complete soil digitization is being driven by the requirement to have digitized soil maps in order to be eligible for CSP. NRCS expects to be approximately 70% complete by the end of FY 2005. The current project will result in the creation of a web based data warehouse of soil information. NRCS is working on online formats that would be accessible by anyone without needing GIS software. NRCS is seeking additional funds to hire additional soil scientists, cartographers, and editors.

R. Kaplewicz will pass the proposal along to the Department.

INTEGRATION OF THE USC AND THE TRIBUTARY STRATEGY TO MEET NY’S NEEDS:

J. Curatolo presented the Committee with an update of activities going on in the Upper Susquehanna Tributary regarding 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. J. Curatolo stressed the impacts that a TMDL will have on municipalities, businesses, farmers, residents and others. He highlighted many of the Upper Susquehanna Coalitions successes in addressing water quality concerns in the headwaters of the Chesapeake Bay. The coalition is currently working to document BMPs already in place throughout the Upper Susquehanna, and monitor the water leaving this portion of the Watershed to show that the amount of pollutants coming from this region may already be below levels any TMDL may set. J. Curatolo 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.

STORMWATER UPDATE:

Districts working with private sector

L. Miller began the discussion by giving a re-cap of past discussions on this topic and the letter received from G. Chartier to D. Hill articulating issues that relate to the State Stormwater Reimbursement Program. The letter also looks at the role that Districts play in working with the private sector and regulated activities.

L. Miller will work with G. Proios and the stormwater subcommittee to respond to the letter from G. Chartier and ask for a list of related regulated activities that would be in conflict with the reimbursement program.

R. Kaplewicz spoke of the need to articulate guidance on this matter to Districts. He pointed out that economic factors at the local level will continue to impact Districts decisions in this area

G. Chartier suggested that any further guidance to Districts follow the MOU between the State Committee and DEC.

L. Miller remarked that a timeframe to solve this matter is needed in order to keep the stormwater reimbursement program on track for the upcoming construction season.

P. Black suggested that any statement of policy that goes out on this matter should be premised on the fact that stormwater is a reactive program trying to adapt to changing needs within the communities.

G. Chartier pointed out that currently there is only one District doing private sector work and the survey being conducted will provide further data on how many districts will be pursuing this type of work.

G. Proios suggested that the discussion on this matter continue at the next meeting after more guidance is received.

Other Stormwater Activities

- The position for the Region 3 Stormwater Specialist is moving forward.
- The 2005 Stormwater Participation Survey has been sent out to Districts. R. Rausch was able to use an electronic format on the Survey Monkey website to distribute the survey. The Survey Monkey program keeps track of which Districts have responded, their responded answers, and allows for the data to be viewed and analyzed in a number of different ways.
- L. Miller stated that D. Lake's 2005 stormwater trainings have been going well.
- L. Miller mentioned that an outline for the Stormwater Information Sharing session at the 2005 Water Quality Symposium is being finalized and a information exchange has been scheduled as part of the sharing session.

OTHER REPORTS:

Draft State Committee Annual Plan of Work

M. Latham indicated that the goals of the Committee for 2005 need to be updated and new tasks need to be reviewed. Committee members were asked to come to the next meeting with suggestions in order to move ahead with the Annual Plan of Work.

Approval of SWCD Annual Work Plans

B. Aman moved to approve the following Annual Plans of Work, seconded by G. Proios.

Motion passed; carried.

- Chenango
- Ontario
- Oswego
- Seneca
- Wayne
- Westchester
- Sullivan
- Suffolk

Air Quality Issues

R. Rausch presented information regarding air quality and the "Safe Harbor Consent Agreement."

COMMENTS:

- > J. Tauzel handed out New York Farm Bureau's Priority Issues Sheet for 2005.
- > D. Pettit distributed copies of the NRCS news release requesting feedback on New York's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Two public meetings will be held later in the month at the New York Farm Show to gain feedback about the state's EQIP program. Each state will be participating in listening sessions, which will then be reported at a national public listening session scheduled in the spring of 2005.

- > J. DelVecchio indicated that NRCS has received some additional funding for various programs such as the Farmland/Ranchland Protection Program, EQIP, WHIP and GRP but lost funding in other areas. Conservation Technical Assistance saw the largest decrease in funding. NRCS is currently operating in a deficit and is looking at new ways of conducting its programming and administration.
- > G. Chartier pointed out that grant applications are now being accepted for Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) throughout the State. This year's call for projects includes the following funding categories: the Peconic Estuary and South Shore Estuary Reserve, Long Island Sound, Statewide Nonpoint Source, Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) Phase II Stormwater Permit Implementation, and the Hudson River Swimmable Goal. The application form can be viewed and downloaded from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (Department) website at: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/bondact/bamenu.html#wqipapp>. The application deadline for Water Quality Improvement Projects is Friday, April 29, 2005.
- > B. Schmelz announced that grants are available to communities in the New York City Watershed for the development of land use plans and the identification of sustainable economic development opportunities that also protect water quality and critical resources. Under the Master Planning and Zoning Incentive (MP&Z) Awards Program East-of-Hudson and West-of-Hudson Watershed communities are eligible to receive reimbursement grants for projects that are consistent with the Watershed Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). This year, the award ceiling has been increased to \$25,000 per eligible community for planning and zoning projects. Applications for the Master Planning and Zoning Incentive Award Program must be received by the Department of State, Division of Local Government Services, by February 25, 2005.
- > G. Proios remarked that the New York State Agricultural Society recently held its 173rd Annual Meeting. He suggested that the Committee look into learning more about what the Ag Society does and informing them of the work done by the Committee.
- > R. Zimmerman reported that the EPF has been increased to \$150 million;
 - \$40 million Land Acquisition
 - \$15 million Farmland Protection
 - \$10 million Nonpoint Source
 - \$5 million Quality Communities
 - \$1.3 million FLOWPA
 - \$1 million Historic Barns
 - \$1.86 million for Districts
- > R. Kaplewicz reported on other developments that occurred in January:
 - Continued funding has been secured for Lake Champlain Water Quality Specialist, R. Brower and NY's commitment to Lake Champlain has been renewed.
 - The agreement has been signed for year two the Earmark funding for the AEM Base program.
 - E. Svenson has resigned and will truly be missed. A request to fill her position has been filed.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

The next meeting date has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2005 at the Department of Agriculture & Markets.