

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
February 2016

SWCD 2015 Reporting – State Aid and annual reporting documents must be received in Albany by **February 15, 2016**. Reports that are not received by the due date, will not be considered timely and will add significant delays to state funding thereby limiting the State’s capacity to make prompt payments. All reports must be submitted electronically, except the Claim for Payment form for State Reimbursement. All electronic submissions should be emailed to Jennifer Clifford, (jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov). Please mail a signed hard copy of the Claim for Payment to: NYSSWCC, 10B Airline Dr., Albany, NY 12235.

1. Part A – Eligible Expenditures Report (including original Claim for Payment)
2. Part B – Conservation Project Financial Assistance Final Report
3. Part C – Performance Measures Financial Assistance Project/Activity Final Report
4. Performance Measure Evaluation Summary Report
5. Hourly Wages for Grant Work
6. Annual Report of the Treasurer
7. Annual Report (of Accomplishments)

AgNPS Program

Round 22 – The State Committee has made available approximately \$11.1 million for Round 22 competitive projects through the State Fiscal Year 2015-2016 budget. The Round 22 Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program RFP is now available on the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee SharePoint site (https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/_layouts/15/start.aspx#/). All applicable materials must be submitted through the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee Sharepoint site by the deadline, 4:30 PM, April 1, 2016, for the application to be considered complete. All questions related to the RFP must be submitted to Bethany Bzduch by March 21, 2016. There will be an informational webinar on February 23, 2016 to discuss the RFP, submission requirements, as well as, other AgNPS program changes. Further details regarding the webinar will be sent out shortly.

Round 21 - Some may have noticed that Round 21 contracts have started showing up in your offices. To avoid “financial” related delays to your projects, it is imperative that you have your contracts signed and submitted to Albany with the appropriate voucher requests ASAP. Upon contract execution, Districts may request a 25% advance payment. In addition, 65% of the total amount awarded for BMP implementation can be requested if: construction is imminent or is in progress; a separate interest bearing account has been established for the grant and; landowner contracts are in place and copies are included with the voucher request. Districts interested in submitting the 65% BMP advance should contact their regional AEA for approval. If you have not submitted your Plan of Work to your AEA for review, please do so as soon as possible.

AGNPS Tip of the Month #2 –Establish an electronic filing system with separate folders for each round. If you have multiple projects in a round establish separate folders for each project with the round folder. Save electronic templates and completed documents within these folders. If you have multiple versions of the same document be sure to label them appropriately so you can distinguish which is the correct version.

Next SWCC Meeting – The next Soil & Water Conservation Committee meeting is scheduled to convene in Syracuse on March 17th, 2016, at 5 PM at the Crowne Plaza Hotel (at the Water Quality Symposium). This will be a special meeting where the agreement between the 4-Way Conservation Partners will officially be presented and adopted. The invitation is always open, so please feel free to join the SWCC on the 17th!

Upcoming Events

2016 Water Quality Symposium - The 2016 Water Quality Symposium / NYS CDEA Annual Training Session will convene at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Syracuse, NY during March 15th – 18th, 2016. Registration forms will be accepted electronically for 2016 and are due no later than February 17, 2016. The 2016 WQS Registration Packet can be found on the [NYS CDEA Website](#). Registration questions should be directed to Kristin White @ kristin.white@ny.nacdnet.net or (315) 568-4366 – ext. 100.

Funding Opportunities

Healthy Watershed Consortium Grants Program - The US Endowment for Forestry and Communities released its 1st RFP for the Healthy Watershed Consortium Grants Program. There are 3 different categories of proposals with differing dollar amounts, totaling \$1.5 million. These categories are not rigid; they are simply meant to reflect the Grant Program's 3 primary approaches to watershed protection: Category 1 - Watershed Action Projects; Category 2 - Building Watershed Protection Capacity; Category 3 - Advancing the State of Practice. Applications are due by March 14, 2016 at 8:00 PM. A 25% match will be required. Projects funded in this grant cycle must be planned to be completed by December 31, 2020. For more information and details: <http://www.usendowment.org/healthywatersheds.html>