

**NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee**

10B Airline Drive, Albany, New York 12235

Telephone (518) 457.3738

September 15, 2005

Present: Voting members: Dennis Hill, Bob Aman, George Proios, John Dickinson, Dale Stein; SWCC staff: R. Kaplewicz-Executive Director, M. Latham-Assistant Director, J. TenEyck, B. Silvestri, R. Rausch, C. Frasier, R. Lewis, L. Travis; NYSDAM – R. Zimmerman, J. Rusnica; NRCS – B. Hopkins, R. Young; DEC – G. Chartier, J. Lendrum; DOS – John Green; NYSCDEA – A. Barber; NYACD – G. Bell; FSA – Virginia Green; Cornell College of Agriculture – Larry Chase, Cornell CE-PRO-Dairy – Karl Czymmek; ESF – Peter Black; American Farmland Trust – David Haight

**CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dennis Hill at 10:12 am. Dennis welcomed Dale Stein as the newest member of the State Committee and thanked Dale for his willingness to serve. John green, Department of State, was also introduced as that department's new representative.

**REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES:**

**G. Proios moved the minutes be approved with a correction to second to last paragraph on page 6, remove 'regulation". B. Aman seconded the motion and it was carried.**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Letters and Memos**

1. Letter from Barbara Murphy, Department of State, re: John Green, is replacing Bernie Schmelz as designee to the State Committee. Letter dated July 14, 2005.
2. Letter from NCDEA regarding Final Report of the 2005 national Conservation Training Needs Survey. Letter dated July 29, 2005.
3. Letter from Lolita Taylor re: her appreciation and gratitude for the assistance she received from the Montgomery County SWCD regarding her request for a topographical map of her property. Letter dated Aug. 2, 2005.
4. Letter to the First Deputy Commissioner Ruth Moore from Joanne C. Swint, NYS DEC regarding copy of the third amendment to MOU no. AMOU114 between NYSDEC and NYS Agriculture and Markets. Letter dated August 4, 2005.
5. Letter from Gerald A Barnhart, NYSDEC regarding the Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy which is now available for review. Letter dated August 8, 2005.
6. Letter from Tom Christensen, NRCS regarding the 'Farm Continuity and Resources Conservation Planning Initiative" proposal submitted. Letter dated August 19, 2005. The proposal was not funded. A small amount of dollars have been appropriated from the AEM Base Funding. Dan Conable will be contacted about regrouping on this issue. G. Chartier offered to continue to be involved. G. Proios asked about applying to private grants for initiatives that are not funded by public funds.

## Reports and Newsletters

1. **Conservation Update**, August 2005, Wyoming County SWCD
2. **Watershed News**, August 2005
3. **Agricultural News**:
4. **Public Works**, July 2005
5. **The Upper Delaware**, Summer 2005
6. **District Digest**, Columbia County SWCD, Summer 2005
7. **Taking Root**, Winter/Spring 2005, No. 15
8. **Erosion control**, July/august 2005
9. **New York Agricultural Statistics**, 2004-2005 Annual Report
10. **Buffer Notes**, June 2005, July 2005
11. **CDEA News**, July 2005
12. **Nor'Easter**, June 2005.
13. NCDEA National Conservation Training Needs Survey Final Report, July 2005
14. **FYI**, Newsletter of the NYACD, July/August 2005.
15. **Finger Lakes Institute**, Summer 2005
16. **CFA News**, Summer 2005
17. **Agricultural Research**, 2005
18. **Bay Journal**, July/August 2005; September 2005

## REPORT ON MARKS FARM MAURE SPILL

Marks Farm spill report was given to the committee. Rick Zimmerman began the discussion by identifying this as a blow to agriculture. This event has been a wake up call to all in the industry. SWCC staff has been requested to focus on the integrity of our program and the integrity of storage structures that exist on farms across NYS. We need to fully understand what the situation is, review the integrity of our program and make recommendations that will protect and maintain the integrity of the program. As a result of the Marks farm spill there could be potential legislation in the next months. We need to be ready to respond with information and recommendations to ensure the long term best interest of the agriculture industry.

Ron Kaplewicz and SWCC staff visited the site on August 12, 2005 to review the situation. The consequences are profound. There were fish kills for 25 miles along the Black River. Public drinking water sources were shut down until the river completed its flush. SWCD has an important role to play along with the partner agencies to assist with public health and safety. As a result of this spill the CAFO and CNMP programs are under great scrutiny from the highest level of state government and the public. Several news articles were distributed from local newspapers. The farmstead is a large, well maintained site. The storage lagoon that failed is quite a distance from the farmstead. Pictures of the site were shown to the group. There is an ongoing investigation by DEC and the findings will determine the financial consequences. Between 2003 and 2005, an additional storage cell was added. The site is on a flood plain with several drainage ditches leading to the Black River. It is about a 6 ac surface area, approximately 10 feet deep, built in sandy soils. It is estimated that approximately 6 feet of waste escaped from the site. No public funds were involved there was no apparent design of the storage facility in question.

After DEC has completed their investigation, fines have been announced and the facts are released, we will be in a better position to move forward with decisions regarding what happened and the roles SWCC and partners should play. In the meantime, SWCC staff is developing a list of all storage structures that have been funded with state funds. SWCDs will be asked to visit these sites and check on the Operation and Maintenance of those projects. O & M is a part of the contract responsibility for public funded facilities.

This disaster has served as a spring board for Sierra Club and other environmental groups to publicly denounce “factory farms”. The week following the spill they held a press conference in Albany and released a document “The Wasting of Rural New York State: Factory Farms and Public Health”.

NYS has a solid CAFO program including the Planner Certification Program and DEC Compliance Inspection. Of course, these events will challenge us to evaluate our own practices and programs.

G. Proios asked how many farms have storages, where the storages are and what is their integrity. Does an inventory exist? It was stated that manure storages are required to be identified in the CNMP, including whether it has been professionally designed or undesigned and the condition of the storage should be noted.

G. Proios expressed that there is a need to be assured that we are spending public dollars on our worst problems. It was pointed out that AEM and the EPF are voluntary programs. There is a ranking process based on the farms that are willing to be a part of the process. For the EPF, “experts” evaluate the need as articulated by SWCDs in the RFP. With the AEM Base Program each county that is participating has a strategic plan. The intent is to prioritize the farms based on the farms that are willing to be a part of the process. K. Czymmek pointed out that we can only work with the people that are willing to work with us. Grants will go to the high risk watersheds with high risk situations. A. Barber pointed out that there is a ranking process when looking at the RFP, but it is a voluntary program. R. Zimmerman reminded the group that DEC has the authority to enforce water quality problems. D. Stein commented that DEC currently bases their inspections on the complaints they receive because their work load is overwhelming. Dale asked if DEC had inspected the Marks Farm. Answer: Yes. Dale indicated that when they did the inspection (post Marks) on his farm, they had aerial photos of his operation and knew where all storages were located as well as other potential issues.

A. Barber encouraged the group to prepare a report that describes the situation – what are our next steps, who needs to be involved, what we know, what we need to know. Is this a procedural process or are there other parts that need to be stepped up. Example, stepping up the training process for inspectors going out to review CAFO permits. The issue of CAFO deadlines is also complicating the issue. J. Lendrum reported that EPA is doing a stepped up inspector training for large CAFO plans. CAFO implementation deadline for large CAFO is the end of 2006 and the end of 2009 for medium facilities.

D. Stein encouraged creating a list of non-certified storage structures. This information should exist in the CNMP for regulated facilities. It is feasible that legislation could be passed that would require engineered storages yet there are many un-engineered storages that are functioning well. R. Zimmerman stated that we know of several above ground designed storages that have failed, i.e., check value issues, even well designed systems can fail unless we do secondary containment. Well designed facility failures could devastate our program. Secondary containment needs to be considered and cost shared if it is found to be a necessary outcome as a result of the spill. Pennsylvania permits all manure storages.

D. Haight asked what is to be our response to the “Wasting of Rural NY”. New legislation could be formatted based on the information in this document rather than looking at all the existing information and legislation. Legislation should not be the response to one bad situation.

B. Hopkins commented how important it is to have proper documentation. Are we using our funding in the most appropriate places? Do we know where the sites are that need the most assistance?

G. Proios would like to see that the next round of funding is going to the most needed places. Are we going to work to maintain the small farms or will we continue to push our funds to the large farms? What do we want the vision of NYS agriculture be in the future?

R. Zimmerman wrapped up the discussion. There are a great many issues – not just the Marks farm. These events require us to look at the overall situation. We need to ascertain in a quick time frame what the situation is with uncertified facilities and then we will have some information to move forward with recommended actions. The first effort should be with permitted CAFOs.

Dale Stein said we need to consider this as an opportunity...go to individuals that have limited funding for agriculture and push for the resources that are needed to work in the areas of concern.

NRCS is developing a “guidelines” standard to use as an evaluation tool for undesigned storage structures

Ron asked the state committee to give the Marks Farm incident, CAFO and related discussion to the AEM steering committee for their consideration and recommendations. The steering committee would take the lead to develop appropriate and prudent measures and be in a coordinating role for addressing the issues brought forward as a result of the Marks spill. A response should be developed that can be a guide for SWCC and its advisory agencies to adopt and implement.

**D. Stein moved that the AEM Steering Committee develop an action plan based on the discussion held today and report on progress at the next State Committee meeting G. Proios seconded the motion and it was carried.**

### **Agriculture Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program**

M. Latham reported for B. Steinmuller.

#### **STATUS OF ROUNDS I-XI**

Of 380 projects, 130 are active, 31 are pending, and 219 are complete.

#### **Round XI cont...**

Contract development continues. Currently 19 plans of work have been sent to the Department's Fiscal Management and Counsel's office for review. Six contracts have been fully executed.

#### **Round XII**

The Round XII RFP and attachments were released on August 24, 2005. Proposals are due on October 24, 2005. A statewide training session was held on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from 25 SWCDs, 1 DEC Region, and the State Committee were in attendance totaling 41 people. Questions and answers from the training session will be posted on the Department's website no later than September 16<sup>th</sup> through October 14<sup>th</sup>. All questions shall be submitted by October 11<sup>th</sup>. The proposals will be dispersed to the reviewers in the first week of November. The ranked list should be available for State Committee approval at the December meeting.

## Amendments for State Committee Approval

1. Monroe SWCD – Multi-County Oatka Creek AEM Tier IIIB Planning Project – Round VIII – C700682

*Request:* time extension from 9/30/05 to 6/30/06

*Reason:* additional time needed to address close-out issues

*Previous amendments:* 2 time extensions, 2 changes of landowners

*Note:* Les Travis, Region 3 Associate Environmental Analyst recommends approval of this request.

**B. Aman made a motion to approve the amendment. G. Proios seconded the motion and it was carried. D. Stein recused himself.**

2. Delaware SWCD – W. Branchy Delaware River Stream Corridor Restoration – Hamden Farm Location

Round VII – C700628

*Request 1:* change of 1 landowner

*Reason 1:* the District is committed to implementing stream restoration projects on farms that are committed to CREP. The original farm was sold and is no longer eligible for CREP

*Request 2:* time extension from 10/31/05 to 10/31/07

*Reason 2:* additional time will be needed to complete design review and permitting to implement stream restoration at the new location in 2006

*Previous amendments:* 2 time extensions, 1 change of landowners

*Note:* The start date of this contract was 2/28/00. A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances. John Schumacher, Region 2 Associate Environmental Analyst recommends approval.

**J. Dickinson moved to approve the amendment. D. Stein seconded the motion and it was carried. D. Hill recused himself.**

3. Essex SWCD – Lake Champlain – South Lake – Crown Point Ticonderoga –Round VII – C700057

*Request 1:* time extension from 12/31/05 to 12/31/06

*Reason 1:* additional time needed to construct BMPs on new proposed farms

*Request 2:* withdraw of 3 landowners in Essex County, replacing with 2 landowners, 1 in Clinton County, 1 in Washington

*Reason 2:* original landowners are voluntarily withdrawing and being replaced by two high priority landowners in more critical watersheds of the Lake Champlain Basin

*Previous Amendments:* 1 time extension, 1 change of BMPs

*Note:* The start date of this contract was 5/6/00. A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances. The original grant had 5 landowners installing 22 BMPs. Of the original, 3 are withdrawing including 12 BMPs. Additions include 2 farms installing 4 BMPs. Steve Lanthier, Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst recommends approval.

**B. Aman moved to approve the amendment. J. Dickinson seconded the motion and it was carried.**

4. Yates County SWCD – Keuka Lake Watershed AEM Phase II Implementation Grant – Round IX – C700735

*Request:* change of BMPs

*Reason:* the contract was approved with 3 Barnyard Water Management Systems on 1 farm, the CNMP identified the need to close 1 of the farm's barnyard and concentrate the animals on the remaining 2 barnyards. The Yates County SWCD proposes to utilize all of the funds to construct Barnyard Water Management Systems on the 2 remaining barnyards.

*Previous Amendments:* 2 change of BMPs, 2 change of landowners

*Note:* Tom Brace, Region 1 Water Quality Specialist recommends approval.

**B. Aman moved to approve the amendment request. G. Proios seconded the motion and it was carried.**

### **Staff Approved Amendments**

1. Tompkins SWCD – Management Intensive Grazing: Cayuga and Owasco Lake Watersheds – Round IX – C700064

*Request:* change of 1 landowner

*Reason:* original landowner installed practices on her own, new landowner identified as a priority because of higher animal density per acre, and proximity to Cayuga Lake

*Approved by J. Schumacher 7/15/05*

2. Onondaga SWCD – Otisco Lake Watershed AEM Implementation Project – Round X – C700758

*Request:* change of BMPs

*Reason:* original BMPs are no longer needed due to changes in the operation, new BMPs Identified as a priority by the planning and implementation teams in Onondaga County

*Approved by L. Travis 7/14/05*

3. Erie SWCD – Eighteenmile Creek Ag Planning (CNMP) Project – Round IX – C700709

*Request:* change of 2 landowners

*Reason:* original landowners withdrew voluntarily, priority areas identified for new farms include nutrient management planning

*Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 8/19/05*

4. Ontario SWCD – Central Lowlands Till Plain Ag. Program – Phase II – Round IX – C700716

*Request:* time extension from 12/31/05 to 11/15/06

*Reason:* additional time needed to construct BMPs

*Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 9/12/05*

5. Ontario SWCD – Canandaigua Lake Watershed Agricultural Program – Round IX – C700740

*Request:* time extension from 12/31/05 to 12/31/06

*Reason:* additional time needed to complete BMPs

*Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 9/12/05*

6. Ontario SWCD – Central Lowlands Till Plain Agricultural Program – Phase III – Round X – C700760

*Request:* change of BMPs

*Reason:* original plan has been modified to more correctly meet the needs for the site.

*Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 9/12/05*

Bob Aman recused himself from the meeting as discussions began on Round XII of the grants program.

Round XII EPF was discussed. Mike reported on the Manure Waste Storage screening tool that has been developed for this RFP. This protocol will help to review the need for storage, management of the structure, correct sizing and location.

Bob Aman rejoined the meeting.

Rick Z reported the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture is starting their annual meeting today at the Otesaga in Cooperstown. Nathan Rudgers, NYS Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets, is the president, and therefore the host. Many national policy issues will be discussed. NASDA has been very influential on national agricultural policy. On Monday, tours will be lead into Saratoga and Washington counties, showcasing our NYS agriculture and our AEM program. Several farms will be visited showing different aspects of NY agriculture, including the Allen Wright Dairy farm with the AEM display, Griffen Sod Farms and American Farmland Trust with farmland preservation and a Thoroughbred Farm in Saratoga.

#### AEM report

Jeff TenEyck gave a handout on the AEM Base Funding program that showed 54 counties participating. The handout identifies the goals that each county intends to accomplish for a total of \$605,200 dollars. At the week long conservation skills workshop being held in October, there will be AEM training throughout the week. An AEM Annual meeting is scheduled for Nov 15-16. The AEM steering committee is scheduled to meet on September 29, 2005 in Albany. As we move forward with the program, we may need to adjust assignment of some of the funding. Some districts may not be able to use the full \$20000 and the question of reassignment to other counties that have a much higher agriculture work load needs to be explored.

It was suggested the summary report should show the potential numbers of farms in each county. David Haight asked why more farms are not doing Tier 5b. Jeff explained that Tier 5 Evaluation has not been funded until this time. It will take time to get more districts ready to review past planning and implementation work. Evaluation is important to see what has been done and how well the plan and/or practices are working and what adjustments should be made.

Ron Young, NRCS Engineer funded by the AEM member item, gave a report on what he is doing. He provided a report for April – June 2005. He is working closely with the Area Engineers on EPF projects. R. Young will be providing assistance with designs but he will not be doing full designs. He will assist with moving designs and implementation of the projects forward. Ron Kaplewicz explained how important it is to increase our engineering staff to help get the implementation projects completed. An engineering survey was done across NYS to determine at what stage the local implementation projects are and how much engineering assistance is needed. The survey gave a snapshot of where all the projects are and what help is needed to manage the implementation. Ron Young's main focus is on getting Rounds 7, 8 and 9 projects designed and completed. Presently there are 200+ projects to do, which

translates into an estimate of \$1.5 million for engineering assistance alone. Ron Young will also be working with NRCS Area staff on new grant applications. Engineering time for NRCS and SWCD projects funded with public dollars will be assigned equally. The survey will help to set priorities on how engineering time should be used and assigning where to work first. This year his priority is completing Round 7 contracts.

Barb Silvestri provided a copy of the 2004-05 AEM Annual Report. Ontario County's AEM program is featured with special emphasis on the Agricultural Advisory Committees and the roles that they play in decision making. Chair of the Northern Watersheds Agricultural Advisory Committee was very complimentary of the AEM process and how useful it is in neighbor relations and working through the challenging perceptions of the non agricultural community. The annual report also highlights the planner certification program, Conservation Reserve Enhancement program, EFARM and looks ahead at the future of carbon sequestration on agricultural lands. There is a new AEM logo. Empire Farm Days booth had many non-farm individuals asking questions. We are waiting for final approval of the new Ag NPS brochure and the CNMP fact sheet.

CAFO report. Jeff introduced Jackie Lendrum who is the new CAFO coordinator working with Angus Eaton. The CAFO report prepared by Jackie was shared. It was asked how DEC will interpret the 2<sup>nd</sup> Circuit Court decision. DEC has determined that it will wait for reaction and guidance by EPA. This guidance is expected in late fall. A national round table discussion is scheduled for the end of October to get a feel what each state is doing to address CAFO implementation and the Court ruling.

Jeff reported that there are 38 certified planners and 18 conditionally certified planners. A review and follow up is needed to determine how many of the conditionally certified will complete certification.

EFARM update. 305 facilities have applied. To date, over 1 million dollars has been awarded. Reasons for denial – farm may be part of an active grant and waiting to get information on other funds that the farm may have received. A second reason is incomplete applications, not all the information is being provided at time of application. A second phase of outreach to potential applicants will be done. Eligible producers have until July 2006 to apply for base funding. There will also be outreach on receiving funding for CNMP updates.

It is anticipated that two CNMP specialists will be hired to work with CNMP reviews and also to work with EFARM applications to certify qualifications. These staff will be an important step toward more active oversight of the CNMP program.

SWCD Annual report data base was reviewed. Last year, there was a significant increase in the reporting data that districts were asked to provide. Mike Latham showed what has been done to make the report process easier. The report has been developed in Microsoft ACCESS which should make it very user friendly for all districts. Mike reviewed some of the data that was collected in the 2004 report. This was the first step in getting accurate data on district programs and activities. It is very important that districts fill this form out as accurately as possible. The 2004 data will be developed into a State of NY Soil and Water Conservation Districts report to be given at the NYACD Annual meeting. The report will give a perspective on the magnitude of the work that is being done by districts.

#### Other reports

Conservation Easements – Ron Rausch and John Rusnica provided information on the ability of conservation districts to hold easements. It has been determined that districts may not hold conservation easements. A memo was sent to all conservation districts explaining this determination and why. The memo also explained where SWCD's may be seek involvement. The information was also provided to NYACD and NYSCDEA. The memo also talked about what legislation would need to be changed to allow districts to hold conservation easements. American Farmland Trust is working toward a new farmland conservation easement program. Part of that process would be to form a board and there is the potential that SWCD's could have a role on the board. G. Bell added that there is a resolution for discussion at the NYACD annual meeting concerning a seat on the proposed AFT board.

#### District Annual Plans of Work.

Mike Latham presented a list of districts that have submitted Plans of Work for approval. The following districts were submitted: Franklin, Genesee, Jefferson, Monroe, Oneida, Schuyler, Steuben, and Washington.

**B. Aman moved to accept the plans of work. J. Dickinson seconded the motion and it was carried.**

Mike and George gave a report on the NE NACD annual meeting that was held in Teaneck, NJ. There were 13 attendees from NY. Gary Mast attended, representing Chief Knight. He commented on the heavy reliance on technology, post situation analysis for targeting resources and the opportunities facing the NE. The northeast has some of the most rural states as well as the largest cities. Urban sprawl may offer a place for niche marketing. An interesting point to remember is that most families are at least five generations removed from producing their own food. New Jersey State Committee has established performance standards for district directors. Stormwater programs are handled differently in other states. The local district has a more active role with managing and oversight of local development. George would encourage Stormwater discussion be on the next agenda to determine the formal role for SWCD.

CREP report. V. Green, FSA, reported on the status of CREP contracts across the state. To date, over 230 contracts have been signed. More CREP training will be held this fall to bring SWCD, NRCS and FSA staff up to date. Training will be December 8 in Mt. Morris and December 15 in Ballston Spa. Rich Lewis and Cliff Fraser have been visiting districts to get a feel as to how programs are implementing CREP, where the successes are and what can we learn from them. This is not a review on the quality of the work as this is NRCS responsibility but rather to review outreach and what is working and not working. This will help us make recommendations on how to promote CREP and increase participation. The CREP Steering committee is meeting October 12 in LaFayette.

The next State Committee meeting is Tuesday, November 1, 2005 at the Rivers Edge, Alexandria Bay, at the conclusion of the NYACD annual meeting.

Bruce Hopkins reported that Conservation Security Program watersheds have been announced. They are the West branch of the Delaware, Twelve Mile Creek and French Creek in western NY. At present there is no USDA appropriation bill. The fiscal year ends September 30. Staff have been working to obligate as much funding as possible by September 30. Some funding has been returned to assist with federal emergencies. More scrutiny is being placed on NRCS for not completing their work in a timelier basis. NRCS is using cooperative agreements with districts and some private consultants may be hired to help with implementation and give oversight of projects that have designs developed.

J. Green – reported he is familiar with the CREP program in Delaware County. He will continue the support that Bernie Smeltz gave to the State Committee.

K. Czymmek - Dave Belcher has been hired to fill the position that Peter Wright held at Cornell. Regarding the Clean Air Emissions status, 12000 farms signed up nationally with 400 dairies in NY submitting applications and participating in the program.

D. Stein – several western NY farmers will be meeting with Senator Clinton on different agriculture issues. Dale was given the issue that staff are needed to get the work done. Planning and implementation funding is very important but it needs to be matched with human resources to do the work in a timely and effective manner.

P. Black – handed out watershed hydrology program brochure.

G. Chartier – handed out the Division of Water organization chart. The 319 section was changed very little from 2005; however, 2005 funding was a reduction. There is no room for new initiatives. There is a concern for reduced funding in the future.

D. Haight – farm bill listening sessions have been held across the nation including discussion on risk management strategies and milk marketing. AFT is developing a Planning for Agriculture Resource guide to assist towns with positive planning for agriculture. It focuses on managing and addressing agriculture, how it is important to your town and how to make agriculture a priority in your local community. There are sample ordinances in the document.

A. Barber – reported the state fair booth focused on stormwater. AEM and other topics were also featured. Forestry information is being collected informally. CDEA will work with NYACD and SWCC staff on developing a survey. The Conservation Skills Workshop is being held in October. The date and location for the Water Quality Symposium should be announced very soon. Amanda commented that local districts need a way to manage the data requested for the annual report. Districts in the Upper Susquehanna Watershed are continuing to work with farmers to meet the reduction goals, but there is only so much that can be done with the resources and staff that are available.

G. Bell – invited everyone to the NYACD annual meeting to be held at the Rivers Edge, Alexandria Bay, from October 30 – November 1.

V. Green - new director for FSA is Brymer Humphreys, from Oneida County. Counties are submitting reports on soil rental rates. Program payments are complete. All agencies in the USDA Service Center will have access to all FSA information from GIS with the CCE certified computer. CREP steering committee is looking at revising the watersheds list.

G. Proios – He feels that more attention should be given to invasive species. There should be a list, how did the species get here, why it is invasive and how to deal with it. DEC permits are needed and the process needs to be streamlined. The NACD annual meeting location has been changed due to the devastation of New Orleans.

B. Aman – commented that the only way that a farmer will be able to get farm subsidies in the future will be through good environmental tasks. That is what Europe is doing and that is the reason for the Conservation Security Program. If all subsidies and tariffs were to be eliminated across the world, that would be the reason for CSP.

R. Rausch – attended conference in Georgia on bio mass and bio fuels.

R. Kaplewicz. – 2005 calendar was handed out. Need to keep this updated. NYS Nurserymen's Assn proposed MOU has been reviewed and modified. It has been submitted to Counsel's office for comment. Eventually it will be shared with districts for their comments before the MOU comes to the State Committee for approval. 319 funding has had a great deal of discussion with DEC. It will be important to show the value of these funds as it relates to staff and programs.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm