

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
February 2015 Report

State Aid/Annual Reports: Part A, Part C, Hourly Rates for Grant Work, Annual Report and Treasurer's Report documents must be received in Albany by **February 15, 2015**. Reports that are not received by the due date, will not be considered timely and will add significant delays to state reimbursements thereby limiting the State's capacity to make prompt payments. **Also, please send a signed hard copy of the Claim for Payment to: NYS SWCC, 10B Airline Drive, Albany, NY 12235**

Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (ANSACP):

- **Round 20** - Some may have noticed that Round 20 contracts have started showing up in your offices. To avoid "financial" related delays to your projects, it is imperative that you have your contracts signed and submitted to Albany with the appropriate voucher requests ASAP. Upon contract approval, Districts may request a 25% advance payment. In addition, 65% of the total amount awarded for BMP implementation can be requested if: construction is imminent or is in progress; a separate interest bearing account has been established for the grant and; landowner contracts are in place and copies have been included with the voucher request. Districts interested in submitting the 65% BMP advance should contact their regional AEA for approval.
- **Round 21** - The State Committee has made available approximately \$12 million for Round 21 competitive projects through the State Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget. All questions related to the RFP must be submitted to Mr. Brian Steinmuller by March 20, 2015. The RFP is available on the NYS Grants Gateway and can be downloaded at the following link: <https://www.grantsgateway.ny.gov>. **Also, Round 21 AgNPS Grants Gateway webinar trainings are scheduled to convene on Friday, February 13th and Friday, February 20th.** Although not a requirement, all SWCDs planning to submit a proposal under the Round 21 RFP are strongly encouraged to participate in at least one webinar. PLEASE NOTE: PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. "Invitations" to attend the webinar trainings will be sent out shortly. The webinar will briefly go over the Round 21 RFP program highlights, but will mainly focus on the new submission procedures through the Grants Gateway.

District Planning Documents Due: As a reminder, your **District Annual Plan of Work** must be submitted and approved by your regional AEA by March 1, 2015. Please forward an electronic copy of your plan to your AEA when it's ready for review. Also, the SWCC is asking Districts update their **AEM Strategic Plans**. Participation in AEM Base 11 (2015 – 2016) will be contingent upon updating your plan. Updated plans must be submitted to the State Committee by May 6, 2015.

SWCC Meeting: The next Soil & Water Conservation Committee meeting is scheduled to convene in Albany on February 10, 2015, from 10:00am – 2:30pm. This will be a special meeting where we honor our retiring State Committee Chair, **George Proios**, for his 15 years of service on the Soil and Water Conservation Committee. The invitation is always open, so please feel free to join the SWCC on the 10th. As a reminder, The SWCC is currently seeking Directors of NYS Soil & Water Conservation Districts who may have interest in sitting as a voting member on the Committee. Any District Directors with interest in joining the SWCC by representing the "At Large - Urban, Suburban, and Rural Non-Farm Interests" sector should contact Mike Latham @ (518) 457-3738.

Upcoming Events:

Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLLA) Public Workshops – NYSDEC and NY Sea Grant are hosting these workshops to discuss the proposed strategy for implementing the GLLA. There is no cost to attend these workshops but pre-registration is required with NY Sea Grant at sgoswego@cornell.edu or 315-312-3042.

- East Aurora - Cornell Cooperative Extension of Erie County, Wednesday, February 4, 3-5pm
- Canandaigua - Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County, Thursday, February 5, 3-5pm

Manure Handling Workshop - Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:30am-12:00pm at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 248 Grant Ave, Auburn, NY. Free and open to all - Contact the Cayuga SWCD for more information or to register for the event @ 315-252-4171 x3.

2015 Water Quality Symposium / NYS CDEA Annual Training Session - March 10 - 13, 2014, Holiday Inn Binghamton, NY. <http://www.nyscdea.com/media/nys-cdea-water-quality-symposium-2015.pdf>

Funding Opportunities:

Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program grant program: This program (formally known as the Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control) is now open: <http://projects.glc.org/basin/funding.html>. This grant program is for projects that will reduce phosphorus entering the Great Lakes. Projects should reduce erosion of sediment and/or non-point source runoff. Applications are due by 6:00 PM EST on April 24, 2015.