

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 1 Report – September 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 **October 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

SWCC Meeting: The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **9:30 AM on September 15th**. This meeting will be held via Webex and can be accessed using the link provided below. 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.**

- Go to <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m15ea2bd3582fece882e73e837a1cc030>
- Meeting Number: 171 628 7734, Meeting Password: P4Qch7uv9k9

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**. Information regarding the strategy can be found on the SWCC Sharepoint site. A reminder that your strategic plan is a forward thinking document that will help drive your AEM program into the future. The strategy should be reviewed and discussed at public board meeting and should be accepted by the Board via resolution.

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** - As for Performance Measures, the end of the year is rapidly approaching and you should be checking to make sure that your District is fulfilling their obligations for meetings, training, training plans, etc., to be able to earn all the funds that will be available. 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.

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.

NYS Archives and The Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records - LGS-1. This single, comprehensive retention schedule covers records of all types of local governments. It consolidates and revises all previous record retention policies and is required to be adopted by SWCD’s by January 1, 2021. There are approximately a dozen records specific to SWCD that have mandated retention times. The LGS-1 document can be found [here](#), and a template resolution can be found [here](#). More information regarding the Schedule and on-line training, can be found at the Archive website: <http://www.archives.nysed.gov/records/retention-scheduling-and-appraisal>

Other News/Events

Grant Writing Workshop: The Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP) is hosting two grant writing workshops (via Zoom) on **September 8th and 10th**. Workshops will have speakers from VT and NY State agencies as well as private consultants specializing in grant writing. The workshops will provide instruction and guidance on developing clear and responsive grant proposals, as well as improve participants' capacity to secure grant resources. Registration is open to groups outside of the Basin starting on September 1st, until they reach capacity. Workshops will also be recorded and posted to the LCBP website.

- **September 8th: 1pm-3:30pm: The Science and Art of Grant Writing**
- **September 10th: 9am-12:00pm: Facilitated Workshops on LCBP and State Grants**

Registration information can be found here: <https://forms.gle/8Z8UWNPP66MbowmH8>. If you have any questions or have trouble with the registration, you may direct them to Lauren Jenness at Ljenness@lcbp.org.

Other Webinar Trainings:

- NYS Archives presents, 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>
- The 2020 Northeast Regional Agribusiness & CCA Conference will be held through digital webinar this year, from **December 1st – 3rd**. More information on the individual seminars and registration can be found here: <https://www.nysaba.com/educational-meetings>

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.