



Zoom Meeting
Wednesday, August 23, 2023
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

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

Absent:

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.
Jim Brick, Div. I
Scott Ryan, 2nd V. President
Frank Thomas, Div. V

Guests/Partners:

Guests Present: None present.

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

I. Call to Order: Rob Carpenter, 1st Vice Pres. Called the meeting to order 7:07 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 June minutes as written.
Carried. **#8/23/2023 = A**

IV. Treasurer's Report:

- A motion by Bruce Dolph, seconded by Ernie Swift to approve the June Treasurer's report as provided. Carried. **#8/23/2023 = B**
- A motion by Bruce Dolph, seconded by Jim Cunningham to approve the June Bills to be Paid. Carried. **#8/23/2023 = C**
- A motion by Jim Cunningham, seconded by Rollin Pickering to approve the July Treasurer's report as provided. Carried. **#8/23/2023 = D**
- A motion by Bruce Dolph, seconded by Jim Cunningham to approve the July Bills to be Paid. Carried. **#8/23/2023 = E**

Ernie Swift reviewed the financial reports for June and July with the Board regarding income/expenses as well as the bills for the month. Ernie reported there was interest received on the Money Market account.

V. Partners Reports:

NYSCDEA' Report: Caitlin Stewart, NYCDEA President provided the following report:

Save the date for our upcoming September CDEA Meeting. Agenda to follow. I warmly welcome SWCD staff, Directors, and all members of the 4-Way Partnership to attend. This meeting meets performance measure requirements, Part C of State Aid to Districts. CDEA meeting minutes, agendas, and annual reports are available on the CDEA website: <https://www.nyscdea.com/agenda-minutes/>

September 6, 2023, • 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

September 7, 2023, • 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Town of Glenville court room in the Municipal Center

18 Glenridge Road

Glenville, NY 12302

CDEA News

The August CDEA Newsletter is hot off the press. The latest edition and back issues are available on the CDEA website: <https://www.nyscdea.com/newsletter/>

Upcoming Events

- Administrative Conference: held in November or December, details coming soon.
- 2024 Water Quality Symposium: March 12 - 15, 2024, Double Tree Hotel, East Syracuse.

Partnership Corner

- 4-Way Partnership MOA will be signed at the September CDEA meeting
- I fostered a conversation with Blanch and Bethany Bzduch, and NYACD can utilize the State Committee's state-wide email list for any items that are not related to lobbying.
- I invite Blanche to share NYACD reports to be included in my state-wide CDEA updates to 4-Way Partnership membership and CDEA News.

NRCS Report: NRCS Report: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation reported that NRCS is going in a different direction in their hiring process under employment 457 Soil Conservationist Series to Natural Resource Series. The employees hired under the new direction will be instructed that they will still need to take some soil courses.

Blake reported that now that it is August NRCS is busy with the fiscal year projects, applications within the 2023 Farm Bill.

State Committee Report: Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Executive Director reported that the next state committee meeting will be held in one location at the Ag & Mkts office building in Albany. There will be virtual services provided for those that are unable to attend in person.

Bethany reported that the Ag & Mkt staff are busy preparing for training sessions for the September Conservation Skills workshop and the NYACD Annual meeting in October.

Bethany reported on the State Aid workshop Ben Luskin provided to districts on August 16th, which went very well and is available on video. Discussion took place regarding changes taking place for Part C and how Part C funds have increased in the past eight (8) years 330%. If all districts meet their Performance Measurers for 2023, they will receive \$206,000.

Board Report:

President: Sam Casella reported on NACD summer meeting he attended in North Dakota on behalf of NYACD. Sam felt that this was a very good meeting to attend, he learned much, and touched on different meetings and the farm tour he took while there.

Sam reported he is all set to attend the NE NACD meeting in September as it stands right now.

Executive Director: Blanche reported that she has been working on the NYACD annual meeting material. All the registration packets were mailed out and she has received four (4) registrations already.

Blanche reported that she will be attending the NE NACD in Maine next month.

Director & Representatives –

- a. **Division I:** Jim Brick was unable to attend. No report provided.
- b. **Division II:** Rollin Pickering reported he is scheduled to attend the NE NACD meeting in September. Rollin reported on the Monroe Co. SWCD tree and fish sale programs and how well they both went this year.
- c. **Division III:** Jim Cunningham reported that Madison Co. SWCD has a resolution to bring forth at the NYACD annual meeting in October related to solar projects on farmland. The NYACD Board discussed some concerns regarding this issue.
- d. **Division IV:** No representative, no report.
- e. **Division V:** Frank Thomas was unable to attend. No report provided.
- f. **Division VI:** No representative, no report.
- g. **Division VII:** No representative, no report.

h. Division VIII: No representative, no report.

Committee Reports:

2023 NYS Envirothon: Ernie reported that the next Envirothon meeting will be Friday, September 15th. Ernie stated he didn't have much to report because he was unable to attend the August meeting at SUNY Cortland.

Blanche reported that the committee has increased by five members, which is great. The committee selected SUNY Cortland as the location for the 2024 NYS Envirothon and announcements went out to the districts.

2024 NCF Envirothon New York: Blanche reported that the CDEA signed a contract with a major funder for the 2024 NCF Envirothon-New York. This was a great help in the necessary funding for this event. There still needs to be about \$200,000 more raised to pull this event off. Twenty-three (23) districts have paid some if not all the \$3,000 requested with thirty-five still left to make donations.

Monday, August 28th, Vic DiGiacomo, Ag & Mkts, Al Fagan, and I will be meeting with the bus company to finalize our needs for the event. Al, JoAnn Kurtis, and I will be meeting with Stephanie Yearsley at Hobart & William Smith Colleges to finalize our room needs and the buildings we will be using. Both places are requesting a deposit in January.

We are looking for ten-fifteen more committee members to be able to lighten the load for the present committee. We will also need lots of volunteers throughout the week.

The present committee members for both Envirothon's are:

Site Coordinator - Al Fagan, Chair & Bob Shenk

Resources/Tests - JoAnn Kurtis, Chair & Bob Shenk, & Marie Ross

Scoring - Bob Shenk, Chair

Oral Presentation Coordinator - Karl Strause, Chair & Vic DiGiacomo

Registration - Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair & Natalie Shudt

T-Shirts - Chastity Miller

Awards – Alice Halloran

Activities Coordinator – Susan O'Dell-Pepe

Snacks – Katy Kemmeren

Publicity – Chastity Miller

Website – Blanche Hurlbutt

Transportation – Vic DiGiacomo

Fund Raising – EEF & the Committee

The officers are Blanche Hurlbutt, Chair, JoAnn Kurtis, Vice Chair, Katy Kemmeren, Treasurer, Susan O'Dell-Pepe, Secretary. NYS Representatives to NCF Committee, Blanche & JoAnn. Environmental Education Foundation Representatives, Chastity & JoAnn.

Old Business:

Hand-out Items: The Board agrees to purchase the glasses, hats, and visors. Blanche will move forward on these items.

VI. New Business:

- 2024 Budget: Blanche reported that Ernie will be working on this in the next few weeks. The Board needs to consider purchasing a new copier and what is their intended amount to donate to the 2024 NCF Envirothon-New York for 2024. They have donated \$1,500 for the past three years and it was the Board's intention to make a larger donation for 2024. Ernie will need some direction from the Board as he moves forward with the 2024 budget.
- Rollin discussed the possibility of all NYACD news, registration, and award packets being electronically sent in the future replacing the mailing of these items. The Board is taking this into consideration. Blanche stated that she could create fillable forms if the Board elected to send things electronically by the Board purchasing Adobe Acrobat Pro for \$19.99 a month. No decision was made at this time.
- A motion was made by Sam Casella, seconded by Bruce Dolph to go into executive session to discuss personnel matters at 8:14 p.m. Carried. **#8/23/2023 = F**
- A motion was made by Bruce Dolph, seconded by Ernie Swift to moves out of executive session at 8:36 p.m. Carried. **#8/23/2023 = G**

VII. Adjournment:

- A motion by Ernie Swift, seconded by Bruce Dolph to adjourn the meeting. Carried. **#8/23/2023 = H**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Next meeting date is **Wednesday, September 27, 2023, by Zoom at 7:00 p.m.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by *Blanche L. Hurlbutt*, NYACD Executive Director August 24, 2023

August Motions Meeting:

#8/23/2023 = A Approval June Minutes #8/23/2023 = B Approval June Finances

#8/23/2023 = C Approval of June Bills to Pay #8/23/2023 = D Approval of July Finances

#8/23/2023 = E Approval of July Bills to Pay #8/23/2023 = F Move into Executive Session

#8/23/2023 = G Move out of Executive Session #8/23/2023 = H Approval to Adjourn