



Zoom – Teleconference
Wednesday, March 23, 2022
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Sam Casella, Pres. Rob Carpenter, 1st V. Pres.
Tom Ryan, Secretary, Treas. Ernie Swift, Div. IV
Maureen Leupold, Div. II Bruce Dolph, Member @ Lg
Scott Ryan, 2nd V. Pres. Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Dr.
James Brick, Div. I

Absent:

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.
Frank Thomas, Div. V

Guests/Partners: Partners Present: None present. Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation, Brian Stienmuller, Ag. & Mkts, **Absent:** Dustin Lewis, NYSCDEA, Saratoga Co. Dist. Mgr., **Guests Present:** No guests present.

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 called.

III. **Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes:**

- A motion by Tom Ryan second by Ernie Swift approve January minutes as written. Carried.
#3/23/2022 = A
- No February meeting – no minutes or action needed.

IV. **Treasurer's Report:**

- Motion by Bruce Dolph second by Jim Brick to approve January treasurer's report as presented.
Carried **#3/23/2022 = B**
- Motion by Ernie Swift second by Maureen Leupold to approve February treasurer's report as presented. Carried **#3/23/2022 = C**
- Motion by Bruce Dolph second by Jim Brick to approve the January & February bills as presented. Carried. **#3/23/2022 = D**

Tom Ryan reviewed the expenses and financial reports provided to the board in advance of the meeting. Tom explained that there was a need for the board to adjust the 2022 NYACD budget line items for Legislative Days expenses. #5100A is Legislative Day transportation funds budgeted but not used. #5100D is Legislative Day supplies that were over budget by 26%.

- Motion by Bruce Dolph second by Maureen Leupold to transfer line item #5100A – Legislative day transportation to #5100D to Legislative day supplies. Carried.

V. Partners Reports:

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

NRCS Report: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation mentioned the loss of Greg Kist, former NYS Conservationist and asked that the Board keep Greg's family in their thoughts and prayers. Blake provided the following report.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides \$918 million for Watershed Programs that address new, ongoing, emergent, and relief to all communities to address watershed resource concerns. The amount provided to protect our watersheds is historic and highlights the priorities set by Secretary Vilsack to address the effects of climate change, ensure equity, and create a path toward climate resiliency.

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service is funding projects in rounds. In the first wave of funding, NRCS will invest more than \$166.5 million in 108 projects in 23 states.

On March 31, 2022, NRCS will compile any additional request received and develop a second list of projects to fund. After March 31, 2022, NRCS will continue to review and fund requests as funds are available.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is providing funding for watershed programs available through USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), which help communities. Programs include:

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program safeguards lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed. (Waitlist has been funded)

Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations (WFPO) Program provides technical and financial assistance to entities of State and local governments and Tribes (project sponsors) for planning and installing watershed projects. (This is on top of the \$50M mandatory Annual EQIP funding that this allocated to this program) Project must have 20% agricultural benefits.

Watershed Rehabilitation Program (REHAB) offers financial and technical assistance to rehabilitate (previously NRCS assisted) dams constructed through NRCS Watershed Programs. This program extends the service life of dams to meet applicable safety and performance standards or decommission the dams, so they longer pose a threat to life and property. (Funding for assessment, Plan EA/EIS, Design, Construction)

On the main [Watershed Planning web page](#) (on the left-hand side) you can access:

A pdf of the PowerPoint presentation

- All fact sheets for Watershed Programs
- **Templates for Requesting Assistance** for all Watershed Programs
- [Step-by-step guide for Watershed Programs can be found here](#)

A link to the video recording of the 2 hour webinars can be found at [NRCS Watershed Programs Resources | NRCS \(usda.gov\)](#).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) hosted the first public meeting of the inaugural Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production on March 23-24, 2022.

Members of the committee include:

- **Jerry Ann Hebron**, Mich., Urban Producer
- **Bobby Wilson**, Ga., Urban Producer
- **Viraj Puri**, N.Y., Innovative Producer
- **Kaben Smallwood**, Okla., Innovative Producer
- **Sally Brown**, Wash., Higher Education
- **John Erwin**, Md., Higher Education
- **Carl Wallace**, Ohio, Non-Profit Representative
- **John Lebeaux**, Mass., Business and Economic Development Representative
- **Zachari Curtis**, D.C., Supply Chain Experience
- **Allison Paap**, Calif., Financing Entity Representative
- **Tara Chadwick**, Fla., Related Experience
- **Angela Mason**, Ill., Related Experience

At the meeting, committee members discussed administrative matters and consulted on the National Institute of Food and Agriculture's Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Urban, Indoor and Emerging Agriculture grants.

Additional details are available in the March 8, 2022 *Federal Register* notice and online at farmers.gov/urban or on the [committee's webpage](#).

State Committee Report: Brian Stienmuller, Ass't. Director NYS Ag & Mkts provided the following report.

The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee wishes to thank the NYSCDEA for continued service and support. The State Committee and the Department of Agriculture and Markets continue to be in awe of Conservation District leadership and steadfast commitment to our ever-expanding conservation opportunities and challenges. The CDEA sets the tone for all Conservation District employees across the state and speaks in one voice when contributing to important environmental, conservation and farming policies, programs, and strategies. This voice is so vital and essential for the SWCC, AGM, DEC, the state legislature, USDA and so many other partnering agencies to get it right. The CDEA will always have a seat at the table or in today's world a box in the WebEx or Zoom board room.

Thank you for your continued service to your farms, communities, and county residents!

Brian Steinmuller
Assistant Director

Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) Proposed Budget SFY2022-2023

Governor Hochul released the FY 2023 Executive Budget proposal in January 2022. This is a very strong budget proposal that will continue to elevate conservation programs and most importantly SWCD capacity. This is a true testament to the work you all do each and every day on your farms and in your communities. You should all be very proud of your work and know that it is making a big difference all across the state. **This budget proposal raises the total EPF from \$300 million to \$400 million and**

increases a number of the programs that SWCDs offer to farms and communities. This Executive Budget is subject to modification and approval by the State Legislature by April 1st, 2022.

Environmental Protection Fund (see attached)

Overall appropriations for the FY 2023 EPF are proposed to be \$400 million.

- \$20 million for Farmland Protection, including up to \$1 million for the Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust (administered by DEC) and \$96,000 for the Cornell Land Classification and Master List of Soils
- \$1.75 million for Biodiversity Stewardship, including \$500,000 for pollinator protection
- \$20 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 PMEP
- \$15 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, increase of \$4 million over SFY2022 levels
- \$17.025 million for Invasive Species, including \$120,000 for the Cornell University Plant Certification program
- \$22 million for the Oceans and Great Lakes Initiative
- \$4.8 million for NYS Climate Adaptation, including \$200,000 for the Wood Products Development Council
- \$17.5 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including up to \$500,000 for the Cornell Soil Health program, increase of \$13 million over SFY2022 levels
- \$25 million for the Water Quality Improvement Program
- \$17 million for the Waterfront Revitalization Program

Notable Activities and Program Overview

State Aid to Districts Behind the Numbers:

The 2021 State Aid to Districts Program was reviewed in late February 2022 and processed just last week, March 2022. With over \$11 million available, a Conservation District that earned full Part A reimbursement, received \$6,000 in conservation project funding, and met all Performance Measures received an estimated total of **\$188,000**. Part C awards are estimated at a total maximum earned of **\$122,000**. This is the third time Part C funding eclipsed \$100,000. This continues a positive trend with more Districts meeting and exceeding Performance Measures each year. Performance Measure funding is weighted high with **\$6.9 million** distributed across all participating Districts.

Policies and procedures continue to evolve over the 15 years that the State Aid Program has included a multi-tiered approach. The State Committee endeavors each year to improve its procedures, solicit feedback, and execute the program in both an effective and efficient manner. Regional Field Staff continue

to make themselves available to assist Districts in meeting PMs throughout the reporting year and to review program reports to help ensure accuracy and completeness.

Due to COVID-19, the State Committee made extensive changes to the 2020 State Aid to Districts Part C Performance Measures in April 2020. These changes were continued for the 2021 and 2022 year as many of the same COVID-19 challenges continue.

- PM1: the award has been reduced to 0%. Questions remain the same but there is no money tied to this PM. Failure to complete questions or not meeting the intent of this PM will not result in any penalty.
- PM2: the award has been increased to 15%. Questions 2a & 2b have been combined into one question that includes all the items for presentations, reports, publication, education, and outreach. Only 3 of these items are required. 2c: Annual Plan of Work is required and due to SWCC Regional AEAs by November 1st.
- PM3: the award has been increased to 35%. Only 2 of the 7 questions need to be completed to meet the requirement. Question PM3.2 (partnerships between the district and different local, state, federal, or private entities) only 2 partnerships are required.
- PM4: the award has been increased to 50%. Only 3 Natural Resource Conservation Programs are required.
- PM5: the award has been reduced to 0%. Questions remain the same but there is no money tied to this PM. Failure to complete questions under this PM would not result in any penalty.

The State Committee is planning to hold a State Aid to Districts meeting in 2022 with all interested SWCD personnel to discuss the future of the State Aid Program, review and make recommendations for changes including to Part C Performance Measures. For more information, please contact Ben Luskin at ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov.

Source Water Buffer Program: The Source Water Buffer Program was launched in January 2019 and was revamped July 2019. Led by the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the goal of the Source Water Buffer Program is to protect active sources of public drinking water and support, expand or enhance water quality protection through the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands.



Such projects shall preserve or establish buffers for surface or ground waters which serve as or are tributaries to public drinking water supplies. Nearly \$5 million in program funds was made available for the purchase of conservation easements on agricultural lands that support, expand or enhance water quality protection of active public drinking water sources. Program funds may also support the implementation

of Riparian Buffer Systems within the conservation easement area that will provide further protection to water quality.

Since the program's release, nearly \$300,000.00 has been awarded. The first award was made in June 2020 to the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District. The district partnered with the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, to purchase a 6.4 acre conservation easement to permanently protect agricultural land along a tributary of Chautauqua Lake. This project is also proposing to exclude livestock from the easement area and protect 6.1 acres of herbaceous buffer. The second award was made in February 2022 to the Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District who will be partnering with the Adirondack Land Trust and the Nature Conservancy. This project will purchase a 16.6 acre conservation easement to permanently protect agricultural land along a tributary of Lake Champlain. This project is also proposing to implement a Riparian Buffer System that will restrict livestock access to the stream, improve stream crossings to allow for aquatic passage and reduce erosion of the streambank. Approximately 16.22 acres of forested buffer will be established and permanently protected.

State Committee staff provides support of District Operations:

Regional Coordinators assist District staff and Directors at monthly Board Meetings to aid in discussions and decisions for the advancement of Districts. Written monthly reports continue to be provided to each State Committee region that includes program deadlines, funding opportunities, information related to State Committee meetings and important agenda items, and regionally significant achievements/opportunities. Since COVID-19 forced many SWCD Boards to meet remotely, Regional AEAs have been able to attend many more meetings, in some cases, multiple meetings in a single day. As COVID-19 challenges begin to ebb and more meetings are held in person, please coordinate scheduling with your Regional Coordinator early and often.

AEM Program – AEM Planner Certification and AEM Base:

A total of 51 certified planners are now doing CNMP work across the state, with 20 of those SWCD employees across 16 Districts. The AEM Certified Planner Program averages 10 planners actively working for certification at any one time. In addition, please note that Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning for Agricultural Environmental Management: AEM / NRCS CNMP Training will be held April 5-7, 2022. For details, please contact Ron Bush ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov.

Developed in 2019 and launched January 1, 2020, the State Committee made a new non-competitive cost-share component available for the AEM Base Program. In order to make this possible, the State Committee set aside over \$11 million from the AgNPS EPF Budget line. Round 16 has wrapped up and final reports are coming in. This program places more authority in the hands of District Boards to prioritize projects for funding without having to compete for limited resources. In addition to the cost-share component, technical assistance reimbursement is available: \$220,000 was made available for a two-year period for a District who has a certified AEM Planner on staff; \$170,000 was made available for a two-year period for a District who has a Certified Crop Advisor or NRCS Certified Planner on staff; and \$130,000 available for all other Districts. Round 17 Annual Action Plans were due on November 1st, 2022 and are moving forward for contracting. For more information, please contact Greg Albrecht, AEM Program Coordinator at greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov.

Statewide AEM/Leopold Conservation Award:

Table Rock Farm selected for New York's 2nd annual AEM-Leopold Conservation Award (LCA). Awarded by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the AEM-LCA award honors Megan Hauser and the family, friends, and employees of Table Rock Farm, along with the Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, for their efforts to protect the environment through the preservation of soil, air and water quality while ensuring farm viability for future generations.

Table Rock Farm's owners and employees have long understood the importance of opening the dairy farm's barns and fields to researchers.

Whether it's improving conservation, cows or crops, the results have a positive ripple effect throughout agriculture. At Table Rock Farm, 1,800 acres of corn and alfalfa are grown to feed a herd of 1,150 dairy cows. Crop rotations, conservation tillage and cover crops are utilized to promote soil health and prevent erosion. Cover crop techniques are the focus of a three-year study that soil health specialists from American Farmland Trust are conducting at Table Rock Farm. To protect fields from erosion during the winter, a cover crop is planted as corn silage is harvested.

Located just two hours from Cornell University, Table Rock Farm has hosted various studies with the university. Topics ranged from how often to test dry matter in cattle feed, seasonal swings in a cow's colostrum production and quality, and which grasses and seeding rates are best for planting into alfalfa fields.

The farm is best known for the innovative cover and flare system on its manure storage. To protect resources, reduce waste, and improve air quality, Table Rock Farm worked with a team of professionals, including New York's AEM and Climate Resilient Farm (CRF) Programs, to develop an intricate system that separates solids from liquids in cow manure, and prevents methane from being released into the atmosphere.

Separated manure solids are treated to reduce bacteria before being recycled into bedding. The clean and comfy product has resulted in better cow health and comfort. The manure system's cover keeps out rain, reduces odor, and allows spreading during optimum weather conditions. The entire project is the subject of a video used statewide to inform farmers, legislators, and others about its benefits.

For the third year, New York's longstanding Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Award partnered with the nationally recognized Leopold Conservation Award® program. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the Leopold Conservation Award (LCA) recognizes farmers, foresters and other landowners across the U.S. who inspire others with their dedication to land, water, and wildlife habitat management on working land. The award is presented to landowners in 21 states. The 2022 Award is currently out with a due date of May 1st. Please consider nominating an outstanding farm family or more in your County. For more information, please contact AEM Program Coordinator, Greg Albrecht at greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov.



Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program:

In March 2021, grants were awarded to Districts under Round 26 of the AgNPS Program totaling \$14.9 million. Grant awards were made to 46 project proposals. Round 27 of the AgNPS program was released in May 2021 and awards were made to Districts in November 2021. A total of \$13.6 million was awarded to support 43 project proposals.

State Committee staff are currently managing 200 active contracts, representing roughly \$69 million invested in agricultural conservation efforts across the state. An additional 43 contracts are currently pending contract execution.

The Round 28 RFP was released in January 2022. Applications to this round of funding must be submitted by May 2, 2022. Awards for Round 28 projects should be announced later in 2022.

Climate Resilient Farming Program:

Round 6 of the Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program was announced in January 2022. Two years of EPF funding were combined for Round 6 for a total of \$8 million available for projects that reduce on-farm GHG emissions and increase a farms resiliency to the impacts of climate change. Proposals for Round 6 are due March 28th for projects implementing: Manure Storage Cover and Flare Systems; Water Management Systems; or Soil Health Systems.

State Committee staff are managing 78 active CRF contracts, representing roughly \$7.7 million invested in climate change mitigation and agricultural and community resiliency efforts across the state.

CRF funds supporting Cornell Soil Health and Resiliency Initiative supported over 37 webinars reaching more than 1500 stakeholders in 2020-2021. The NYS Soil Health Working Group led by Cornell organized the 2020 Virtual Soil Health Center due to the cancellation of Empire Farm Days in 2020. The New York Soil Health Program created a second Soil Health Specialist Training Program consisting of 9 SWCD employees of the selected 29 agricultural professionals from across NYS to participate in the 2020-2021 NYS Soil Health Specialist Training. Additionally, the Characterization of Soil Health in NYS Technical and Summary Reports were published providing new insights into soil health and cropping systems.

The Hudson Valley Carbon Farming Pilot Project is in its second year in 2021 implementing soil health practices on farms in Dutchess, Orange, Sullivan, Ulster, and Columbia SWCDs. Outreach partner, Scenic Hudson has helped promote soil health through videos highlighting some of the practices being implemented. Videos can be viewed here -

<https://www.northeastcarbonalliance.org/post/hudson-valley-carbon-farming-pilot-project-updates-from-the-field>.

Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA):

The CLCPA was signed into law in July 2019 and took effect early in 2020. The CLCPA sets very ambitious goals including a 40% reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) by 2030, and 85% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050, which taken together with a carbon sequestration goal, carbon neutrality achieved by that same year. The CLCPA also sets goals for the State's electricity grid to be carbon neutral by 2040. The state has drafted a Scoping Plan that is now out for public comment that cover major economic sectors as well as considerations of equity and just transitions to a clean carbon neutral economy by 2050.

The CLCPA set up a Climate Action Council and a number of advisory panels of experts in various sectors to build out recommendations for the scoping plan. The Agriculture and Forestry Advisory Panel is chaired by AGM Commissioner Richard Ball and includes 18 professionals representing academia, public policy, farming and forestry interests, and Soil and Water Conservation District activities. The panel has developed a set of recommendations in the following subtopics for Climate Action Council's Draft Scoping Plan:

- **Soil Health** to reduce net GHG emissions and increase carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits through adoption of soil health management practices
- **Nutrient Management** to reduce nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions while achieving desired crop yield and quality through continued and expanded nutrient management planning and implementation on crop fields, hay fields, pastures, orchards, vineyards, and other agricultural lands receiving nutrients.
- **Agroforestry** which is the intentional integration of trees into areas of agricultural production to reliably increase carbon sequestration and other environmental benefits.
- **Alternative Manure Management** to reduce methane emissions by implementing practice systems specifically planned and designed for each farm, such as cover and flare systems, anaerobic digester systems, and other innovative systems that collect, capture, and destroy methane from manure storages or prevent methane production in the management of manure.
- **Precision Feed, Forage and Herd Management** to reduce methane from animal feeding while maintaining desired ruminant growth and milk production. This strategy includes the potential for the incorporation of feed additives that reduce enteric fermentation if deemed safe, cost-effective, and scalable for widespread use.
- **Avoided land use conversions** to maintain and enhance the state's carbon stocks and carbon sequestration potential through avoided forest and farmland use conversion to more greenhouse gas intensive development.
- **Forest Management** to increase carbon sequestration through improved, sustainable forest management practices, to secure forest regeneration, improve forest health and productivity, and restore degraded forests.
- **Reforestation** to improve tree stocks in existing or degraded forestland
- **Afforestation** or planting trees in underutilized or marginal lands
- **Urban Forestry** which focuses on increasing tree canopy cover in our urban/suburban areas through tree planting efforts on public and private lands to increase sequestration. Doing so has additional benefits such as reducing cooling costs associated with heat island effect. This strategy also recognizes the need to manage and maintain these trees to help achieve a more mature canopy.
- **Climate-focused Bioeconomy** which focuses on advancing the portion of the economy that produces sustainable, renewable bio-based feedstocks, rather than fossil-fuel derived feedstocks that produce products that achieve both the climate and social justice goals of the CLCPA.

Keys to successful deployment of these strategies include increasing technical services through expansion of Conservation District capacity, increasing research, planning, and financial assistance to the farming and forestry sectors. This will improve access to programs and effective practices for all farmers and forest landowners. These strategies also prioritize disadvantaged communities by placing emphasis on access to agricultural and forestry technical assistance and funding programs to historically underserved and disadvantaged community members, such as the BIPOC farming community, low income, and beginning farmers.

The CLCPA requires that NYS track methane using a shorter time horizon in the atmosphere, 20 years rather than 100 years. This increases the potency of methane from 34 times that of CO₂ to 84 times. Consequently, here in NYS we will need enhanced and continued resources to help our livestock farmers, mainly dairy, to reduce and manage methane emissions while also making investments in soil health, nutrient management, and woodlot/forest management.

The CLCPA also requires that the state increases research and development into novel approaches to drastically reduce emissions and increase sequestration potential. Further, it will require a robust and comprehensive benchmarking and quantification system to track emission reductions and sequestration potential.

The Draft Climate Action Council Scoping Plan is currently out for public comment. The SWCC encourages SWCDs and partners to review the plan and provide your comments by the deadline. To review the plan and provide comment, please contact: <https://climate.ny.gov/>

Board Report:

President: Sam Casella reported that the NACD Annual meetings in Orlando, Florida in February was a well worth trip and very productive meetings. Sam has been appointed on the NACD Farm Bill Task Force as the NE Representative.

Sam reported that he and Blake Glover have been meeting by Zoom for the Washington NACD Fly-In along with Annica McGuirk, NE NACD Region Representative, and Mariah Mackenzie, NACD Government Affairs Associate. The meetings have been going very well.

Executive Director:

Legislative Days wrap-up: We met with 66-68 Legislators with fourteen district staff and directors present over a two-week period. We expressed our thanks to the Legislators for their support of the EPA line item increase of \$4 million, discussed the Stream C bills, and educated them on soil and water districts.

Great thanks and appreciation go to Chastity Miller, Franklin Co. SWCD Manager. Chastity filled in with me meeting with Legislators where the districts were unable to attend. We team tagged and were able to share SWCD's story.

I sent thank you's to the districts that were present during the meetings and to the Legislators. I followed-up with the Legislators with Stream C bill concerns and our reason for not supporting it.

Update Stream C Bill: I have been following on the Stream C Senate #S4162 bill and Assembly Stream C bill #A6652 and as of today March 23, 2022, the Assembly passed the bill and delivered it to the Senate. Presently the Senate has not moved it past the committee. With talking with the Senators, they feel if the bill does pass the Governor will veto the bill for the same reasons as her predecessor. I will continue to follow the bill and will let districts know if there is a need to write the Governor.

2022 Annual Meeting: The NYACD Annual meeting prep work has begun. I have reached out to our partners for possible training sessions. I have one class scheduled and will have more in the near future. I have reached out to Kevin King, Deputy Secretary to Ag & Mkts to request his presents at the annual business meeting and he has it on his calendar. I have been in contact with the Kelly at the hotel and meal plans etc. are in the works. Madison County SWCD has graciously accepted my request to host another Madison County SWCD project tour.

Water Quality Symposium: I attended the Zoom CDEA meeting and awards program on Tuesday, March 22nd. It was a great meeting and awards program with our very own Scott Ryan receiving the District Directors award.

Director & Representatives –

- a. Division I:** Jim Brick reported with the redistricting of the Legislators, Wyoming County has two new Legislators. Jim was able to meet with one face-to-face this past week. Jim attended a meeting and met Ed Morgan, Orleans Co. SWCD Director. The Ag. Committee has created a resolution to protect farmland due to solar projects Jim expressed the concerns of the Ag. Committee and the importance of the resolution.
- b. Division II:** Maureen Leupold reported that she attended Legislative Days on behalf of Monroe County SWCD. Maureen expressed how well the meetings went and felt the Legislators were supportive of SWCD's.

Maureen spoke on their local Envirothon training day and how schools scheduled to attend were unable to. Maureen stated that they do not know why but hope to find out. Maureen stated she will be working at the Genesee County Envirothon in May.

- c. Division III:** No representative, no report.
- d. Division IV:** Ernie Swift reported he had nothing to share this month.
- e. Division V:** Frank Thomas was unable to attend, and no report provided.
- f. Division VI:** No representative, no report.
- g. Division VII:** No representative, no report.

- h. Division VIII:** Rob reported that Suffolk Co. SWCD will be using their Part C funding to increase their tire recycling program to \$20,000. Rob reported there is more of a demand than they can manage.

Rob reported on the Suffolk-Nassau Envirothon and how the team number is down, but that NYC was not hosting an event this year and requested to join their event.

Committee Reports:

Education & Envirothon: Ernie reported requested that Blanche provide a report, since he was unable to attend last month's meetings.

NYS Envirothon Updates: The 2022 NYS Envirothon will be hosting a face-to-face meeting on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at Steuben SWCD office in Bath, NY at 11:00 am. The committee is right on track prepping for the annual event to be held Wednesday, May 25th-Thursday, May 26th, 2022, at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY.

2024 NCF-Envirothon NY: The 2024 NCF-Envirothon committee still needs folks to fill the chair positions for Volunteer Coordinator and Activities Coordinator. I have been in contact with Jennifer Brooks, Executive Director NCF-Envirothon Board for clarification of what the host state is responsible for and NCF-Envirothon. Jennifer stated that there have been policy changes and we will not be able to use the campus as one of our testing/training sites. We are presently looking in to two different potential sites. We will be meeting with the folks regarding a potential site in April. Our concern is that with this new NCF rule in place we will need to have buses an extra day to transport teams to the testing/training sites. So, we will need to revisit our budget to adjust accordingly. I have reached out to three potential bus companies, and one is unable to provide a quote due to our bus needs through-out the week.

VI. Old Business: Nothing to discuss at this time.

VII. New Business: Nothing to discuss at this time.

VIII. Adjournment:

- A motion made by Maureen Leupold and second by Ernie Swift to adjourn the meeting. Carried.
#3/23/2022 = E

Next meeting date is Wednesday, April 27, 2022, by Zoom at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by *Blanche L. Hurlbutt* NYACD Executive Director March 24, 2022

March Motions Meeting: #3/23/2022 = A Approval January Minutes #3/23/2022 = B Approval January Finances #3/23/2022 = C Approval February Finances #3/23/2022 = D Approval Bill January & February payment #3/23/2022 = E Approval Adjourn