



NYACD Meeting  
Zoom  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
7:00 P.M.

**Attendance:**

Sam Casella, President      Rob Carpenter, 1<sup>st</sup> V. President  
Scott Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> V. President      Ernie Swift, Treas.  
Bruce Dolph, Secretary      Jim Brick, Div. I  
Rollin Pickering, Div. II      Brian Danforth, Div. IV  
John M. Stortecky, Div. V      Sherri Slater, Div. VI  
Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Director

**Absent:**

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.

**Guests Present:** None present.

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

**Absent:** None

**I. Call to Order:** Sam Casella, President 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 Sherri Slater seconded by Scott Ryan to approve the January minutes. Carried.  
**#2/26/2025 = A**

**IV. Treasurer's Report:** Ernie gave a report on the January financial reports and Bills to be Paid.

- V.**
- A motion by Bruce Dolph seconded by Sherri Slater to approve the January Treasurer's report as provided. Carried. **#2/26/2025 = B**
  - A motion by Bruce Dolph seconded by John M. Stortecky to approve the January Bills to be Paid. Carried. **#1/22/2025 = C**

**VI. Partners Reports:**

**NYSCDEA' Report:** Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President CDEA Report appended to the minutes.

**NRCS Report:** Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation, reported that the last couple of weeks have been busy. Blake reported that Brooke Rollin is moving forward on the previous IRA contracts but not moving forward on any new contracts.

Blake reported that NRCS has been hit hard by the release of the probationary employees. They are working on how to continue to serve their producers and work with their partners to complete the necessary work.

Blake reported that he attended the 2025 NACD annual meeting along with Blanche and Sam. Blake felt it was a good event, and he learned that Utah is the beehive state.

**State Committee Report:** Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Executive Director, reported on the annual reorganizational SWCC meeting held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, Matt Brower was reelected as Chairman and Darin Hickling as Vice Chair. They discussed their accomplishments and areas to focus on for 2025.

Bethany reported that there will be a delay in the release of Round 9 on the Climate Resilient Farming program.

Bethany reported that all the soil and water districts were able to complete their annual reports that were due on February 15<sup>th</sup> on time. Ben Luskin has reviewed them and has emailed some districts regarding information provided. Once Ben has received word back from those districts the final amount for each district will be completed and by the end of next week, so funds are disturbed to all districts before the government freeze.

Bethany reported that her and the staff have discussed possible training sessions for the NYACD/NE NACD annual meeting in September and will provide that information to Blanche shortly.

## **Board Report:**

**President:** Sam reported he will be attending the winter NACD meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah and stated it was a very good meeting with over 900 in attendance through-out the week. Sam stated that NACD has asked if NY would host the NACD summer meeting in the next couple of years.

**Executive Director:** Blanche reported that this week has been a bit crazy with finalizing the Legislative Day appointments, making changes to appointment times, and setting up zoom meetings. At this time there is a total of sixty-four (64) appointments scheduled with fourteen (14) districts and NYACD attending.

Blanche reported that she attended the NACD meeting in Salt Lake City, Utah and echoed Sam and Blakes sentiments on how good the event was in training sessions etc.

Blanche reported that she has made all the necessary phone calls and emails for scheduling appointments for Sam for the annual Fly-In in Washington, DC on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Waiting for responses currently.

Blanche reported that presently she has been working on the annual NYACD/NE NACD event. Presently Commissioner Ball will be one of the guest speakers, Onondaga SWCD will host two separate tours, hotels are selected, and Scott is working on potential funders/supporters. A date for a committee meeting needs to be set. A Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. has been set and Blanche will send out the Zoom meeting information.

#### **Director & Representatives –**

- a. **Division I:** Jim Brick reported that he attended the meeting John Bartow hosted regarding forestry and their request for more funding in the EPF. Jim reported that he attended the meeting the Governor spoke at and she stated NY needs to plant more trees. Jim reported that he attended the meeting NYS Association of Counties in Albany. Jim spoke on the grant the SWCD Manager of Cattaraugus is working on for the highway department to purchase the new type of plow blades. They clean the roads better, do less damage, and reduce the need for salt.
- b. **Division II:** Rollin Pickering reported that he attended NACD annual meeting also felt it was a good event. While there he was able to listen to the Moran Tabernacle Choir and how amazing that was.

While there Rollin stated that the other folks discussed the CDEA's proposal to hire a lobbyist. They felt that the NYACD and CDEA were headed into a riff which could cause serious damage. They felt that the NYACD and CDEA executive boards should meet and discuss concerns that CDEA feels there needs to be a lobbyist hired. No comment from Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President at this time regarding a possible meeting.

- c. **Division III:** No representative. No report.
- d. **Division IV:** Brian Danforth reported he attended the Chenango County SWCD board meeting this past week. He shared with them the history, importance of NYACD, and received good feedback. Chenango SWCD board elected to pay the NYACD 2025 assessment and were pleased to have a voice.

Brain heard there was a division 4 CDEA meeting held this week and felt that in the future he'd like to see joint NYACD & CDEA Division 4 meetings. He will reach out to the CDEA Division 4 representative to move forward with this idea.

- e. **Division V:** John M Stortecky reported that he will be attending the CDEA Managers meeting. John expressed his concerns regarding the Executive Director's salary and felt there should be an increase. He made a motion to increase the salary, and the Board expressed the need to go into the executive session to discuss personal matters.
- f. **Division VI:** Sherri Slater reported that she is excited about reaching out to her districts within her division. In the last two weeks she has made phone calls to her districts to make appointments to meet with the SWCD Boards. She will be attending the CDEA Managers meeting.

g. **Division VII:** No representative, no report.

h. **Division VIII:** No representative, no report.

#### **Committee Reports:**

**2024-2025 NYS Envirothon:** Ernie stated that the February NYS Envirothon is on track all areas of the event. The March meeting will be a Zoom meeting, but the April meeting will be in person at SUNY Cortland. The team registration packets will be to be handed out at Water Quality Symposium (WQS)

#### **VII. Old Business:**

- **Legislative Days** – in Blanche’s report.
- **NYACD By-laws** – Board was advised to review the by-laws and that if they had any questions to let the board know, so we can discuss them fully.

#### **VIII. New Business: No** new business.

#### **IX. Executive Session:** Entered executive session at 7:55 p.m. returned out of executive session at 8:45 p.m. No action taken.

- A motion was made by Rolland seconded by Brian to move into executive session to discuss Executive Directors. Carried. **#2/26/2025 = D**
- A motion was made by Bruce seconded by Brian to move out of executive session. **Carried. #2/26/2025 = E**

#### **X. Adjournment:**

- A motion by John Stortecky seconded by Sherri Slater to adjourn the meeting. Carried. **#2/26/2025 = F**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

Next meeting date is **Monday, March 24, 2025, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. NO Day Change.**

Respectfully submitted by

**Blanche L. Hurlbutt,**

NYACD Executive Director March 10, 2025

#### **February Motions Meeting:**

**#2/26/2025 = A Approval January Minute, 2/26/2025 = B Approval January Finances  
#2/26/2025 = C Approval January Bills to Pay, #2/26/2025 = D Enter into Executive Session  
#2/26/2025 = E Exit Executive Session, #2/26/2025 = F , #2/26/2025 = I Approval of Adjourn**