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**New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee**  
10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235 -- Telephone (518) 457-3738  
**State Committee Meeting**  
10B Airline Drive, Albany NY  
May 19, 2015

**Meeting At A Glance:**

- AEM Award nominations are due to Jodi Shain at [jodi.shain@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:jodi.shain@agriculture.ny.gov) by June 10.
- The Mohawk River Watershed Coalition released the [Mohawk River Watershed Management Plan](#) and have already secured some implementation funding.
- Current Ecosystem Based management projects include soil health mini-grants, now available (up to \$25,000 for soil health work, application due June 15) for Round 2 statewide, supporting the Conservation Tillage Alliance to create a means for farmer to farmer knowledge sharing about conservation tillage, and Genesee River Watershed mini-grants, which are currently with reviewers and should be awarded this summer.
- The ranked list of AgNPS Round 21 proposals will be available at the August State Committee meeting.

**Present:**

D. Stein, Chair; J. Dickinson, C. Colby, D. Brass, Voting Members; M. Latham, Director; B. Steinmuller, Assistant Director; C. Frasier, V. DiGiacomo, S. Fickbohm, R. Bush, G. Spitzer, J. Clifford, SWCC; D. Tuxill, DEC; T. Willis, NRCS; P.J. Emerick, Ontario County SWCD, CDEA; P. Kaczmarczyk, DOH; L. Williams, New York Farm Bureau; T. Sweeney, DAM; D. Grantham, Cornell University; B. Claypoole, Cornell Cooperative Extension.

**Call to Order**

D. Stein called the meeting to order.

**Review/Approval of Minutes**

**D. Brass moved to approve the April 2015 minutes; seconded by Chuck Colby. Motion passed; carried.**

**Mohawk River Watershed Coalition Update and Completed Watershed Plan Review**, D. Mosher, P. Nichols

The [Mohawk River Watershed Coalition](#) published the [Mohawk River Watershed Management Plan](#) in March. Dave Mosher of Schenectady SWCD and chair of the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition, and Pete Nichols of Schoharie SWCD and vice-chair of the Coalition presented on the plan, associated GIS mapping tools, and implementation efforts.

The Mohawk River Watershed Coalition is composed of 14 Conservation Districts in the Mohawk River Watershed, and has an extensive Advisory Committee network of local, state, and federal governmental agencies, educational institutions, and non-governmental organizations. The Coalition was formed in order to bring some more attention to the needs and opportunities associated with the Mohawk River Watershed, which is the biggest tributary to the Hudson. The plan was developed with the assistance of a Department of State grant.

One of the biggest challenges in developing the plan was assembling the necessary data. Approximately 35% of all rivers, streams, reservoirs, lakes, and ponds in the watershed were not assessed prior to the

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planning process, and the data that did exist were incomplete and/or hard to access. As part of the planning process, data of all kinds on the Mohawk watershed were assembled and converted into map-able data layers. In addition, the Conservation Districts developed their own assessments of the sub-watersheds within the Mohawk, and those data were added to the map layers as well. The result is an extensive [GIS mapping tool](#) available publicly, which gives all kinds of information about the watershed. The data will be continuously updated, which will allow for

The plan has already been used for securing implementation funding, including:

- \$967,000 in grants for flood mitigation studies in the Schoharie Watershed, stormwater management in Oneida and Fulton counties, and invasive species management projects
- \$667,000 in grants for building boat wash stations, conducting stream restoration projects, and critical area seeding/hydro-seeding projects
- \$72,000 to fund ten Emergency Stream Intervention trainings

Future goals for the plan and implementation funding include working on developing and implementing best management practices for protecting and restoring natural hydrology, implementing smart growth plans, enhancing flood resiliency, and continuing to implement, track, and monitor the plan's recommendations.

The State Committee discussed the plan and its implementation projects. They were especially impressed with the data the Coalition's data gathering and GIS tool, and with the Coalition's commitment to implementing the plan and securing funding even before the plan was formally published. **J. Dickinson moved to endorse and support the work of the Mohawk River Watershed Coalition and its Watershed Management Plan, seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed, carried.**

### **Ecosystem Based Management Program Update**, L. Prezorski

L. Prezorski gave a program update regarding the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Program. The program is funded through the Oceans and Great Lakes Ecosystem Initiative appropriation in the Environmental Protection Fund, which is divided among a number of state agencies which do EBM projects. EBM focuses on issues surrounding water and land, energy, economic growth, climate change, and capacity building. The State Committee has been involved since 2011, and since then has worked on a number of projects.

The Department started EBM work in the Sandy Creeks watershed, including a riparian buffer project, pollution prevention through fuel storage, no till drilling, stream restoration, cow comfort, cover cropping, and trail creation projects. There have also been projects with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to build 130 acres of riparian buffer, and in Schoharie Creek to conduct soil testing, build riparian buffer, advance integrated pest management techniques, and advance cover cropping and conservation tillage. Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) worksheets and information sheets were also updated to reflect an EBM focus.

Current projects include soil health mini-grants, which were available for Round 1 in a limited number of Districts and are now available (up to \$25,000 for soil health work, application due June 15) for Round 2 statewide, supporting the Conservation Tillage Alliance to create a means for farmer to farmer knowledge sharing about conservation tillage, and Genesee River Watershed mini-grants, which are currently with reviewers and should be awarded this summer.

The 2015 – 2016 Environmental Protection Fund included \$6,050,000 for EBM work, an increase of \$1 million over 2014 – 2015 levels, so stay tuned for more!

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### **Conservation Approval Authority, T. Clark**

While some of the BMPs Districts may build require a NYS certified engineer (they are classified as "engineering standards" by the NYS Board of Engineers), others do not require that certification (they are classified as "conservation standards" by the NYS Board of Engineers). However, if the conservation standards are designed incorrectly, there could be adverse impacts on the built structures or on the general public. The State Committee is currently developing a Conservation Approval Authority (CAA) process so that District employees can be certified to build specific conservation standards.

Details of the CAA process as currently established are attached. The requirements are generally a self-paced online course with lectures and quizzes followed by a project to be sent to Tim and assessed by him. The exception is the Heavy Use Area standard, which will be an in-person course due to the standard's complexity.

A discussion ensued regarding the Conservation Approval Authority. The bottom line, as M. Latham put it, is that "if people ask me 'can a District do this responsibly?' I want to be able to say yes."

### **D. Brass moved to approve the Conservation Approval Authority program, seconded by J. Dickinson. Motion passed, carried.**

### **Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants, B. Steinmuller Current Status**

The current dashboard of the contracts was reviewed (attached). L. Lyons-Swift noted that we have been completing close-outs at a rate of 3-4 a month, which has been typical for the program (there have been approximately 35 close outs each year for the past several years). However, there are now 62 contracts to close out with an end date in 2015.

### **Amendments for State Committee Consideration**

Chenango County SWCD – Chesapeake Bay Intensive Grazing Project/Access Control #1– Round 17 – C701007

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

Reason: Additional time is needed to complete the project. Some farms are relying on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to help pay for BMPs on the project. No Farm Bill for two years of this contract have slowed the progress of moving CRP contracts through the system. The landowners have re-committed to completing all of their practices within the requested time extension.

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

*Previous Amendments: One change in BMPs*

### **J. Dickinson motioned to approve the amendment, seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.**

### **Staff Approved Amendments**

Tompkins County SWCD – Southern Cayuga Runoff Management Project, Sweylokan Farms – Round 16 – C700991

Request: Change in BMPs

Reason: The barn structure and barnyard area will be eliminated prior to or during the implementation of this grant at landowner's expense. The District requested to eliminate the Barnyard Runoff Control System practice from the grant in favor of expanding the two manure loading pads and the milk center waste collection/treatment system originally proposed. In

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doing so, they can collect and contain a greater portion of the runoff generated by the farm's operation and reduce the nutrient, pathogen and sediment runoff to the Cayuga Inlet and Cayuga Lake. The water quality benefits will be equal or greater than those in the original grant proposal.

*Note: Scott Fickbohm, Region 2 AEA, approves the change in BMPs.*

*Previous Amendments: One time extension*

## **Round 21 AgNPS**

The Office of the State Comptroller rejected the request to overturn the "fatal flaw" requirement, so the 99 complete applications are currently being reviewed by evaluators. There have been a number of webinars and meetings with evaluators to make sure they can access the applications from the Grants Gateway.

The ranked list should be available for the August State Committee meeting. State Committee staff are currently working on the next steps with the Grants Gateway staff so that contract development can begin.

## **Partnership Reports**

### **State Committee, B. Steinmuller**

#### **On behalf of J. Lendrum, NYS DEC:**

The [WQIP Round 12 application period](#) is now open! There are \$35 million available for water quality improvement projects, and Districts are eligible applicants.

In terms of staffing, there is a waiver currently available to backfill the AgNPS program manager position. There are also two CNMP specialist positions pending—one waiver was released, another is in the queue.

### **State Committee, M. Latham**

The Department has a new first deputy, Jen McCormick; public information officer, Jola Szubielski; and internal auditor, Joe Morrissey.

There have been a number of issues coming up regarding manure storages, especially the siting of satellite storages and neighbor relations. In addition, 55 of the 99 Round 21 AgNPS applications were for manure storages, so this is an important issue to address at a future meeting.

### **State Committee, J. Clifford**

AEM award nominations are due June 10. Please nominate excellent farms!

### **Department of State, K. Smith**

The [Local Waterfront Revitalization Program](#) is available through the [Consolidated Funding Application](#). More information was supplied in a handout (attached).

### **State Committee, G. Spitzer**

The 2014 Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Report was compiled. Drafts were distributed to Voting Members for comments. The final version will be released soon.

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\$500,000 was allocated in the 2015-2016 state budget for a Climate Resilient Farming Program. State Committee staff have been working to develop a program and a plan and timeline for spending the money. The money will be divided between service contracts to develop tools for climate change planning within the AEM framework and a pilot RFP. A timeline for developing the RFP was circulated (attached), and more details will be discussed at the June State Committee meeting.

**J. Dickinson motioned to approve the timeline, seconded by D. Brass. Motion passed; carried.**

#### **State Committee, S. Fickbohm**

The Managers' Meetings are coming up. A number of issues are on the agenda, including manure storages, Conservation Approval Authority, and the Climate Resilient Farming program.

Scott is also serving on the NRCS water quality subcommittee, and will report back on that.

#### **CDEA, PJ Emerick**

CDEA met May 5<sup>th</sup> in Auburn. There are a number of current issues/initiatives that the CDEA is working on:

- The Operations Manual Update Committee had a successful launch. The next meeting will be July 8 in Albany.
- CDEA is working with L. Prezorski to discuss the Level 1 Technical Training Program. They are working on developing a boot camp event which could be held as early as August.
- The new CDEA representative on the SWCC TAC will be Steve Lorraine. Corey Nellis will be the CDEA rep on the NRCS TAC subcommittees for wetlands and EQIP.
- The CDEA Conservation skills subcommittee is working on developing courses for the 2015 Conservation Skills Workshop. Contact your Division Representative if you have any ideas.
- The next CDEA Board meeting will be in July in the Catskill region.

#### **Farm Bureau, L. Williams**

The Farm Bureau will be working on the CAFO permit during most of the summer.

#### **NRCS, G. Kist**

Most of the Districts have renewed their Cooperative Working Agreements with NRCS. G. Kist is happy to come and talk about the agreements with any interested boards.

The backlog of wetland determinations has been reduced from 1500 to 350, and should be completely eliminated this summer. The Northern long eared bat was declared a threatened species, and the whole state of New York is potential habitat, so NRCS is waiting on logging to determine how to best manage the whole habitat.

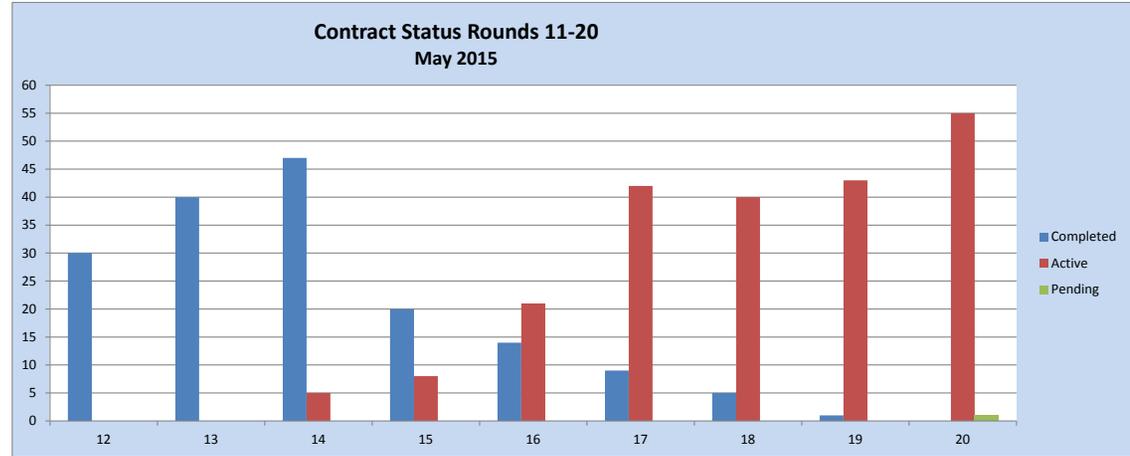
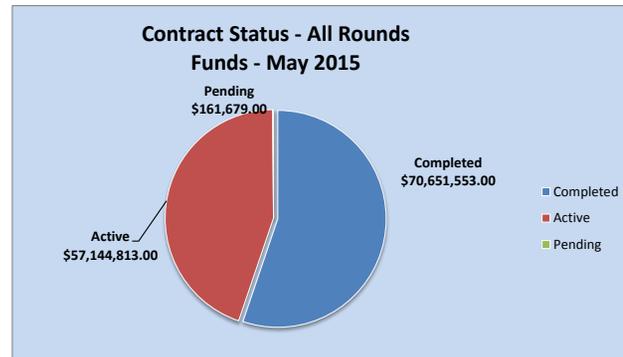
There will be 25 new regional staff positions in the state. Stay tuned for more information.

**Meeting adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for June 16 in Utica.**

Items for Further Discussion:

- The farm tile drain revolving loan fund as created in the budget
- Climate resilient farming program, as created in the budget
- Agricultural waste storage covers
- AgNPS projects that are expansion-related

May 19, 2015 SWCC Meeting, Albany, NY



**May - 2015 Funding Summary**

Round	Completed	Funds	Active	Active Funds	Pending	Pending Funds
11	31	\$4,953,443.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
12	30	\$3,752,701.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
13	40	\$7,557,565.00	0	\$0.00	0	\$0.00
14	47	\$9,560,272.83	5	\$2,160,669.07	0	\$0.00
15	20	\$4,318,582.32	8	\$2,610,209.95	0	\$0.00
16	14	\$2,498,677.81	21	\$6,101,056.18	0	\$0.00
17	9	\$1,077,814.00	42	\$10,374,780.00	0	\$0.00
18	5	\$1,598,290.00	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	55	\$13,526,066.13	1	\$161,679.00
	<b>197</b>	<b>\$35,646,905.96</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>\$57,144,812.38</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>\$161,679.00</b>

Activity	Number	Funds
Completed	536	\$70,315,560.00
Active	213	\$58,195,950.00
Pending	1	\$161,679.00
Cancelled	27	\$0.00
	<b>777</b>	<b>\$128,673,189.00</b>

# CONSERVATION APPROVAL AUTHORITY POLICY

Approved by State Soil and Water Conservation Committee May 19, 2015

## **INTRODUCTION**

The New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (NYSSWCC), through the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets, has been administering the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program since 1994. The program came about as a result of State and Federal legislation, including the Clean Water Act and New York State Pollution Abatement and Control Act. Through the program, state dollars fund conservation projects on public and private lands. Soil and water conservation districts are the only eligible applicants for funding, and actively assist in the planning, design and construction phases of each project. In addition, Soil and Water Conservation Districts provide technical assistance to landowners who fund their own conservation improvements.

## **BACKGROUND**

County soil and water conservation districts request funding through a competitive grant program. Grant proposals include Best Management Practice (BMP) Systems that are suitable to address conservation needs at each site. The BMP Systems consist of individual BMPs or Conservation Practice Standards, as they are called by our federal partner, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Each standard consists of a BMP name, number, and technical documentation covering planning, design, construction, and operation and maintenance of each BMP. The standards are updated periodically by NRCS with input from its conservation partners, including the NYSSWCC. The latest versions are archived at each state's Electronic Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG) website.

## **HISTORY/LAW**

Most of the NRCS standards require applying engineering principles to solve environmental problems. Many standards, if designed incorrectly, could have an adverse impact on built structures or the safety and welfare of the public. In order to prevent these adverse impacts the New York State (NYS) Board of Engineers of the NYS Education Department classifies the standards as either conservation or engineering. Engineering standards require a NYS licensed professional engineer to design them and certify their construction. Conservation standards do not require a NYS licensed professional engineer. In addition, some standards have dual classification; typically they are conservation when installed in-field and engineering when installed near structures.

The Agricultural Non-point Source Request for Proposals states:

*All BMPs proposed for implementation must meet NRCS Standards and Specifications; if no NRCS Standards or Specifications exist then the practice must be designed to meet nationally recognized 3 standards (e.g. American Concrete Institute Standards.) All practices implemented must be approved by an individual with appropriate approval authority.*

NRCS maintains an approval authority system to certify soil and water conservation district staff to plan, design, and certify construction of conservation practices that do not require a NYS licensed professional engineer. This system has two parts: Engineering Job Approval Authority (JAA) and Ecological Sciences Job Approval Authority. NRCS also uses the JAA system to certify their own staff.

## GUIDANCE

The NYSSWCC has created an alternative approval authority system for NRCS standards that do not require certification by a NYS licensed professional engineer. The system is called Conservation Approval Authority (CAA). CAA will allow soil and water conservation district staff to earn approval certification through coursework and design reviews. There will also be an optional rating of education and experience for soil and water district staff with more than 10 years of design experience.

Granting approval authority at all levels is at the discretion of the NYSSWCC engineer. Approval authority will be revoked if it is abused, through a procedure established by the NYSSWCC. Soil and water district staff that feel approval authority has been withheld or revoked unfairly may petition the NYSSWCC for a final determination.

CAA attainment has two pathways: Coursework and design reviews, or a rating of education and experience for employees with more than 10 years of experience.

- The coursework is primarily online self-paced lectures, quizzes and exercises with a course project that must be reviewed by the state engineer. Completing a course gives students design approval authority for smaller projects. Some standards require students to have taken an in-person hydrology class. Heavy Use Area Protection is planned as an in-person class only.
- Design reviews can be done for two types of projects. If a designer has made a significant contribution to a project design that was approved by a professional engineer or someone else with CAA, that project will count towards higher approval authority. Alternatively, a designer can complete the project coordinating with the state engineer as necessary.
- The rating of education and experience consists of the state engineer interviewing the candidate and visiting completed projects. The engineer will write a summary of the candidate's education and experience relating to each standard under review. Approval will require recommendation by the AEA supervising the region where the candidate is employed. **The rating of education and experience option will be phased out after 5 years. After that point all designers must complete coursework to gain CAA.**

The CAA program is being rolled out in phases as courses are produced. The first phase will cover 6 standards: Animal Trails and Walkways (575), Stream Crossing (578), Heavy Use Area Protection (561), Diversion (in-field) (362), Roof Runoff Structure (558), and Fence (382). The following chart explains the limits for each level and course prerequisites.



Conservation Approval Authority Steps		
<b>Animal Trails and Walkways - 575</b>		
	Basic	Advanced
Max. 10 yr Culvert Flow	25 cfs	No Limit
Requirements	SWCC on-demand <b>Animal Trails</b> and <b>HY-8</b> courses <b>Basic Hydrology</b>	Design 2 additional animal trails and walkways and have them reviewed by the SWCC State Engineer.
<b>Stream Crossing - 578</b>		
	Basic	Advanced
Max. 10yr Stream Flow	25 cfs	No Limit
Requirements	SWCC on-demand <b>Stream Crossings</b> and <b>HY-8</b> courses <b>Basic Hydrology</b>	Design 2 additional stream crossings and have them reviewed by the SWCC State Engineer.
<b>Heavy Use Area Protection - 561</b>		
	Basic	Advanced
Max. Square Footage	500 sq ft	No Limit
Requirements	<b>Heavy Use Area Protection</b> Level 3 Ag Technical Course <b>Basic Hydrology</b>	Design 2 additional heavy use areas and have them reviewed by the SWCC State Engineer.
<b>Diversion (In-field) - 362</b>		
	Basic	Advanced
Drainage area	20 acres	No Limit
Requirements	SWCC on-demand <b>Diversions</b> course <b>Basic Hydrology</b>	Design 2 additional diversions and have them reviewed by the SWCC State Engineer.
<b>Roof Runoff Structure - 558</b>		
	Basic	Advanced
Roof Area	2400 sq ft	No Limit
Requirements	SWCC on-demand <b>Roof Runoff Structures</b> course	Design 2 additional roof runoff structures and have them reviewed by the SWCC State Engineer.
<b>Fence - 382</b>		
	Basic	Advanced
Feet	1000 ft	No Limit
Requirements	SWCC on-demand <b>Fence</b> course	Design 2 additional fence projects and have them reviewed by the SWCC State Engineer.

## **QUALITY ASSURANCE**

The state engineer will perform periodic spot checks on projects that have been approved with CAA. Recurring design problems or failure to meet grant program rules may lead to revocation of CAA as per the NYSWCC policy.

Ocean & Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council

# **Ecosystem Based Management**

NYS Department of Agriculture & Markets



# Ocean & Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council

## ▶ Members:

- Dept. Environmental Conservation
- Dept. of State
- Dept. of Agriculture and Markets
- Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
- Office of General Services
- Dept. of Transportation
- Empire State Development
- State University of New York
- NYS Energy Research and Development Authority

# Ocean & Great Lakes Ecosystem Conservation Council

▶ 2011, added:

- NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee
- Dept. of Health
- Environmental Facilities Corp.
- Dept. of Education

# EBM Priorities:

- ▶ **Water and Land**
- ▶ **Energy**
- ▶ **Economy**
- ▶ **Climate Change**
- ▶ **Capacity Building**

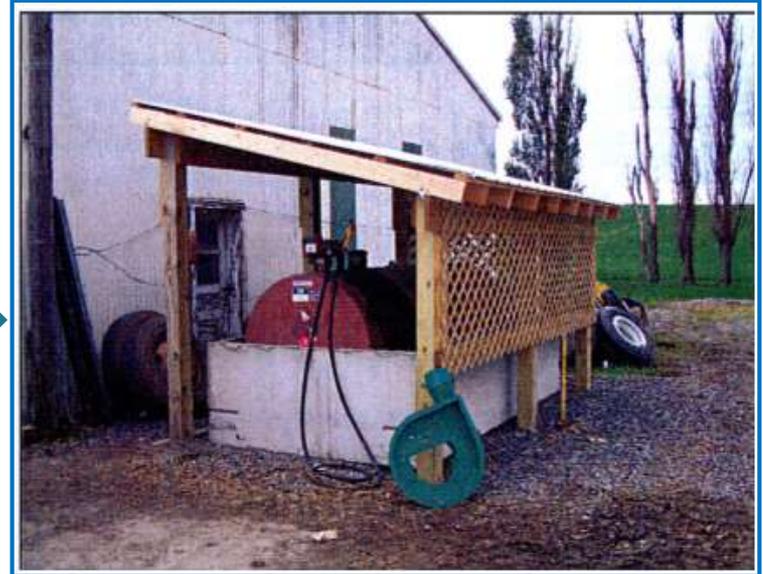
# Demonstration Area – 1

- ▶ Sandy Creeks
  - Riparian Buffer Pilot



# Demonstration Area – 2

- ▶ Sandy Creeks Pollution Prevention



# Demonstration Area – 2

- ▶ Sandy Creeks Pollution Prevention



# Demonstration Area – 3

- ▶ Sandy Creeks: Stream Restoration & Cow Comfort
- ▶ Ongoing
- ▶ Will close 12/15



# Demonstration Area - 4

- ▶ Sandy Creeks: EBM Strategy Implementation
  - Cover Cropping
  - Stream Restoration
  - Trail Creation/Restoration



# Program Integration

- ▶ Integrating EBM Principles into AEM
  - Updated Core AEM Tier 2 Worksheets
  - Created electronic AEM Tier 2 worksheets and database for collecting, storing and retrieving farm specific data at the local level.



# Program Integration

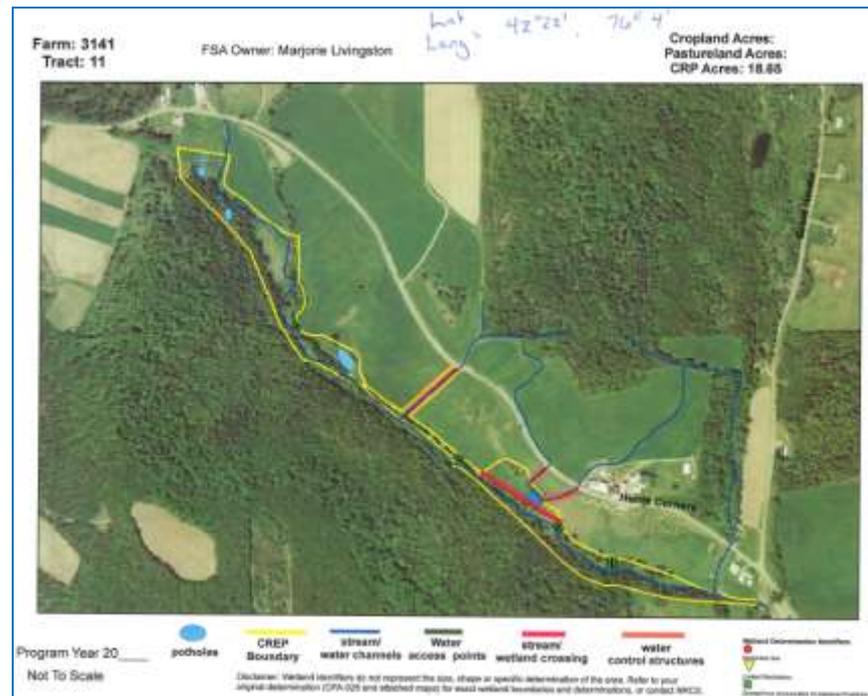
- ▶ Created/updated AEM Information Sheets





# Upper Susquehanna Watershed

- ▶ Riparian Buffer Initiative
  - Implemented 20 Conservation Buffers
  - Leveraged with federal funding
  - Combine total of approximately 130 acres of buffers.



# Schoharie Creek Watershed

- ▶ Riparian Buffers
- ▶ Soil Testing
- ▶ IPM Workshops
- ▶ Conservation Tillage
- ▶ Conservation Cover Cropping
- ▶ Secondary Containment for Fuel Storage



# Great Lakes Watershed



- ▶ Developing IPM Guidelines for Commercial Hops Production in NY
  - Madison Cornell Cooperative Extension



# Soil Health Mini Grants

- ▶ **Creating local Soil Health Initiatives**
  - Flexible funding that allows counties to create their own programs to overcome barriers to soil health
    - Allowed for equipment purchase
    - Soil Health Testing
    - Demonstration plots
- ▶ **Funded 13 Projects**
  - 11 in Great Lakes Watershed
  - 2 in Mohawk Watershed
- ▶ **Served as a pilot for Grants Gateways**



# Soil Health Mini Grants – Round 2

- ▶ Currently available through Grants Gateway
- ▶ Funding opportunity is the same as Round 1
  - Extended Statewide
- ▶ Available funding is \$170,000 – 185,000
- ▶ Applicants can receive up to \$25,000
- ▶ Must be a new initiative



# Conservation Tillage Alliance

- ▶ Orleans / Genesee Counties
  - Orleans SWCD
- ▶ Farmer-led focus group
  - Modeled after the PA No-Till Alliance
  - Indiana Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative



# Genesee River Watershed

- ▶ Erosion and Sediment Control Mini Grants
  - RFP issued through Grants Gateway
  - Currently being reviewed
- ▶ Practices on agricultural land
- ▶ Small projects ( $\leq$  \$10,000)
- ▶ Letters of Agreement
  - Expected to be able to begin work before fall 2015
- ▶ Round 2 in 2016



# Energy Conservation

- ▶ Targeted for dairy farms
- ▶ Work plan is pending
  - May be leveraged with larger project.



# What's Next

- ▶ 2015–16 Budget added \$1 million to Ocean and Great Lakes Budget
- ▶ Moving beyond Sandy Creeks
- ▶ Implementing the Great Lakes Action Agenda
- ▶ Genesee River is a high priority

**Questions?**

**Comments?**

**Thoughts?**

# **Climate Resilient Farming Pilot Program**

## **Approved Timeline**

Approved by State Soil and Water Conservation Committee May 19, 2015

**May 19, 2015** – SWCC meeting: Review and approve timeline, direction for pilot program, and longer term vision

**June** – Stakeholders (TAC members, SWCDs) meeting; discussion at managers meetings to solicit feedback on concepts

**June** – Develop and edit draft RFP

**July** – Present RFP to SWCC for review and approval

**July / August** – Make changes to RFP, present for Department review and approval, begin set up of grant opportunity on Grants Gateway

**September/October** – Release RFP via Grants Gateway, begin Q&A on Grants Gateway

**October** – Hold RFP training sessions/webinars on new program

**Mid to late November** – Proposal submission date, review proposals for eligibility, distribute to reviewers for ranking

**Late December** – Scores due back to SWCC Albany office; ranked list to SWCC for approval; ranked list and project descriptions ready for release of awards

**Jan 1, 2016** – Award letters sent out, send out plan of work materials

**February** – Receive and review plans of work and develop contracts

**March/April** – Have fully executed contracts in place



# Department of State

## Local Waterfront Revitalization Program

The Department of State (Department) provides 50:50 matching grants on a competitive basis under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (EPF LWRP) to eligible applications located along New York's coasts or designated inland waterways. Applications must be submitted through the New York State Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) Application (<http://regionalcouncils.ny.gov/>). Applications may be submitted to advance the preparation or implementation of strategies for community and waterfront revitalization through the following grant categories:

- Preparing or Implementing a Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP)
- Redeveloping Hamlets, Downtowns and Urban Waterfronts
- Planning or Constructing Land and Water-based Trails
- Preparing or Implementing a Lakewide or Watershed Revitalization Plan
- Preparing or Implementing a Community Resilience Strategy or Updating an LWRP to Incorporate Resilience Strategy
- Preparing or Implementing a Clean Transportation Strategy

**Eligible Applicants** - Eligible applicants are villages, towns, or cities, and counties (with the consent and on behalf of one or more villages, towns, or cities) which are located along New York's coasts or inland waterways designated pursuant to Executive Law, Article 42. Applicants may also partner with other organizations; however, only applications from eligible applicants will be evaluated for funding. If successful, all applicable procurement requirements must be met for such partnerships. Applications submitted by not-for-profit organizations (including, but not limited to, community-based organizations, neighborhood groups) and for-profit organizations are ineligible and will not be scored.

Eligible applicants working in partnership with neighboring municipalities to address regional land use, waterfront revitalization, community development, and resource and/or environmental issues or opportunities are encouraged to apply. Only the municipality identified as the applicant (one village, town, city, or county) will be awarded a contract.

- For general planning needed to advance any of the eligible activities listed below, an applicant must be a village, town, city, or county with the consent and on behalf of one or more villages, towns or cities located along New York's coast or a designated inland waterway.

- For project-specific planning, feasibility, design, and/or marketing needed to advance eligible activities, an applicant must be a village, town, city, or county with the consent and on behalf of one or more villages, towns or cities, currently preparing a LWRP or component, or with an approved LWRP or component.
- For construction of projects needed to advance eligible activities, an applicant must be a village, town, city with an approved LWRP or the relevant LWRP component substantially completed, or a county with the consent and on behalf of one or more eligible village, town, or city with an approved LWRP or relevant LWRP component substantially completed.

**Eligible Costs** - Costs must be adequately justified and directly support the project. Proposed total project costs must be essential to project completion.

Grant funds may be used for the following costs:

Personal Services – including direct salaries, wages, fringe benefits for activities related to project work by municipal employees and for grant administration for preparation of reports, vouchers and contract related administration required by the Department. Grant administration may not exceed 15% of the award amount or \$50,000, whichever is less.

Non-Personal Services – including supplies and materials, travel, equipment, consultant/contractual services for direct project related costs and limited grant administration, and other goods and services. Grant administration may not exceed 15% of the award amount or \$50,000, whichever is less.

Note: Land acquisition – land acquired within three years prior to the contract start date or within the executed contract term may be used as local share only for construction projects and may not to exceed 50% of the total cost of the project.

**Ineligible Costs** - The following costs will neither be accepted as the required local match nor reimbursed with grant funds:

Indirect or overhead costs of the municipality

Salaries and other expenses of elected officials, whether incurred for purposes of project direction, execution, or legislation.

Fund raising events/expenses, Federal assistance, other Environmental Protection Fund awards, land acquisition (except as noted above), taxes, insurance, fines, deficit funding, bond interest and associated fees, contingency costs, lobbying expenses, cost incurred prior to the contract start date, costs that are not adequately justified or that do not directly support the project.

Details on the Local Waterfront Revitalization Program and a list of coastal waterbodies and designated inland waterways are available at <http://www.dos.ny.gov/funding/>.

For description of project which previously awarded funding are available at [http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/grantOpportunities/epf\\_lwrpGrants.html](http://www.dos.ny.gov/opd/grantOpportunities/epf_lwrpGrants.html).

For more information contact: Kenneth Smith, NYS DOS Office of Planning and Development  
99 Washington Avenue, Suite 1010, Albany, NY 12231  
Phone: (518) 474-6000 Email: [Kenneth.Smith@dos.ny.gov](mailto:Kenneth.Smith@dos.ny.gov)

**Local Waterfront Revitalization Program  
Coastal Waterbodies and Designated Inland Waterways**

<b>COASTAL WATERBODIES</b>	
Arthur Kill	Lake Ontario
Atlantic Ocean	Lake Erie
East River	Long Island Sound
Harlem River	Niagara River
Hudson River (south of federal dam at Troy)	St. Lawrence River
Kill van Kull	
<b>DESIGNATED INLAND WATERWAYS</b>	
Allegheny River	Little Ausable River
Ausable River	Little River (in the Adirondack Park)
Ballston Lake	Little Salmon (North and South Branches)
Battenkill River	Little Sandy Creek
Big Tupper Lake	Long Lake
Black Lake	Mad River
Black River	Mettowee River
Boquet River	Mirror Lake
Buffalo River	Mohawk River
Bush Kill	Moose River (North and Middle Branches)
Canadarago Lake	Oatka Creek
Canandaigua Lake	Oneida Lake
Canisteo River	Onondaga Creek
Cattaraugus Creek	Onondaga Lake
Cayuga Lake	Oswegatchie River
Chateaugay Lake	Otisco Lake
Chaumont River (including Chaumont Bay)	Otsego Lake
Chautauqua Lake	Owasco Lake
Chemung River	Raquette Lake
Cincinatti Creek	Raquette River
Cohocton River	Sacandaga Lake
Conesus Lake	Sacandaga River
Cranberry Lake	Salmon River
Delaware River	Sandy Creek
Deer River	Saranac River
East Kill	Saratoga Lake
Esopus Creek (Upper and Lower Branches)	Scajaquada Creek
Fish Creek (East and West Branches)	Schoharie Creek
Fulton Chain of Lakes	Schroon Lake
Genesee River	Schroon River
Gooseberry Creek	Seneca Lake
Grasse River	Silver Lake (in Wyoming County)
Great Chazy River	Skaneateles Lake
Great Sacandaga Lake	South Sandy Creek
Honeoye Lake	State Barge Canal System
Hoosic River	Susquehanna River
Hudson River (north of federal dam at Troy)	Tioga River
Indian Lake	Tioughnioga River
Indian River	Tonawanda Creek
Keuka Lake	Upper Saranac Lake
Lake Champlain	Wallkill River
Lake George	Wappinger Creek
Lake Placid	West Kill
Lake Ronkonkoma	Wynantskill Creek

NOTE: Coastal waterbodies and designated inland waterways are defined in Executive Law, Article 42, Section 911. Coastal waterbodies also include embayments and tributaries that are within New York State's Coastal area.



# WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (WQIP) PROGRAM

## Round 12



**Division  
of Water**

### Program Description

The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) program is a competitive, statewide reimbursement grant program open to local governments and not-for-profit corporations for projects that directly address documented water quality impairments. Grants awarded through the WQIP program can fund up to 85% of the total project cost for wastewater treatment improvement projects. Grant recipients may receive up to 75% of the total project cost for non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control, aquatic habitat restoration, municipal separate storm sewer system projects. Up to \$35 million is available for this program.

### Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities
- Municipal corporations
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Not-for-profit corporations (Only aquatic habitat restoration projects)

### Eligible Activities

- Non-agricultural nonpoint source abatement and control
- Wastewater treatment improvement
- Municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4)
- Aquatic habitat restoration

### Non-Agricultural Nonpoint Source (75/25% Cost Share)

Priority projects

- Decentralized wastewater treatment facilities for failing on-site treatment systems
- In-Lake controls for Nutrients
- Peconic estuary nitrogen reduction projects
- Green infrastructure practices
- Stormwater retrofits
- Stream stabilization/restoration

### Wastewater Treatment Improvement (85/15% Cost Share)

Eligible Projects

- Wastewater effluent disinfection
- General wastewater infrastructure improvements

Priority Projects

- Highest Priority – Wastewater effluent disinfection
- Secondary Priority – Wastewater infrastructure improvements

## **Aquatic Habitat Restoration (75/25% Cost Share)**

### Sample Projects (Statewide)

- Upgrade and replacement of road stream crossings
- Removal or breach of stream barriers (dams or wiers)
- Removal or alteration of impoundments
- Stream daylighting

### Sample Projects (Peconic/South Shore Estuaries)

- Restoration or management of tidal or freshwater wetlands
- Creation or restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation
- Restoration or enhancement of shellfish and shellfish beds

## **Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4) (75/25% Cost Share)**

### Eligible Projects

- Completion of gap analysis to identify barriers to green infrastructure in local laws
- Revision of Local Laws to remove barriers to green infrastructure
- Comprehensive system mapping/program mapping

## **Ineligible Activities**

- Proposals that do not address a water quality impairment.

## **Pre-Application Requirements**

- All municipalities and soil and water conservation districts must register in the NYS Grants Management System to be eligible for this grant (<http://grantsreform.ny.gov>).
- All not-for-profits must register and prequalify in the NYS Grants Management System to be eligible for this grant (<http://grantsreform.ny.gov>).

## **Successful Applicant Requirements**

Successful applicants will be required to sign a State of New York Master Contract (MGC) and will be required to comply with statewide, agency and program terms and conditions, and payment and reporting requirements as identified in the MGC. The MGC for Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) can be viewed at: [www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/44916.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/44916.html).

## **Contract Period**

DEC prefers contract terms of 2-3 years in length. In rare cases, contracts can have a maximum term of 5 years. Project-related costs incurred on or after May 1, 2015 will be eligible for reimbursement.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

On the web: [www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html)

Program Contacts:

**Susan Van Patten or Jeremy Campbell**

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