

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
May 2016

NYS SWCC News

Operations Sub-Committee Meeting: The next meeting of the Operations Sub-Committee will convene on Wednesday, May 11th at 10AM in Albany & via teleconference. A meeting agenda with call-in info and the latest draft of the Operations Manual will be sent out separately.

SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at 10AM on Tuesday, May 17th, 2016. The meeting will take place at the State Office Building located in Utica, NY. A meeting agenda will be sent out shortly.

Spring Manager's Meetings: This Spring, SWCC staff will be convening Manager's meetings across the State. Currently we have tentative plans to hold meetings the week of June 6th through the 10th. The schedule is as follows:

- June 6 – Region 4 – Bob Brower – Northern NY – Adirondack Park Agency office, 1133 NYS Route 86, Ray Brook, NY
- June 7 – Region 5 – Jennifer Clifford - Southeast NY – Dutchess SWCD office, 2715 Route 44, Suite 3, Millbrook, NY
- June 8 – Region 3 – Cliff Frasier – Eastern NY - Montgomery Cty Annex, 20 Park St., Fonda, NY
- June 9 – Region 1 – Vic DiGiacomo – Western NY – Farm Credit East, 4363 Federal Drive, Batavia, NY
- June 10 – Region 2 – Scott Fickbohm – Central NY – Cortland SWCD office, 100 Grange Pl., # 205, Cortland, NY

The plan is to start at 10 a.m. and be on the road by 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided. Topics to be covered include: State Aid to Districts, Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program, AEM Year 12 Updates and Annual Reviews, NYS Certified, etc.. A detailed agenda will be released shortly.

AEM Base Program

AEM Year 12: The information for Year 12 of the AEM Base Program (2016-2017) was emailed to Districts in March and is available on the State Committee's SharePoint Site. An Annual Action Plan with budget and timeline is due to the State Committee by May 2nd, with Program Year 12 starting on May 7th.

AEM Year 11: As a reminder, the information on close-out of AEM Year 11 (2015-2016) Program was recently released. Again this year, Districts will be able to self-certify and must be completed and submitted to Albany by July 7, 2015. The required information and forms available on the SWCC SharePoint site.

2016 Statewide AEM Award Nominations: Call for nominations for the 2016 AEM Award will soon be announced by the Department. Due dates for applications will be June 3rd, 2016. Please consider nominating exemplary farms in your county. Nomination forms will soon be sent by email and will be available on the SharePoint site.

AGNPS Program

Interim Reports: Interim reports on any contracts that are still active or those that have not been closed out should be submitted to Judy Snyder, your Regional AEA, and Bethany Bzduch by 5/1. Failure to do so in a timely manner can result in delays in payments or approvals of contract amendments.

Final Reports: As described in Attachment D of each Ag NPS contract, final reports must be submitted no later than 60 days after the end of the contract. Please make an effort to close out expired, past due contracts as soon as possible. As a reminder, unspent funds are returned to the Environmental Protection Fund for use in other AgNPS projects. If you have contracts that will be expiring within the next 6 months that will need additional time, please work with your AEA to seek a Time Extension.

Round 22 Update: Ninety eight (98) proposals for Round 22 were submitted to the Department of Agriculture and Markets from 39 Districts. Total project costs are \$54,013,388, with the State share requested at \$34,397,033.40. Project proposals are now heading out to program reviewers for ranking. State funds available will cover less than 35% of the State funds requested.

Technical Advisory Committee: A Technical Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled to convene at 10AM on Thursday, May 5th, 2016. The meeting will take place at the NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets office located in Albany, NY, however, participants will also be able to participate via teleconference. A meeting agenda has been sent out to committee members.

AGNPS Tip of the Month #5: Sharepoint can be a great tool for Districts who are involved in a multi-county project. Upload folders can be created where each District in the project can upload grant materials (SW forms, procurement/price solicitation forms, farm expenditure summaries, photos, etc) that can be easily accessed by the Sponsoring District. This can provide an efficient way for Districts to effectively administer multi-county projects. Contact Gabriella Spitzer if you are interested in creating an upload folder for multi-county AgNPS projects.

2016 NYS Envirothon: Will be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY on May 25th and 26th. This year's current topic is Invasive Species. Volunteers are still needed, please register to volunteer by contacting MaryLynne Malone at malone@highlands.com. If you would like to become more involved with the competition or have questions please contact Blanche Hurlbutt, NYS Envirothon Chair at blanche_13335@yahoo.com or at (607) 547-8337.

Other Upcoming Events

Stream Investigation, Stabilization & Design Workshop #1: June 8th-10th 2016, 4-H Building @ Chemung County Fairgrounds, Horseheads, NY. Sponsored by the SWCC and Chemung County SWCD, this 3 day event is offered to SWCD personnel at the discounted rate of \$150/person. To register, contact Chemung County SWCD (markwatts@stny.rr.com) by 6/3/16.

Stream Investigation, Stabilization & Design Workshop #2: June 13th-15th 2016, SUNY Cobleskill Route 7, Cobleskill, NY. Sponsored by the SWCC and Schoharie County SWCD, this 3 day event is offered to SWCD personnel at the discounted rate of \$150/person. To register, contact Schoharie County SWCD (b.weaver@schoharieswcd.org) by 6/3/16.

iMapInvasives Training Sessions: Become part of New York's invasive species early detection network by learning how to use iMapInvasives, an online mapping system shared by citizen scientists, educators, and natural resource professionals. New York iMapInvasives will be holding spring training sessions throughout the state in May and June! Each session will be coordinated through the Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), and will include training for basic and advanced data entry. Visit www.nyimainvasives.org for schedule details and registration, and contact imapinvasives@nynhp.org with general questions.

Funding Opportunities

NYS Farmland Protection Program: \$26 million is now available through the Farmland Protection Implementation Grant program to help farmers across New York State protect valuable and at-risk farmland. Application materials, guidance documents, and important webinar information for the Round 14 Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Request for Proposals are available on the Department of Agriculture and Markets website at www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html.

All farmland protection project proposals must be submitted electronically through the New York State Grants Gateway by 4:30 p.m. on June 13th, 2016