

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

STATE COMMITTEE MINUTES

October 21, 2008

Ramada Inn Lakefront

41 Lakefront Dr., Rt. 5 and 20

Geneva, NY

Present: D. Hill, B. Aman, D. Stein, J. Dickinson, G. Proios, Voting Members; M. Latham, Director; J. TenEyck, G. Albrecht, N. Lawler, L. Travis, B. Steinmuller, R. Lewis, B. Silvestri, C. Frasier, SWCC Staff; R. Alvarado, D. DeWeese, P. Wright, NRCS; L. Telega, Cornell; F. Zagorski, DEC; E. Thomas, DOS; P. Kaczmarczyk, DOH; L. Kerrigan, J. Carmichael, NYSCDEA; J. Moody-Czub, J. Rusnica, D. Cordier, Ag & Markets; B. Richards, S. Pacenka, Cornell University

Call to Order:

D. Hill called the meeting to order at 11:55 a.m.

Review and Approval of Minutes

M. Latham read a change to minutes from September meeting. J. Dickinson moved to approve the September minutes; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

Introductions made.

Correspondence

Letters & Memos

Letter dated September 10, 2008 to Michael Latham from Robert Elliott, Deputy Secretary of State, Department of State, regarding Mark Streb, Director of Local Government Services as designee to the State Committee as an Advisory Member.

M. Latham will welcome Mark Streb as the Department of State Advisory Member to the State Committee at the next meeting. He also mentioned the 2007-08 AEM Annual Report was recently printed and is now available.

Reports & Newsletters

Bay Journal – September 2008

Herkimer County SWCD newsletter, Conservation News – Fall 2008

Genesee County SWCD Soil & Water Update – August – September 2008

NYS Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, "Rural Futures", September/October 2008

Public Works – September 2008

Waterworks – NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. – August 2008

Wyoming County SWCD newsletter – September 2008

Ontario County SWCD newsletter – October 2008

Jefferson County SWCD newsletter – September 2008

Broome County SWCD Conservation Update – Summer/Fall 2008

Innovations in Sustainable Agriculture – Fall 2008

Watershed Journal – Summer 2008

RCAP Solutions – From Watershed to Well – Fall 2008

The Upper Delaware – Quarterly newsletter of the Upper Delaware River – Fall 2008

Oklahoma Conservation Conversation – September 2008

Nuggets & Nibbles – Cornell Local Roads Program – Summer 2008

Conferences & Seminars

Hudson River Environmental Society – “Falling Through The Cracks” – The Science and Policy Challenges of Conserving Small Wetlands in the Hudson Valley – October 28, 2008, at the Norrie Point Environmental Center, 256 Norrie Point Way, Staatsburg, NY 12580

2009 Performance Standards Discussion & Approval

M. Latham distributed Part 363 outlining State Aid to Soil and Water Conservation Districts along with the Director Attendance Policy and proposed Performance Standards for 2009. The proposed 2009 Performance Standards were discussed.

J. Dickinson moved to approve 2009 Performance Standards; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

CAFO Update

D. Hill thanked D. Stein for his work on the Committee's CAFO Resolution. The proposed Resolution was distributed and discussed. Several changes were made to the Resolution.

D. Stein moved to approve the CAFO Resolution as modified; seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed; carried.

Surveying Upstate Groundwater for Pesticides: Update

B. Richards and S. Pacenka, Cornell University Biological & Environmental Engineering delivered a PowerPoint presentation and reported on work they are doing in Cortland, Orange and Schenectady counties researching pesticide levels in groundwater. They will be conducting the same research in Cayuga and Genesee counties soon.

SWCC Strategic Plan

R. Lewis and L. Travis gave a Power Point presentation outlining key issues for updating the NYS SWCC Strategic Plan. R. Lewis distributed handouts regarding the history of Soil and Water Conservation in New York and a proposed process (timeline) for developing this strategy. Much discussion ensued on how we determine what the long term goals of the Committee are, how we want to accomplish these goals and the roles of other State agencies regarding agriculture. J. Dickinson recommended that we receive feedback from the conservation districts on what the districts view as their priorities and strong needs before the committee establishes goals. J. Carmichael will canvass districts for input on priorities for December meeting.

Public Notice Resolution

A Resolution concerning the posting of public notice of meetings was discussed by the voting members. G. Proios suggested when the notice of meeting(s) is given to the news media, they should also be informed the notice of meeting(s) is posted on the Department's website.

B. Aman moved to approve the Public Notice Resolution; seconded by D. Stein. Motion passed; carried.

Assessing Changes in Extreme Rainfall Intensity Duration Curves

P. Wright distributed information concerning research on rainfall and climate correlations and analyses. On a national level, a comprehensive climatology of rainfall events has not been updated since the early 1960's. With the advancement of new technologies and computers, there are changing methods which will be used to measure rainfall intensity-duration curves and other data. Peter announced funding for a proposal for the Northeast Regional Climate Center, Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Cornell University to collect the data and develop new curves will be provided by USDA NRCS.

Public Water Systems/Agricultural Businesses

P. Kaczmarczk reported that a recent EPA/DEC CAFO inspection on a Lamb farms was conducted. During the inspection, records were provided that demonstrated drinking water quality concerns on the farm. P. Kaczmarczk reported State regulations define businesses that have 25 or more employees for 60 days out of the year can be designated as a public water supply. Regulation of such falls under the County Health Department jurisdiction. As farms have grown in size, some family farms may now meet these criteria. M. Latham suggested that AEM Worksheets and/or fact sheets on this issue would be helpful to begin the education process. J. Dickinson said a mailing concerning this matter should be sent to Northeast Dairy Producers Association (NEDPA). L. Telega suggested P. Kaczmarczk discuss this matter with John Tauzel of the New York State Farm Bureau. D. Stein will contact J. Tauzel.

Agricultural NPS Abatement & Control Grant Program October 21, 2008 State Committee Meeting

STATUS OF ROUNDS 1-14

Of 508 contracts, 166 are active (this is an increase of 17 contracts since last report), 12 are pending (this is a decrease of 17 pending contracts since last report) and 315 are complete, 15 contracts have been cancelled during the life of the program.

Technical Advisory Committee

The TAC met on September 23rd. Please see the attached meeting notes and presentations for details. The next TAC meeting is scheduled for November 12th.

Staff Approved Amendments

1. Wyoming SWCD – Tonawanda Creek Watershed Ag BMP Implementation Project – Round 13 – C700875

Request: change of BMPs

Reason: the change was needed to better reflect the actual conditions on the farm at current time

Approved by J. Ten Eyck 10/17/08

2. Niagara SWCD – 18 Mile Creek to Johnson Creek Watershed Protection Project – Round 12 – C700818

Request: addition of unused funds after the completion of all other deliverable

Reason: funds remained to address another critical issue that when complete will have a greater benefit on water quality than the original project

Approved by J. Ten Eyck 10/16/08

3. Onondaga SWCD – Onondaga Lake Watershed AEM Implementation Project – Round 11 – C700788

Request: time extension from 12/31/08 to 12/31/09

Reason: additional time needed to complete project deliverables

Approved by L. Travis 9/28/08

Other Reports – All

D. Hill announced Ron Alvarado is relocating to Portland, Oregon and will be their State Conservationist.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, December 16, 2008, Walton, New York

Meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

This web cast may be viewed in its entirety at:

<http://www.webcasting.com/soil-water/10.21.2008soil.html>