

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

STATE COMMITTEE MINUTES
October 30, 2007
Treadway Inn and Conference Center
Owego, NY

Present: D. Hill, J. Dickinson B. Aman, G. Proios, D. Stein, Voting Members; R. Kaplewicz, Director; M. Latham, Assistant Director; J. Moody-Czub, J. Rusnica, M. Scott, Ag. and Markets; B. Silvestri, (Schenectady SWCD), N. Lawler, C. Frasier, J. Schumacher, L. Travis, T. Brace, B. Steinmuller, R. Lewis, SWCC Staff; R. Alvarado, M. Grennan, R. Young, M. Stephenson, NRCS; K. Roberts, DEC; S. Riha, Cornell; J. Carmichael, NYSCDEA; L. Telega, Cornell; M. Mahaney, Retired Voting Member, SWCC; L. Taylor, Putnam Co. SWCD; D. Wick, Warren Co. SWCD; L. Sager, Columbia Co. SWCD; G. McKurth, Wyoming Co. SWCD; C. Schutt, Tompkins Co. SWCD; C. McElwee, Broome Co. SWCD; Alfred and Julia Jantzen, Columbia Co.; R. Robinson, Support@webcasting.com

Call to Order:

D. Hill called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m.

Introductions made.

Review and Approval of Minutes

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

Correspondence
Letters & Memos

R. Kaplewicz read a letter dated October 3, 2007 to Ron Kaplewicz from Maureen Knapp, Board President of the New York Agricultural Land Trust regarding update on their past year's progress.

R. Kaplewicz circulated a September 28, 2007 Release from Cornell University announcing the appointment of Susan Riha as Director of the New York State Water Resources Institute at Cornell University.

Additional correspondence was read by R. Kaplewicz. The letter was from Greg McKurth, District Manager, Wyoming County Soil & Water, to Senator Dale M. Volker expressing concern regarding two contracts the district administers, reimbursement for expenditures and the delay(s) in the contract process. R. Kaplewicz stated both of these contracts have been executed.

Reports & Newsletters

National Wetlands Awards Program. Information, profiles of past awardees or for a nomination form: www.nationalwetlandsawards.org

"Core Report" – Official newspaper of the New York Apple Association, Vol. 15, Issue 3; September 2007

"Inside Agroforestry" - Vol. 16, Issue 2

"Rural Futures" – News of Interest about Rural New York; September/October 2007
National Agroforestry Center's "Working Trees For Wildlife" revised brochure. Copies may be

obtained by contacting nhammond@fs.fed.us or can be viewed on NAC's website:
www.unl.edu/nac

"Bay Journal" – September 2007

"Finger Lakes Institute" brochure – Summer 2007

NYACD Newsletter – September 2007

Jefferson County SWCD newsletter – September 2007

CDEA News – October 2007

"Headwaters" –NYS Tug Hill Commission 2007 Newsletter, Issue 45

NYSCDEA – Minutes of the September 12-13, 2007 Executive Board Meeting

USDA Economic Research Service – Economic Brief Numbers 9 (Productivity Growth in US Agriculture) and 10 (Economic Returns to Public Agricultural Research

NACD "News & Views" – September/October 2007 Issue

Agricultural NPS Abatement & Control Grant Program **October 30, 2007 State Committee Meeting**

STATUS OF ROUNDS 1-13

Of 445 contracts, 166 are active, 3 are pending and 276 are complete. This represents implementation of water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) on nearly 2,200 various NYS farms. Farms in New York State have implemented nearly 2,000 practices. An additional 2,200 practices are contracted for completion. Altogether 53 Soil and Water Conservation Districts have participated in the Ag NPS Grant Program.

Round 14

In response to the RFP issued on September 12th, the SWCC has been answering questions from SWCDs. Attached is a copy of the current Q&A document. If additional questions are received, an updated document will be available at the October meeting. Proposals are due on November 5th.

Review Schedule:

- Pre-Review Teleconference meeting on **Tuesday, November 27th at 10:00 am**
- Proposal scores will be due on **Friday, December 21st**
- Post review meeting on **Tuesday, January 8th at 10:00 am**
- State Committee Meeting on **Tuesday, January 15th at 10:00 am**

Amendments for SWCC Consideration

1. Columbia County SWCD – BMP Implementation on Mill Creek Farm – Round 6 – C700048
 - Request 1:* time extension from 12/31/07 to 12/31/08
 - Reason 1:* additional time needed to complete revised scope if approved
 - Request 2:* change of landowners
 - Reason 2:* farm is re-evaluating their structures and building layout with consideration to major changes in animal use areas and traffic patterns potentially alleviating the environmental concern, new farm identified as a priority through the AEM process.

Previous Amendments: 1 change of farm ownership and change in budget resulting in LO share committed to engineering.

This proposed change is referred to the SWCC because the funds originate from Bond Act and contract negotiations lasted six years. The District is proposing a complete Landowner substitution that would extend the contract an additional year. The new Landowner is located upstream from the original farm and a change of this scope to a Bond Act project may require Bond Act Office approval. The SWCC is asked to decide if this substitution meets the original intent of the proposed project and does the change represent the best use for these funds.

J. Dickinson moved to approve the change in landowner and approve the time extension; seconded by G. Proios; motion passed and carried.

2. Columbia SWCD – Barnyard Runoff Management Systems, 3 Farms – Round 11 – C700774
Request 1: time extension from 12/31/07 to 12/31/09
Reason 1: modifications to design and re-soliciting of bids caused delays
Request 2: change of BMPs resulting in the addition of an alternative water supply
Reason 2: the farm has recently become aware of the importance of creating an alternative water supply instead of watering their livestock directly from a stream that passes adjacent to the barnyard

Previous amendments: 1 change of landowners

According to the amendment procedures adopted by the SWCC, the completion of additional deliverables is only permitted after the conclusion of all other projects in the contract.

D. Stein moved to approve the change of BMPs and approve the time extension; seconded by B. Aman; motion passed and carried.

3. Suffolk SWCD – F Fletchman Roof Runoff Management – Round 9 – C700065
Request 1: time extension from 9/30/07 to 12/13/08
Reason 1: additional time needed to install practices on replacement farm
Request 2: change of landowner
Reason 2: original landowner sold farm, new landowner committed to installing practices

Previous amendments: 1 time extension

L. Prezorski, Region 6 WQS, recommends approval. The time extension request will take the contract term past 5 years. T. McMahon will be providing additional justification to the OSC if this amendment request is approved by the SWCC.

B. Aman moved to approve the change of landowner and approve the time extension; seconded by J. Dickinson; one abstention (G. Proios); motion passed and carried.

Staff Approved Amendments

1. Broome SWCD – Dudley Creek and Eastern Broome Agricultural Implementation Project – Round 10 – C700743
Request 1: change of landowners
Reason 1: original landowner sold cows, new landowner identified as a priority through AEM County Strategy
Request 2: change of BMPs
Reason 2: original BY Runoff System is being replaced with an Ag Waste Storage

System, which is a higher priority
Approved by J. Schumacher 10/15/07

2. Broome SWCD – Short Duration Grazing Implementation for the Eastern Susquehanna River Basin in Broome, Tioga, and Chenango Counties – Round 10 – C700742
Request: time extension from 12/31/07 to 12/31/08
Reason: additional time needed to complete project deliverables
Approved by J. Schumacher 10/10/07
3. Schoharie SWCD – Schoharie County Tier IV Implementation – Round 11 – C700794
Request 1: change of landowner
Reason 1: original landowner sold dairy cows and farm is currently for sale, new landowner identified as a priority through the AEM Program
Request 2: change of BMPs
Reason 2: slightly different BMPs needed on replacement farm
Approved by C. Frasier 9/20/07
4. Ontario SWCD – Central Lowlands Agricultural Program – Phase III – Round 10 – C700760
Request: change of BMPs
Reason: more detailed design with farm and NRCS lead to needed change in practices on one farm
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 10/29/07
5. Ontario SWCD – Central Lowlands Phase IIIA Implementation Grant – Round 11 – C700790
Request 1: time extension from 12/31/07 to 12/31/08
Reason 1: additional time needed to complete project deliverables
Request 2: change of landowner
Reason 2: original LO sold farm, new landowner identified as a high priority through the AEM Program
Request 3: change of BMPs
Reason 3: new LO will be installing different BMP to address the same pollutant as the original
Approved by T. Brace/ B. Steinmuller 10/29/07
6. Wyoming SWCD – Buffalo River Agricultural BMP Implementation Project – Round 7 – C700660
Request: change of budget
Reason: transfer funds from personal services to BMP implementation and engineering services to reconcile budget for final report
Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 10/30/07
7. Onondaga SWCD – Skaneateles Lake Watershed AEM Implementation Project – Round 11 – C700787
Request 1: change of landowner
Reason 1: original landowner voluntarily withdrew, new LO identified as a priority
Request 2: change of BMPs
Reason 2: new BMP identified as a priority to reduce potential pathogens from the watershed
Approved by L. Travis 10/29/07

State Aid to Districts Rule

R. Kaplewicz stated as of October 18, 2007 the rule regarding State Aid to Districts was officially published. Part B 2006/2007 monies have been processed. The 2007/2008 Part B monies will be processed some time in November. With regard to Part C performance standards, the Committee must approve and allocate resources to the four specific performance measure criteria for each fiscal year. There was much discussion on the draft Performance Measures Evaluation Worksheet and a few changes were made to the Performance Standards. J. Rusnica indicated the standards and allocations can be changed every year by the State Committee. The Committee collectively proposed the allocation of resources for fiscal year 2006/2007 and fiscal year 2007/2008 Part C monies at 5%, 5%, 45% and 45% (for each year) for Performance Measure Criteria 1-4, respectively. Fiscal year 2008/2009 allocations will be determined at the end of 2008. R. Kaplewicz read a letter to Dennis Hill from NYACD Divisions 7 and 8 regarding the eligibility of counties in the southeast for Part C monies. R. Kaplewicz also read a letter to Dennis Hill dated October 29, 2007 from Shino Tanikawa, District Manager of the New York City SWCD, concerning conservation on non-agricultural land and addressed certain criteria in the draft Performance Standards and how they would apply to NYC. It was decided that the changes to the Performance Standards agreed on at this meeting would be sent to all Districts for comment during the month of November. At the December 10, 2007 State Committee Meeting, all comments from Districts would be considered and a final Performance Measure Evaluation Worksheet and allocation of resources would be approved.

Other Reports – All

- M. Latham announced we now have 51 annual plans of work for 2007 and the following Districts plans need to be approved:

Chautauqua	Franklin
Fulton	Lewis
Livingston	Putnam
Schenectady	Schoharie
Yates	

J. Dickinson moved to approve the work plans; seconded by D. Stein, motion passed and carried.

- R. Alvarado thanked the committee for having NRCS as part of the meeting and spoke on three priorities of NRCS; meeting new challenges, making conservation easier for employees and farmers, and accountability.
- M. Grennan stated the strategic planning efforts will be picking back up.
- J. Carmichael stated the Water Quality Symposium will be held March 11-15, 2008 at the Holiday Inn in Auburn, New York. He distributed a draft Employee Development Plan to help with engineering and training for technical staff. Steve Lorraine and Ron Young worked together to develop the training plan with input from the sub-committee. The overall goal of the Employee Development Plan is to ensure continuous training and determine skill levels for technical staff. The Draft will be forwarded to the Division representatives of the Employee Association and distributed

throughout the Districts for their comment. Following that, the Employee Development Plan will be presented to the State Committee for approval. M. Latham stated this plan could be adopted by the Committee as an overall training plan for use by districts. In addition and where appropriate, it is important to assign who should be providing certain training; i.e. NRCS, State Committee, etc.

- B. Aman stated he had planned on applying for a Round 15 Ag Nonpoint Source Grant, but may, instead, apply for EQIP money and if approved, go that route.
- L. Telega is working with DEC's office of Climate Change preparing a statewide conference on the impact of climate change on New York State agriculture and other parts of society. This conference will be sometime in June 2008.
- G. Proios stated the State has recreated a new Invasive Species Council which was previously a task force. There is an opportunity for a representative from NYACD. Also, after 2 ½ years, there is an approved contract with NYACD for Community Conservation Assistance, a \$55,000 grant from USEPA. G. Proios will serve as Chair.
- R. Kaplewicz stated in the "Small Farm Quarterly" which Barb Silvestri distributed, there is an article on AEM which Barb wrote. This is part of a continuing series. AEM signs have been distributed. AEM Media Training sessions are set for November 1 in Watertown and November 7 in Mt. Morris. At the AEM Training (November 13 and 14) in Waterloo, the Commissioner will be presenting the "Ag in the News" Award. The NACD National meeting will be held February 10-13, 2008 in Reno, Nevada. The Committee agreed to send one staff and two voting members. Interested voting members need to discuss their interest soon with Ron.
- D. Hill stated most of the emergency watershed projects have been completed in Delaware County.

Next Meeting – **MONDAY**, December 10, 2007 in Walton, New York at 10:00 am.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

This web cast may be viewed in its entirety at:

<http://www.webcasting.com/soil-water/10.30.2007soil.html>