



Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, May 31, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Sam Casella, President Rob Carpenter, 1st V. President
Bruce Dolph, Member @ Lg Jim Cunningham, Div. III
Ernie Swift, Treas.
Frank Thomas, Div. V
Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Dr.

Absent:

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.
Rollin Pickering, Div. II
Jim Brick, Div. I
Scott Ryan, 2nd V. President

Guests/Partners:

Guests Present: None present.

Partners Present: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation, Caitlin Stewart, NYSCDEA' President. Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Ex. Dir. **Absent:** None

I. Call to Order: Sam Casella, Pres. Called the meeting to order 7:05 p.m.

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

III. Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes:

- A motion by Bruce Dolph, second by Ernie Swift to approve April minutes with correction to next meeting date. Carried. **#5/31/2023 = A**

IV. Treasurer's Report:

- A motion by Ernie Swift, seconded by Jim Cunningham to approve the April Treasurer's report as provided. Carried. **#5/31/2023 = B**
- A motion by Frank Thomas, seconded by Bruce Dolph to approve the April Bills to be Paid. Carried. **#5/31/2023 = C**
- A motion by Bruce Dolph, seconded by Frank Thomas to adjust the budgeted accounts to balance as reported. Carried. **#5/31/2023 = D**

Ernie Swift reviewed the financial reports for April. A discussion on the bank CD's took place and Blanche is to reach out to Velynda Parker to create a monthly finance report on them.

Ernie shared what was in the NYACD accounts, what bills were paid. Ernie will have Velynda send out yearly due reminders.

V. Partners Reports:

NYSCDEA' Report: Caitlin Stewart, NYCDEA President gave updates on the Leadership Institute training set for July 18-21, 2023. The registration deadline has been extended to June 2nd. Caitlin extended an invitation to the NYACD Board and any Directors wishing to attend.

Caitlin reported on the fall Conservation Skills workshop, the March 2024 Water Quality Symposium, and the administrative training session set for this fall.

Caitlin expressed her thanks to everyone on another great NYS Envirothon. This year her staff person Katie WhitKovits was able to attend and be an oral presentation judge and she had a fabulous time at the event and wants to help again next year. Caitlin stated she hopes to help at the NYS Envirothon once again starting next year.

Caitlin reported that the 4-Way Partnership meeting will be held in May and the MOA was discussed and changes will be made. Caitlin shared once she has completed the revisions, she will send them to the Partners to sign.

NRCS Report: NRCS Report: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation reported that everyone has been busy with the ongoing projects. Blake shared that there is over \$20 million dollars' worth of funds to be obligated for EQIP, CSP, other NRCS programs.

Blake reported that he attended the CDEA meeting held in Suffolk County and stated it was a great meeting and he enjoyed the tour provided.

Blake reported that they have seventeen (17) positions to fill and will have four (4) summer interns.

State Committee Report: Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Ex. Dir. provided updates on the 2022 AEM report was completed much earlier than last year and has been completed.

Bethany reported that there are several upcoming meetings on June 8th is the Technical Advisory meeting at 10:00 a.m., June 20th is the next State Committee meeting to be held in Albany, and there are several Regional Area Conservation Manger's meetings from June 12th-June 21st with one meeting held in each state conservation region with lunch provided.

The State Committee sent out a survey to be completed by soil and water districts to be used for the 2024-29 five-year state committee strategic plan.

Bethany reported that she had the opportunity to be an NYS Envirothon evening oral presentation judge at the NYS Envirothon and it was her first time ever attending the NYS Envirothon. Bethany expressed her thanks to all those involved and how much she enjoyed being there.

Board Report:

President: Sam Casella gave a wrap-up of the committees he has been on with NACD, and he is now on the NACD Legislative committee.

Sam expressed how wonderful the NYS Envirothon was and how the committee kept him busy doing all sorts of things for both days. Sam stated it was another wonderful event and the committee did a great job.

Executive Director: Blanche reported that she has been keeping districts and directors posted on the Stream C bill updates as they come in. Blanche stated that she had only heard back from four (4) districts stating that they did not approve of the amendment. Since she has not heard back from other districts making a majority we can only wait to hear if it passes in the Assembly.

Blanche reported that she has been busy finishing required duties from the NYS Envirothon and working on the NACD annual meeting items. Presently there are eight sessions scheduled and she is working on another three. Blanche reported that she is working on the first annual meeting packet to go out at the end of June once completed.

Director & Representatives –

- a. **Division I:** Jim Brick unable to attend. No report provided.
- b. **Division II:** Rollin Pickering unable to attend. Nothing to report.
- c. **Division III:** Jim Cunningham introduced himself to the board. Jim reported that there will be a Madison County meeting next week and that they oppose the move to change Soil and Water District Law.
- d. **Division IV:** No representative, no report.
- e. **Division V:** Frank Thomas reported that they have been notified that the NYS Retirement cost will be increased this year.
- 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 that he was busy helping at the state Envirothon again this year and how well it was run by Blanche. Ernie expressed how great a job the committee did to make it another successful year.

2024 NCF Envirothon New York: Blanche reported that she attended a Zoom meeting on Wednesday afternoon with NCF Committee and representatives. The meeting went well and NCF shared the upcoming 2023 NCF event in New Brunswick, Canada. Blanche reported that the NY state committee is working on a video to share with NCF during the Canada event. There will be five (5) committee members attending the 2023 NCF event this year to be better prepared for next year's NY NCF event.

The committee is working hard to continue to raise funds for the 2024 NCF Envirothon New York event. There is a need for funds to be raised because we are expected to make down payments in January 2024 on the campus and buses.

Old Business:

Hand-out Items: Sam requested to be able to have a quote on lapel pins for the NYACD Board and Guests. Other potential items were discussed, and Blanche will finalize items.

VI. New Business: None

VII. Adjournment:

- A motion by Ernie Swift, seconded by Bruce Dolph to adjourn the meeting. Carried.
#5/31/2023 = E

Next meeting date is **Wednesday, June 28, 2023, by Zoom at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Blanche L. Hurlbutt

NYACD Executive Director June 7, 2023

May Motions Meeting:

#5/31/2023 = A Approval April Minutes

#5/31/2023 = B Approval April Finances

#5/31/2023 = C Approval of April Bills to Pay

#5/31/2023 = D Approval Adjust Budget line items

#5/31/2023 = E Approval to Adjourn