



Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Sam Casella, President Rob Carpenter, 1st V. Pres.
Bruce Dolph, Member @ Lg Frank Thomas, Div. V
Ernie Swift, Treas. Rollin Pickering, Div. II
Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Dr. Scott Ryan, 2nd V. Pres.

Absent:

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.
Jim Brick, Div. I

Guests/Partners:

Guests Present: None Present.

Partners Present: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation **Absent:** Brian Stienmuller, Ass't Dir Ag. & Mkts. ,
Dustin Lewis, NYCDEA, Saratoga Co. Dist. Mgr.

I. Call to Order: Sam Casella, Pres. Called the meeting to order 7:03 p.m.

II. Roll Call: Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Dr. gave roll called.

III. Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes:

- A motion by Bruce Dolph second by Ernie Swift to approve January minutes as written. Carried.
#2/22/2023 = A

IV. Treasurer's Report:

- A motion by Bruce Dolph second by Scott Ryan to approve the January Treasurer's report as provided. Carried. **#2/22/2023 = B**
- A motion by Rollin Pickering second by Rob Carpenter to approve the January Bills to be Paid. Carried. **#2/22/2023 = C**

Ernie Swift reviewed the financial reports for January provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. Ernie reviewed the availability of funds and expenses in the bank and money market. Ernie shared the assessments that have come in for 2023 year. Ernie reviewed the Bills to be Paid for January and explained that the NYACD annual meeting had an outstanding bill for the overnight rooms due to a mix up of what was owed and the hotel just now inquiring. The hotel is now paid in full for 2022.

Ernie reported that they are working with Commercial Bank regarding transferring funds into a twenty-three month CD with interest at 4.25%. This will be set up so that Velynda Parker has access only to inquire regarding this account, but Sam Casella and Ernie Swift will have signature authority.

Sam stated he would be putting in for his reimbursement from the New Orleans NACD meeting. He stated he had a \$36.00 taxi cost that had no receipt. Sam requested he be reimbursed for that without a receipt.

- A motion was made by Bruce Dolph seconded by Rob Carpenter to reimburse Sam Casella for the \$36.00 taxi fee without a receipt. Carried. **#2/22/2023 = D**

V. Partners Reports:

NYACDEA' Report: Dustin Lewis, CDEA President was unable to attend. No report was provided.

NRCS Report: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation reported on the following:

As the Secretary announced in New Orleans earlier this week, the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is a major investment in conservation. NRCS has a great opportunity ahead of us and can't do it without the support of our partnership. I included an excerpt below of the announcement. The attachment has specific IRA investments for NY for 2023.

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making funding available for agricultural producers and forest landowners nationwide to participate in voluntary conservation programs and adopt climate-smart practices. The [Inflation Reduction Act](#) (IRA) provided an additional \$19.5 billion over five years for climate smart agriculture through several of the conservation programs that USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) implements. NRCS is making available \$850 million in fiscal year 2023 for its oversubscribed conservation programs: the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

"The Inflation Reduction Act provided a once-in-a-generation investment in conservation on working lands, and we want to work with agricultural and forest landowners to invest in climate-smart practices that create value and economic opportunity for producers," said Vilsack, who spoke today at the National Association of Conservation Districts annual meeting. "We know that agriculture plays a critical role in the nation's effort to address climate change, we're using this funding to bolster our existing programs, maximize climate benefits, and foster other environmental benefits across the landscape."

In New York, IRA funding includes an additional \$2 million for EQIP and \$2.3 million for CSP. The increased funding levels begin in fiscal year 2023 and rapidly build over four years. These additional investments are estimated to help farmers in New York apply conservation to thousands of acres of

land. Additionally, the IRA provides funds to quantify carbon sequestration and greenhouse gases (GHG) through the collection and use of field-based data to assess conservation outcomes. Information gained through this effort will be used to improve practices and technical assistance to customers. Further guidance on this important work will be provided as the implementation of this portion of the IRA continues. The approved for funding under IRA a producer would have to select at least one core practice to be eligible for IRA funding.

State Committee Report: Brian Stienmuller, Ass't. Director NYS Ag & Mkts was unable to attend. No report was provided.

Board Report:

President: Sam Casella reported that on the trip to New Orleans and that new officers were elected for NACD. Kim LaFleur is now President, whom has attended the NYACD Annual meetings in the past. Sam shared with the board the great training session he attended and the meeting. It was good to see a much younger group attending this event. Sam stated it was well worth attending. Sam would like to see more New York States attending and paying their annual dues to NACD, because it is well worth it.

Executive Director: Blanche expressed her thanks to the Board for allowing her to attend the NACD Annual meeting. Blanche stated that it was well worth attending and she had much to share. Blanche reported that there were thirteen (13) folks attending the NACD Annual event.

Blanche reported that she has been busy working on Legislative Days and there are one hundred seven (107) appointments planned with eighteen (18) districts planning on attending. The packets to districts were mailed a week ago, but there have been many additional appointments and changes made. I Blanche reported that she along with Chastity Miller, Franklin Co SWCD Manager has had four Zoom sessions with additional Legislators, and they have gone well.

Director & Representatives –

- a. **Division I:** Jim Brick was unable to attend, but sent a report stating that he attended the Western New York Inter County meeting on Friday the 17th and they passed a resolution stating they agree with our stand on no changes to Soil and Water District law. Jim also reported he will be attending the NYSAC Ag Committee meeting on the 27th asking for support for a resolution not change district law.
- b. **Division II:** Rollin Pickering reported that he will be attending Legislative day and has been reviewing the packet Blanche sent. Rollin also attended the NACD Annual meeting and echoed what Sam and Blanche reported. Rollin is going to try and make the Northeast meeting in September.
- c. **Division III:** No representative, no report.
- d. **Division IV:** No representative, no report.

- e. **Division V:** Frank Thomas reported that he will be attending Legislative Days other than that he didn't have anything else to report.
- f. **Division VI:** No representative, no report.
- g. **Division VII:** No representative, no report.
- h. **Division VIII:** No representative, no report.

Committee Reports:

Education & Envirothon:

2023 NYS Envirothon: Ernie reported there will be a NYS Envirothon meeting on Wednesday, February 23, 2023, by Zoom. Ernie reported that the committee is working hard, and things are moving along as expected at this time.

2024 NCF Envirothon New York: The NCF Envirothon board voted to increase the team registration from \$1,800 to \$2,300 beginning in 2024.

VI. Old Business:

Leadership Institute: Blanche explained that in the past when the CDEA hosted the Leadership Institute NYACD contributed \$3,000. Blanche inquired if the board was willing to donate again. The event is in the planning stages right now and hopes to be held in July of this year.

- A motion was made by Rollin Pickering seconded by Bruce Dolph to approve a donation of \$3,000 to the CDEA for the Leadership Institute. Carried. **#2/22/2023 = E**

2023 Annual Meeting Location: Blanche reported that she had reached out to the Hampton Inn, in Penn Yan and I am waiting for a quote.

VII. New Business:

Blanche reported that CDEA is hosting once again a Leadership Institute training session in July. In the past NYACD has donated funds for this training session. After some discussions it was requested that Blanche discuss with CDEA what we gave in the past and the board can discuss at the next meeting.

VIII. Adjournment:

- A motion made by Ernie Swift and second by Frank Thomas to adjourn the meeting. Carried. **#2/22/2023 = F**

Next meeting date is **Wednesday, March 22, 2023, by Zoom at 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Blanche L. Hurlbutt

NYACD Executive Director March 8, 2023

February Motions Meeting:

#2/22/2023 = A Approval January Minutes

#2/22/2023 = B Approval January Finances

#2/22/2023 = C Approval of January Bills to Pay

#2/22/2023 = D Approval of Paying Sam without receipt

#2/22/2023 = E Approval Paying Leadership Training

#2/22/2023 = F Approval to Adjourn