



Zoom Meeting  
Wednesday, November 16, 2022  
7:00 P.M.

**Attendance:**

Sam Casella, President  
Bruce Dolph, Member @ Lg Frank Thomas, Div. V  
Ernie Swift, Treas. Maureen Leupold, Div. II  
Blanche Hurlbutt, Ex. Dr. Jim Brick, Div. I

**Absent:**

Dan Farrand, Past Pres.  
Scott Ryan, 2<sup>nd</sup> V. Pres.  
Tom Ryan, Secretary  
Rob Carpenter, 1<sup>st</sup> V. Pres.

**Guests/Partners:**

**Guests Present:** None Present.

**Partners Present:** Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation, Brian Stienmuller, Ass't Dir Ag. & Mkts. **Absent:** Dustin Lewis, NYCDEA, Saratoga Co. Dist. Mgr.

**I. Call to Order:** Sam Casella, Pres. Called the meeting to order 7:03 p.m.

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

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

- A motion by Bruce Dolph second by Maureen Leupold to approve October minutes as written.  
Carried. **#11/16/2022 = A**

**IV. Treasurer's Report:**

- A motion by Bruce Dolph, second by Jim Brick to approve the October Treasurer's report as provided. Carried. **#11/16/2022 = B**
- A motion by Bruce Dolph second by Frank Thomas to approve the October Bills to be Paid.  
Carried. **#11/16/2022 = C**

Ernie Swift reviewed the financial reports for October provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. Ernie reviewed the availability of funds and expenses in the bank and money market. Ernie reviewed the Bills to be Paid for October.

Sam stated that he would finalize his bills from his trip including hotel and airfare and get them to Ernie. Sam stated that in the future he will provide Ernie with all receipts and reimbursements in a timely manner.

## V. Partners Reports:

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

**NRCS Report:** Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservation reported on the NRCS State Tech Advisor committee meeting held this past week. Additionally, NRCS will be holding Local Working Group Meetings this year to help target local priority resource concerns.

Blake reported on the upcoming NRCS additional funding coming through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Funding will be appropriated 2023 to 2026. All funds must be spent by September 30, 2031. Funds in EQIP and CSP will double in 2025 and 2026.

### **Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)**

- \$250M for FY 23
- \$1.75B for FY 24
- \$3B for FY 25
- \$3.45B for FY 26

### **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

- \$250M for FY 23
- \$500M for FY 24
- \$1B for FY 25
- \$1.5B for FY 26

### **Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)**

- \$100M for FY 23
- \$200M for FY 24
- \$500M for FY 25
- \$600M for FY 26

### **Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)**

- \$250M for FY 23
- \$1.2B for FY 24
- \$2.25B for FY 25
- \$3.05B for FY 26

**State Committee Report:** Brian Stienmuller, Ass't. Director NYS Ag & Mkts gave a report on behalf of the NYS SWCC. Brian reported on the recent SWCC meeting, specifically on the 2023 SWCD Aid Part C Performance Measure Program. Essentially, the 2023 program will return the performance measures to pre-covid (2019) metrics and percentages. The PM worksheet will be finalized, sent to all SWCDs, and posted on SharePoint within the next two weeks.

Brian also reported that the Round 29 AgNPS and Round 7 CRF Requests for Proposals are under development and will be brought to the SWCC for review and approval at their December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Finally, Brian reported on the recent voter approved Bond Act and the potential for these funds to augment and supplement current state resources. More details will follow but the SWCC and AGM are being asked to develop project and program concepts. SWCDs are being viewed by multiple state agencies as a key partner to implement Bond Act projects.

### **Board Report:**

**President:** Sam Casella reported that Rob Carpenter did some good work with the ag. agency related to the move from the Watershed Healthy Coalition's move to change district law. Sam has been receiving a number of emails as it relates to the potential district law changes. Overall, everyone is working hard to spread the word and gather support to put a stop to this move on rewriting district law.

### **Executive Director:**

**Monthly Director Letter:** The October Director letter was completed and mailed at the end of the month.

**Legislative Bill:** The Stream C bills have not been signed by the Governor's desk as of November 2022.

**Legislative Days:** Blanche reported that she has secured the Hampton Inn – Wolf Road, 10 Ulenski Drive, Albany for Monday, March 6, 2023. There will be a meeting Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. Blanche reported that once again they will be hosting a table at the Farm Bureau "Taste of New York" event Monday evening.

Blanche reported that she has been working on the registration packet to be mailed to the districts the first week of December. Waiting for a couple of things to complete the packet for mailing.

**Potential District Law Changes:** Blanche reported that she has provided the board with a letter to be mailed to all the folks needed to support the districts against the Watershed Healthy Coalition in changing district law. Blanche reported that she has received newspaper articles and district support letters and shared them with the board before this meeting.

Sam stated Blanche and he would create a letter to districts to update them on what NYACD has done to stop the move forward regarding potential district law changes. The board felt this was a good way to show the districts what and how we are working on this issue.

### **Director & Representatives –**

- a. **Division I:** Jim Brick reported that his district has researched district law and they found some interesting stuff. Jim reported that his division folks have been busy with year-end projects.

- b. **Division II:** Maureen Leupold reported Monroe County SWCD working on planting more trees. Maureen stated that her district will be holding their monthly meeting and will be discussing the district law issues that have come up. Maureen stated that she is a member of a Watershed group and Monroe SWCD works with them as well as promoting good soil health.
- c. **Division III:** No representative, no report.
- d. **Division IV:** No representative, no report.
- e. **Division V:** Frank Thomas reported that the workload has increased some since their County Administrator left in July. Frank reported that the CDEA will be hosting their next meeting in Plattsburgh and there will be a county board meeting next week.
- f. **Division VI:** No representative, no report.
- g. **Division VII:** No representative, no report.
- h. **Division VIII:** No representative, no report.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Education & Envirothon:**

**2023 NYS Envirothon:** Ernie reported there will be a NYS Envirothon meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022, at Hobart & William Smith Colleges, Geneva. Ernie reported that the committee is working hard, and things are moving along as expected at this time.

**2024 NCF Envirothon New York:** Ernie reported that the next meeting will be held directly after the NYS Envirothon meeting on Monday, November 21, 2022. Ernie reported that the committee's greatest concern is funding but are working hard to find funds to support this event. Maureen mentioned a Facebook giving Tuesday program for possible funding.

#### **VI. Old Business:**

**2023 NYACD Budget:** Sam reported that Blanche and he had discussed the budget that was sent to the board before this meeting. Sam & Blanche felt after reviewing the budget things looked good and expressed his appreciation to Ernie & Velynda for preparing the budget for 2023.

- A motion was made by Bruce Dolph and seconded by Maureen Leupold to accept the 2023 NYACD Budget as presented. Carried. **#11/16/2022 = D**

The board reviewed the budget and questioned if there were enough funds in the office supply line or should it be increased. It was determined that it was fine where it was at for now.

## VII. New Business:

**District Law:** The board discussed the Watershed Healthy Coalitions move to change district law. Sam discussed with the board with what he and Blanche had been doing the last few weeks. Sam reported that they met with the Farm Bureau, who is on board with districts and NYACD to not support this. Sam stated that this Watershed group is trying to conquer and divide districts and supporting groups by reaching out to them individually. It was discussed how important it is for NYACD, Farm Bureau, NYS Grange, districts, and others against this move to get ahead of the Watershed group. Word came from Cornell Co-Operative Extension that their name was connected to this group, and they sent a letter to Sam stating they are not supporting this group and are NOT connected to this group. Sam shared the letter with the board. Sam reported that that he and Blanche have reached out to NACD, and they are NOT in support of this effort from this Watershed group.

Brian shared that they are limited to speak regarding this issue which is why it is NYACD's separation of power when and if this district law revisions move forward. Brain shared that this potential district law change is much deeper than just district law.

Sam stated that it is important that districts reach out to their Legislators, that NYACD meets with our partners. Bruce spoke of the concerns Delaware SWCD has with this potential of district law changes. Delaware was one of the districts that have begun the process of getting the word out by a news article in their local newspaper, The Reporter. This article was shared with districts and NYACD.

**4-Way Partner Meeting:** A discussion took place on when the next 4-Way Partner meeting would be held. After some discussion with Blake and Brian it was decided we should meet at the CDEA Managers meeting before that meeting begins on December 13, 2023, at the Double Tree in Syracuse. At this meeting we can discuss the MOU with NRCS.

## VIII. Adjournment:

- A motion made by Bruce Dolph and second by Frank Thomas to adjourn the meeting. Carried.  
**#11/16/2022 = E**

**NO JULY MEETING.** Next meeting date is **Wednesday, December 28, 2022, by Zoom at 7:00 p.m.**  
Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by

*Blanche L. Hurlbutt*

NYACD Executive Director November 22, 2022

## August Motions Meeting:

**#11/16/2022 = A Approval October Minutes #11/16/2022 = B Approval October Finances**  
**#11/16/2022 = C Approval of Bills to Pay #11/16/2022 = D Approval of 2023 NYACD Budget**  
**#11/16/2022 = E Approval to Adjourn**