

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

State Committee Meeting Videoconference - WebEx
October 31, 2023
10:00 am

At a Glance

- State Committee approves the signing of the 4 Way Partnership MOA
- Round 7 Climate Resilient Farming Program Ranked List of proposals approved
- Next Meeting – November 21, 2023

Present

Voting Members: Dale Stein, Chair; Erica Goodman; Darin Hickling; Scott Ryan; David Brass.

SWCC Staff: Bethany Bzduch, SWCC Executive Director; Brian Steinmuller, Division of Land and Water Assistant Director; Jennifer Clifford, Greg Albrecht, PJ Emerick, Ryan Cunningham, Brendan Jordan, Ron Bush, Ben Luskin, Scott Fickbohm, Victor DiGiacomo, Tyler Knapp, Melissa Gordon.

Advisory Members: Caitlin Stewart, President NYS CDEA /Hamilton SWCD; Jessica Armstrong, Vice President NYS CDEA/Oneida SWCD Brian Rahm, Cornell CALS; Paul Kaczmarczyk, NYSDOH; Morgan Tarbell, NYSDOH; Stephanie Wojtowicz, NYSDOS; Dan Welch, CCE; Katherine Black, NYS DOS; Paula Bagley, USDA NRCS, Blake Glover, USDA NRCS; Sara Latessa, NYS DEC.

SWCDs: Louise Brachmann, Niagara County SWCD; Katie Pfeifer, Niagara County SWCD; Pierre Chagnon, Chautauqua County SWCD; Jason Cuddeback, Cayuga County SWCD; Aaron Buchta, Onondaga County SWCD; Wendy Walsh, Tioga County SWCD; Will Wadsworth Livingston County SWCD; Corina Aldrich, Washington County SWCD; Laura Romanowicz, Oswego County SWCD; Linda Lockwood, Oswego County SWCD.

Partners and Other Attendees:

Tim Sheldon, NYS AGM Excelsior Fellow; Kyle Wallach, NYFB.

Review/Approval of Minutes

Erica Goodman made a motion to approve the September 19,2023, draft minutes; seconded by Dave Brass. Motion passed; carried.

Correspondence– Bethany Bzduch

Staff Update- Associate Environmental Analyst-Permanent position-Albany, NY has been posted. This position will be responsible for managing the water quality programs administered by the NYS SWCC/AGM. Please see the recording for additional information.

4-Way Partnership MOA- Bethany Bzduch

B. Bzduch presented information on the 4-way partnership MOA. The 4 Way Partnership is a partnership between NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC), New York Association of Conservation Districts (NYACD), NYS Conservation District Employees' Association, INC. (NYSCDEA), and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resources conservation Service (NRCS). The MOA is a five-year agreement that was previously signed by the NYS SWCC and currently is being updated by

[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)]

Caitlin Stewart, President, NYSCDEA. Please see the recording for complete version of the presentation and discussion.

Scott Ryan made a motion to approve concurrence to sign, B. Bzduch to sign on behalf of the SWCC; seconded by Dave Brass. Motion Approved

Aq Non-Point Source Program – Bethany Bzduch, Tyler Knapp

Program Status

Please see the recording and attachments for a complete version of the presentation and following discussion.

Completed Contracts: 198
Active Contracts: 164
Completed Contract Amount: \$62,471,890.83
Active Contract Amount: \$57,386,663.14

Amendments

No Amendments

Climate Resilient Farming Program – Jennifer Clifford, Tyler Knapp

Program Status

Please see the recording and attachments for a complete version of the presentation and following discussion.

Completed Contracts: 42
Active Contracts: 80
Completed Contract Amount: \$3,113,261.77
Active Contract Amount: \$13,125,422.50

Amendments

No Amendments

Voting / Staff/ Advisory Reports / Conservation Districts / Public Comments – All

Voting Member Reports

Erica Goodman – Nothing to report

David Brass – Nothing to report

Dale Stein – Nothing to report

Scott Ryan – Successful Annual NYACD meeting in Pen Yann

Advisory Member Reports

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) – Dan Welch-Nothing to report

Cornell College of Agriculture and Life Science (CALs) – Brian Rahm- Announced an opportunity with the dairy climate adaption fellowship. More information located at the following link: www.adaptationfellows.net

NYS Department of State (DOS) – Stephanie Wojtowicz-Nothing to report

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) – Sara Latessa- Nothing to report

NYS Conservation District Employees' Association (CDEA) – Caitlin Stewart- Administrative Conference information to be held on November 6 and 7. Save date for the 2024 WQS. The event will be held March 12-15,2023. NYS Erosion and Sediment Control review and exam course November 15th and 16th. Please use this link for more information: <https://www.nyscdea.com/nysesccp/>

NYS Department of Health (DOH) – Paul Kaczmarczyk-Nothing to- report

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Paula Bagely-Nothing to report

SWCC Staff Reports

Brian Steinmuller- Provided an update on the status of the Bond Act Funding and program criteria.

Tyler Knapp- Reported on the GIS storyboard. A link to new upload form to release information and photos will be sent to Districts

Victor DiGiacomo – Reported Western NY projects coming to conclusion. Workload for grants continue to be high.

PJ Emerick – Reported Region 2 Reviewing Annual Plans, AEM 18

Ryan Cunningham – Reported reviewing Annual work plans, AEM 18, AEM 17 project Closeouts winding down, CDEA planning presenter Admin Conference, Part B Projects, helping district on Grants, CRF, Plan of works for AGNPS Round 29.

Ron Bush – Reported working with AEM Certified planners and helping District and technicians learn the BMP systems and training resources.

Brendan Jordan – Nothing to report

Greg Albrecht – Reported on October 23, 2023, B. Bzduch facilitated a TAC Meeting on technical documents and policies. The three policies are the Soil Health Policy update, Repairing Buffer Establishment Policy, AGBMP catalog Forestry agroforestry. Good progress development on CRF round 8.

Ben Luskin – Deadlines for Action Plans for AEM, Part B, Annual Plans of works are in good shape. NYACD meeting and were able to teach some classes.

Jennifer Clifford – Nothing to report

Bethany Bzduch – Reported on the Conservation Project Tour that took place in Ulster County. A special thanks goes out to Ulster County SWCD and Ben Luskin for working to coordinate the tour.

Darrin Hickling- Nothing to report

[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)]

Scott Fickbohm –Reported reviewing Annual plans of work, AEM 18, the Statewide CREP Report information will be needed. Annual Empire Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society Meeting information was emailed.

Conservation District Reports Comments – Dale Stein – reported he attended the meeting in Ulster County talked about the beauty of the region. NRCS toured Stein Farms cover and flare systems on Oct 17, 2023, there were 20 attendees tour went well.

Public Comments – Nothing to report

At this point, all SWCDs (except CDEA designated representative) and farmers were asked to recuse from the Round 7 CRF Ranked List approval discussion/motion by disconnecting from the WebEx or phone line.

Darrin Hickling made a motion to approve Resolution 23-02 Round 7 CRF ranked list approval seconded by Erica Goodman. Motion approved

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 am

Please contact Bethany Bzduch, Executive Director of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee, if you have questions or would like to propose agenda items for the Committee to address.

Bethany.Bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov

518-457-2713

Next Meeting: November 21, 2023, in person and remote WebEx options. Meeting starts at 10:00 am.

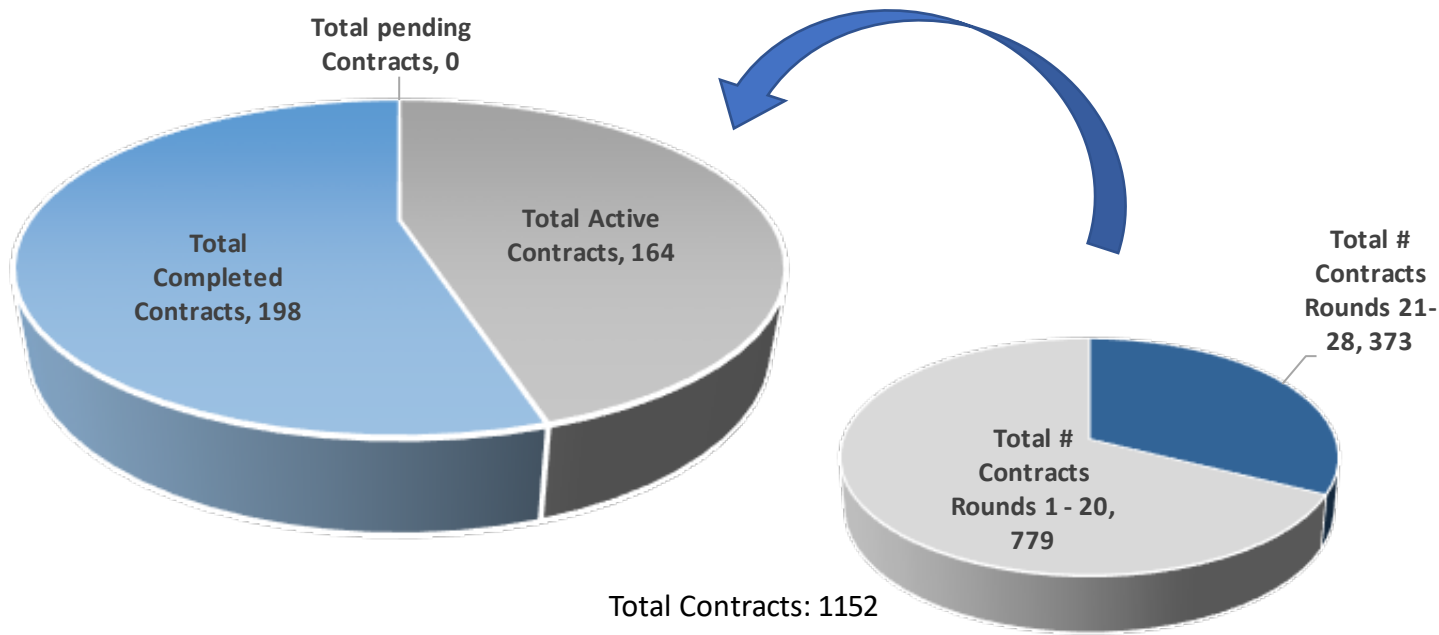
Complete Recording of the meeting can be viewed at the following

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-0yjoAMAlps&list=PL7R0tOxZLuMRdcstuxlysVPLXAejGkUcW>

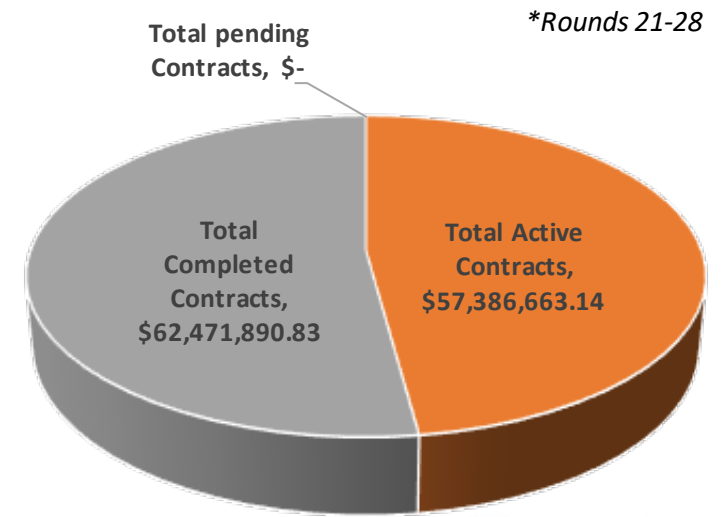
AgNPS Program Updates

Round	Total # Contracts	Total Contract \$	Pending # Contracts	Total Pending Contract \$	Total # Active Contracts	Total Active Contract \$	Completed # Contracts	Total Completed \$
21	40	\$12,908,317.67	0	\$ -	1	\$79,712.00	38	\$12,828,605.67
22	49	\$14,853,024.49	0	\$ -	1	\$109,944.98	47	\$14,743,079.51
23	58	\$18,308,160.81	0	\$ -	1	\$200,125.00	53	\$17,602,719.81
24	54	\$17,148,693.00	0	\$ -	19	\$8,622,233.16	32	\$7,855,178.84
25	47	\$16,273,749.00	0	\$ -	25	\$8,134,461.00	21	\$8,058,168.00
26	46	\$14,954,454.00	0	\$ -	41	\$13,670,715.00	5	\$1,283,739.00
27	43	\$13,691,836.00	0	\$ -	40	\$13,450,796.00	2	\$100,400.00
28	36	\$13,118,676.00	0	\$ -	36	\$13,118,676.00	0	\$ -
Totals	373	\$121,256,910.97	0	\$0.00	164	\$ 57,386,663.14	198	\$ 62,471,890.83

AgNPS - Contract Breakdown (#)



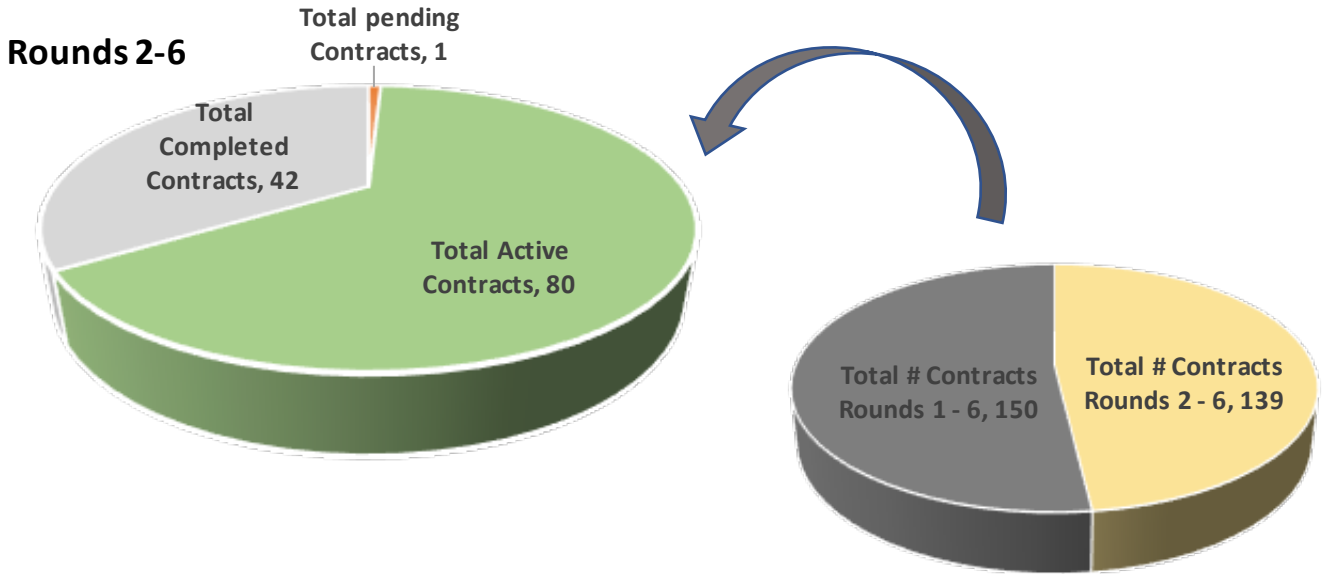
AgNPS Contract Breakdown (\$)



CRF Program Updates

Round	Total # Contracts	Total Contract Amounts	Pending # Contracts	Pending Contract Amounts	Active # Contracts	Active Contract Amounts	Completed # Contracts	Completed Contract Amounts
2	14	\$1,200,408.50	0	\$ -	1	\$226,500.00	11	\$973,908.50
3	28	\$2,376,734.27	0	\$ -	4	\$566,470.00	20	\$1,618,284.27
4	20	\$2,300,000.00	0	\$ -	8	\$1,284,787.00	8	\$353,875.00
5	43	\$3,989,003.50	0	\$ -	35	\$3,505,440.50	3	\$167,194.00
6	34	\$7,968,269.00	1	\$426,044.00	32	\$7,542,225.00	0	\$ -
Total	139	\$17,834,415.27	1	\$426,044.00	80	\$13,125,422.50	42	\$3,113,261.77

CRF - Contract Breakdown (#)



CRF Contract Breakdown (\$)

