

**New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee**  
10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235 -- Telephone (518) 457-3738

**State Committee Meeting**

Crown Plaza  
701 East Genesee Street Syracuse, NY 13210  
Syracuse, NY  
March 12, 2015

**Meeting at a Glance:**

- Thank you to outgoing State Committee Chair George Proios, and congratulations to incoming State Committee Chair Dale Stein and Vice-Chair Chuck Colby.

**Present:**

D. Stein, Chair; G. Proios, J. Dickinson, C. Colby, D. Brass, Voting Members; M. Latham, Director; B. Steinmuller, Assistant Director; C. Frasier, B. Brower, B. Bzduch, S. Fickbohm, R. Bush, T. Clark, SWCC; S. Dorman, DEC; G. Kist, NRCS; S. Lorraine, Madison County SWCD; J. Santacrose Albany County SWCD; C. Nellis, Montgomery County SWCD; K. Brown, Orange County SWCD.

**Call to Order**

D. Stein called the meeting to order.

**Review/Approval of Minutes**

**D. Brass moved to approve the December 2014 minutes; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.**

**Correspondence, Budget, Legislation Update**, M. Latham

Reports, Newsletters and periodicals were made available. M. Latham discussed the status of the state budget and provided a legislative update. M. Latham went over some of the details of the Governor's proposed budget for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF). *Please see the EPF report, appended to these minutes for additional details.*

**Agricultural Non-Point Source Program**, B. Steinmuller

**Amendments for State Committee Consideration**

Albany County SWCD – LaGrange Brothers Dairy CAFO CNMP Tier IV Implementation Project– Round 15 – T700933

Request: Time Extension from 3/15/15 to 3/15/16

Reason: Additional time is needed to complete the project. Contractor availability and the winter weather prevents this project from being completed by the March 2015 deadline. The landowner has made the connections with the engineer and several contractors to complete this for the next construction season and has recommitted to completing the project.

*Previous Amendments: One time extension*

**D. Brass moved to deny the request for extension without prejudice; seconded by C. Colby. Motion passed; carried.**

Erie County SWCD – Cattaraugus Creek Watershed/Clear Lake Drinking Water Source Protection Project– Round 17 – C701015

Request: Time Extension from 5/13/15 to 5/13/16

Reason: Four of the ten farms within the grant need additional time to complete remaining work as these farms (Erie - 3, Cattaraugus - 1) have had problems with operations and/or personal issues and challenging weather/site conditions. The landowners have recommitted to completing their projects.

*Note: Victor DiGiacomo, Region 1 AEA, supports this time extension.*

*Previous Amendments: One change in BMP's*

**J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.**

Madison County SWCD – Oriskany Creek Watershed Ag NPS Elimination Project– Round 15 – C700943

Request: Time Extension from 12/31/14 to 12/31/15

Reason: Additional time is needed to complete the project. The last BMP to be completed is an earthen manure storage. Construction is 75% complete, but weather issues in the fall of 2014 did not allow the project to be completed before the current end date. The landowner has recommitted to completing the project.

*Note: Clifford Frasier, Region 3 AEA, supports this time extension.*

*Previous Amendments: One change in landowners and one time extension*

**J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.**

Madison County SWCD – Upper Tioughnioga River Ag NPS Reduction Project– Round 16 – C700976

Request: Time Extension from 5/15/15 to 12/31/15

Reason: The projects in Madison County are complete, but additional time is needed to complete the projects on one farm in Onondaga County. All practices are designed and currently out to bid and construction will start this spring as soon as weather permits. The landowner has recommitted to completing the project.

*Note: Clifford Frasier, Region 3 AEA, supports this time extension.*

*Previous Amendments: One time extension*

**J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.**

Suffolk County SWCD – Fuel Tank Replacement for the Protection of Ground and Surface Water - Round 17 – C701041

Request: Time Extension from 5/13/15 to 7/11/17

Reason: Suffolk County Department of Health Services (DHS) Sanitary Code Article 7 requires a variance for farmers to increase the fuel storage capacity of more than 250 gallons. Several farmers that were awarded funding through this grant need a variance because they can't operate their business without more fuel storage capacity. When they applied for a variance they were denied. The DHS agreed to propose an amendment to this regulation. It is in its final phase of that process. When the regulation is adopted, all farmers will be able to install their tanks in full compliance with the local law. The landowners have recommitted to completing their projects.

*Note: Jennifer Clifford, Region 5 AEA, supports this time extension.*

*Previous Amendments: None*

**J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by D. Brass. G. Proios abstained from the vote. Motion passed; carried.**

Tioga County SWCD – Little Nanticoke Watershed Ag Protection Project - Round 17 – C701042

Request: Time Extension from 5/13/15 to 12/31/15

Reason: One farm will need an extension to include another construction season in order to address temporary storage and manure transfer system. Winter weather and engineer workload delayed surveying and engineer of design. The landowner has recommitted to completing the project.

*Note: Scott Fickbohm, Region 2 AEA, supports this time extension.*

*Previous Amendments: None*

**J. Dickinson moved to approve the request for extension; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.**

**Staff Approved Amendments**

Jefferson County SWCD – Ag Waste Management in Southern Jefferson County – Round 16 – C700973

Request: Change in Landowner

Reason: The original participant sold the farm and the new owner wants to continue with implementation of the project. The farm will be implementing the same BMP systems as the original landowner. The farm priority does not change because it is still the same facility, just under new ownership.

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*Note: Robert Brower, Region 4 AEA, approves the change in landowner.*

*Previous Amendments: One time extension*

B. Steinmuller gave a briefing on the status of Round 21 and proposal submission through the NYS Grants Gateway. B. Steinmuller reminded the group that proposals are due on March 31<sup>st</sup>. A few minor application glitches have been fixed and one flaw in the system was discovered on account of an early submission. This flaw had to do with the complete PDF version that is generated automatically by the system. It has been fixed for all Grants Gateway RFPs.

**Under Barn Manure Storage System Policy** – B. Steinmuller

B. Steinmuller distributed the draft policy recommendation and noted that the TAC met late in January to discuss the merits of each alternative. In the end, the third listed policy option prohibiting the eligibility of this type of system through the AgNPS Program was recommended by the TAC. *Please see the draft policy appended to these minutes for additional detail.*

Discussion ensued. It was decided that additional information and details should be included before the SWCC will approve the draft policy. In concept, the SWCC appeared to agree with the TAC's recommendation but requested additional details and clarification regarding transfer systems built adjacent to or under portions of new or existing barns.

**D. Brass moved to table the Waste Storage and Transfer System-Under Barn Manure Storage Cost Share Policy; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.**

B. Steinmuller thanked the Committee for their consideration and comments. Clarification and details will be added to the policy and brought back to the Committee for consideration in April.

**Conservation District Annual Plan of Work Approval**

The following Conservation District Annual Plans of Work have been reviewed and recommended for approval by SWCC Field Staff:

Allegany	Broome	Cayuga	Chautauqua	Chemung
Cortland	Essex	Genesee	Livingston	Monroe
Ontario	Orleans	Oswego	Seneca	Tioga
Warren	Washington	Wayne	Wyoming	

**D. Brass moved to approve the plans of work; seconded by G. Proios. Motion passed; carried.**

**Honoring George Proios for his 15 year membership on the SWCC – Michael Latham, Dale Stein**

Michael Latham and Dale Stein honored George Proios for his 15 years of dedicated service to the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee as a Voting Member and Chairperson. Michael Latham presented on collective accomplishments of the Committee under George Proios's leadership.

D. Stein read and presented a plaque in George's honor. George closed the meeting with a few words of encouragement and wisdom. The Committee gave George a round of applause and wished him well with his upcoming retirement and move to Tennessee.

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**Meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.**

**Next meeting tentatively scheduled for April 21, 2015 at the State Office Building in Utica.**

*Future agenda items: Conservation Approval Authority (CAA); Invasive Species regulations and updating of District Tree and Shrub Policy; reconsideration of the Under Barn Manure Storage Policy; Report and Update on Ecosystems Based Management Program; Various Agency and Partnership Reports.*



## From the Office of the State Committee



Your State Committee pictured (L to R) are Voting Members Chuck Colby, Chairman Dale Stein, Director Michael Latham, George Proios, John Dickinson and David Brass.

On behalf of the State Committee, I welcome you to the 2015 Water Quality Symposium. This year's program is one of the best in years, with so many comprehensive and diverse courses offered focusing on both career and District program development. This forum does so much to enhance District capacity, encourage growth, and facilitate friendships. The connections between Conservation Districts remain among the strongest I have seen, and these friendships undoubtedly result in fortified programs, projects, and activities that coordinate achievements in natural resource conservation across the state. Conservation Districts continued to demonstrate to their local counties, the state, and nation how valuable they are in safeguarding a wide-range of natural resources. The State Committee is pleased to have been able to assist the CDEA to host this training event in support of the conservation mission throughout New York State.

Just before the banquet on Thursday, the State Committee will meet to conduct regular business and to honor our retiring Chairman, George Proios. Please join us in wishing George the best in his retirement and to welcome Dale Stein as the new Chairman of the State Committee.

## Highlights

The State Committee continues to advance its mission, critical to the conservation of the state's natural resources. In July 2014, the State Committee gained an exceptional team member, Scott Fickbohm, former Manager of the Otsego County SWCD. Scott joined the State Committee Staff as the Central NY Regional Coordinator.

In January 2015, the State Committee promoted Jennifer Clifford to a Regional Associate Environmental Analyst to coordinate the Southeast Region from the mid-Hudson River to Suffolk County. Jennifer will focus efforts on operational matters while also managing the District Aid Program.

Scott and Jennifer's employment with the State Committee allows us to better assist all Conservation Districts in a wide array of operations, programs, and conservation efforts. Scott and Jennifer, along with other members of the State Committee Staff are taking part in a variety of training topics this week and available to answer questions or talk about your ideas to advance conservation work in your District, region, and state. *Please see the enclosed SWCC Regional Map for details.*

- **The State adopted an Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) budget that increased overall State Aid to Districts to \$4.725 million. This represented a 35% increase in State Aid to Conservation Districts.** With this increase, the individual Conservation District max state reimbursement rate is expected to reach nearly \$80,000 with Parts A through C combined.
  - There is no proration this year meaning Districts that had over \$120,000 in eligible expenditures will receive the full \$60,000. There will be a total of \$790,789 available for Performance Measures across all eligible Districts. After a preliminary review, it appears that Districts who maximize all eligible reimbursement, Part B, and Performance Measures will receive just over \$80,000.

- **The State Legislature passed and Governor Cuomo signed into Soil and Water Conservation District Law, authority for Conservation Districts to pursue programs in conservation education and invasive species management.** This new codified authority will continue to open doors for Districts to expand conservation efforts throughout the county. The conservation partnership deserves tremendous credit and thanks for persevering through many legislative sessions to see these additions through to passage.
- A new invasive species regulation, NYCRR Part 575, was adopted in July 2014 that prohibits or regulates the possession, transport, importation, sale, purchase and introduction of select invasive species. The purpose of this regulation is to help control invasive species, a form of biological pollution, by reducing the introduction of new and spread of existing populations. **This regulation becomes effective March 10, 2015.** In response, the SWCC will be updating its Policy Statement Related to the Sale of Tree and Shrubs by SWCDs to reflect the new regulations and to work with Districts to expand conservation efforts to help manage and control the spread of invasive species.
- **The State Committee increased support of District's agricultural conservation efforts by raising the AEM Base Program caps** from \$40,000 to \$50,000 for Program A, and \$75,000 to \$85,000 for Program B. In addition, the State Committee established a third funding level that provides up to \$65,000 of reimbursement for a District that has an individual maintaining the NRCS planner certification.
- **State Committee staff provides critical support of District operations and programs.** State Committee staff continued to assist Districts in a wide array of operations, programs, and project areas in 2014. Regional Coordinators and Program staff continued to assist Districts to implement and evaluate programs and to make critical decisions for the advancement of Districts. Staff in the Albany Office continue to focus on providing operational and technical support through programs, the development of training modules, facilitation of training events, direct research and thorough responses to increasingly complex operational issues. State Committee staff response and support for this Annual Meeting is another example of the State Committee re-engaging with Districts on technical, program, administration and operational matters.
- **The State Committee forms a new Operations Subcommittee** to gather Conservation District leadership for the purposes of advancing operations policies, guidance, and generating responses to many complicated questions and local issues. One of the first actions of the Subcommittee will be to coordinate the revisions of the SWCD Administrative/Operations Manual.
- **The State Committee continues to collaborate with the Conservation Partnership to take part in the national campaign for Soil Health.** In August, 2014, a combined 468 farmers, District, and conservation partners were in attendants at workshops led by Districts in Cayuga, Franklin, Orleans, Rensselaer, and Suffolk Counties. Frank Gibbs, retired NRCS soil scientist, was brought in to speak at three of these events and was very well received. He is being asked to come back. Feedback from all events was outstanding confirming the need to continue efforts to promote soil health management as a core, all-inclusive conservation system. At Empire Farm Days, soil health demonstrations were conducted by the NY Soil Health Working Group. Conservation Districts, NRCS, the State Committee and Cornell all assisted during the three day event where over 400 people visited the tent to take part in the demonstrations.
- **Soil Health Mini-Grants awarded October 2014:** The Department, with program management provided by the State Committee, awarded \$295,000 in funding that will help 13 Conservation Districts in the Great Lakes and Mohawk River Watersheds develop soil health programs for the protection of New York's lakes, streams and rivers from potential agricultural runoff. This assistance was awarded through the New York State Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Program, which is funded through the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF).

## Program Overview and Outlook

- The **2012-13 AEM Base Program** provided nearly \$2 million in reimbursement for Conservation District technical assistance to farmers in its ninth year. Conservation Districts brought over 420 new farms into AEM, conducted approximately 250 environmental assessments, developed over 235 farm plans, implemented 250 conservation practices, and conducted 440 AEM evaluations statewide.
- **In June 2013, Round 20 of the AgNPS Program grants were awarded, providing over \$13 Million in state funds to 185 farms.** The AgNPS Program continues to emphasize soil health conservation including cover crops and best management practice systems through the annual RFP. In Round 20, over 8,700 acres of cover crops was proposed, with roughly 6,620 acres or 76% receiving funding.
- **In January 2015, the Round 21 RFP was released in the New York State Grants Gateway.** This will be the first ever electronic submittal and all aspects of the contract process will also be digital through the system. Proposals are due on March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 4:30 p.m. There are bound to be some growing pains as we transition to this new way of doing things. However, the network and history of collaboration between Conservation Districts and the State Committee will lessen the obstacles and help to work toward a smooth transition.

In addition, **State Committee staff is managing roughly 212 active contracts**, investing over \$57 million in current agricultural conservation efforts. The State Committee has worked very closely with countless Conservation Districts to close-out expired contracts and clear-up the backlog of outstanding projects across the state. *Please see the enclosed AgNPS Dashboard Report for additional details.*

- **The Municipal Subcommittee continues to steer District involvement in the Emergency Stream Intervention Program and makes strides to improve the presentation of the 4-hour Erosion and Sediment Control Stormwater Course.** The State Committee established the Municipal Subcommittee to guide District efforts in the expanding field of municipal conservation assistance. A lot of the Subcommittee's energy is placed on increasing communication with Districts that have experienced success in the areas of natural stream design, flood mitigation, emergency management, and stormwater services.
- **Emergency Stream Intervention:** There has been fifteen 90 minute ESI events held across the state, two 4-hour trainings, two 6-hour sessions, and six 3-day events held since Districts took this important program statewide. Over 1,200 people have received training. In late February 2015, the Oneida County SWCD hosted the first of a three day training event with over 60 people in attendance. Watershed coalitions are working together to develop and deliver these trainings. This is a great start and many more events are being planned across the state in the months ahead.
- **The State Committee has been hearing the need to develop a better form of communication with Conservation Districts.** As a result, the Committee is beginning a pilot launch of a new Sharepoint site to broadcast program information to Districts such as resource tools for green infrastructure, emergency stream intervention, AEM and AgNPS. The site also includes a District and program specific filing system for down and uploading program reports, annual reports and general correspondence. This site will open fully in the coming months. Many thanks to the Districts who volunteered to pilot this system and provide important feedback in this early stage. A brief demonstration is being offered at the Managers' Forum.
- **The State Committee priorities include developing tools and programs to help the farming community to mitigate greenhouse gases and to be more adaptive to a changing climate.** Due in large part to the wide success of local Conservation District leadership in AEM and AgNPS, Governor Cuomo built-in development funds for a climate and farming conservation program in the proposed 2015-2016 SFY Budget.

Specifically, language was added to the District Aid budget to allocate funding for this new initiative. This new initiative will combine climate adaptation and on-farm carbon management planning and implementation projects. This proposed funding will be directed to the State Committee for program development, research and pilot implementation. The development of this program will further local efforts to bring broader conservation approaches to the farm while improving the environment and enhancing District capacity to address these concerns.

**Regional Staffing Plan  
New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee  
Regions and Field Staff**

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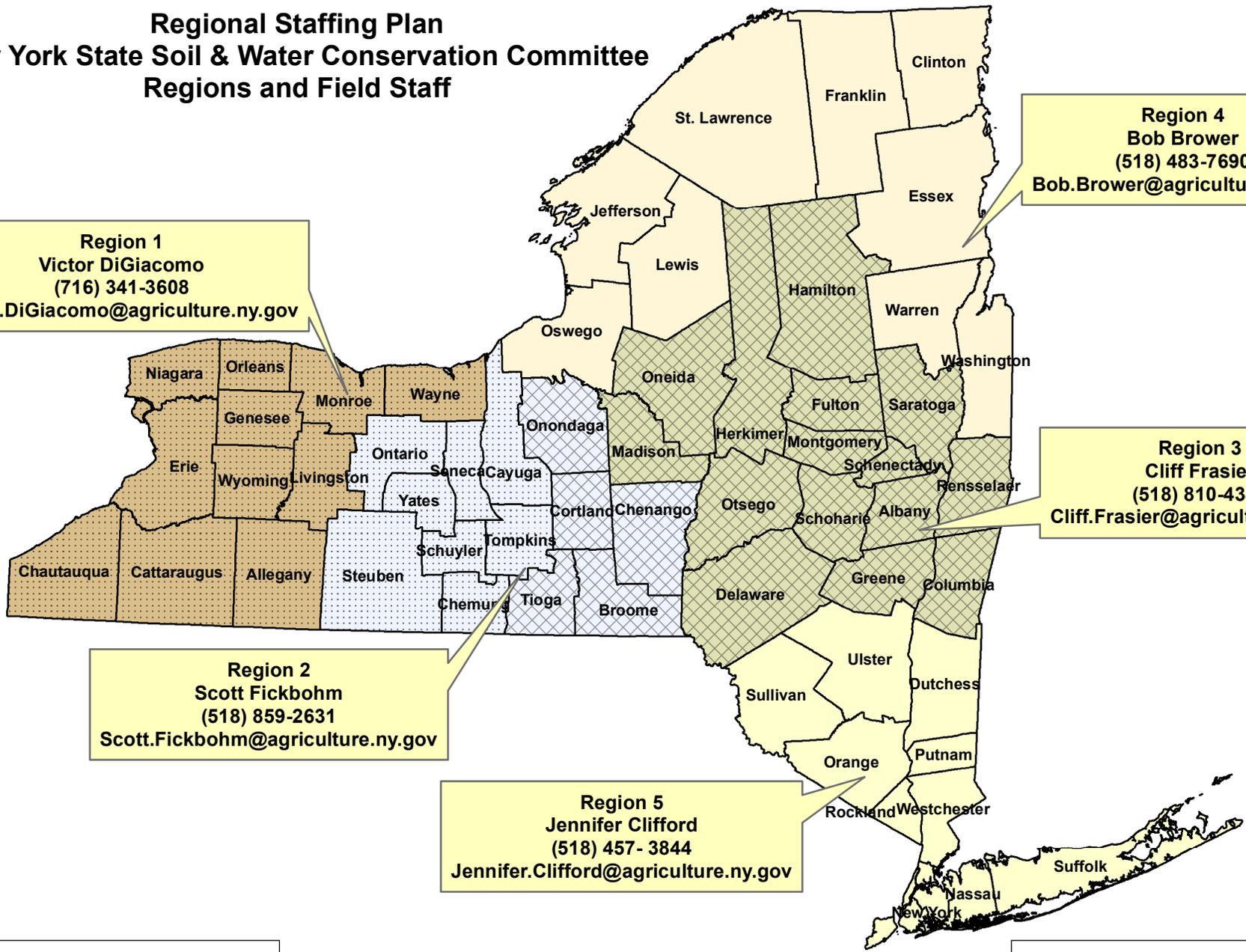
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New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets  
Soil and Water Conservation Committee  
January 2015

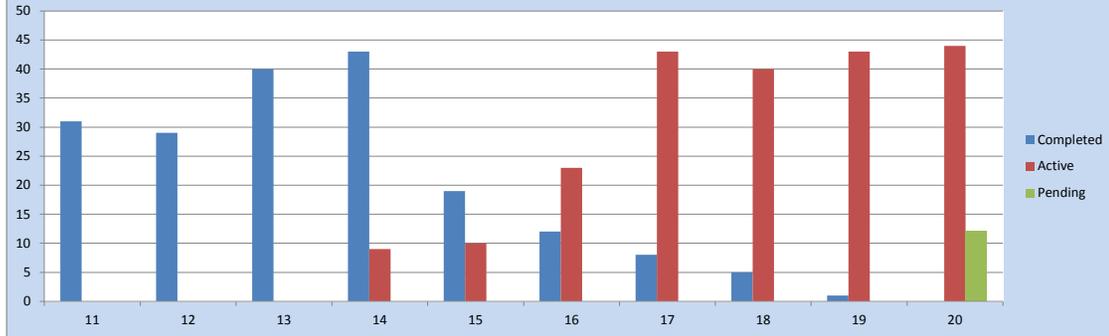
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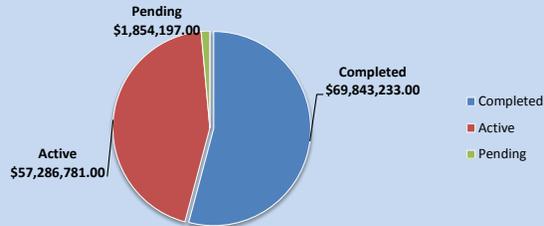
**Contract Status - All Rounds  
Numbers - March 2015**



**Contract Status Rounds 11-19  
March 2015**



**Contract Status - All Rounds  
Funds March 2015**



**Summary of Funding Amounts  
Rounds 11 through 20  
March 2015**

Round	Completed	Comp. Funds	Active	Active Funds	Pending	Pending Funds
11	31	\$4,963,443.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
12	29	\$3,751,784.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
13	40	\$7,557,565.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
14	43	\$9,146,601.04	9	\$2,788,619.92	0	\$0.00
15	19	\$4,169,804.00	10	\$2,968,662.00	0	\$0.00
16	12	\$2,049,676.00	23	\$6,885,224.00	0	\$0.00
17	7	\$891,430.00	43	\$10,438,695.00	0	\$0.00
18	5	\$1,627,718.00	40	\$10,071,018.00	0	\$0.00
19	1	\$329,560.00	43	\$12,301,013.05	0	\$0.00
20	0	\$0.00	44	\$11,833,548.00	12	\$1,854,197.00
	<b>187</b>	<b>\$34,487,581.04</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>\$57,286,779.97</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>\$1,854,197.00</b>

Activity	Number	Funds
Completed	527	\$69,843,233.00
Active	212	\$57,286,781.00
Pending	12	\$1,854,197.00
Cancelled	26	\$0.00
	<b>777</b>	<b>\$128,984,211.00</b>

**To all Districts:**

**Executive Proposed Budget SFY 2015-16 Environmental Protection Fund (in DEC's Budget)**

Overall appropriations for the 2015-16 EPF are proposed to be increased by \$10 million, from \$162 million in 2014-15 to \$172 million in 2015-16. Appropriations of interest to include:

- \$14 million for Farmland Protection, the same amount as in 2014-15;
- \$14.2 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, the same amount as in 2014-15;
- \$5.275 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, including \$500,000 for the Agricultural Climate Adaptation Program Development;
- \$5.7 million for Invasive Species, an increase of \$1 million;
- \$6.05 million for Oceans and Great Lakes Initiative, an increase of \$1 million;
- \$1.3 million for Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Protection Alliance;
- \$1.5 million for Agricultural Waste Management and
- \$8 million for Water Quality Improvement Projects, increase of \$200,000.

Regarding District Aid - Language was added to allocate a portion of the funding increase to include refinement of the AEM process through the incorporation of a climate resilient farms program. This new initiative will combine climate adaptation and on-farm carbon management planning and implementation projects. These monies are further directed to the NYS SWCC for program development, research and pilot implementation. We are optimistic that the development of such a program will further local efforts delivered by Districts to bring these broader conservation technologies to the farm level, while improving the environment and resource protection. The remaining portion of the increase will be additive the "State Aid to Districts program" bringing the total funds available for State Aid to 4,775,000.

The Specific budget language as proposed is below for your reference.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, for  
2 Soil and Water Conservation District  
3 activities as authorized for reimbursement  
4 and funding in section 11-a of the soil  
5 and water conservation districts law;  
6 including \$500,000 for the New York State  
7 Soil and Water Conservation Committee in  
8 conjunction with the Department of  
9 Agriculture and Markets to develop a pilot  
10 agricultural climate adaptation program  
11 consistent with agriculture and markets  
12 law article 11-a, agricultural environ  
13mental management program (09SW15ER) ..... 5,275,000

As always the proposed Executive Budget is not official until approved by the Legislature.

## **DRAFT**

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### **NYS Soil and Water Conservation Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Wednesday Jan. 28, 2015 Under Barn Manure Storage Policy Recommendation**

The Agricultural Non-Point Source grant program funds a variety of best management practice systems to protect water quality in New York State. Recently, the State Committee discussed the cost share eligibility of specific components of a proposed under barn manure storage system in Orange County. In addition to the determination on that specific project, the State Committee asked for guidance on developing a long term policy. Three options for such policies are provided in the pages below, for discussion and recommendations of the TAC.

As described in this document, under barn manure storages are combined livestock housing and agricultural waste management systems. Livestock are housed directly above an agricultural waste storage facility; the manure falls passively through openings between slats in the floor. This creates efficiencies in the system, as manure does not have to be transported from a barn or heavy use area to a manure storage facility, and it can be pumped or otherwise transported from the storage to be spread. There are a number of concerns regarding operation and maintenance of these systems, including making sure noxious gasses from the manure are properly ventilated and making sure the manure is of a viscosity where it can be pumped and spread.

There are two water quality benefits to these systems. First, the agricultural waste storage component prevents the farm from needing to spread manure daily. Secondly, the roof above the storage prevents rainwater from entering the system (as long as any system to include roof runoff to address the viscosity issue also allows for excluding the runoff when necessary).

The questions the TAC considered:

- Should under barn manure storage be eligible for inclusion within the Agricultural Non-Point Source program?
- If yes, which elements of the design should be eligible for cost share or landowner match, and which should be ineligible? (The biggest element at stake here is the roof.)

In one specific Round 20 case, the State Committee determined that the roof would be eligible for landowner match only because of the water quality benefit of excluding all rainwater. The new policy, however, does not need to follow that decision.

**After much deliberation, the SWCC's Technical Advisory Committee recommends the third option included on page 4 of this policy position document. Notwithstanding, all policy options considered are included below.**

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### Waste Storage and Transfer System – Under Barn Manure Storage Cost Share Eligible Practices Policy DRAFT Option 1 – Discussed but dismissed by TAC

#### **Definition**

An under barn manure storage is a combined livestock housing and agricultural waste management system. Livestock are housed directly above an agricultural waste storage pit; the manure falls passively through openings between slats in the floor. This creates efficiencies in the system, as manure does not have to be transported from a barn or heavy use area to a manure storage facility, and it can be pumped or otherwise transported from the storage to be spread.

Careful operation and maintenance of these systems are crucial to their success. There are number of important considerations, including making sure noxious gasses from the manure are properly ventilated and do not compromise with cow comfort or health. Another consideration is for the need for liquid to be added to facilitate the eventual agitation and removal of the waste. If the waste is not liquid enough, settling of the manure solids will occur and agitation will not break it up, leading to loss of storage capacity over time (sometimes very quickly). One option is to include and control the amount of roof water that can be diverted to the storage as well as inclusion of process waste waters from the milking center or other sources (Note – Do NOT divert liquids from a silage leachate collection system as this can cause serious noxious gas issues in the barn.) However, to maintain the water quality benefits of the roof, any system that can divert roof runoff into the waste storage must also be able to divert the runoff to a different location to reduce the risk of overflows in an intense rain event.

#### **Implementation**

There are a variety of components associated with Under Barn Manure Storage Systems. In general, the Agricultural Non-point Source Grant program does not pay for barns or livestock housing, but in this case, the whole system is necessary for the manure storage. The following table defines each component by their cost-share eligibility. This is a listing of the primary components utilized but is not all inclusive and other components may be used. Please check with your local SWCC representative for approval. The “Screening Tool for Roofs and Covers for Heavy Use Areas, Barnyards, & Feedlots” and the “Screening Tool for Evaluating the Need for an Agricultural Waste management Storage Facility” must be completed.

<b>Cost Share Eligible / Landowner Match</b>	<b>Landowner Match Only</b>	<b>Cost Share and Match Ineligible</b>	<b>Not allowed for Lifespan of Practice</b>
Agricultural waste storage facility with associated practices for compliance with NRCS Standard 313 and transfer component (slatted floor)	New CNMP or updated CNMP/NMP to plan applications with manure storage	Interior gates	Equipment storage, hay storage, non-ag storage
Exterior fencing and gates necessary to properly and safely transfer animals to a pasture system or other facility	Roof runoff control (if allows diversion of runoff to waste storage, must also include diversion elsewhere to maintain water quality benefit in an extreme rainfall event)	Feeding implements—hay racks, feed bunks, troughs, etc.	Storing manure outside of the structure
	Roof structure	Exterior walls	Alternative use*
		Curtains	
		Stanchions/stalls	
		Water supply and waterers	
		Electrical service and lights	
		Interior feed alley	

\* Abandonment does not constitute an alternative use or non-Ag use.

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### Waste Storage and Transfer System – Under Barn Manure Storage Cost Share Eligible Practices Policy DRAFT Option 2 – Discussed but dismissed by TAC

#### **Definition**

An under barn manure storage is a combined livestock housing and agricultural waste management system. Livestock are housed directly above an agricultural waste storage pit; the manure falls passively through openings between slats in the floor. This creates efficiencies in the system, as manure does not have to be transported from a barn or heavy use area to a manure storage facility, and it can be pumped or otherwise transported from the storage to be spread.

Careful operation and maintenance of these systems are crucial to their success. There are number of important considerations, including making sure noxious gasses from the manure are properly ventilated and do not compromise with cow comfort or health. Another consideration is for the need for liquid to be added to facilitate the eventual agitation and removal of the waste. If the waste is not liquid enough, settling of the manure solids will occur and agitation will not break it up, leading to loss of storage capacity over time (sometimes very quickly). One option is to include and control the amount of roof water that can be diverted to the storage as well as inclusion of process waste waters from the milking center or other sources (Note – Do NOT divert liquids from a silage leachate collection system as this can cause serious noxious gas issues in the barn.) It is recommended that, to maintain the water quality benefits of the roof, any system that can divert roof runoff into the waste storage should also be able to divert the runoff to a different location to reduce the risk of overflows in an intense rain event.

#### **Implementation**

There are a variety of components associated with Under Barn Manure Storage Systems. In general, the Agricultural Non-point Source Grant program does not pay for barns or livestock housing, but in this case. The following table defines each component by their cost-share eligibility. This is a listing of the primary components utilized but is not all inclusive and other components may be used. Please check with your local SWCC representative for approval. The “Screening Tool for Evaluating the Need for an Agricultural Waste management Storage Facility” must be completed.

<b>Cost Share Eligible / Landowner Match</b>	<b>Landowner Match Only</b>	<b>Cost Share and Match Ineligible</b>	<b>Not allowed for Lifespan of Practice</b>
Agricultural waste storage facility with associated practice components for compliance with NRCS Standard 313	New CNMP or updated CNMP/NMP to plan applications with manure storage	Interior gates	Equipment storage, hay storage, non-ag storage
Exterior fencing and gates necessary to properly and safely transfer animals to a pasture system or other facility		Feeding implements—hay racks, feed bunks, troughs, etc.	Storing manure outside of the structure
		Roof structure, roof runoff control	Alternative use*
		Exterior walls	
		Curtains	
		Stanchions/stalls	
		Water supply and waterers	
		Electrical service and lights	
		Interior feed alley	

\* Abandonment does not constitute an alternative use or non-Ag use.

## **DRAFT**

[THIS DRAFT DOCUMENT IS PROPOSED ONLY AND HAS NOT BEEN ACTED UPON BY THE STATE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMITTEE. THIS DOCUMENT IS MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO OPEN MEETINGS LAW §103(e)]

### **Waste Storage and Transfer System – Under Barn Manure Storage Cost Share Policy TAC Recommendation**

#### ***Definition***

An under barn manure storage is a combined livestock housing and agricultural waste management system. Livestock are housed directly above an agricultural waste storage pit; the manure falls passively through openings between slats in the floor. This creates efficiencies in the system, as manure does not have to be transported from a barn or heavy use area to a manure storage facility, and it can be pumped or otherwise transported from the storage to be spread.

#### ***Policy Recommendation***

***This system is not eligible for cost share or landowner match, due a combination of factors including concerns about the management requirements and overall feasibility of this system, concerns about the administrative load of dividing the various cost share/land owner match/ineligible components, and to prevent the perception that the AgNPS Program funds barns for livestock.***