



**Soil and Water
Conservation
Committee**

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Committee Chair

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New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235 -- Telephone (518) 457-3738

State Committee Meeting

Crown Plaza

701 East Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13210

Syracuse, NY

March 12, 2015

Meeting at a Glance:

- Thank you to outgoing State Committee Chair George Proios, and congratulations to incoming State Committee Chair Dale Stein and Vice-Chair Chuck Colby.

Present:

D. Stein, Chair; G. Proios, J. Dickinson, C. Colby, D. Brass, Voting Members; M. Latham, Director; B. Steinmuller, Assistant Director; C. Frasier, B. Brower, B. Bzduch, S. Fickbohm, R. Bush, T. Clark, SWCC; S. Dorman, DEC; G. Kist, NRCS; S. Lorraine, Madison County SWCD; J. Santacrose Albany County SWCD; C. Nellis, Montgomery County SWCD; K. Brown, Orange County SWCD.

Call to Order

D. Stein called the meeting to order.

Review/Approval of Minutes

D. Brass moved to approve the December 2014 minutes; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

Correspondence, Budget, Legislation Update, M. Latham

Reports, Newsletters and periodicals were made available. M. Latham discussed the status of the state budget and provided a legislative update. M. Latham went over some of the details of the Governor's proposed budget for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). *Please see the EPF report, appended to these minutes for additional details.*

Agricultural Non-Point Source Program, B. Steinmuller

Amendments for State Committee Consideration

Albany County SWCD – LaGrange Brothers Dairy CAFO CNMP Tier IV Implementation Project– Round 15 – T700933

Request: Time Extension from 3/15/15 to 3/15/16

Reason: Additional time is needed to complete the project. Contractor availability and the winter weather prevents this project from being completed by the March 2015 deadline. The landowner

has made the connections with the engineer and several contractors to complete this for the next construction season and has recommitted to completing the project.

Previous Amendments: One time extension

D. Brass moved to deny the request for extension without prejudice; seconded by C. Colby. Motion passed; carried.

Erie County SWCD – Cattaraugus Creek Watershed/Clear Lake Drinking Water Source Protection Project– Round 17 – C701015

Request: Time Extension from 5/13/15 to 5/13/16

Reason: Four of the ten farms within the grant need additional time to complete remaining work as these farms (Erie - 3, Cattaraugus - 1) have had problems with operations and/or personal issues and challenging weather/site conditions. The landowners have recommitted to completing their projects.

Note: Victor DiGiacomo, Region 1 AEA, supports this time extension.

Previous Amendments: One change in BMP's

J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.

Madison County SWCD – Oriskany Creek Watershed Ag NPS Elimination Project– Round 15 – C700943

Request: Time Extension from 12/31/14 to 12/31/15

Reason: Additional time is needed to complete the project. The last BMP to be completed is an earthen manure storage. Construction is 75% complete, but weather issues in the fall of 2014 did not allow the project to be completed before the current end date. The landowner has recommitted to completing the project.

Note: Clifford Frasier, Region 3 AEA, supports this time extension.

Previous Amendments: One change in landowners and one time extension

J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

Madison County SWCD – Upper Tioughnioga River Ag NPS Reduction Project– Round 16 – C700976

Request: Time Extension from 5/15/15 to 12/31/15

Reason: The projects in Madison County are complete, but additional time is needed to complete the projects on one farm in Onondaga County. All practices are designed and currently out to bid and construction will start this spring as soon as weather permits. The landowner has recommitted to completing the project.

Note: Clifford Frasier, Region 3 AEA, supports this time extension.

Previous Amendments: One time extension

J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

Suffolk County SWCD – Fuel Tank Replacement for the Protection of Ground and Surface Water - Round 17 – C701041

Request: Time Extension from 5/13/15 to 7/11/17

Reason: Suffolk County Department of Health Services (DHS) Sanitary Code Article 7 requires a variance for farmers to increase the fuel storage capacity of more than 250 gallons. Several farmers that were awarded funding through this grant need a variance because they can't operate their business without more fuel storage capacity. When they applied for a variance they were denied. The DHS agreed to propose an amendment to this regulation. It is in its final phase of that process. When the regulation is adopted, all farmers will be able to install their tanks in full compliance with the local law. The landowners have recommitted to completing their projects.

Note: Jennifer Clifford, Region 5 AEA, supports this time extension.

Previous Amendments: None

J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by D. Brass. G. Proios abstained from the vote. Motion passed; carried.

Tioga County SWCD – Little Nanticoke Watershed Ag Protection Project - Round 17 – C701042

Request: Time Extension from 5/13/15 to 12/31/15

Reason: One farm will need an extension to include another construction season in order to address temporary storage and manure transfer system. Winter weather and engineer workload delayed surveying and engineer of design. The landowner has recommitted to completing the project.

Note: Scott Fickbohm, Region 2 AEA, supports this time extension.

Previous Amendments: None

J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

Staff Approved Amendments

Jefferson County SWCD – Ag Waste Management in Southern Jefferson County – Round 16 – C700973

Request: Change in Landowner

Reason: The original participant sold the farm and the new owner wants to continue with implementation of the project. The farm will be implementing the same BMP systems as the original landowner. The farm priority does not change because it is still the same facility, just under new ownership.

Note: Robert Brower, Region 4 AEA, approves the change in landowner.

Previous Amendments: One time extension

B. Steinmuller gave a briefing on the status of Round 21 and proposal submission through the NYS Grants

Gateway. B. Steinmuller reminded the group that proposals are due on March 31st. A few minor application glitches have been fixed and one flaw in the system was discovered on account of an early submission. This flaw had to do with the complete PDF version that is generated automatically by the system. It has been fixed for all Grants Gateway RFPs.

Under Barn Manure Storage System Policy – B. Steinmuller

B. Steinmuller distributed the draft policy recommendation and noted that the TAC met late in January to discuss the merits of each alternative. In the end, the third listed policy option prohibiting the eligibility of this type of system through the AgNPS Program was recommended by the TAC. *Please see the draft policy appended to these minutes for additional detail.*

Discussion ensued. It was decided that additional information and details should be included before the SWCC will approve the draft policy. In concept, the SWCC appeared to agree with the TAC’s recommendation but requested additional details and clarification regarding transfer systems built adjacent to or under portions of new or existing barns.

D. Brass moved to table the Waste Storage and Transfer System-Under Barn Manure Storage Cost Share Policy; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

B. Steinmuller thanked the Committee for their consideration and comments. Clarification and details will be added to the policy and brought back to the Committee for consideration in April.

Conservation District Annual Plan of Work Approval

The following Conservation District Annual Plans of Work have been reviewed and recommended for approval by SWCC Field Staff:

Allegany	Broome	Cayuga	Chautauqua	Chemung
Cortland	Essex	Genesee	Livingston	Monroe
Ontario	Orleans	Oswego	Seneca	Tioga
Warren	Washington	Wayne	Wyoming	

D. Brass moved to approve the plans of work; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.

Honoring George Proios for his 15 year membership on the SWCC – Michael Latham, Dale Stein

Michael Latham and Dale Stein honored George Proios for his 15 years of dedicated service to the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee as a Voting Member and Chairperson. Michael Latham presented on collective accomplishments of the Committee under George Proios’s leadership.

D. Stein read and presented a plaque in George’s honor. George closed the meeting with a few words of encouragement and wisdom. The Committee gave George a round of applause and wished him well with his upcoming retirement and move to Tennessee.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2015 at the State Office Building in Utica.

Future agenda items: Conservation Approval Authority (CAA); Invasive Species regulations and updating of District Tree and Shrub Policy; reconsideration of the Under Barn Manure Storage Policy; Report and Update on Ecosystems Based Management Program; Various Agency and Partnership Reports.