

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

**STATE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**September 18, 2007**  
**NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets, PONY Room**  
**Albany, NY**

**Present:** D. Hill, J. Dickinson B. Aman, Voting Members; R. Kaplewicz, Director; M. Latham, Assistant Director; J. Moody-Czub, J. Rusnica, D. Cordier, Ag. and Markets; R. Rausch, B. Silvestri, (Schenectady SWCD), N. Lawler, C. Frasier, M. Waro, J. Ten Eyck, J. Schumacher, L. Travis, L. Prezorski, B. Steinmuller, SWCC Staff; D. DeWeese, NRCS; K. Roberts, F. Zagorski, DEC; P. Kaczmarczyk, DOH; G. Bell, NYACD; P. Black, J. Rimbault, SUNYESF; J. Tauzel, NYSFB; D. Grantham, S. Riha, Cornell; J. Carmichael, A. Barber, NYSCDEA; R. Robinson, Mike Pollock International

**Call to Order:**

D. Hill called the meeting to order at 10:25 a.m.

Introductions made.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

**B. Aman moved to approve the July minutes as presented; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.**

**Correspondence**  
**Letters & Memos**

R. Kaplewicz read July 27, 2007 letter to Senator David J. Valesky from Alexander B. Grannis regarding Springwater Farms' exemption from evaluating the safety of its manure storage structure

R. Kaplewicz read July 26, 2007 memo to the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee from Robert K. Davies, NYS DEC regarding US Forest Service Redesign of State and Private Forestry

August 24, 2007 letter to NYS Soil & Water Districts from Ron Kaplewicz regarding Request for Conservation Project Financial Assistance

R. Kaplewicz mentioned two additional letters; August 27, 2007 letter to Ron Kaplewicz from Paul R. Harte, regarding the June 22<sup>nd</sup> "New York State CREP Willow Biomass Addendum Proposal" and August 29, 2007 letter from Joe Wilson, National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council regarding the electronic versions of their Request for Proposals in the future. Contact: Nancy Stremple at [nstremple@fs.fed.us](mailto:nstremple@fs.fed.us)

**Reports & Newsletters**

Legislative Report from the NYS Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation – August 2007

NACD News & Views; July/August 2007

Bay Journal; July/August 2007

NYACD Newsletter; June/July 2007

Estuary News (newsletter of the partnership for the Delaware Estuary), Summer 2007

"Nuggets & Nibbles" – from the Cornell Local Roads Program, Summer 2007

Save The Bay; Summer 2007

Watershed Farm & Forest (A Message from the Watershed Agricultural Council); 2006 Annual Report Edition

USDA-Program of Research on the Economics of Invasive Species Management - Fiscal 2003-2006 Activities

USDA-Structure and Finances of U.S. Farms-Family Farm Report, 2007 Edition

NYSERDA – Announcement: Renewal Portfolio Standard-Customer Sited Tier-Anaerobic Digester Gas-to-Electricity Program

NYSERDA – Announcement: Energy and Environmental Performance of Biomass-fired Heating Equipment

CDEA News – September 2007

New York Agricultural Statistics – 2006-2007 Annual Bulletin

US Dept. of Agriculture ERS Report Summary – September 2007

"Innovations" in sustainable agriculture – the Northeast region sustainable agriculture research and education program, Fall 2007

### **Conferences & Seminars**

NYS Floodplain and Stormwater Managers Association 2007 Annual Conference: September 24-25, 2007; Elmira/Corning, NY; Hilton Garden Inn

The Delaware County Precision Feed Management Program Sponsors Conference and Tour; October 4-5, 2007, Delhi, NY

Cornell Local Roads Program Fourteenth Statewide Conference on Local Bridges: October 24-25, 2007, Holiday Inn, North Syracuse, NY"

Unifying Economic Development and the Environment – September 27-28, 2007, Burgundy Basin Inn, Pittsford, NY; Co-sponsored by: The Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart & William Smith Colleges and the Finger Lakes-Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance

Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, Inc. 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Winter Organic Farming & Gardening Conference – January 25-27, 2008, The Saratoga Hotel & Conference Center, Saratoga Springs, NY

## **Disaster Committee Report**

A. Barber reported the Disaster Committee had prepared an interim report detailing types of events, training, and preparation for disaster preparedness. She requested approval by the committee to accept the interim report so the committee may go forward with preparing a final report.

**B. Aman made a motion to accept and approve the Disaster Committee interim report and to move forward in preparing final report. J. Dickinson seconded; motion passed carried.**

## **Agricultural NPS Abatement & Control Grant Program September 18, 2007 State Committee Meeting**

### **STATUS OF ROUNDS I-XIII**

Of 448 projects, 172 are active, 5 are pending and 271 are complete.

### **Round 14 RFP released 9/12/07**

#### **Staff Approved Amendments**

1. Ontario SWCD – Northern Watersheds Phase IIIB – Round 12 – C700820  
*Request 1:* change of landowners  
*Request 2:* change of BMPs  
*Reason 1:* original LO retired, new landowner identified as a priority  
*Reason 2:* new practices are a higher priority for new farm and will have greater water quality improvement  
*Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 9/13/07*
2. Montgomery SWCD – Canajoharie Creek – Round 8 – C700683  
*Request:* change of BMPs on two farms  
*Reason:* after modifications were made to the two farm plans, new practices identified as a priority for water quality  
*Approved by C. Frasier 8/16/07*
3. Steuben SWCD – Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing – Phase 5 – Round 13 – C700826  
*Request:* change of landowners  
*Reason:* original landowner withdrew because he is decreasing his dairy herd, new LO identified as a priority due to increased density of animals/acre  
*Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 9/13/07*
4. Chautauqua SWCD – Conewango creek Bunk Silo Leachate Management Project – Round 10 – C700745  
*Request:* change of landowners  
*Reason:* original landowner sold dairy herd and no longer requires project, new LO identified as a priority through the AEM process and proximity to water course.  
*Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 9/17/07*

4. Monroe SWCD – Genesee River Basin CNMP Implementation Grant – Round 11 – C700782

*Request 1:* change in landowners

*Request 2:* change in BMPs

*Request 3:* time extension

*Reason 1:* one landowner voluntarily withdrew; another sold their farm

*Reason 2:* new BMP will provide greater water quality benefits

*Reason 3:* time extension due to change in landowners and BMPs

*Approved by L. Travis 9/17/07*

5. Orange SWCD – Ag Waste & Nutrient Management in Wallkill – Round 12 – C700822

*Request:* change in landowners

*Reason:* farm changed ownership

*Approved by L. Prezorski 9/17/07*

### **Agricultural Management Practices Catalogue**

At the July State Committee meeting the DRAFT Agricultural Management Practices Catalogue was handed out for Committee review. The catalogue includes an introduction and background of the Nonpoint Source (NPS) programming in NYS, a definition of NPS practices, and a list of practices for NY. Practices are categorized by structural, vegetative, and operational systems.

Revisions include updates to references, practice lifespan, and formatting. Table IV – AEM Tier II and Ag Management Practices and Table V – NYS Management Practices for Agriculture were added. Management practice summary sheets were updated to reflect changes in the practice. Mulching for vineyard and cropland has been added as a vegetative practice. Milk Flocculation was replaced with Milking Center Wastewater Treatment, which is more appropriate. Certain Nutrient Management and Pesticide Management Practice Summary sheets that addressed similar topics were combined into one practice summary sheet. The Management Practice Summary Sheets have been prepared to reflect the management systems and associated component practices.

The catalogue serves as guidance for BMP selection under the Agricultural NPS Abatement and Control Program. The Round 14 RFP is currently open. If the draft catalogue is approved by the Committee and the DEC this fall, then it may be used for BMP selection under Round 14. The current RFP already incorporates the operation and maintenance lifespans and requirements from this draft catalogue.

**B. Aman made a motion to approve Ag. Management Practices Catalog. J. Dickinson seconded; motion passed carried.**

### **AEM Update**

B. Silvestri asked the State Committee to provide time at a future meeting for a PowerPoint presentation on AEM in Media. B. Silvestri spoke on the AEM roadside sign awards across the state. Smaller signs, 9 x 12 self-standing are now being ordered. Three "AEM Working with the Media" workshops are upcoming the end of October/beginning of November. The Ag in the News Award will be presented the end of October. B. Silvestri stated Level 3 "AEM Working with the Media", concentrating on radio, will be held in Spring 2008.

J. TenEyck gave a report on AEM Year 2 closeouts, Year 3 strategies and upcoming Year 4. He stated the need to promote quality over quantity. The planning quality (training) needs to improve. He stated the 2007 AEM Annual Meeting will be held at the Waterloo Holiday Inn – November 13 & 14, 2007.

## **Notice of Adoption of Performance Standards Rulemaking**

R. Kaplewicz stated during the comment period on the Rule, there were two comments received; one from the Farm Bureau and one from Fulton County. Responses to the comments were prepared by Counsel's office. R. Kaplewicz hoped that by next Tuesday the review process would be complete. At that time the Rule would be published in the Register and two weeks later the Rule would become official. R. Kaplewicz stated that at the next State Committee meeting in October, a discussion on allocation of resources for Part C performance standards for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 would take place as well as a discussion on the performance standards. R. Kaplewicz mentioned that on Monday, October 29, 2007, the day before the next State Committee meeting, this same topic will be discussed at the NYS Association of Conservation Districts Annual meeting. Part C monies for 2006-2007 would be based on 2006 Annual Report Performance Measures.

## **Other Reports – All**

- M. Latham reported on the NE NACD Meeting he attended in August in Mystic, CT. Informative field tours were conducted consisting of successful farmland cooperatives, low impact development, soil mapping, wetlands, and land use policies. With regard to evaluating practices, it was suggested that BMPs are surrogates for certainty. NACD is piloting a district accreditation program for Directors.
- The NYACD Annual Meeting will be held October 28-30, 2007 at the Treadway Inn in Owego, New York. Arrangements for speakers are taking place. Commissioner Hooker is scheduled to speak Monday evening.
- R. Kaplewicz and M. Waro discussed the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) program. This program involves nine State agencies, is under the leadership of the Department of State and funded through the EPF. Specific programs within the Department have been identified as to their content and benefit to the EBM initiative. The Sandy Creek Watershed and the Great South Bay are the two working areas chosen for the first implementation projects. Agriculture and Markets will be working with Jefferson County to implement buffers on five farms.
- G. Bell announced that the National Canon Environthon in Geneva, NY was held and NYACD hosted the hospitality suite for judges and officials.
- D. Grantham is working on climate change program with B. Silvestri for training at the Water Quality Symposium.
- J. Carmichael stated the Conservation Skills Workshop would be held October 15-19 in Cortland. NYCDEA is preparing proposal to NYACD to push for engineering support at the State level. Steve Lorraine, Vice President of Association, is deciding where and when the Water Quality Symposium will be held. On the matter of stormwater management, there is interest for funding to DEC to get Districts involved in helping out at the local level.
- L. Travis announced that the Clerk's Administrative Conference would be held October 9 and 10 in Utica.
- J. Tausel mentioned that the DEC and Agriculture and Markets Commissioners were co-chairs of the Invasive Species Council.

- L. Prezorski announced that the Southeastern NY Stormwater Conference would be held on October 17. October 18 is the North County Stormwater Conference.
- B. Steinmuller announced that the Envirothon would be held at SUNY Cobleskill on May 21 and 22, 2008. Sharon Frost is the new Envirothon Chairperson.
- J. Rusnica stated the Attorney General's office would be attending the NYACD meeting. He is working on a draft, "Intro to Districts".

Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 30, 2007 at the Treadway Inn, Owego, New York at **11:00 a.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

This web cast may be viewed in its entirety at:

<http://www.agmkt.state.ny.us/webcasting.html>