

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

STATE COMMITTEE MINUTES

January 15, 2008

**NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets, PONY Room
Albany, NY**

Present: D. Hill, J. Dickinson B. Aman, D. Stein, G. Proios, Voting Members; R. Kaplewicz, Director; M. Latham, Assistant Director; J. Rusnica, M. Scott, J. Moody-Czub, Ag. and Markets; J. TenEyck, R. Rausch, N. Lawler, C. Frasier, L. Travis, L. Prezorski, B. Steinmuller, R. Lewis, M. Waro, SWCC Staff; J. Tauzel, NYSFB; M. Grennan, R. Alvarado, R. Young, NRCS; V. Green, FSA; L. Telega, Cornell; C. Nellis, Montgomery Co. SWCD; J. Carmichael, NYSCDEA; G. Bell, B. Rogers, NYACD; P. Kaczmarczyk, DOH; K. Roberts, DEC; R. Robinson, Support@webcasting.com

Call to Order:

D. Hill called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Introductions made.

Review and Approval of Minutes

D. Stein moved to approve the December minutes as presented; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

**Correspondence
Letters & Memos**

R. Kaplewicz circulated December 5, 2007 letter to William R. Adriance, Chief Permit Administrator, NYS DEC, Albany from Westchester County SWCD Chairman Stephen Coleman regarding the District's comments on NYS DEC SPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (GP-0-08-001)

R. Kaplewicz read December 18, 2007 letter to Dennis Hill from Lauri Taylor, District Manager of the Putnam County SWCD regarding the District's opportunity to comment on the Draft Performance Measures.

R. Kaplewicz read January 7, 2008 letter to Ron Kaplewicz from Lucinda Collins, NYS DEC, Division of Water regarding AMOU488 between NYS DEC and NYS DAM for activities related to the CREP Program (the increase in EPF funds that can be used as match by NYS DAM).

R. Kaplewicz announced Jim Hotaling retired December 2007 after over 43 years of service. A retirement get together will be held January 31, 2008 in Auburn.

R. Kaplewicz announced that Owen Sims, the President of the National Association of Conservation Districts, died in an on-farm accident in early December. John Reading will become Interim President and the Association will name a new Treasurer to replace John.

Reports & Newsletters

NYACD Newsletter for October/November 2007; December 2007

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

NYACD News & Views – November/December 2007 Issue

Bay Journal – The Chesapeake Newspaper – December 2007

ERS Report Summary – U.S. Department of Agriculture – November and December 2007

CDEA News – December 2007 and January 2008

“Coastlines” – A publication of New York Sea Grant – Fall 2007

The North East State Foresters Association (NEFA) 2007 publication

Public Works – December 2007

USDA – Integrating Commodity and Conservation Programs – Design Options and Outcomes – October 2007

Jim Hotaling – Retirement – Newspaper article and retirement party for 1/31/08

Legislative Commission on Water – Resource Needs of New York State and Long Island – Fall/Winter 2007

Agricultural NPS Abatement & Control Grant Program
January 15, 2008 State Committee Meeting

STATUS OF ROUNDS 1-13

Of 458 contracts, 156 are active, 3 are pending, 284 are complete and 15 contracts have been cancelled during the life of the program.

B. Steinmuller updated the progress regarding Round VII Cayuga County (Spruce Haven Farms) project. He received a copy of a letter of commitment from the construction company providing the match. However, the letter did not indicate the amount of match. The letter needs to provide the amount of match per the proposed budget. We believe the letter will be received by the January 31, 2008 deadline set by the Committee at last month's meeting.

Amendments for State Committee Consideration

1. Montgomery SWCD – Canajoharie BMP – Round 8 – C700683

Request: time extension from 12/31/07 to 1/31/08

Reason: additional time of one month needed to complete project on one farm due to weather conditions in December.

Previous amendments: 3 time extensions, 1 change of scope

C. Frasier, Region 5 AEA, recommends approval of one additional month in order to complete this project.

J. Dickinson moved to approve the time extension; seconded by D. Stein; motion passed carried.

Staff Approved Amendments

1. Montgomery SWCD – South Chuctanunda – Round 11 – C700784

Request: time extension from 3/31/08 to 6/30/09

Reason: additional time needed to complete project deliverables

Approved by C. Frasier 12/21/07

Approved by T. Brace/Brian Steinmuller 1/4/08

2. Tompkins SWCD – Cayuga and Owasco Lake Watersheds Management Intensive Grazing – Round 11 – C700799

Request: time extension from 12/31/07 to 8/31/08

Reason: additional time needed to complete project deliverables

Approved by J. Schumacher 12/17/07

3. Schoharie SWCD – Schoharie County Tier 4 Implementation – Round 11 – C700794

Request: time extension from 12/31/07 to 12/31/09

Reason: additional time needed to complete project deliverables

Approved by C. Frasier 12/21/07

4. Genesee SWCD – Genesee-Tonawanda AEM Implementation – Round 11 – C700779

Request 1: time extension from 12/31/07 to 12/31/08

Reason1: additional time needed to complete project deliverables

Request 2: change of BMPs

Reason 2: silage leachate identified as a higher priority than the barnyard system

Approved by T. Brace/B. Steinmuller 1/7/08

5. Jefferson SWCD – Jefferson County Lake Ontario Tributaries BMP Implementation Grant – Round 11 – C700781

Request: time extension from 12/31/07 to 12/31/08

Reason: additional time needed to complete project deliverables

Approved by L. Travis 1/3/08

6. Clinton SWCD – Little Chazy River Ag. Implementation Project – Round 11 – C700777

Request: time extension from 12/31/07 to 12/31/08

Reason: additional time needed to complete project deliverables

Approved by S. Lanthier 1/3/08

J. TenEyck distributed information on Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) listing goals and objectives and strategic planning for Year 4. He stated AEM should be viewed as a framework and not a program concentrating on promoting quality over quantity. B. Rogers, R. Alvarado discussed being on board and working with J. TenEyck on Districts involvement in meeting these goals and objectives and engineering issues.

Round 14

The ranked list was presented for review and approval. The following resolution was considered:

Resolution 08-1

MOTION:

That subject to the availability of funds, the Committee shall award funding for projects 1-85 in order ranked and in the amounts recommended by the advisory members of the Committee until funds available for this purpose are exhausted or the scoring threshold is reached, consistent with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law, the RFP, and any other law applicable to funding of such projects. Consistent with the RFP, the Committee authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Markets to negotiate the terms of the contract with the project sponsors and to make minor adjustments to the project description and budget as necessary to achieve project goals, conform to applicable laws and regulations, and to serve the best interests of the State.

J. Dickinson moved to pass Resolution 08-01 approving the Round 14 ranked list as

presented; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.

J. Dickinson moved to approve the allocation of EPF State Fiscal Year 07-08 Funds (\$12.8 Million) to be distributed as follows: \$10.3 Million allocated to the Implementation of the Round 14 Ag Nonpoint Source Grant Program and \$2.5 Million allocated to Year 4 of the AEM Base Program; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.

G. Proios moved to approve that all unencumbered EPF funds from returned projects be allocated to implementation of the Round 14 Ag Nonpoint Source Grant Program; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.

J. Tauzel gave a PowerPoint presentation and distributed information regarding the New York Farm Bureau's priorities and policies for 2008.

L. Telega requested suggestions on topics the Committee would be interested in having presented by Cornell faculty and staff. He distributed a list of possible topics and attendees ranked their priorities as well as made their own suggestions.

Other Reports – All

R. Kaplewicz announced three annual plans of work for 2008 to be approved for Delaware, Ontario and Oswego Counties.

B. Aman moved to approve the work plans; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed and carried.

G. Proios updated the Ag pesticide handling facility agreement with DEC. He stated Lower Hudson/Long Island RC&D is working on funding to create a new AEM Worksheet on Energy Conservation. NYSERDA is interested with a potential grant.

B. Rogers stated Legislative Days for NYACD, EPF Coalition, and Farm Bureau will be February 4 and 5, 2008.

B. Steinmuller stated the next TAC meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2008. If anyone has suggestions for topics they wish to discuss, contact him. He also stated the NYS Envirothon will be held May 21 and 22, 2008 in Cobleskill.

J. Moody-Czub stated the Governor's first State of the Upstate address would be held in Buffalo. The budget will be released the end of the month.

M. Latham announced on January 8, 2008 guidance concerning plan of work process and template were sent to districts. The deadline for submitting these plans is April 1, 2008. The Annual Report requests have been sent to Districts shortly after the New Year. Regarding State aid to districts, the second round of \$6,000 conservation projects concluded on December 31, 2007. Performance Measures have been finalized for Performance Based Measures, Part C, monies.

M. Grennan stated NRCS was meeting Thursday in Syracuse regarding the implementation phase of the business model.

R. Alvarado stated no Farm Bill yet.

G. Green distributed an update on the status of the CREP program. CRP and CREP have been granted extensions through March 15, 2008 until a Farm Bill is enacted.

L. Telega stated that the Northeast Cooperatives Council will be meeting in Albany and touring the Railex Facility in Rotterdam on March 10, 2008.

J. TenEyck distributed the CAFO Roadshow 2008 schedule and agenda.

It was requested that Bob Brower/Greg Albrecht report to the Committee at the next meeting with an update on CAFO and Certified Planner program.

R. Rausch stated he was asked to speak on Anaerobic Digesters in Sacramento, CA the end of November 2007. He will also be attending the Ag Energy Efficiency Conference the end of January 2008. He has been asked to serve as the Commissioner's designee to the Lieutenant Governor's Renewable Energy Task Force.

R. Kaplewicz stated the Round 14 ranked list would be forwarded to the Commissioner's office. The final awards and recipients will be publicly released by the Commissioner's Office.

He mentioned that Department and FSA staff will be meeting later this month regarding renewal of the CREP program and agreements.

He attended the NYS Agricultural Society Meeting in Syracuse and recommended everyone should try to attend. It is the oldest agricultural society meeting of its kind still meeting annually. This year was the 176th meeting. Both the Governor and Commissioner of Agriculture addressed the group.

R. Kaplewicz congratulated Greg Albrecht and Mike Latham on the recent births of their sons.

R. Kaplewicz reminded everyone the Water Quality Symposium will be held in Auburn March 11-14, 2008. The Committee's March meeting is scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 13 in Auburn at 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 19, 2008, Utica, New York at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

This web cast may be viewed in its entirety at:

<http://www.webcasting.com/soil-water/01.15.2008soil.html>