



Annual Meeting Minutes  
October 19, 2022  
1:00 P.M.

**Attendance:**

Sam Casella, Pres.                      Maureen Leupold, Div. II  
Rob Carpenter, 1<sup>st</sup> V. Pres.      Bruce Dolph, Member @Lg.  
Ernie Swift, Treas.  
Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Dr.

**Absent:**

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.  
Frank Thomas, Div. V  
Tom Ryan, Secretary  
James Brick, Div. I  
Scott Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> V. Pres.

**Vacant:** Div. III, IV, VI, VII, VIII

**Guests/Partners:**

**Partners:** Dustin Lewis, NYSCDEA', Dennis DeWeese, NRCS Ass't State Con. , NRCS, Brian Steinmuller, Ass't Dir. Ag & Mkts.

**Guests:** None present

**Call to Order:** Sam Casella, Pres. Called the meeting to order 1:06 p.m.

**I. Welcome and Introduction of Delegates:**

Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Dr. welcomed everyone to the event and thanked everyone for attending the annual meeting.

Blanche gave roll call and there was a quorum.

**II. Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes:** Sam Casella presented the 2021 annual meeting minutes, which were in the packet for attendees to review.

- Motion by Cortland SWCD second by Herkimer SWCD to approve the 2021 annual minutes as written. **Carried #10/19/2022 = A**

**III. Treasurer's Report:**

Ernie reported and reviewed the 2022 income/expense reports for the past year.

- Motion by Delaware SWCD second by Hamilton SWCD to approve the 2022 financial reports as written. **Carried #10/19/2022 = B**

Linda Coffin, Herkimer County SWCD expressed her thanks to Blanche Hurlbutt, NYACD Ex. Dir. For all the information provided, her work on the annual meeting and all the work she does for the districts on behalf of NYACD.

#### **IV. Board Reports:**

##### **NYACD President Report:**

Sam welcomed everyone for attending and supporting NYACD. Sam expressed his appreciation to the districts that are paying their NYACD assessments.

Sam expressed his thanks and appreciation to Brian Stienmuller, Ag & Mkts, Dustin Lewis, CDEA President and Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservationist for working with NYACD through-out the year.

##### **Executive Director Report:**

Blanche reported has continued to work to keep NYACD Board, Directors, and Districts informed with monthly Director letters.

Blanche updated the attendees on the Stream C bill where it's at and stated it has not reached the Governor's desk as of October 19, 2022. It was passed in both houses and is in the process of moving forward. Blanche expressed with the districts support letters the Governor understands our concerns and does not move forward in support of the changes.

Legislative Days for 2023 will be March 6 & 7, 2023. The Farm Bureau will be hosting once again the "Taste of New York" and NYACD has been invited to host a table.

Blanche reported that she continues to update the NYACD website to include district newsletters, job availability, and NYACD information.

#### **V. Partners Reports:**

##### **NYACDEA' Report:**

Dustin Lewis, CDEA President reported on the Administrative Conference and Con skills training sessions. The CDEA brought back this year the Administrative Conferences after a number of years' absence. Both of these training sessions were well attended and

successful. Dustin expressed his thanks to the Partners, Cortland SWCD, and NRCS staff for helping out during these sessions.

Dustin reported that the 2023 Water Quality Symposium (WQS) will be held at the Double Tree in Syracuse once again on March 14 – 17, 2023.

Dustin expressed his concern regarding the Watershed Healthy Coalition's move to change Soil & Water Conservation District Law. He expressed how this would affect the districts and their board make up.

#### **NRCS Report:**

Dennis DeWeese, USDA NRCS Ass't. State Conservationist expressed his thanks to Sam and the Board for allowing him to attend. Dennis stated that Blake Glover, USDA NRCS State Conservationist was unable to attend due to a NRCS required meeting he had to attend in Michigan.

Dennis reported on the FY 2022 Partner Report. Dennis highlighted some of the programs and the funding for these programs. *(These are provided in the annual report.)*

Dennis reported that he is working with the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association (NYSCDEA) regarding support of funding for the 2024 NCF-Envirothon – New York event.

#### **Agriculture and Markets Report:**

Brian Steinmuller, Assistant Director Agriculture & Markets expressed his thanks for being able to attend this year's meeting.

Brain reported that 2022 continues to be a challenge for districts, but they have risen to these challenges to complete the work necessary for the programs offered.

Brain stated that the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee 2021 annual report is available for attendees at the NRCS table in the hallway.

Brain reported on the 2021 district accomplishments tree programs sold over 499,077 tree and shrub seedlings up from last year. District continued to work on protecting NY's forests. Districts managed 29,124 acres of forests, up about 3,000 acres from last year. Developed 77 individual forest management plans. Districts managed 759 habitat restoration acres, 328 riparian buffers for stream protection and carbon sequestration,

249 acres of critical area seeding for erosion and sediment control to just name a few of the many programs and projects districts manage through-out the year.

## **VI. Board Reports:**

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **2022 Resolutions:**

Rob called the 2022 resolutions to order. Rob reported how the process works in presenting, speaking, and moving forward with former resolutions.

There was one former resolution presented in advance and called for any from the floor. There was one resolution presented from the floor from the voting members of Hamilton County SWCD. Rob called for the 2022 Resolutions to be closed.

Onondaga County SWCD Craig Dennis, Chairperson read the resolution related to the NYS Ag & Market law section 310. This law requires buyers of homes in agricultural districts to sign a statement acknowledging that they are purchasing a home in an agricultural district. The problem is there is no record of the signed document on permanent record/file with the deed. Onondaga is requesting that the law be amended to have this signed document transfer in perpetuity with the recorded deed.

- A motion to debate this resolution from the floor was made by Herkimer County SWCD and Chautauqua County SWCD. **Carried #10/19/2022 = C**
- Motion to accept the Onondaga County SWCD resolution as written was made by Monroe County SWCD seconded by Wayne County SWCD. **Carried # 10/19/2022 = D**

Hamilton County SWCD Vice Chairperson, John Stortecky, presented a resolution from the floor. John provided one hundred (100) copies for those present to read and discuss.

The Resolution was mandating the Consultation of New York State Conservation District Employees' Association and the New York Association of Conservation District representatives when an agency or group proposes amendments to New York State Soil and Water Conservation District Law be involved.

After much discussion on what this Watershed Healthy Coalition is trying to do to district law and how it would affect soil and water districts and the concerns on how this resolution was written the following actions took place.

- A motion was made by Herkimer SWCD seconded by Chautauqua SWCD to debate on the floor the District Law Resolution. **Carried #10/19/2022 = E**

The first resolution was a pass/fail resolution.

- A motion by Cortland County SWCD and seconded by Delaware County SWCD to redraft the presented Hamilton County SWCD resolution and resubmit the redrafted resolution. **Carried #10/19/2022 = F**

Hamilton County SWCD and other district folks work with John Stortecky, Vice Chairperson of Hamilton SWCD to redraft the presented resolution. They were able to do so, and the following actions took place.

- A motion to by Cortland SWCD seconded by Delaware to amend the District Law Resolution. **Carried #10/19/2022 = G**
- A motion was made by Cortland County SWCD seconded by Delaware County SWCD to approve the amended Hamilton County SWCD resolution regarding District Law. **Carried #10/19/2022 = H**

#### **By-Laws:**

Rob reported there were no By-Laws changes presented or needed at this time.

#### **Nominating Committee:**

#### **Divisions Positions:**

Blanche Hurlbutt announced the NYACD Division Directors and requested if there were any changes and/or nominations for vacant Division Directors:

<b>Division I</b>	-	James Brick, Wyoming Co. SWCD
<b>Division II</b>	-	Rollin Pickering, Monroe Co. SWCD
<b>Division III</b>	-	Vacant
<b>Division IV</b>	-	Vacant
<b>Division V</b>	-	Frank Thomas, Warren Co. SWCD
<b>Division VI</b>	-	Vacant
<b>Division VII</b>	-	Vacant
<b>Division VIII</b>	-	Vacant

Bruce Dolph, Member @ Large stated that the present Board is working hard for you and doing a great job. Bruce stated the nominating committee is recommending that the 2022 slate of officers remain as is:

Sam Casella, President, Rob Carpenter, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Scott Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Ernie Swift, Treasurer, Vacant, Secretary, and Bruce Dolph, Member @ Large.

- A motion was made by Monroe County SWCD Director second by Cortland SWCD Director to move those nominations be closed and Secretary cast one ballot to select the 2022 nominating committee selection for the NYACD 2023 slate of officers. **Carried #10/19/2022 = I**

**VII. Old Business –**

No old business to discuss.

**VIII. New Business:**

Sam expressed that Blanche Hurlbutt would be discussing the 2024 NCF-Envirothon New York event.

Blanche shared with the members the cost for the upcoming event and that presently only fourteen (14) districts have contributed to this event. Although the committee has created three potential budgets if the necessary funds are not raised everyone would prefer to showcase New York to all those present during the event. Blanche shared on where the committee is presently at moving forward with the event. The buses have been secured, location selected, training & testing site selected, the opening guest speaker chosen, and everyone is working on their perspective duties.

Blanche expressed her hope that districts will donate and will allow their staff to volunteer for this seven day event.

**IX. Adjournment:**

- A motion was made by Bruce Dolph seconded by Maureen Leupold to adjourn the meeting. **Carried #10/19/2022 = J**

Meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

**X. Next Meeting Zoom: Next monthly Zoom meeting date: Wednesday, November 16, 2022, at 7:00 pm.**

Respectfully submitted by

*Blanche L. Hurlbutt, Executive Director*

November 16, 2022

**Motions October 19, 2022, Meeting:**

<b>#10/19/2022 = A</b>	<b><i>Approval 2021 Annual Minutes</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = B</b>	<b><i>Approval 2022 Treasurers Report</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = C</b>	<b><i>Approval to debate Onondaga Resolution</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = D</b>	<b><i>Approval Resolution-Onondaga</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = E</b>	<b><i>Approval Hamilton Resolution debate</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = F</b>	<b><i>Approval redraft Hamilton Resolution</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = G</b>	<b><i>Approval Amend Hamilton Resolution</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = H</b>	<b><i>Approval Hamilton Resolution</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = I</b>	<b><i>Approval 2023 Officers</i></b>
<b>#10/19/2022 = J</b>	<b><i>Approval Adjourn</i></b>