



NYACD Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, June 26, 2024
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

Sam Casella, President Rob Carpenter, 1st V. President
Jim Brick, Div. I Scott Ryan, 2nd V. President
Rollin Pickering, Div. II Ernie Swift, Treas.
John M. Stortecky, Div. V
Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Director

Absent:

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.
Bruce Dolph, Member @ Lg

Guests Present: None present.

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

Absent: None

I. Call to Order: Sam Casella, President Called the meeting to order 7:06 p.m.

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

III. Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes:

- A motion by Ernie Swift seconded by John M. Stortecky to approve May minutes as written.
Carried. **#6/26/2024 = A**

IV. Treasurer's Report:

- A motion by Jim Brick seconded by John M. Stortecky to approve the May Treasurer's report as provided. Carried. **#6/26/2024 = B**
- A motion by Rollin Pickering seconded by Rob Carpenter to approve the May Bills to be Paid.
Carried. **#6/26/2024 = C**

Ernie provided a report on the income/expenses for May with an update where NYACD is with funding. A discussion took place on how NYACD Division representatives could encourage their districts that have not paid the annual assessments.

V. Partners Reports:

NYSCDEA' Report: Caitlin Stewart provided the following CDEA report:

- The CDEA meeting was held on May 30 – 31, at the Wyoming County Ag and Business Center, 36 Center St, Warsaw, NY 14569.
- New York State will host the 2024 National Conservation Foundation (NCF)-Envirothon July 28 – August 3, 2024, at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva. Caitlin and her staff have volunteered and will be attending this event. Please consider volunteering and / or donating.
- The New York State Fair Committee selected the theme Conservation Districts: Then and Now for the 2024 and 2025 events and is recruiting volunteers to work booth shifts. SWCD history, current work, and careers will be spotlighted. The sign-up link is available here: <https://www.nyscdea.com/state-fair/>. Caitlin stated they needed volunteers.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Region Meeting will be held August 9 - 14 in Boston, MA.
- The National Association of Conservation Districts 79th annual meeting will be held February 8 – 12, 2025, in Salt Lake City, Utah.
- The Conservation Skills Workshop Committee met to discuss course topics, instructors, and the venue. Save the date: September 23 – 26, 2024.
- The CDEA Administrative Conference will be held November 18 & 19, 2024 in Saratoga Sprins, NY. This is being directed by Dustin Lewis, District Manager Saratoga SWCD.
- 2025 Water Quality Symposium (WQS) is in the works. Jessica Anderson has sent out RFP's and the CDEA Board will review and determine the 2025 location at their next meeting.
- The June CDEA Newsletter is available at <https://www.nyscdea.com/>.

NRCS Report: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation reported on the Farm Bill, EQIP, RA Funds, and that last year at this time they had 125 employees, and they now have 160 employees.

Blake reported that the NRCS booth at this year's NYS Fair will be moved inside, which is a plus for NRCS.

State Committee Report: Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Executive Director reported on the hiring of Chastity Miller as the AEM Program Manager. Chastity comes from Franklin County SWCD as their District Manager starting in July.

Bethany reported they are wrapping up the 2023 AEM Annual reports. The summertime draft is out, and they will host their next SWCC meeting on July 16th in person in Albany. They will also have it virtually for those that are unable to attend in person.

Bethany reported she will be attending the NACD summer meeting to be in Boston August 9-11, 2024.

Board Report:

President: Sam reported that he will be attending the NACD summer meeting in August. Sam reported he has been busy working with NACD on the Legislative committee and the Farm Bill task force.

Executive Director: Blanche reported that she has been working on the NYACD annual meeting and the 2024 NCF Envirothon.

The monthly Director's letter went out in the mail this week.

The NYACD annual meeting will be held in October on Monday, the 21st and Tuesday, 22nd, at The Hampton Inn, 100 Mace Street, Penn Yan, NY. The 2024 NCF Envirothon New York will be held at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY on Sunday, July 28th-Saturday, August 3, 2024. There is still a need for volunteers.

Director & Representatives –

- a. **Division I:** Jim Brick reported that Wyoming SWCD is working on a wood bio-reactor project. The CDEA held their meeting in Wyoming county and that was a good meeting. Jim was impressed with Olivia from Division 8 area and wowed by the dairy farms.
- b. **Division II:** Rollin Pickering reported that he has signed up to volunteer for the NCF Envirothon. Rollin reported he had attended the District Manager meeting in Batavia and felt it was highly informative.
- c. **Division III:** No representative. No report.
- d. **Division IV:** No representative, no report.
- e. **Division V:** John M Stortecky asked Caitlin about Senator Hinchey bill, #8620, Caitlin stated that she had reviewed the bill, but was unable at this time to add any additional information. Blanche stated that she had heard from Senator Hinchey's office and the bill should not affect Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

John inquired about how to replace division representatives for the vacant positions. Sam explained that it is up to the Division SWCD's to find a division representative for the NYACD board. Sam said that he was not sure what NYACD could do other than encourage Directors to come on board. The District Divisions are responsible for electing their representatives.

John inquired about NYACD putting a letter together to encourage the districts to elect their division representative to the NYACD board.

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 stated that it was a successful event, and they will reconvene in September.

2024 NCF Envirothon New York: Ernie reported that the next meeting will be June 18th at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY. Ernie reported that there is a need for volunteers for the summer event.

VI. Old Business: No old business to discuss currently.

VII. New Business: No new business to discuss.

VIII. Adjournment:

- A motion by Rollin Pickering seconded by John Stortecky to adjourn the meeting. Carried.
#6/26/2024 = D

Meeting Adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next meeting date is **Wednesday, August 28, 2024, 7:00 p.m.** by Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by

Blanche L. Hurlbutt

NYACD Executive Director August 10, 2024

May Motions Meeting:

#6/26/2024 = An Approval May Minutes

#6/26/2024 = B Approval May Finances

#6/26/2024 = C Approval May Bills to Pay

#6/26/2024 = D Approval of Adjourn