

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

General Updates

Suspension of In-Person Meeting Requirement: The Governor has extended the suspension of in-person meeting requirements of Open Meetings Law until **November 3rd, 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

2020 New York AEM-Leopold Conservation Award: Sang Lee Farms of Peconic has been selected for New York’s inaugural AEM-Leopold Conservation Award (LCA). Awarded by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Markets, the AEM-LCA award honors Sang Lee Farms, along with the Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District, for their efforts to protect the environment through the preservation of soil and water quality while ensuring farm viability for future generations. A video of Sang Lee’s Award-winning conservation practices can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/N13DE_RvYUc

SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **9:30 AM on October 20th**. This meeting will be held via Webex. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. **Reminder – participation at all SWCC meetings are eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.**

2021 Annual Plan of Work (APOW): It’s time to start updating your APOW for 2021. 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.

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. Newly developed or updated Strategic Plans may be submitted to the State Committee anytime between now and **December 31, 2020**.

State Aid to Districts:

- **2021 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance** – Part B proposals are Due **November 1, 2020**. Funds will be dispersed in December 2020 and projects are to be completed by December 31, 2021. Part B requests should be submitted via email to ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov.
- **2020 Part C Performance Measures** - The end of the year is rapidly approaching, and you should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling its Performance Measure goals. Earlier in the year some changes were made to Performance Measures. These modifications were made to allow Districts across the state the ability to meet the requirements under the restrictions of COVID-19. The SWCC encourages all SWCDs to still strive and meet as many of their performance measures as possible this year. Please contact your Regional AEA with any specific questions that you may have.

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Materials (CREP): Need information or curious about the benefits of CREP? Visit the new [CREP page](#) on SharePoint under ‘Resources for Districts’ and ‘Other Resources’. There you will find fact sheets on the benefits of Riparian Buffers on *flood control* and *storm damage prevention* as well as several other topics – 10 fact sheets in all. Check back as material will be added periodically. If you have any questions about the material found there, CREP or how your District can support the program, please contact Scott Fickbohm at scott.fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov

SWCC Program Interim Reports: Interim Reports for Ag Non-Point Source, CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program, and Climate Resilient Farming contracts are due by **November 1, 2020**. Please remember that biannual submission of interim reports is not required for Round 24 Ag Non-Point Source, Round 3 CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program, and Round 4 CRF contracts. Please remember that the completion of Interim Reports is a precondition for the approval of payment requests and contract amendments. Interim reports for all other rounds should be submitted for any open contract and to should be sent electronically to Maureen Irish (Maureen.irish@agriculture.ny.gov), Jason Kokkinos (Jason.kokkinos@agriculture.ny.gov) and your Regional AEA.

Other News/Events

NYS Archives Training Webinar: Managing Oversized Maps, Plans and Drawings Webinar, October 20, 2020, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM, more info at: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule>

NYACD Annual Meeting: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the NYACD Annual Training event has been cancelled. However, the 2021 NYACD Annual Business meeting will be held. This will be a virtual meeting on **Wednesday, October 21, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.** Additional information will be provided to Districts & Partners as it becomes available.

NYS Invasive Species Speaker Series: October 28, 2020 @ 11AM, Assessing the Risk of Invasive Plant Introductions at Trailheads in the Adirondack Park. To join the presentation, go to this Zoom link, <https://cornell.zoom.us/j/976302364#success>, and follow the on-screen call-in details. If you cannot make the call, recordings of all past presentations can be found on the NY Invasive YouTube Channel.

2020 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference: Including the Basic Training track for those preparing to take the CCA exams as well as the Advanced Training track for current CCAs. **December 1-3, 2020 - By digital webinar.** Conference and registration info can be found here, <https://www.nysaba.com/educational-meetings>