



New York Association of Conservation Districts
c/o Steuben County SWCD
415 W. Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
www.nyacd.org

November 1, 2017

Dear SWCD Directors;

Wow!! What a great turn out and wonderful event NYACD held last week for the annual event. We had over eighty in attendance between the two-day event. It was great seeing folks I hadn't seen in a while and meeting new ones.

Registrations was maintained by Marilyn Peoples, Darlene Farrand, and Elaine Aldridge and they did a wonderful job.

One of the highlights was the tour of Madison County SWCD projects lead by Steve Lorraine. This was well attended, and folks really enjoyed what they saw and heard on each site they visited. Steve and his staff did a wonderful job arranging and setting this up.

Pat Hooker, Deputy Secretary, Agriculture & Markets spoke at our Wednesday annual meeting. It was great to hear what he had to say and his support for Soil & Water Districts.

Eric Hansen, NE NACD gave us a brief update on what the NE NACD is doing and discussed the upcoming pilot project with NRCS funds provided to work with all partners on the future.

Senator Pam Helming attended the New York Association of Conservation Districts (NYACD) annual banquet on Wednesday, Oct. 19 received an appreciation award for her efforts to protect the environment and the natural resources in our region. NYACD unifies the Directors of local Soil and Water Conservation Districts across New York State to provide leadership in the wise use of water and natural resources. As a Town Supervisor and as a State Senator, Senator Helming has worked with NYACD and similar organizations to advocate for the protection of our natural resources.

“As the Senate Chair of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources, I understand firsthand how vitally important the work of NYACD and similar organizations is in preserving and protecting our agricultural lands and natural resources. From my personal experiences, I know that our farmers and our communities depend on the work that conservation districts do to protect our water and environment.

This is why I continue to advocate for the important work of Soil and Water Conservation districts throughout our great state,” Senator Helming said.

Keisha Tatem, Acting Regional Conservationist, Northeast filled in for Leonard Jordan, Acting NRCS Chief and what an excellent job she did. Keisha updated everyone on the changes happening with Farm Services & NRCS, as well as encouraging Districts to sign up for a contribution agreement.

Keisha also accepted the Partnership Award on behalf of Greg Kist, NRCS New York for all his challenging work and support for Districts, NYACD, and the NYS Envirothon. Greg was unable to attend due to other commitments that evening.

Unfortunately, Assemblyman Bill Magee was unable to attend the banquet as planned due to a falling accident with four of his ribs being injured.

Other award recipients were as follows:

NYACD Commendation Award
Associate Member Award
Diversity Award
Special Service Award
Distinguished Service Award

Delaware SWCD
Meadowview LLC
Tioga SWCD
Ernie Swift, Division IV Representative
Dan Farrand, NYACD Pres.

These folks were well deserving of these NYACD awards and we were proud to honor them.

Thanks to all the folks and Districts that provided Silent Auction/Raffle items. They were such nice items and we raised \$579 in total plus another \$370 for the Florida condo raffle, which was won by Sharon Frost, Suffolk Co. SWCD.

The annual meeting had a quorum, so we could move forward and complete the business section of the event. The resolutions passed as well as the change in the NYACD By-Laws.

The training sessions were great. We had some wonderful presentations on what other Districts do led by Jim Lieberum, NRCS held two training sessions, and everyone expressed how they learned something from all the sessions.

Those are just a few of the highlights of the event and we hope that more of you will attend the event next year October 23-24, 2018, location to be announced later.

Dan announced at the annual business meeting that on Tuesday evening, October 17th the NYACD Board hired me as their Executive Director for a year with a possibility of another year.

Since I have arrived back home I have followed up with the final hotel event bill, wrote thank you cards, worked on a 2018 calendar to be shared with all District Directors, contact some Legislators regarding the 2018 NYS Budget, wrote board meeting minutes, worked on RFP's to be sent to hotels for next year's annual event hotel site, contact Mike Brown regarding possible Director training in early June of next year.

I have begun work on the 2018 Legislative booklet for Legislators. This booklet is created for Districts to meet with their Legislators at their local and Albany offices. This booklet will include projects from local districts before/after, proposed resolutions, etc. This is to help you share with your Legislators just what Districts are doing and to encourage the support from our Legislators. A request was sent this week for information to be forwarded from Districts related to project(s) they have completed and their before/after photos and a little story regarding that project.

The next NYACD Board meeting will be held Thursday, November 16, 2017 at 7 p.m. this will be a teleconference. Our annual face-to-face meeting will be held at the Cortland SWCD office on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 11 a.m.

Please let Dan or myself know, if you'd like to be on any of the teleconferences. We will be able to provide you with the call in and code number.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dan Farrand, President NYACD at (607) 359-2611 or myself at (607) 965-6316 or my cell (607) 794-8086.

Sincerely,

Blanche

Blanche L. Hurlbutt
Ex. Dir. NYACD