

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

**STATE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**March 13, 2008**

**Holiday Inn, 75 North Street, Falls Room, Auburn, NY**

**Present:** D. Hill, B. Aman, D. Stein, G. Proios, Voting Members; R. Kaplewicz, Director; M. Latham, Assistant Director; J. TenEyck, N. Lawler, C. Frasier, L. Travis, S. Gordon, R. Lewis, SWCC Staff; D. DeWeese, NRCS; L. Telega, Cornell; P. Black, SUNYESF; E. Thomas, DOS; F. Zagorski, DEC; V. Green, FSA; T. DeRue, Training Specialist; B. Kalbfliesh, Washington Co. SWCD; J. Hamilton, Saratoga Co. SWCD; J. Carmichael, NYSCDEA; G. Bell, B. Rogers, NYACD; R. Robinson, Support@webcasting.com

**Call to Order:**

D. Hill called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Chairman D. Hill announced the passing of Bill Chamberlain. He noted his many accomplishments, and requested a moment of silence in his memory.

Introductions made.

R. Kaplewicz announced an addendum to the agenda. Sarah Gordon will speak regarding Community Conservation Assistance following the Ag Nonpoint Source report.

**Review and Approval of Minutes**

**D. Stein moved to approve the February minutes as presented; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.**

**Correspondence**

**Letter dated February 13, 2008:** To Ron Alvarado, USDA-NRCS, from William Zaleski, Herkimer District Board Chair regarding the plans for closing the USDA-NRCS Herkimer County Office

**Letter dated February 15, 2008:** To Senator Charles E. Schumer from Theodore B. Teletnick, Herkimer SWCD District Field Manager regarding the possible closure of the Herkimer County USDA-NRCS County Office.

R. Kaplewicz read letter dated 3/7/08 to Ron Kaplewicz from Scott Fickbohm, District Manager of Otsego County SWCD, regarding AEM Year 4 Base Funding.

R. Kaplewicz read letter dated 3/11/08 to James DeZolt, Director of Division of Water, DEC in Albany from Thomas Della Rocco, Secretary of the Albany County WQCC regarding the funding of Water Quality Coordination Committees.

**Reports & Newsletters**

Oklahoma "Conversation" newsletter. Vol. 54, January 2008

Nuggets & Nibbles from the Cornell Local Roads Program – Winter 2008

Bay Journal – February 2008

Albany County SWCD District News – Winter 2007/2008

CDEA News – February and March 2008

NACD News & Views – January/February 2008

Waterworks – New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. – February 2008

Steuben County SWCD 2007 Annual Newsletter

Susquehanna River Basin Commission – 2003 Annual Report

**Conferences & Seminars**

NYS DEC: "Dam Safety Regulations Public Hearings" announcement.

R. Kaplewicz stated the Dam Safety Hearings would be held 4/15 in Poughkeepsie, 4/18 in Rochester and 5/2 in Albany at the DEC Headquarters. All sessions are scheduled for 10:00 – 2:00 pm.

**Agricultural NPS Abatement & Control Grant Program  
March 13, 2008 State Committee Meeting**

**STATUS OF ROUNDS 1-13**

Of 459 contracts, 149 are active, 1 is pending and 294 are complete 15 contracts have been cancelled during the life of the program.

**Amendments for State Committee Consideration**

1. Washington SWCD – Halfway Creek AEM Implementation – Round 7– C700056

*Request:* time extension from 12/31/07 to 06/30/08

*Reason:* additional time needed to complete project on one farm due to engineering delays

*Previous Amendments:* 4 time extensions

*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. If approved, this request will continue this contract into an 8<sup>th</sup> year.

*For additional project details the November 07 Interim Report is attached.*

**B. Aman moved to approve the amendment request for a time extension to 6/30/08. This will be the final time extension for this grant. No further time extensions will be approved; seconded by D. Stein. Motion passed carried (with one "no" vote).**

2. Washington SWCD – Poultney-Mettawee Ag Waste Management & Phosphorus Reduction - Round 9 – C700733

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

*Reason:* additional time needed to complete project deliverables

*Previous Amendments:* 1 time extension for 2 years

*Note:* The start date of this contract was 10/24/02. A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances.

*For additional project details the November 07 Interim Report is attached.*

**G. Proios moved to table this time extension amendment request pending further information; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed carried.**

3. Saratoga SWCD – Bacon Hill Agricultural Project – Phase I - Round 8 – C700692

*Request 1:* time extension from 12/31/07 to 9/1/08

*Reason 1:* additional time needed due to delays in design completion, rainy weather and illness

*Request 2:* change of BMPs

*Reason 2:* silage leachate concerns will be managed by the expanded construction of the remaining silage leachate BMP

*Previous Amendments: 3 time extensions*

*Note: The start date of this contract was 6/22/01. A contract term longer than 5 years is only permitted by the Office of the State Comptroller under extenuating circumstances.*

*For additional project details the November 07 Interim Report is attached.*

**B. Aman moved to approve both the change of BMP (pending any legal issue) and the time extension amendment requests; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed carried. (The change in BMP conforms to all program policies and procedures.)**

4. Onondaga SWCD – Seneca River Watershed AEM Implementation Project – Round 14 – C700916 (plan of work)

*Request:* change in landowner

*Reason:* milking center treatment is requested to be transferred to a farm already participating in the grant. No BMPs will be lost. Original landowner withdrawing due to discontinuing farming.

*Recommended approval by L. Travis 3/5/08*

**D. Stein moved to approve the change in landowner amendment request; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed; carried.**

Representatives from both Saratoga and Washington Co SWCDs were present at the meeting to discuss their amendment requests. There was significant discussion regarding the need for more information on both the District's Amendment Requests and comments from the field staff regarding their recommendations.

#### **Round 14**

The Commissioner recently announced the award of \$13 million for 46 projects pursuant to Round 14. Please see the attached press release for project descriptions. Plan of work documents have gone out to each District receiving awards. Plans of work are due for Field Staff review by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

A statewide Ag NPS Training Session is scheduled for March 20<sup>th</sup>. The training will focus on plans of work, contract administration, and close out procedures.

#### **Community Conservation Assistance Tool Kit (CCAT)**

S. Gordon delivered a PowerPoint presentation explaining the CCAT program and its mission to support communities, public officials, Districts and CWQCCs in their efforts to protect local soil and water resources from unplanned municipal landuse impacts and the program's tie in with the Ecosystem-Based Management initiative.

#### **Report on Training Initiative**

T. DeRue delivered a PowerPoint presentation outlining training ideas, opportunities, needs and issues. B. Rogers indicated the District Directors knowledge and involvement is crucial for training programs to be effective.

#### **Upcoming 2008 State Committee Meeting**

C. Frasier stated Districts in Southeastern New York requested a meeting/tour be held in their area.

The State Committee Meeting Schedule and potential locations are as follows:

Tuesday, April 15	Utica, NY
Tuesday, May 20	Albany, NY-
Monday & Tuesday, June 16 & 17	Cornell University Area - Triphammer
Monday & Tuesday, July 21 & 22	Southeastern NY Area – Fishkill
Tuesday, September 16	Albany Area,-Principals Meeting
Monday & Tuesday, October 20 & 21	Possible Willow Harvest Tour/Meeting

G. Proios suggested that a letter from the Committee be sent to the NYS Education Department requesting an advisory member be appointed to represent their Department at State Committee meetings.

**Plans of Work**

R. Kaplewicz announced that nine 2008 annual plans of work have been reviewed by SWCC staff and recommend for approval.

Cattaraugus	Cayuga
Columbia	Herkimer
Niagara	Oneida
Sullivan	Washington
Westchester	

**D. Stein moved to approve the work plans; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed and carried.**

**Correspondence - Continued**

R. Kaplewicz received several letters regarding NRCS changes as a result of office closings and consolidations. He read two of the letters. One letter read dated 2-13-08 to Ron Alvarado from William Zaleski, District Board Chair, Herkimer County Soil and Water Conservation District. The second letter read dated 2-15-08 was to Senator Charles Schumer from Theodore B. Teletnick, District Field Manager, Herkimer County SWCD.

D. DeWeese reported on NRCS Business Model and the team base structure featuring five team leaders. D. DeWeese had handouts available showing FY-2007 accomplishments of NRCS and New York State maps detailing different aspects of work completed during 2007.

**CREP Update**

R. Kaplewicz and V. Green stated the Farm Bill was extended to April 18, 2008. A brief discussion ensued providing background information for and in support of a CREP agreement extension request.

**D. Stein moved to sign extension of CREP agreement; seconded by B. Aman. Motion passed and carried.**

## **Other Reports – All**

D. Hill reported on a successful meeting hosted by Delaware County SWCD in cooperation with Cornell Cooperative Extension and other Districts on the Upper Susquehanna and future total maximum daily loads facing the watershed. Approximately 75 farmers were in attendance.

B. Rogers announced NACD officers; John Reading new President, Steven Robinson is President-Elect. Orleans and Madison Counties received national awards for achievements.

M. Latham distributed list of professional engineers interested in working in the agricultural community. (Revised list available from SWCC office)

J. Carmichael welcomed everyone to the Water Quality Symposium and thanked the committee for their continued support.

D. DeWeese reported Ron Alvarado has been selected for 90-day detail in Washington, DC beginning March 31 through the end of June.

L. Telega announced new Manure Specialist, Tom Shepherd, as member of Pro Dairy team.

D. Stein stated issue concerning toxins in corn silage.

R. Kaplewicz stated Round 14 award presentation went well with good media coverage.

R. Kaplewicz stated Performance Measures for 2006 are being processed and 2007 is underway.

R. Kaplewicz stated Commissioner P. Hooker spoke at dinner Wednesday evening at Water Quality Symposium.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 15, 2008, Utica, New York at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

This web cast and PowerPoint presentations may be viewed in their entirety at:

<http://www.webcasting.com/soil-water/03.13.2008soil.html>