



Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, November 15, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

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|--|---------------------------|
| Sam Casella, President | Jim Brick, Div. I |
| Scott Ryan, 2 nd V. President | Bruce Dolph, Member @ Lg |
| Rollin Pickering, Div. II | Ernie Swift, Treas. |
| Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Dr. | John M. Stortecky, Div. V |

Absent:

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.
Rob Carpenter, 1st V. President
Jim Cunningham, Div. III

Guests Present: None Present

Partners Present: None Present

Absent: Caitlin Stewart, NYSCDEA' President., Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Ex. Dir., Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation

I. Call to Order: Sam Casella, President Called the meeting to order 7:12 p.m.

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

III. Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes:

- A motion by Rollin Pickering second by Bruce Dolph to approve October minutes as written. One abstains, wasn't present at October meeting. Carried. **#11/15/2023 = A**

IV. Treasurer's Report:

- A motion by Jim Brick, seconded by John M. Stortecky to approve the October Treasurer's report as provided with the three (3) line-item changes. Carried. **#11/15/2023 = B**
- A motion by Scott Ryan, seconded by Bruce Dolph to approve the September Bills to be Paid. Carried. **#11/15/2023 = C**

Ernie Swift provided the Board with the financial reports for October along with the balances in the accounts for review before the meeting and reported on the available funds, expenses, and interest earned to-date.

V. Partners Reports:

NYSCDEA' Report: Caitlin Stewart, NYCDEA President was unable to attend, and no report was provided.

NRCS Report: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation was unable to attend, and no report was provided.

State Committee Report: Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Executive Director was unable to attend, but provided the following report appended to these minutes and were sent to the board in advance of the meeting.

Board Report:

President: Sam reported that the NYACD annual meeting went well, the location was great, and the tours were excellent. Sam stated Blanche did a great job organizing the event.

Sam Casella reported that he will be attending the NACD Winter meeting in San Diego in February along with Blanche. Blanche reminded Sam to book his hotel room a.s.a.p. because they have limited rooms available for the event. Sam reported that he has an NACD Legislative meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

Executive Director: Blanche reported that she has been busy doing the finishing up the after duties related to the annual meeting.

Blanche reported that she has begun work on Legislative Day material but is still waiting to hear from the Legislators on a possible date. She's hoping that the date will go back to the first week in March, since last year it had to be changed to the last week in February.

Director & Representatives –

- a. **Division I:** Jim Brick reported Wyoming are looking to hire a new technician to replace Jake Kelly, who was hired at Cattaraugus SWCD. They have three potential folks to interview on Friday of this week.
- b. **Division II:** Rollin Pickering reported he thought the NYACD annual meeting location and the event was good, the tour was great.
- c. **Division III:** Jim Cunningham was unable to attend. No report provided.
- d. **Division IV:** No representative, no report.

- e. **Division V:** John M Stortecky reported the NYACD annual meeting was excellent, informative, and the site location at Penn Yan was good. John reported that he visited with the Franklin County SWCD folks and intends this next year to visit the other SWCD's within his division to introduce himself and share NYACD information.
- f. **Division VI:** No representative, no report.
- g. **Division VII:** No representative, no report.
- h. **Division VIII:** No representative, no report.

Committee Reports:

2024 NYS Envirothon: Ernie reported that a meeting was held on Monday and every committee member reported on where they are at preparing for the event in May.

2024 NCF Envirothon New York: Ernie reported that NCF folks attended the meeting on Monday and the committee updated them on what is being done and already set. Rollin inquired how soon you could volunteer for the event. Blanche stated that the volunteers online should be up by January 2024.

VI. Old Business:

NYACD 2024 Budget: The board decided to hold off on making any decisions until the December meeting. Blanche will resend the board the budget, so all members have a copy for the December meeting.

VII. New Business:

The Board discussed and decided on a By-law workshop meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, by Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Blanche will forward the Board a copy of the present By-laws for review, discussion, any necessary changes, and approval at the November meeting.

VIII. Adjournment:

- A motion by Scott Ryan, seconded by Bruce Dolph to adjourn the meeting. Carried.
#11/15/2023 = D

Meeting Adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Next meeting date is **Thursday, December 21, 2023, 7:00 p.m.** by Zoom. **** Note day and date change.**

Respectfully submitted by *Blanche L. Hurlbutt*, NYACD Executive Director November 16, 2023

November Motions Meeting: #11/15/2023 = A Approval October Minutes, #11/15/2023 = B Approval October Finances, #11/15/2023 = C Approval of October Bills to Pay, #11/15/2023 = D Approval to Adjourn



Soil and Water Conservation Committee

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

RICHARD A. BALL
Commissioner

DALE STEIN
Committee Chair

NYS Association of Conservation Districts November 15, 2023 NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Report

NYS SWCC Meeting: Next NYS SWCC meeting will be held on November 21st. In-person locations will be offered at the NYS Department of Ag and Markets in Albany and NYS Fairgrounds in Syracuse. A virtual call-in option will be offered. All are welcome to call in or attend in person.

AEM Base 18: Award letters have been sent to 53 Districts who have submitted action plans to participate in the AEM Base Program. In total, over \$19 million was requested to support AEM activities. This total will fund over \$9.6 million in technical assistance with farmers and \$9.7 million for Tier 4 Cost-Share Implementation Track projects over the next two years. The contract period for Round 18 of the AEM Base Program starts on January 1, 2024, and runs through December 31, 2025.

Round 7 Climate Resilient Farming Program: A press release was sent on November 14, announcing the award of nearly \$16 million to support 116 farms through the Climate Resilient Farming Program. The proposed projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by an estimated 64,000 metric tons per year. Official awards letters have been sent to successful Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Special thanks to Soil and Water Conservation Districts for supporting this program and working with farms to increase environmental sustainability and resiliency.

Round 8 Climate Resilient Farming Program Development: The next round of funding for the Climate Resilient Farming program is under development. This round will incorporate federal funding awarded through the USDA Partnerships for Climate Smart Commodities Program. Work continues to try to integrate approximately \$20M in federal climate related funding into the Climate Resilient Farming program to expand current offerings. We will be working closely with CDEA and SWCDs to find the best path forward to integrate these funds. We hope to move forward in a direction that will work best for Districts who administer the funds and for farms who wish to implement projects that are eligible to receive these funds.