

Agriculture advisory committee
Chemung County Soil & Water District Office
851 Chemung Street, Horseheads
Notes of August 18, 2005

Attendance: chair Dawn Schmidt, Doug Cotton, Matt Griffin, Mike Hastrich, Dan Hurley, Ellen Knapp, Leon Kraszewski, Mark Morse, Randy Parker, Vern Robinson, Don Schaufler, Ashur Terwilliger, Richard Usack, Mark Watts, Lindsay Wickham, note taker Diane Fiorentino

1. Mark reported on tributary strategy meeting hosted by the DEC. Specifics were relayed on how this will affect farmer's updates on total manure daily loading within their AEM plan. If there is a compliance requirement with the tributary strategy it will become part of the farm AEM.

Chair ask for questions from members for other meeting agenda items
Question about landfill leachate and if DEC will regulate the amount of heavy metals in the leachate.

2. Landfill

Ellen K. indicated there are negotiations with Palmer Nelson for the purchase of land for additional landfill space. Negotiations with the Lockey farm have ended. Any negotiations are likely in light of the proposed increase to 750,000-tons/year use of the facility. It was noted that this is a 350% increase from current loading.

Are there any unlined cells or cells at risk at the facility? Ellen K. noted per DEC there is documentation on private wells with concern issues.

Ashur T. asked if Susquehanna River Basin Commission would become involved with those concerned about landfill and water quality issues. Question raised concerning industry's involvement with the pollution issue. Is this a point source pollution topic? Ashur asked Lindsay if Farm Bureau had taken any position in other landfill situations. Per Lindsay at this time landfill policies are weak. There is a policy development meeting in September at the State level. This is an opportunity for policy action if members want it. Chemung Count Farm Bureau meets tonight. Ellen will see that an individual representing concerned citizens on the landfill issue be present to aid policy discussion locally.

Dawn suggested an article in Grass Roots, the State Farm Bureau newspaper.

3. Right to Farm

Donna announced 10 am September 1 town of Erin meeting to get right to farm passed. The delay to date has been with the Erin town attorney. Baldwin will probably get theirs in after Erwin votes. Per Mark no one seems against it.

Dawn requested report on attendance at Chemung county fair. None were offered. Regarding grounds secretary building. Ellen K. reported that legislator Donna Draxler raised question at legislative meeting. Legislative chair tabled the issue. Draxler

questioned grant for historic status and time commitment to write such a grant. Ellen believes topic is being blocked in the legislature. Ellen reiterated the importance for anyone to work through legislature directly. Per Ashur farm bureau still wants the building.

4. Eastside farmer's market

Update from Mike Hastrich on number of patrons (~300+) and vendors (10+). Both are exceeding start-up goals. The work on next year is to improve this market, not start another. CCE is looking and asks others to also identify new vendors to diversify the produce offerings. Might there be livestock farmers with an interest in growing row crop vegetables for market? Mark suggested agriculture advisory council send a thank you to Fusko (Holiday Inn owner) for providing permission to use the property. Dawn will get this out. Farm bureau will send a similar thank you.

5. A current member of the advisory board heard a request from Alice that a representative of the Grange be involved this Board.

6. Agriculture awareness

a. Lindsay shared new agriculture in the classroom newspaper/magazine format. The price is \$5/30 from American farm bureau. This Board's educational outreach group will consider distribution with financial support from Farm Bureau for purchase of the 'newspapers.'

b. Foods in the schools

NY. Harvest NY kids week is October 1-9. There is an effort to have Horseheads schools source from New York and infusing those items in their school menus. Ellen K. is working with district staff on making this happen. The question is: What constitutes local food? Twin Tier? NYS, 20, 50-mile radius? There was no consensus.

c. Diane F. mentioned agriculture in the classroom. There is possibility of bringing Cornell's agriculture in the classroom coordinator Nancy Schaff to Elmira area for a workshop. Ellen suggested possibility of having it at farmer's museum and making use of other fairgrounds buildings. Board had general support of the workshop. Details left to CCE.

d. Farm city day. Mike H. initiated discussion on use of Arnot mall as a venue for farm city event. Suggested third week of March being national agriculture week. Recognized that the event celebrating this? Broome County at Oakdale mall is very large. Possibility of involving other counties.

7. CCE bylaws Election cycle info sent out by Mark. As some did not receive it will be sent again.

8. Lindsay mentioned Finger Lakes jazz festival upcoming www.fingerlakesjazzfest.com. Lydia with the jazz fest hopes to offer a farmer's market. Those with interest should contact her 535.4898

9. Ellen received information that the NYS republican assembly formed task force to assess the state of NYS agriculture. The task force is hosting regional meetings. One upcoming is in Penn Yan Thursday August 25 at 3:30 in the auditorium of the middle school. Ellen is planning to go. Lindsay referred to a September meeting that will tour farms in Tioga County.

Next meeting September 15 8am Soil and Water Conservation District office (third Thursday has been set as a standard)