

APPROVED

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

State Committee Meeting
NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235

NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets
581 State Fair Blvd., Syracuse, NY 13209

15 January 2019

At a Glance

- AgNPS (Agricultural Nonpoint Source) Abatement and Control Program Update
- AgNPS Round 25 / AEM (Agricultural Environmental Management) Base Year 15 Funding Split
- CRF (Climate Resilient Farming) Round 4 Update
- Partnership Reports / Advisory Member Reports / Public Comments

Present

Albany location: Erica Goodman, Ron Montesi, Voting Members; Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director; Bethany Bzduch, Jennifer Clifford, Judy Littrell, Julie Berlinski, AJ Battaglia, Tim Clark, SWCC Staff; Don Tuxill, NYSDEC; Elizabeth Murray, NY Farm Bureau; Paul Kaczmarczyk, NYSDOH; Stephanie Wojtowicz, NYSDOS.

Syracuse location: Dave Brass, Vice-Chair; Greg Albrecht, PJ Emerick, Ryan Cunningham, Victor DiGiacomo, SWCC Staff; Steve Lorraine, CDEA; Paula Bagley, NRCS; Brian Rahm, Cornell CALS.

Dale Stein called the meeting to order at 10:05 am.

B. Steinmuller welcomed Brian Rahm of Cornell CALS (College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) to the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee. B. Rahm will be representing Dean Boor from Cornell University, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. He is replacing Deb Grantham who served on the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee for over a decade.

Review/Approval of Minutes

R. Montesi made a motion to approve the December 18, 2018 draft minutes; seconded by E. Goodman. Motion passed; carried.

Correspondence and Staff Update

Newsletters and periodicals were made available in the Albany office. No other written correspondence was received.

B. Steinmuller noted that registration forms for the 2019 Water Quality Symposium has been sent out. He reported that there is an open application to backfill a CNMP (Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan) Specialist in the AEM program. Resumes are being collected and interviews will be scheduled in

the coming weeks. Additional position requests are still in the hands of Civil Service and the NYS Division of the Budget.

AgNPS Abatement and Control Program Update, Bethany Bzduch

B. Bzduch presented the following amendments for State Committee Consideration:

Region 1

Allegany County SWCD – Canacadea Creek Beef BMPs – Round 20 – C701142

Contract Start: 06/25/2014

Contract End: 12/31/2018

Request: Time Extension to 12/31/2019

Reason: There are two farms in this contract and one farm has completed their planned best management practices. The remaining farm has completed the watering system, but due to the wet weather has been unable to complete the Prescribed Rotational Grazing System. The District is requesting a 1 year no cost time extension to finish implementing the grazing system.

*Note: Victor DiGiacomo, Region 1 AEA, supports the request, but refers to the State Committee
Previous Amendments: None*

R. Montesi motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by E. Goodman. Motion passed; carried.

Wayne County SWCD – Near Shore Lake Ontario Watershed Agricultural Program: Phase 1 Salmon Creek Watershed – Round 21 – C701231

Request: Landowner Change

Reason: The farm has changed ownership. The new landowner is committed to implementing the project but will require a BMP change amendment, as well as, a time extension.

*Note: Victor DiGiacomo, Region 1 AEA, approves the Landowner change
Previous Amendments: None*

Wayne County SWCD – Near Shore Lake Ontario Watershed Agricultural Program: Phase 1 Salmon Creek Watershed – Round 21 – C701231

Request: BMP Change

Reason: The farm originally applied for AGNPS funding to a construct a silage leachate collection system and an access control system. The farm has since been sold and the new landowners' operation is managed a bit differently. A silage leachate system is no longer needed because feed will be stored on the main farm. Instead, the farm would like to implement a manure and ag waste treatment system to be used for manure composting. The access control system is no longer needed because the farm will only be pasturing animals to clean the barn. The farm would like to address resources concerns associated with a tributary that flows through a farm field. The District is submitting an amendment request to change the BMP System to erosion control management – structural system to divert water from crossing the field.

*Note: Victor DiGiacomo, Region 1 AEA, approves the BMP system change
Previous Amendments: None*

Wayne County SWCD – Near Shore Lake Ontario Watershed Agricultural Program: Phase 1 Salmon Creek Watershed – Round 21 – C701231

Contract Start: 09/28/2015

Contract End: 06/01/2019

Request: Time Extension to 12/31/2020

Reason: The participating farm was recently purchased, and the new owners would like to move forward with the project and the proposed BMPs. A no cost time extension is being requested to allow the farm two additional construction seasons to design, engineer, and permit the correct BMPs in a systematic approach.

*Note: Victor DiGiacomo, Region 1 AEA, supports the request, but refers to the State Committee
Previous Amendments: None*

R. Montesi motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by E. Goodman. Motion passed; carried.

Region 2

Tioga County SWCD – Piloting Cover Crops in Tioga County – Round 21 – C701228

Contract Start: 9/28/2015

Contract End: 6/1/2019

Request: Time Extension to 6/1/2020

Reason: During the summer and fall of 2018, Tioga County experience extremely wet weather. This prevented the farms from removing the corn crop until October or later. The SWCD would like to request an extension through June of 2020 to provide one farm an additional growing season to plant the cover crops that they were unable to in 2018. With this extension an additional 95 acres of cover crops will be implemented.

*Note: PJ Emerick, Region 2 AEA, supports the request, but refers to the State Committee
Previous Amendments: None*

E. Goodman motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by R. Montesi. Motion passed; carried.

Region 3

Delaware County SWCD – Susquehanna Cover Crop Initiative for Improving Soil Health – Round 20 – C701159

Contract Start: 06/25/2014

Contract End: 12/31/2018

Request: Time Extension to 12/31/2019

Reason: Weather has significantly impacted the participating farms' ability to apply seed and certify cover crops. Early onset of winter prevented adequate time to show enough growth to meet the minimum certification requirement for approve the practice. The SWCD would like to request an additional year to try to establish cover crop acres. Nine of the 16 participating landowners are committed to implementing their cover crops within the new timeframe.

Note: Scott Fickbohm, Region 3 AEA, supports the request, but refers to the State Committee
Previous Amendments: None

R. Montesi motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by E. Goodman. Motion passed; carried.

Region 5

Suffolk County SWCD – Sole Source Aquifer Protection – Pilot Pesticide Sprayer Retrofit Program – Round 20 – C701192

Contract Start: 06/25/2014

Contract End: 12/31/2018

Request: Time Extension to 12/31/2019

Reason: The remaining farm in this contract is implementing Integrated Pest Management which required a sprayed modification. The sprayer unit has been ordered and was scheduled to be delivered in September. Unfortunately, delivery was delayed and now the sprayer will arrive after January 2019. Once the sprayer arrives, the landowner will be able to complete their proposed best management practices.

Note: Jennifer Clifford, Region 15 AEA, supports the request, but refers to the State Committee
Previous Amendments: None

E. Goodman motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by R. Montesi. Motion passed; carried.

AgNPS Round 25 / AEM Base Year 15 Funding Split, Greg Albrecht, Bethany Bzduch

The following provides background on the estimated need for AEM Base Funding for Year 15 (2019-2020):

Request that a total of \$4,000,000 (\$4M) be set aside for the 2019/20 AEM Base Program (Year 15). The current year (Year 14) budget requests are \$3.22M and \$4.0M was requested to be set aside for Year 14. AEM Base Year 14 represents the first year of a major increase in the AEM reimbursement caps for Options A, B, and C necessary to provide non-competitive technical assistance services toward several statewide environmental priorities (TMDLs (Total Maximum Daily Load), HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms), Soil Health, Watershed Coalition Priorities, Farm Viability, etc.). For Year 15, we're requesting the same funding amount as in Year 14: \$4,000,000

Analyzing across all Districts yields an upper estimate for Year 15 requests based on prior participation and maximum use of eligible funds for AEM Base Options A, B, and C of \$4.26M. A realistic attempt to estimate the actual projected need for Year 15 based on prior participation and anticipated requests settles around \$3.82M. Since unused AEM Base funds are returned to fund other on-farm projects within the AEM framework of programs on an on-going basis and to conservatively ensure an adequate budget for Year 15 while making the most of the R25 AgNPS program, a value of \$4M is requested as the optimal split for AEM Base Year 15.

The increase in caps is considered balanced with AgNPS, sustainable, and supportive of improving District capacity to increase planning and implementation of BMP systems on farms. One additional Districts has also indicated their participation in AEM Base Year 15, raising the total to 51 Districts. As a note, the maximum hourly rate is estimated to be the same for Year 15 as in Year 14 (\$44/hour).

Projected Year 15 Scenario

Anticipate 51 Districts will participate	
Anticipate 17 Districts to request Option B funding (\$110K):	\$1,765,000
Anticipate 9 Districts to request Option C funding (\$85K):	\$765,000
Anticipate 11 Districts to request Option A funding (\$65K):	\$715,000
Anticipate 5 Districts to participate between \$65K and \$50K:	\$275,000
Anticipate 9 remaining Districts to request a total of:	\$302,000
Estimated total anticipated need for Year 15:	\$3,822,000
Total requested for AEM Base Year 15:	\$4,000,000

B. Steinmuller stated that a TAC (Technical Advisory Committee) meeting should have taken place before today’s State Committee Meeting, as this decision must be made prior to the release of the Round 25 RFP. An email was sent out to TAC members and there was a favorable reaction to this proposal. B. Bzduch noted that after the split \$11,250,000 will be available for Round 25. There are typically some returned funds and unused appropriations to help the available funding amount. Technical discussion ensued.

E. Goodman motioned to approve the funding split, seconded by R. Montesi. Motion passed; carried.

CRF Round 4 Update, Brian Steinmuller

The Climate Resilient Farming program has seen significant growth since the pilot round in 2015. \$2.5 million is available for Round 4. B. Steinmuller noted that the Department of Agriculture and Markets is close to approving the Round 4 RFP and it will be released soon after. He added that there are some considerable changes to the RFP this year. Regarding water management, specific guidance will be provided to private, nonfarm lands on stream corridor and floodplain management. There must be a significant connection to benefitting farms, both upstream and downstream. Counsel’s office has approved the ability to work on nonfarm lands within specific watersheds. The COMET Planner will also be utilized to measure greenhouse gas emission reductions on farms.

B. Steinmuller presented a status report on Climate Resilient Farming, rounds 1 – 3. There are currently 42 active contracts and two contracts are fully completed. There have not been any canceled projects thus far. B. Steinmuller expects some contract amendments coming down the pipe soon as many of the contract dates are expiring soon. B. Steinmuller thanked the Districts currently participating in CRF and thanked the Districts that applied in the pilot round.

Partnership Reports / Advisory Member Reports / Public Comments

PJ Emerick, SWCC – PJ Emerick is attending many meetings and reviewing several plans of work on various projects going on in his region. He will also be attending the Employee’s Association meeting today. The Eastern Finger Lakes Cover Crop meeting is approaching, and they will be discussing the next phase of the project.

Steve Lorraine, CDEA – The 2019 Water Quality Symposium will be held at the Hilton Double Tree in Syracuse in March. S. Lorraine encouraged all to attend the many great classes taking place throughout the week. There will be approximately 30 courses offered throughout the week.

Brian Steinmuller, SWCC – B. Steinmuller noted that the Governor's 2019 State of the State is taking place today. There will be a full budget proposal briefing to be sent to Districts within the coming days.

Bethany Bzduch, SWCC – The Source Water Buffer Program RFA is now open! The statewide press release went out on Friday, January 11th. Round 3 of the CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) Program will also be released very soon. Approximately \$18.4 million is available for Round 3 of CAFO.

Ryan Cunningham, SWCC – R. Cunningham is sitting on a hiring committee in Hamilton County for a District Technician. He is attending a CWICNY meeting in Westport, NY to view some of their ongoing projects.

Paula Bagley, NRCS – NRCS has rolled out its EQIP program. They are also interpreting the recent Farm Bill changes and how they affect New York. P. Bagley stated that partial payments on practices going forward will be critically important as the farm economy is in a downturn.

Brian Rahm, Cornell CALS – B. Rahm is the new Director of Cornell's Water Resource Institute. He reviewed the portfolio covered by his institute. His portfolio includes flooding, drought, HABs, resiliency and many other ongoing projects covered by the Water Research Institute.

Erica Goodman, Voting Member – E. Goodman reported that the AFT is completing a video project covering soil health champions on Long Island who have utilized various soil health practices on their farm. The video was posted to social media this week and presented at the Long Island Agricultural Forum.

Tim Clark, SWCC – T. Clark reported that there is a District phone directory update underway via SharePoint.

Elizabeth Murray, NYFB – Farm Bureau has been working on the Farm Bill changes and is looking forward to the 2019 legislative session.

Jennifer Clifford, SWCC – There will be a Municipal Subcommittee meeting on January 30th, 2019 [postponed to February 28th due to weather]. The focus will be on rural roads and management and roadside maintenance BMPs (best management practices). All Districts are invited. Videoconferencing will be available in Albany and Syracuse. The goal is to establish a plan for statewide rural roads active management programming.

Judy Littrell, SWCC – J. Littrell is continuing to work with NYS Grown and Certified team on various projects. The Department and Committee website redesign is moving forward. She attended the New York Maple Producers meeting earlier this month and garnered a lot of interest in the AEM program.

Don Tuxill, NYSDEC – D. Tuxill noted that there will not be many changes to the 2017-2018 DEC Annual Report to EPA for Nonpoint Source Management. The Great Lakes Nutrient Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program RFP will be released in February.

Stephanie Wojtowicz, NYSDOS – The last CFA Round was announced in December 2018. \$14 million was available for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and 117 applications were received totaling \$48 million in requested funds. 56 projects were funded, including 5 watershed plans.

Next meeting: TBD, trending toward March 18th at the Department of Agriculture and Markets, Albany.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

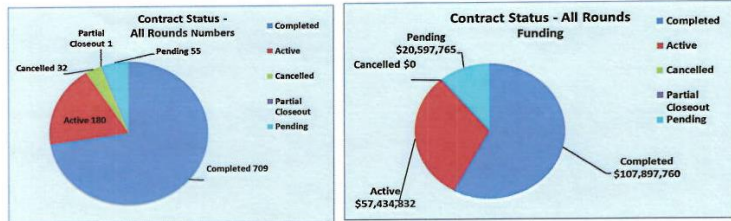
Please contact Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, if you have questions or would like to propose agenda items for the Committee to address.

brian.steinmuller@agriculture.ny.gov

518 457-0562

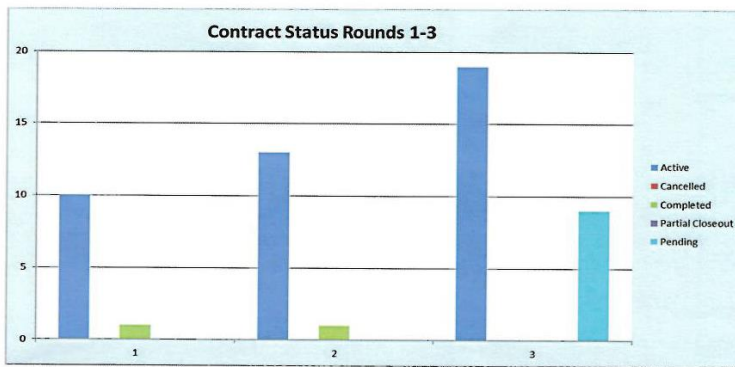
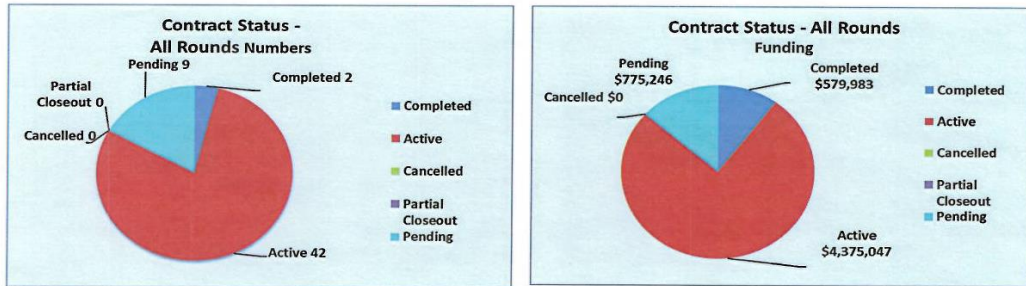
Audiocast: <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/webcasting.html>

APPROVED



Round	Number of Contracts	Total Of Contract Amount	Active Contracts	Active Funds	Cancelled Contracts	Cancelled Funds	Completed Contracts	Completed Funds	Pending Contracts	Pending Funds	Partial Closeout Contracts	Partial Closeout Funds
18	45	\$6,965,855.39	1	\$463,344.30	1	\$0.00	43	\$6,098,711.19	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
19	45	\$12,256,410.70	9	\$3,222,355.84	2	\$0.00	34	\$9,034,054.86	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
20	56	\$13,348,373.84	40	\$10,515,819.72	1	\$0.00	14	\$2,832,554.12	0	\$0.00	1	\$54,613.80
21	40	\$15,276,398.09	32	\$11,013,726.17	1	\$0.00	7	\$2,212,671.82	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
22	49	\$16,809,410.75	42	\$14,545,079.23	0	\$0.00	7	\$1,314,331.52	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
23	57	\$19,794,090.70	56	\$17,688,706.70	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$1,104,384.00	0	\$0.00
24	54	\$19,493,381.37	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	54	\$19,493,381.37	0	\$0.00
	346	\$102,264,921.64	180	\$57,434,831.76	5	\$0.00	105	\$23,717,710.71	55	\$20,597,765.37	1	\$54,613.80

January 2019 CRF Dashboard



Round	Number of Contracts	Total Of Contract Amount	Active Contracts	Active Funds	Cancelled Contracts	Cancelled Funds	Completed Contracts	Completed Funds	Pending Contracts	Pending Funds
1	11	\$1,398,091.34	10	\$968,162.34	0	\$0.00	1	\$429,929.00	0	\$0.00
2	14	\$1,524,384.00	13	\$1,374,330.00	0	\$0.00	1	\$150,054.00	0	\$0.00
3	28	\$2,807,801.27	19	\$2,032,555.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00	9	\$775,246.27