



NYACD Meeting
Zoom
Wednesday, April 23, 2025
7:00 P.M.

Attendance:

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

Absent:

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.

Guests Present: Linda Coffin, Herkimer SWCD Director, Mark Kwiatkowski, Tioga SWCD Director

Partners Present: Caitlin Stewart, NYSCDEA' President

Absent: Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Ex. Dir., Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation

I. Call to Order: Sam Casella, President Called the meeting to order 7:01 p.m.

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

III. Secretary's Report/Approval of Minutes:

- A motion by was Bruce Dolph seconded by Sherri Slater to approve the March minutes. Carried.
#4/23/2025 = A

iv. Treasurer's Report: Ernie gave a report on the March financial reports and Bills to be Paid. John asked for a profit and loss report. The Board discussed the assessments.

- v.**
- A motion by Brian Danforth seconded by Sherri Slater to approve the March Treasurer's report as provided. Carried. **#4/23/2025 = B**
 - A motion by Brian Danforth seconded by Jim Brick to approve the March Bills to be Paid. Carried. **#4/23/2025 = C**

VI. Partners Reports:

NYSCDEA' Report: Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President CDEA Report appended to the minutes. A discussion took place regarding Hamilton boycotting the Legislative Booklet and the importance of the Legislative Booklet from Scott Ryan. The Board discussed the fact that the EPF 2025 budget was

increased and showcasing Legislators what the districts are doing with the Legislative Booklet is the key.

NRCS Report: Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation, was unable to attend. No report provided.

State Committee Report: Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Executive Director, was unable to attend. No report provided.

Board Report:

President: Sam reported he and Blanche were contacted by the Governor's office to make a statement regarding Earth Day.

Sam reported that when he attended the annual Fly-In, in Washington they received good feedback on the Farm Bill.

Executive Director: Blanche reported on the annual meeting in September and discussed the legislative bills, providing a monthly letter to districts and directors.

Director & Representatives –

- a. **Division I:** Jim Brick reported that Cattaraugus District Manager left. Wyoming SWCD held a wilderness first-aid training session,
- b. **Division II:** Rollin Pickering reported that Monroe will be hosting a Legislative Farm Tour in August.
- c. **Division III:** No representative. No report.
- d. **Division IV:** Brian Danforth reported he attended Tioga County Soil and Water Conservation district board meeting on April 19th and shared with them what NYACD does on behalf of districts. They discussed concerns about whether there is a need for a lobbyist and the possibly raising NYACD assessments to cover the cost of a lobbyist.
- e. **Division V:** John M Stortecky discussed the NYACD By-Laws and the need or possibility to put the role of the Executive Director in them. John mentioned the need for the partners to work together. John discussed the Legislative Booklet, and it was explained that Blanche does not change wording in the write-ups provided by the districts. If there are errors, it is on the districts to make sure their story is properly written. Blanche will make minor corrections but not the wording or makeup of the story. Sometimes the photos have to be moved around or made smaller to fit the page.

It was decided that the Board needed to set a meeting to review the by-laws and make any necessary changes.

- f. **Division VI:** Sherri Slater reported that Washington SWCD hosted a trees sale and they went to the local school with Ronny Raindrop.

Sherri inquired about when the NYACD invoices went out to districts. Blanche stated that they go out in January. Sherri suggested that they go out after Thanksgiving and before Christmas.

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

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

Committee Reports:

2024-2025 NYS Envirothon: Ernie reported that the 2025 NYS Envirothon event is on track and ready to be held Wednesday, May 28 and Thursday, May 29, 2025, in Cortland at SUNY Cortland. The committee is ready and will be arriving on campus Monday, May 26th.

- VII. **Old Business:** No old business to discuss.

VIII. New Business:

- **Strategic Plan:** Blanche reported that the Board needed to meet to discuss and update the NYACD Strategic Plan.
- Concerns regarding the Federal layoffs, DEC Permitting, wetland regulations on planting

IX. Adjournment:

- A motion by Sherri Slater seconded by Jim Brick to adjourn the meeting. Carried.
#4/23/2025 = D

Meeting Adjourned at 8:27 p.m. NO May meeting.

Next meeting date is **Wednesday, June 25, 2025, 7:00 p.m. by Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted by

Blanche L. Hurlbutt,

NYACD Executive Director June 3, 2025

April Motions Meeting:

**#3/24/2025 = A Approval March Minute,
#3/24/2025 = B Approval March Finances
#3/24/2025 = C Approval March Bills to Pay
#3/24/2025 = D Approval of Adjourn**



New York State Conservation District Employees' Association, Inc.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide ongoing programs and services to conserve, enhance, and protect soil and water resources in communities.

CDEA Report: NYACD Meeting, April 23, 2025

- Save the dates for upcoming **CDEA meetings**, with agendas and minutes available here: <https://www.nyscdea.com/agenda-minutes/>
 - June 4 and 5, Division VI
 - August 19 – 20, Division VI
 - October 22 – 23, Division VIII
- Attended the following meetings and provided updates to ensure CDEA's support of and contribution to the 4-Way Partnership and beyond:
 - SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee meeting
 - SWCC April meeting
 - NYACD April meeting
- Assisted NYACD Executive Director Blanche Hurlbutt by providing presenter recommendations and contact information for the National Association of Conservation Districts Northeast Region Annual Meeting in September. I look forward to presenting Market Your Conservation District.
- Discussed DEC permitting delays with SWCC AEAs as an agenda item for the Municipal Assistance Subcommittee, and provided information to NYACD Division IV Director Brian Danforth
- Discussed DEC wetlands regulations concerns with Division Reps
- Blanche and I are partnering to gather feedback from Directors and employees regarding **Senate Bill S5759**: Relates to the management of PFAS in biosolids in the state by establishing a moratorium on land application of biosolids and requiring testing and reporting of certain groundwater, biosolids, and soil. I contacted Ag and Markets' Mike Latham and SWCD employees for their feedback, and shared information with Blanche.
- Reviewed the following bills that Districts have brought forward:
 - S1833 Enacts the "harmful algal bloom monitoring and prevention act"
 - A05156 Creates a Great Lakes and state waters bill of rights that declares the right of the Great Lakes and state waters to exist, flourish and naturally evolve.
- Updated and sent the RFP for legal retainership
- Upcoming events:
 - [New York State Envirothon](#)
May 28 - 29, 2025 • SUNY Cortland

Volunteers are greatly needed and appreciated! Sign up here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfolzWMhXKcvHS4n0l_0EDro7I1Q2glOFRIBE9Bn4_yK6FQAw/viewform

- CDEA Golf Tournament

August 7, 2025 • Casolwood Golf Course, Canastota Information to follow

Respectfully submitted,



Caitlin Stewart, CDEA President