

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 1 Report – August 2020
Submitted by: Victor DiGiacomo – Region 1 Associate Environmental Analyst

Coronavirus Updates

General: As a reminder, the SWCC SharePoint (<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>) site has a link, “Announcements” that anyone can access and post their county’s emergency/Continuity of Government plans and other steps the District is taking during this event response, including “reopening” plans to safely resume program, project and operations.

Also, the Governor has extended the suspension of in-person meeting requirements of Open Meetings Law until **September 4th, 2020**. If your SWCD does indeed plan to continue with board meetings in some sort of “remote” fashion, please pay attention to the added requirement of meeting recording and transcription, if applicable.

NYS SWCC News

2021 Annual Plan of Work (APOW): It’s time to start updating your APOW for 2020. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is **November 1, 2020**. This will allow time to review, provide feedback, and recommend to the SWCC for approval by the end of the calendar year. The SWCC understands that there is a great level of fiscal and operational uncertainty going into 2021. All we ask at this time is that SWCDs do their best when trying to assess and document what their activities may be next year. Rest assured that there is always an opportunity for SWCDs to make updates to their Plans of Work if changes are necessary. Please don’t hesitate to discuss with your Regional AEA if there are any questions or concerns.

AEM 5 Year Strategy (2021-2025): A reminder that now is the time to begin working on a 5-year strategy for your local AEM efforts. A core reason for updating your five-year AEM Strategic Plan is to make sure the document is still an effective tool, intended to help the District (and partners) address water quality and other natural resource concerns and opportunities related to agriculture. Newly developed or updated Strategic Plans may be submitted to the State Committee anytime between now and **December 31, 2020**. Information regarding the strategy can be found on the SWCC Sharepoint : [https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/AEM%20Resources/AEM%20Base%20Program%20Materials/AEM%20Base%20Round%2016%20Materials/AEM%20Strategic%20Plan%20Update%20Information%20Sheet%20\(2021-2025\).pdf](https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/AEM%20Resources/AEM%20Base%20Program%20Materials/AEM%20Base%20Round%2016%20Materials/AEM%20Strategic%20Plan%20Update%20Information%20Sheet%20(2021-2025).pdf)

August SWCC Meeting: The State Committee meeting will not meet in the month of August. They will reconvene with a regular meeting in September. Further details and an agenda for September meeting will be available soon.

Community Resiliency Training Program Funding: The SWCC, together with NYSDEC are pleased to announce the availability of funding for Community Resiliency Training. The purpose of this funding is to provide Community and Municipality-based Training Events to increase resiliency to future flooding and outbreaks of harmful algal blooms in high-risk waterbodies. This opportunity is now available through the NYS Grants Gateway <https://grantsmanagement.ny.gov>. The application (**AGM01-CRTP-2019**) and required uploads found on the NYS Grants Gateway must be used to apply for these funds. **All applicable materials must be submitted through the NYS Grants Gateway. This opportunity has an open enrollment until February 2022.** Questions about the funding opportunity can be directed to Lauren Prezorski, lauren.prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov. **Once an application is submitted using Grants Gateway, please also notify Lauren Prezorski via email.**

Source Water Buffer Program: \$5 million is available to support the purchase of development rights on agricultural land to support the protection of active public drinking water sources. The RFA and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>. Questions regarding the RFA must be submitted in writing to bethany.bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov.

Director Training: A reminder that your Regional AEA is available to present training modules to your Board of Directors. Most notably the District Law training module which is training required every 3 years under the Performance Measure 1. Please reach out to your Regional AEA if you have any training needs. Additionally, the District Law training module is available to complete virtually via VIMEO: <https://vimeo.com/446525792>

Other News/Events

Conservation Skills Workshop: The registration for the 2020 Conservation Skills Workshop is now out! The workshop is offered a little different this year with webinar classes being held the week of September 14th and single day, in-person field classes being held September 21 - 30th regionally across the state. Registrations are due August 31st. Please share this with all employees and any other interested parties. If anybody has any question or concerns you may reach out to Tom Eskildsen at Yates SWCD (tom@ycsoilwater.com), Stacy Russell at Cortland SWCD (stacy.russell@cortlandswcd.org) or Mark Burger at Onondaga SWCD (mburger@ocswcd.org).

Watershed Wednesdays: Join the 2020 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Virtual Forum on **Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in August** for short conservation orientated presentations. This week's Wat mini session will focus on the Trees for Tributaries program and will focus on helping landowners and municipalities understand how the program helps with reforestation, decreasing erosion, reducing flood damage improving wildlife habitat and protecting water quality. Please join us with Zoom at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87453133125> Questions can be directed to Wendy Walsh at WalshW@co.tioga.ny.us