



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

September 4, 2014 AGENDA

2:00 PM

Committee Members:

Cindy Kurpil Gieger, Chair, Cora Edwards, Vice-Chair, Gene Benson, Alan Sorensen, Kitty Vetter

Call to Order

Attendance

Comments: Committee Chair

Reports:

1. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
2. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
3. DPW Update

Presentation:

1. Farmland Protection Plan Recommendations

Discussion:

1. Next Steps Energize NY
2. Agricultural Efforts through Planning

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

OSE Activities Report for September 2014

Reporting on August 2014 activities

I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

NYPA Potential for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center – In progress. DPW is assessing NYPA's initial proposal for Government Center and crafting a response.

Solar PPA – In progress. Solar City has filed the application with NYSERDA for the PPA for 2MW solar installation plus battery storage at the Liberty Health Complex. OSE meeting with Heather Brown to ensure continuity.

II. Energy Improvement Corporation/C-PACE Program

Elyssa Rothe and Mark Thielking of the Energy Improvement Corporation (EIC) and Energize NY made a presentation to the Executive Committee on August 21st. OSE will provide any assistance needed to make sure all questions are answered and keep this initiative moving. Next steps:

- County to draft local law, membership agreement, letter to EIC requesting membership.
- Meet with stakeholder groups and agencies such as the SC IDA and SC Partnership.
- Develop and coordinate outreach in collaboration with EIC, the SC Division of Planning and other stakeholders.

III. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN/CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

OSE continues to outline the Community portion of the Climate Action Plan. The Plan will address Energy, Transportation, Materials Management, Land & Water Use, Public Health and Emergency Management, with resources, case studies and specific recommendations pertaining to towns and villages, commercial property owners, residential property owners, schools, places of worship and other non-profit entities. Other considerations:

- Coordinate with the SC Farmland Protection Plan, Transportation Plan and other concurrent efforts that dovetail with the Climate Action Plan's sustainability goals.
- Include planning for a campaign of public information and outreach, and identify community partners who can help educate their constituencies.

IV. OUTREACH

NACL Theatre's Weather Project concluded Saturday, August 9th in Yulan. More than 500 people attended the performance and expo, learning about climate change impacts global, regional and local, and what we can do to address these impacts.

- SASD presented information on recycling, water conservation, and renewable energy systems, and distributed applications for the *Green Jobs-Green NY* program of free or low-cost home energy audits and access to low-interest loans for home energy improvements. SC DPW and Division of Planning provided informational materials and lent teaching tools.
- SASD will pursue a continuing collaboration with NACL and other partnering organizations to build on this momentum and educate the public on climate change. Plans include: annual symposia and smaller community presentations on climate issues, renewable energy technology and sustainable building practices

CCE/Planning AG REPORT:

Farmland Protection Plan Update: The committee has been working with Nan on the mapping, SWOT analysis, definitions, along with draft goals and strategies. At the last meeting Nan presented the top 6 priorities. (Please see attached Priorities document & Priority SWOT Analysis document). The next step is for Nan to take all of the comments from the last meeting and put together a draft Goals/Strategies document for the committee to review. We anticipate a public hearing on the plan in November.

Greenhouse/High Tunnel Project- In partnership with Sullivan BOCES and Sullivan Renaissance, CCE have constructed a greenhouse at CCE. Our 2nd class in the series is on August 26th, "Soil Health & Management", presented by Cornell University Cooperative Extension Specialist Judd Reid. Approximately 15 people attended. The next class is scheduled for November: Winter Greens & Tomatoes.

Youth Ag Programming: The 4-H Fair took place at the 135th Little World's Fair in Grahamsville. CCE 4-H hosted the annual 4H Fair, with over 200 youth participating in the fair and over 150 animals-an overall increase since last year. We also brought back the Livestock Auction and helped to raise money to support the CCE 4H program.

In House Assistance- Received over 50 calls and emails for assistance and information in August. Assistance included information on:

- Livestock Processing & NYS Ag & Markets requirements
- Pest management for vegetable production
- Soil Testing assistance
- Loan and grant information
- Information on Agriculture Districts & Agriculture Assessments
- Assistance with USDA crop registration
- Assistance with FSA/NRCS programs
- Assistance with Dairy Processing Requirements & equipment
- Information on Crop Production
- Information on Poultry Production
- Assistance with general Beginner Farmer information
- Provided assistance with business planning information
- Information on land use and zoning
- Assistance with identifying diseases/pests
- Assistance with Pesticide Credit information

Programming: CCE staff have been working to develop programming for the remainder of 2014 and beginning to plan programs for 2015, such as Orchard Production, Insurance Coverage for Farmers, Beef Quality Assurance, Maple Syrup Production, Business Development Programs, Direct Marketing & Processing of Livestock, Crop Insurance, Pest Management and Funding Opportunities for Farms.

Upcoming Classes for Remainder of 2014

September 8th Corn Plot Field Day

September 14th Bethel Woods Harvest Festival Farm Day

September 23rd Milk Protection Program Webinar

October 3-4th Orchard Production Workshop

October 16th Direct Processing & Marketing of Livestock

October 21st Farm Funding Opportunities

October 25th Beef Quality Assurance

November 6th Insurance Coverage for your Farm

November 13th Winter Greens/Tomatoes for High Tunnels

November 22nd Maple Syrup School

December 4th Dairy Lunch and Learn