

SOLID WASTE & ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE
MCCARTY, KENNEDY, KOUTNIK, LAPIN, FARWELL
May 14, 2019

PLANNING/SOLID WASTE –KAREN SULLIVAN/TAMMIE HARRIS

Karen Sullivan requested approval to accept the NYSERDA Clean Energy Community Grant of \$250,000 and enter into a contract for such and approval for the budget modification to increase 8160.4900 by \$250,000 and increase revenue line 0000.3091 by \$250,000. Representative Farwell moved for approval. Seconded, Kennedy. Total: 2,201; Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan discussed the new C-PACE program noting that the payments now will go through the EIC and not the County. Karen Sullivan stated that the Treasurer that this was a positive thing and to move forward. Karen Sullivan requested approval to adopt a new Local Law to establish a Sustainable Energy Loan Program (Open C-Pace) in Otsego County and sign a new agreement. Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Koutnik. Total: 2,201; Ayes: 2,201. Motion carried.

Karen Sullivan discussed the Woodlawn Dairy Farm Project (Tim and Sue Cantwell, Richfield Springs, NY) and the submission of a grant application for their farm through the NYS Ag and Markets Dairy Transition Farmland Protection Grant Program. Karen Sullivan and the committee reviewed the maps of the farm, 1 parcel in particular may be considered commercial but it will be up to Mr. Cantwell to include that or not, there is a succession plan for the farm, this plan will help to preserve the land for Agriculture and provide capital revenue for operating costs, and the Ag and Farmland Protection Board met yesterday and approved supporting the application.

Karen Sullivan requested approval for a resolution of support for the submission of a grant application to the NYS Ag and Markets Dairy Transition Farmland Protection Grant Program by Otsego Land Trust for the Cantwell properties located in the Town/Village of Richfield Springs and Herkimer and to support same properties for the 2020 Ag. Farmland Protection Implementation Grant Program.

Representative McCarty stated that this will lower the property values for Richfield Springs, its taxpayers money, he opposed it 13 years ago with the Bartlett Farm and is against it.

After discussions, Representative Kennedy moved for approval. Seconded, Farwell. Total: 2,201; Ayes: 1,826; Noes: 375- McCarty. Motion carried.

Amy Wyant discussed C-PACE noting that the application can be found online for interested businesses through Energize NY and Tammie Harris can be contacted for assistance as well.

OTSEGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER- JORDAN CLEMENTS, JOE SWEENEY

Jordan Clements, District Manager for Soil & Water gave updates on the following including but not limited to:

- Weather is taking a toll on projects
- 2 Ag Projects: bids done, awarded contracts, Worcester and Edmeston locations
- Part C Funds: sent notice out to all Towns, Villages, School Districts in the County, \$15,000 was set aside for them to apply for mini grants up to \$1000, decent turnout, received 13 project proposals for recycling, education, trail maintenance, will discuss awards at the next S&W board meeting on Thursday
- Working on installing some gravel parking lots (will use crushed stone) on forest lands for safe parking for the public and the Forester
- Discussion on the signs at the forests saying enter at your own risk- Joe Sweeney stated that could be added to signs
- Received \$30,000 for road work in Middlefield from Assemblyman Brian Miller to help pay for culverts/materials
- Butternut Watershed Study- had public meeting to wrap it up, about 30 in attendance
- Leveraging more funds for more studies for Cherry Valley Creek and Otsdawa Creek, OCCA is leveraging funds for another study on the Butternut Creek
- 2 grants have been submitted for the resiliency grant
- 3 grants for Water Quality including 2 on irrigation systems and 1 on soil health
- the office is staying busy with planting buffers- 6 farms and 20 acres need to be planted
- 2nd Round of CAFO funding: 1 farm needed manure storage, \$425,000 awarded total cost of project is \$800,000

Jordan Clements stated that the Farm Tour for this year will be held on Friday, October 11, 2019 noting that the State Committee on Ag and Markets staff will be attending along with some State politicians including Delgado. Jordan Clements asked that all Board Representatives attend if possible, and there will be lunch served after the tour at BOCES with a farm to table lunch.

Leslie Orzetti, OCCA discussed the Phase III WIP noting that the draft is out for public comment, she and Danny Lapin are the lead on eliciting comments, and she will send the link to Karen Sullivan.

Leslie Orzetti asked to come to the June Board Meeting to give a presentation on the WIP and the Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) and how it will affect New York State and Otsego County.

Jordan Clements stated that it's the unknown of all of this as the EPA sets all of the goals and no one knows what will happen if the goals are not met, we need to do as much as we can now before 2025, and make a concerted effort.

PLANNING/SOLID WASTE –KAREN SULLIVAN/TAMMIE HARRIS

Karen Sullivan presented and reviewed the following reports:

-Solid Waste Totals—3,447.11 tons of solid waste collected in April (down 276 tons from last year), \$1,134.39 credit to the County

-Recycling Costs for Otsego County—357.04 tons collected in April at an average of \$86.90 per ton (down 5.47 tons from last April), total costs of recycling including labor for April is \$31,027.97

-Mattress collection for April 2019 was 195 mattresses

-E-Waste Totals- have spent \$14,000 this year, on target with the budget

Karen Sullivan, the committee, and Lonnie O'Bryan from Casella discussed recycling, the need for the material to be cleaner-too much contamination, costs are increasing (will be \$100 per ton at Sierra), the paper/cardboard market has dropped drastically, people are struggling to pay to get rid of their garbage so they put it in recycling as it is free, and the signage is not really helping. Karen Sullivan, the committee, and Lonnie O'Bryan from Casella discussed what to do including but not limited to:

- have someone monitor the recycling bins at the transfer stations
- lock the containers
- charge municipalities the garbage rate if there is contaminated recyclables
- charge for recycling
- do more education, advertising, and promotion

Karen Sullivan discussed the County imposing a 5 cent fee on paper bags as part of the plastic bag ban that will take effect in 2020. The committee discussed the following including but not limited to:

- webinar last week on the NYSAC website, over 100 participants
- without the 5 cent charge on paper bags, you will see an increase in pollution
- out of the 5 cents, the State will get 3 cents and the County will get 2 cents
- Wegmans and Price Chopper are already moving ahead with the plastic bag ban
- Karen Sullivan stated she is looking into buying totes to distribute to low income individuals

- The question still remains- who is going to enforce the plastic bag ban?

Karen Sullivan gave an update on the totals for the compost and rain barrel distribution noting that they made \$3,300 from the sale of 29 compost bins, 20 mesh bottoms, 17 turners, 8 thermometers, and 10 kitchen containers.

Karen Sullivan the recycling bin in Unadilla noting that a 30 day notice has been given and the Supervisor agreed with removing it.

Karen Sullivan stated that she reached out to the Town of Richfield and they are no longer interested in doing an electronics recycling at this time.

Tammie Harris gave an update on the Septic System Grant program noting that they are in Phase II, there has been 1 new applicant, and they can accept one more application for the program.

Karen Sullivan provided 2 links to the committee regarding the end of free recycling in Washington County and the ban of coffee cups:

<https://www.timesunion.com/business/article/Free-recycling-ends-in-Washington-County-13791779.php> Free Recycling ends in Washington Co.

<https://www.adn.com/nation-world/2019/04/29/first-they-came-for-plastic-bags-coffee-cups-are-next/>

Karen Sullivan asked if the committee is in support of John Rowley's request for the Cooperstown Lions Club to do another Susquehanna River Clean Up on 6/22 and requesting funds not to exceed \$300 from the Community Events Grant program. The committee supported the request going to the IGA Committee for approval but asked that next year they apply for a grant through the Community Events Grant process in February.

Tammie Harris and Amy Wyant discussed the Climate Smart Communities Grant Application including but not limited to:

- Otsego County has taken the pledge-collaborative effort to take the lead
- Inviting other communities to join
- DEC is excited about the project, Otsego County can go for a DEC 50/50 grant (in-kind services)
- Collectively looking at what projects can be done together
- MVEDD is willing to be a partner and write the grant
- Can have a joint task force
- Getting final numbers together and sending letters out
- Some communities have already done a lot

- Projects for communities to prepare for flooding include watershed, flood plain, culverts, catch basins, stream projects

Karen Sullivan gave an update on the ReUse Store and the Styrofoam densifier noting that the system is operating; all of the styrofoam that was collected at Earth Festival is now on one pallet, they are starting to collect from local businesses, there is a market for it, and 2 containers were bought with the grant to store the material.

Representative Lapin gave an update on the Cornell Cooperative Extensions Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crop team noting that Don Smyers along with Kevin Gano and 3 local farmers came to the Health and Education meeting on Monday to discuss the value of the team and ask for the emergency appropriation again as the team services will cease on 8/1/19. Representative Lapin stated that there was no decision made but the committee is speaking with the Treasurer's Office.

Leslie Orzetti from OCCA discussed the CFA for a trails grant noting that there will be 4 forests/parks included in the grant. Leslie Orzetti stated that the County needs to do a Public Access Covenant and resolution to include Bilderbeck Forest in the grant and state that it will be kept publicly accessible for 25 years. The committee asked that Leslie Orzetti take the request to the Public Works committee meeting this week for approval.

There being no further business to discuss, the committee adjourned until Monday, June 17th at 9:00 a.m. at the Meadows Building.