

APPROVED

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

State Committee Meeting

Oneida County Soil and Water Conservation District
121 Second St
Oriskany, NY 13424

October 24, 2017

Meeting at a Glance:

- Approved 5 vehicle purchases with Part C funding support.
- Round 23 funding now up to \$16 million funding 51 projects.
- Informative presentation and update of the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition
- Informative tour Oneida SWCD conservation projects.

Present:

State Committee Voting Members: D. Stein, State Committee Chair; R. Montesi, D. Hickling.

Also present were B. Steinmuller, Assistant Director; B. Bzduch, J. Clifford, S. Fickbohm, R. Bush, J. Littrell, P.J. Emerick, Ryan Cunningham, V. DiGiacomo, SWCC; J. Czub, Ag & Markets; D. DeWeese, USDA-NRCS; Beth Claypool, CCE; A. Barber, Cortland SWCD; P. Nichols, Schoharie SWCD/Mohawk River Coalition; K. Lewis, Oneida SWCD; L. Williams, NYFB; Sara Latessa, NYDEC.

D. Stein called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Review/Approval of Minutes

Ron Montesi made a motion to approve the September 19, 2017 minutes; seconded by Darin Hickling. Motion passed; carried.

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program, B. Bzduch

Bethany reported that 51 projects are now funded after an OCS revision in regards to the scoring issues. \$16 million in total projects are now funded in Round 23.

Amendments for State Committee Consideration

Region 1

Chautauqua County SWCD – Chautauqua Lake Water Quality Improvement Project – Round 18 – C701060

Contract Start: 11/1/2012

Contract End: 10/31/2017

Request: Time Extension to 10/31/2018

Reason: The farm with the remaining project has made several attempts to secure quotes from a qualified building contractor due to high demand. The farm is committed to completing the project within the new timeframe.

Note: Victor DiGiacomo, Region 1 AEA, supports the Time Extension and refers to the State Committee

Previous Amendments: 1 Time Extension

R. Montesi motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by D. Hickling. Motion passed; carried.

Region 2

Cortland County SWCD – Factory Brook Watershed Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Reduction – Round 22 – C701250

Request: BMP Change

Reason: The farm originally applied for AGNPS funding to construct a waste storage and transfer system. The farm also applied for EQIP funding for the same project and was awarded funds. The farm would like to use the EQIP funds for the Waste Storage and use AGNPS funds to install a Silage Leachate System to totally contain leachate and discontinue the use of the existing VTA.

Note: PJ Emerick, Region 2 AEA, approves the BMP system change

Previous Amendments: None

Region 3

Delaware County SWCD – Controlled and Limited Livestock Access Using Riparian Forest Buffers – Round 19 – C701126

Contract Start: 3/5/2013

Contract End: 12/31/17

Request: Time Extension to 6/30/2018

Reason: There is one project remaining in this grant. The contractor that won the bid for the project was unable to begin implementation in a timely manner and backed out of the project. The landowner has attempted to find a replacement contractor, but has been unsuccessful. To ensure a successful planting, the project will need to be delayed until spring of 2018.

Note: Scott Fickbohm, Region 3 AEA, supports the Time Extension and refers to the State Committee

Previous Amendments: None

D. Hickling motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by R. Montesi. Motion passed; carried.

Part C Vehicle Purchase Requests: J. Clifford presented 5 vehicle purchase requests using Part C funding.

Wayne SWCD: request to purchase a diesel pickup truck, with 10,000 lb. towing capacity. The truck will be used as an integral part to complete conservation projects that require a truck to tow equipment to job sites. Current District vehicles not capable of towing supplies and equipment.

Ron Montesi made motion to approve the request; seconded by D. Hickling. Motion passed; carried.

Rensselaer SWCD: propose to purchase a ¾ ton truck for general District use. Currently, District employees are using personal vehicles to tend to the projects needed to be completed by the District. The District is using Part C funds to do emergency road and stream work. The District is requesting to use Part C funds for 50% of the purchase price of the truck.

D. Hickling made a motion to approve the request; seconded by R. Montesi. Motion passed; carried.

Erie SWCD: Requesting to transfer Part C funds for a pickup truck that has already been purchased. The District purchased this truck to implement their new hydroseeding program to compliment a hydroseeder they purchased with Part C funds, along with a straw bale blower. Discussion ensued in regards to the fact that they vehicle has already been purchased, where the policy recommends approval of Part C funds being used for the purchase, prior to the purchase. State Committee staff noted that the Part C funds can be used for reimbursement for a purchase within a calendar year and if approved the District will be able to transfer funding from their Part C awards to offset the purchase.

D. Hickling made a motion to approve the request; seconded by R. Montesi. Motion passed; carried.

Cortland SWCD: Requesting funding to purchase a 1 ton, 4wd pickup that will have safety lighting. The truck will be utilized in several capacities to advance Part C conservation projects on a regular basis. In addition, the truck will be used for collecting oversized tires from farms, and emergency response activities.

Ron Montesi made motion to approve the request; seconded by D. Hickling. Motion passed; carried.

Columbia SWCD: Requesting reimbursement of \$10,000 in partial funding from Part C funds for a 4wd pickup truck that was purchased. The District purchased the truck earlier in 2017 to utilize for a Part C project. The truck saved considerable labor on the project and can be used in many other capacities, and replacing a 15-year-old truck.

D. Hickling made a motion to approve the request; seconded by R. Montesi. Motion passed; carried.

Discussion then ensued in regards to preapproval by State Committee for Districts requesting to use Part C funds for vehicle purchases, and the fact that Districts requested funds for vehicles already purchased. Also, some concern in regards to an onslaught of requests for numerous Districts to make requests for funds. Due the schedule of the day, and conservation tour, Dale recommended to set aside time at the next meeting for meaningful discussion about the policies in place for Part C funding requests, for understanding purposes, and to be sure the policies are clear and concise. The question was also asked if Districts could put Part C funds into a reserve fund. This is not allowed. Part C funds have to be spent or returned to State Committee.

B. Steinmuller read the list of Districts who have submitted their 2018 Annual Plans of Work for approval. The following list of Annual Plans of Work have been recommended approval by the respective Regional Associate Environmental Analyst:

Broome	Erie	Hamilton	Orleans	Steuben
Cayuga	Essex	Herkimer	Oswego	Warren
Chemung	Franklin	Jefferson	Rockland	Wayne
Chenango	Fulton	Lewis	St. Lawrence	Wyoming
Clinton	Genesee	Oneida	Seneca	Yates

Mohawk River Watershed Coalition Presentation– Pete Nichols, Schoharie County SWCD

Pete Nichols, Schoharie County SWCD, gave a presentation on the status of the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition. The coalition began in 2009 and is now in its fourth implementation year. In all, 53 projects have been funded at a level of \$12.45 million, with the goal of improving water quality, increase flood resiliency, and serve stakeholders in the watershed. *Pete Nichol's attached to official minutes.*

Hickling departed from the meeting at this time.

Partnership Reports / Advisory Member Reports / Additional Public Comments

Dennis DeWeese, NRCS: DeWeese gave an update on the status of USDA-NRCS which included reorganization of USDA/NRCS and FSA. The realignment of USDA includes the creation of the Farm Production and Conservation (FPAC) division. This will include NRCS, FSA and Risk Management.

Beth Claypoole, Cornell: Noted CCE is preparing for its annual In-service training program in November.

Lauren Williams, New York Farm Bureau: reported she had been working on new recycled tire regulations and gave an update of other FB policy priorities.

Scott Fickbohm: Thanked Oneida County SWCD for their cooperation in hosting the State Committee and the tour for the afternoon.

PJ Emerick: reported that he has now attended Board meetings in all 13 of his Districts, and is working on a number of SWCC and SWCD programs including Erosion and Sediment Control program with the CDEA.

Jennifer Clifford: noted that there is a Municipal subcommittee meeting scheduled for October 31st.

Bethany Bzduch: noted there is a TAC meeting scheduled for November 14th in Albany. There will also be a call-in option.

Judy Littrell: Reported that she and Greg Albrecht have begun to work on new State Committee website, new AEM displays. Judy also reported that she continues to work with NY Grown and Certified program staff, that Christmas trees are now in the program, along with beef, poultry, and pork. A webinar will be held on November 2nd to update Districts on NY Grown program.

Ron Montesi: reported on the NYACD annual meeting and tour. Saw many good practices were highlighted on the tour and several policy resolutions were discussed.

Jackie Czub: extended appreciation and thanks from the Commissioner for all that Districts do on behalf of conservation and the relationships Districts have with farmers. Appreciation was also extended

to Districts for cooperation in working with the NY Grown and Certified program, the Southern Tier Agricultural Industry Enhancement Program, (STAIEP), and the new Manure Storage and Transfer program.

Sara Latessa: Reported on the Riverkeeper/CAFO lawsuit. Oral litigation has been delivered with a supporting 3-page document, to the judge. DEC is hoping for a decision on the case in early 2018.

Oneida County SWCD Presentation - JoAnne Humphreys, Tim Wimmer, Kevin Lewis

JoAnne Humphreys, Tim Wimmer and Kevin Lewis gave a presentation to the Committee of District programs, projects, and priorities. The presentation highlighted projects from the conservation tour. *The Oneida County SWCDs presentation attached to official minutes.*

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 21st, 2017 at the Department of Ag and Markets, and via teleconference in Syracuse and Brooklyn.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:12. At that time, the Oneida SWCD hosted the group on a tour at four locations to view and learn more about their conservation projects and District operations.

Please contact Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee if you have questions or would like to propose agenda items for the Committee to address.

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Technical difficulties were experienced with the audiocast equipment. Therefore, only a partial recording is available. Audiocasts can be accessed by visiting: <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/webcasting.html>