



## Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

December 13, 2012 AGENDA

2:00 PM

Committee Members:

Cindy Kurpil Gieger, Chair, Cora Edwards, Vice-Chair, Jonathan Rouis, Alan Sorensen, Kitty Vetter

### **Call to Order**

### **Attendance**

### **Reports:**

1. SASD Monthly Report- Dick Riseling
2. Agricultural Planner Monthly Report- Jen Mall
3. Update - DPW

### **Presentation:**

1. Potential Municipal Buyer Group for Solar Panels/LED's – SASD
2. "Harvesting Opportunities in New York" – Jen Mall

### **Discussion:**

1. Red Meat Plant/HVAB Initiatives
2. Dairy Processing RBEG

### **Resolutions: None**

### **Public Comment**

### **Adjourn**

## **OSE Activities Report for November 2012**

### **SC Climate Action Plan**

- CAP Advisory Board met Thursday, November 15. Next meeting is 4:00 PM December 13, snow date December 20.
- Subcommittee is developing an outline for the SC Climate Action Plan, drawing upon research into existing plans developed by other counties and towns.
- Attended November meeting of the SC Agriculture Advisory Board to invite collaboration on the agricultural issues associated with Climate Action Planning.
- Climate Smart Communities Pledge is pending in Cochection, Highland, Neversink.
- Pledge signed in Delaware, Lumberland and Tusten.
- Attended Liberty Town Board concerning wording for an ordinance permitting large-scale renewable energy.
- Energy data complete for town operations in the Town of Delaware; starting to process this data.
- Tusten will launch residential and commercial buildings survey in January: "Join Team Tusten."

### **Energy Management for SC Facilities**

- Working to further develop and refine the Liberty Energy District project.
- Due to Hurricane Sandy, the site visit for LED lighting at Travis and ACC has been rescheduled for Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.
- Weekly meetings with DPW/review of capital budget to identify opportunities for energy savings.
- Continued mapping and evaluating County and municipal sites for large scale PV deployment (GHG reduction).
- Also mapping Sullivan County capacity for forest and grass biomass.

### **MHRP**

- Attended all-day work sessions in Beacon and Harriman to finalize first draft of the Comprehensive 7-county Sustainability Plan.
- Preparing wind capacity assessment for the region.
- Attended public information meetings on the plan in Newburgh and Westchester.
- Developing organizational structure to create a county-wide solar purchasing entity that would aggregate town, village and county solar electric orders, creating major savings in purchase and installation costs. Town data on electricity consumption, collected through the SC CAP initiative, will help us set goals in terms of timing and size of specific installations.

### **Green Jobs/Green NY**

- Continue to provide assistance to SC residents for energy efficiency audits and applications for low-interest loans.

Carol Roig  
Stephen Stuart  
Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy

### Ag Planner Projects:

**Dairy Processing RBEG:** Evaluation Team has begun reviewing proposals. On their behalf, I have requested additional information from the proposers to help the team more fully evaluate the proposals. Regular communication with USDA-RD to ensure compliance with all aspects of the grant program.

**Microenterprise Assistance Program:** Continued administration of ag projects. One ag grantee has declined the grant. Working with the review committee, County Attorney, and Department of Grants Administration to reallocate the funds.

**Sullivan County Farmland Protection Planning Grant:** I have drafted a revised scope of work for review and approval by NYSDAM. Working with the Ag Advisory Board to ensure that high priority projects and initiatives are incorporated into the plan update, and planning a meeting of the Ag and Farmland Protection Board to discuss the project. Regular communication with NYSDAM to ensure compliance with the grant program.

**Red Meat Processing Facility:** Continuing to work on the transfer of grants from the Ag LDC to the IDA. Regular communication with contacts at USDA-RD to ensure that the grant transfers comply with USDA regulations, and to ensure grant extensions where necessary. Taking steps to dissolve the Ag LDC. Attending IDA Board meetings to stay informed of progress on the red meat facility and assist wherever necessary.

**REAP Board:** At their November 7<sup>th</sup> annual meeting, the REAP Board elected directors to fill vacancies. They continue to conduct business as usual while waiting to learn whether the REAP designation will be continued by the pending 2012 Farm Bill. I have spent time this month assisting the Board with meeting coordination, annual reporting to USDA, letters of support for local projects, and other administrative duties.

**Farm Visits:** Farm visits during November in support of the Dairy Processing RBEG project and the Microenterprise Assistance Program grant.

### Recent Events & Happenings:

**Ag Advisory Board:** At their November 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, the AAB identified three working groups that will focus on important issues and initiatives: red meat processing, dairy processing, and local food marketing and distribution.

**AFT Conference:** Attended American Farmland Trust conference in Albany on November 15 to gain information and technical assistance for the County's farmland protection plan update.

**CCE Ag Program Committee:** Met on November 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss program committee changes, introduce new staff, and begin developing a 2013 plan of work.

### Upcoming Events:

**Next Ag Advisory Board Meeting:** November 26<sup>th</sup>

**Cornell Cooperative Extension Annual Meeting:** December 11<sup>th</sup>