

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Minutes of Regular Meeting 05/17/2023

In Attendance:

District Directors:

Victoria Garlanda – At Large
Janet Bartow – Grange
Mike Smith – Legislator
Jay Matthews – At Large Farmer
Steven Ropitzky – Chairman
Kevin Veitch – Legislator

District Staff:

Dustin Lewis– District Manager
Kaitlyn Bemis - Office Manager
Scott Monica – Senior Technician
Dan Palemire – Field Technician

Outside Agencies

Scott Fickbohm

Regrets: Jennifer Koval, Kate Girard

Meeting called to order at 3:02 pm by Chairman Ropitzky.

1. **Minutes of April 2023 Meeting:** **Motion** to approve by Matthews, seconded by Veitch, carried unanimously.
2. **April 2023 Financial Reports:**
 - a. **Income & Expense Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers:**
 - b. **Motion** to approve made by Veitch, seconded by Bartow, was carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** No Report
 - b. **FSA:** No Report
 - c. **RC&D:** No Report.
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Fickbohm reported on the following (***Attachment B***)
 - e. **NYACD:** Reported via correspondence: updates on preparations for the Fall Annual Meeting.
 - f. **CCE:** No Report.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** No meeting this month. Lewis will send out the zoom link for next month's meeting.
 - b. **Grants:** Lewis reported on the following:
 - i. Agricultural Environmental Management – Palemire reported on the progress of an IPM sprayer grant.
 - ii. Septic – Lewis Planning to send out mailer.
 - iii. Roadside Assistance Grant – New contract covers the Town of Day.
 - iv. Micro Irrigation – No Changes.
 - c. **T&S 2023:** Completed, looking to put 2024 order in at the end of July.
 - d. **Envirothon 2023:** Was held on May 3rd at the Saratoga Fairgrounds. A total of 5 teams participated. The Schuylerville Duck Snatchers won. They will be competing at the NYS competition on May 24th & 25th. Lewis reported starting to scout for a new park location for 2024.
 - e. **Fish Stocking 2023:** Was held on May 11th, approximately 16 orders were placed.
 - f. **Part C requirements:** Lewis reports that the district needs to have board members attend outside meetings to complete performance measures.
 - g. **Storage Building:** Still waiting for bids.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Technician Computer Purchase:** Lewis requested approval to purchase a new technician computer, not to exceed \$1,500. **Motion** to approve made by Bartow, seconded by Veitch, was carried unanimously.
 - b. **Office Painting:** Lewis reports that the office needs painting and repairs to the walls, Smith volunteered to bring it up at his next county board meeting.
 - c. **Bank Meeting:** Lewis reported that he and Bemis met with BSNB representatives to update the security of the accounts and renegotiate the interest rate of the money market account.
 - d. **4-hour Class:** Lewis reported there is an Erosion, Sediment Control and Stormwater Training being held on May 31st in the conference room that he is teaching.

7. **Other Business:**

- a. **Tire Recycling:** Tire recycling collection is scheduled for October 3rd and flyers are being distributed for pre-registration.
- b. **District Law Training:** Fickbohm will return next month for the training.
- c. **Picnic Meeting:** A plan to organize a meeting/picnic will be organized for either July or August.

8. **Correspondence:**

- a. **NYACD:** updates on preparations for the Fall Annual Meeting.

9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2023, at 3:00pm. Meeting adjourned by Chairman at 4:09pm. **Motion** to adjourn by Bartow, seconded by Garlanda, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Kaitlyn Bemis, Secretary

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

May 2023 Field Report

- Hydro seed Town of Wilton
 - Hydro seed Town of Ballston
 - Hydro seed Town of Greenfield
 - Hydro seed Village of Corinth
 - Envirothon at fairgrounds (Ballston Spa)
 - AEM Sprayer delivery
 - AEM no-till, local farm
 - AEM no-till, local farm
 - AEM conservation field days
 - AEM NYG&C verification forms
 - AEM Manure storage local farm
 - AEM tier 1-2, Greenfield farm
 - AEM farm (Shaw Hill Road)
 - Moreau urban drainage on Gansevoort Rd
 - Attended CAG meeting.
 - 4 Hour course for BOCES
 - Tree and Shrub pickup
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ATTACHMENT B:

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
May 2023

NYS SWCC News

SFY 2023-2024 Environmental Protection Fund: The Enacted SFY 2023-2024 Budget is now available at www.budget.ny.gov. In total, this year's approved EPF budget is yet another very strong showing of support for conservation programs. Overall appropriations for the FY 2023-2024 EPF were approved at level funding of \$400 million. Proposals of interest to SWCC/SWCDs in this budget include the following:

- \$19.5 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including \$2 million for Cornell IPM, \$500,000 for the CCE of Suffolk County and \$250,000 for Cornell's Pesticide Management Program
- \$16 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (**\$1.5 million increase over last year's levels**)
- \$15.25 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including \$500,000 to support Carbon Sequestration Projects and \$500,000 for the Cornell Soil Health Program
- \$22 million for Water Quality Improvement Program
- \$22.5 million for Oceans and Great Lakes (EBM Program funding)
- \$14.275 million for Waterfront Revitalization Program
- \$21 million for Farmland Protection

Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 7: \$15 million is available to support projects. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Jennifer Clifford jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov by **June 5th, 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM August 7, 2023**.

Agricultural Non-Point Source Program Round 29: \$13.5 million is available to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the State. The RFP and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>. All questions related to the RFP and the required attachments shall be addressed to Bethany Bzduch bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov by **May 22nd, 2023**. Applications for funding must be submitted through the NYS SWCC SharePoint website by **4:30 PM June 26, 2023**.

May SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on May 16th**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. Reminder – participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

Spring Managers Meetings – Save the Date: The following dates have been set for regional manager's meetings this June! Meetings will be from 10am-2pm. Please participate in whichever date and location is most convenient but please RSVP to the AEA for that meeting. As always Directors are invited to attend as this meeting can count towards Performance Measures.

- **June 12th** - Region 3, Scott Fickbohm (scott.fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov), Eastern NY – Montgomery County Emergency Services, 200 Clark Dr, Fultonville, NY
- **June 14th** – Region 2, PJ Emerick (patrickj.emerick@agriculture.ny.gov), Central NY – Cortland SWCD office, 100 Grange Pl., #205, Cortland, NY
- **June 15th** – Region 5, Ben Luskin (ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov), Southeast NY – Dutchess SWCD office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY
- **June 16th** – Region 1, Victor DiGiacomo (victor.digiacom@agriculture.ny.gov), Western NY – Genesee County Office Building #2, 3837 West Main Street Road, Batavia, NY 14020

ATTACHMENT B (continued)

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2023: NYSAGM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land,

water, and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. The deadline for applications is **May 27th, 2023**. More information for Districts can be found on the SWCC SharePoint site

(<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/Home.aspx>, then Resources for Districts > Agricultural Environmental Management > AEM Leopold Conservation Award > 2023) and for the public, here (www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf).

Other Events

2023 Practical Pasture Management Training: This opportunity is advertised as a unique grazing training that will offer hands-on learning and strategies to help peers help farmers implement resilient grazing systems. Trainers will be addressing a multitude of pasture management topics in a light-hearted and hands-on manner. Hosted by the Bishopp Family Farm, Oneida and Madison SWCDs, convening on **May 18th, 10am to 3pm**, at 2809 Rt. 12-B, Deansboro, NY. To register for this training, email Troy Bishopp at troy-bishopp@verizon.net or contact Madison County SWCD at (315) 824-9849.

2023 Conservation Leadership Conference - Save the Date: NYS CDEA has announced that The 2023 Conservation Leadership Conference will commence from **July 18th – 21st**, at The Ranger School of the College of Environmental Science and Forestry located in Wanakena, New York. The program is open to all board members and staff of the sponsoring 4-way partnership and is geared towards: new managers or leaders, those with anticipated leadership responsibilities and those simply interested in personal development. Please save the date, more information will be available shortly.

2023 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - Save the Date: This year the conference will be held in Portland, ME at the Portland Sheraton at Sable Oaks on **September 17-20, 2023**. Further details will be available shortly.

The Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool webinar took place last month and the recording is available at: [Webinar: Using the Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool - YouTube](#) The link to the NY Natural Heritage Program Riparian Opportunity Assessment tool is <https://www.nynhp.org/projects/statewide-riparian-assessment/> For questions and comments about using the tools in project and resiliency planning, or to participate in the needs assessment for updating the tool, please reach out to Emily Fell at Emily.fell@dec.ny.gov or Kristen Hychka at kch235@cornell.edu

Other Funding

Federal Funding Available for Urban and Community Forestry: The USDA Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program is a technical, financial, and educational assistance program assists State Forestry agencies and partner organizations in addressing and applying nature-based solutions to chronic and emergent economic, social, and environmental challenges in communities. **Approximately \$1 Billion** is expected to be awarded under this program nationally. All proposals must be received by **June 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. EDT**. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://iraucfgrants.urbanandcommunityforests.org/>
