



## Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

February 7, 2013 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. Hudson Valley Agribusiness/ IDA - Todd Erling
2. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
3. Agricultural Planner Report/Ag Advisory Board Monthly Report- Jen Mall
4. Update NYS Blue Ribbon Taskforce
5. Update – DPW

### Presentation:

1. Renewable Energy Purchase Agreement through Integrys- Heather Brown
2. Municipal Wind Project/Sustainable Energy Development (SED) – Stephen Stuart

### Discussion:

1. MAP Grant Program
2. Solar Panel Tax Incentive

### Resolutions:

1. To authorize the award and execution of an agreement to develop a Dairy Processing Facility.
2. To continue policy providing recycled newsprint to Sullivan County Farmers.

### Public Comment

### Adjourn



**COUNTY OF SULLIVAN  
LEGISLATIVE MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** County Legislature

**FROM:** Luiz C. Aragon

**Title:** Commissioner

**Department:** Planning & Environmental Management

**COMMITTEE WITH JURISDICTION**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community & Economic Development | <input type="checkbox"/> Management & Budget                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Works                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Executive                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Personnel  | <input type="checkbox"/> Veterans                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government Services              | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning, Environmental Management & Real Property |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health & Family Services         | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture & Sustainability |
- Check all that apply

**SUBJECT OF RESOLUTION:** Rural Business Enterprise Grant

**PURPOSE OF RESOLUTION:** Authorize execution of lease agreement

**DATE OF FIRST SUBMISSION:** February 7, 2013

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** Authorize execution of lease agreement for dairy processing equipment, under USDA-RBEG Program, in an amount not to exceed \$186,500.00.

**COSTS TO OTHER COUNTY PROGRAMS:** None

Mandated     Budgeted     Budget Revision Necessary

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

Balance of

**Proiection:**

	YR1	YR2	YR3	YR4
County Cost	\$ 15,000*	\$	\$	\$
State Funds	\$	\$	\$	\$
Federal Funds	\$186,500	\$	\$	\$
Other	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 201,500</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>

**If NONE check here:**

\*This is an in-kind match: minimum of \$15,000 in Ag Planner staff time. Costs incurred will have no impact on general fund.

**RESOLUTION NO. -12 INTRODUCED BY THE AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE TO AUTHORIZE THE AWARD AND EXECUTION OF AN AGREEMENT TO DEVELOP A DAIRY PROCESSING FACILITY**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution 163 of 2011, the Sullivan County Legislature authorized the Division of Planning and Environmental Management to prepare an application for funding under the United States Department of Agriculture-Rural Development (USDA-RD) Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) program for development of dairy processing facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the County was awarded the RBEG grant in the amount of \$186,500.00, with an in-kind match of \$15,000.00 from the Division of Planning and Environmental Management for a total project cost of \$201,500.00; and

**WHEREAS**, following a request for proposals process, the County received proposals for the development of dairy processing facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, an evaluation team selected by the Chairman of the Legislature has reviewed the proposals; and

**WHEREAS**, the evaluation team recommends that the County enter into an agreement with Sullivan County Dairy Products, LLC, to utilize the RBEG funds; and

**WHEREAS**, under this agreement, the County will use the RBEG funds to purchase dairy processing equipment, including but not limited to production and packaging equipment, to be leased to Sullivan County Dairy Products, LLC for the development of a dairy processing facility.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Manager be and hereby is authorized to execute the necessary lease agreements, contracts and documentation with Sullivan County Dairy Products, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$186,500.00 in such form as the County Attorney shall approve.

**Moved by** \_\_\_\_\_, **seconded by** \_\_\_\_\_, put to a vote, unanimously carried and **declared duly adopted on motion** \_\_\_\_\_.

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY AGRICULTURE AND SUSTAINABILITY POLICY COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION TO CONTINUE POLICY PROVIDING RECYCLED NEWSPRINT TO SULLIVAN COUNTY FARMERS**

**WHEREAS**, on October 15, 2003 the Sullivan County Division of Solid Waste implemented a policy of providing recycled newsprint to Sullivan County farmers to be utilized as bedding for livestock, and

**WHEREAS**, over the past ten years Sullivan County farmers have come to rely upon the recycled newsprint and some Sullivan County farmers have purchased equipment (i.e. paper shredders) in reliance of the policy, and

**WHEREAS**, farming operations in Sullivan County contribute a substantial amount to the economic stability of the County of Sullivan (“County”), and

**WHEREAS**, providing the recycled newsprint to Sullivan County farmers provides an economic stimulus to individual Sullivan County farmers and is vital to the continued economic growth of the County’s agricultural industry, and

**WHEREAS**, the price the County receives in the commercial recycling market fluctuates greatly and at certain times the price received has a negligible value to the County and in contrast the value to the County in supporting the agricultural industry is considerable and constant, and

**WHEREAS**, the cost associated with the provision of the recycled newsprint to Sullivan County farmers is significantly outweighed by the economic impact on the County’s agricultural industry.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the policy of providing recycled newsprint to Sullivan County farmers be continued by the Sullivan County Division of Solid Waste.

**Moved by** \_\_\_\_\_,  
**Seconded by** \_\_\_\_\_,  
**and adopted on motion** \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

## **OSE Activities Report for February, 2013**

### **Reporting on January 2013 activities**

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

- Continuing to work with SC DPW to identify energy efficiency upgrades for SC buildings and facilities within parameters of the capital budget
- Researching and evaluating, with Heather Brown, the efficacy of Sullivan County purchasing renewably generated electricity through Integrys.
- Research and evaluate efficacy of granting county tax abatement for solar electric systems.
- "35% Design Report" prepared by Sustainable Energy Development (SED) for the Health and Human Services Complex distributed to various County departments for review and comments. Received comments in a meeting held January 22; these comments will be shared with SED as they prepare their presentation.
- Working with SED to generate new financial return models for the County Health Complex.

#### **SC Climate Action Plan**

- CAP Advisory Board met January 24, 2012. Meeting notes are attached.
- Advisory Board continues to move forward with task forces to address specific topics and sections of the plan.
- Developing fact sheets and research on LED lighting, Municipal Buyers Groups, and solar capacity in Sullivan County to support the Advisory Board's efforts and recommendations.

#### **MHRP**

- Dick Riseling attended a meeting of MHRP energy working group in Newburgh on January 24<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Other Projects**

- OSE staff continues to provide assistance to SC residents/access to audits and applications for low-interest loans through Green Jobs/Green NY.

#### **Energy Efficiency "Concept of the Month"**

- Municipal Buyers Groups for PV installations

Carol Roig

Stephen Stuart

SASD on behalf of the Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy

### Ag Planner Projects:

**Dairy Processing RBEG:** Evaluation team met with proposer on January 14<sup>th</sup>. Since then, I have contacted proposer's references for more information, and am working with USDA-RD to address questions about the project's eligibility.

**Microenterprise Assistance Program:** Continued administration of ag projects. As of January 31, approximately \$40,000 has been disbursed, to five of the eight grantees. Approximately \$30,000 in disbursement requests are currently being processed by the County before being submitted to NYSOCR. Regular communication with MAP Review Committee to keep them informed of grantees' progress and get their approval for any changes to project scopes and budgets.

**Sullivan County Farmland Protection Planning Grant:** Met with Ag and Farmland Protection Board on January 7 to discuss the grant. Submitted revised scope of work and budget to NYSDAM on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Awaiting approval of revisions and contract from NYSDAM. Pending contract execution, I am drafting a request for qualifications of consulting firms that can assist with various aspects of the plan.

**Red Meat Processing Facility:** Equipment RBEG has been assigned to IDA. Continuing to work on the transfer of RBOG 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. Continued work on Ag LDC dissolution. Facilitating communication between IDA and Ag Advisory Board regarding the red meat facility.

**REAP Board:** Drafted REAP Zone Annual Report and Narrative, for submission to USDA in compliance with REAP Zone regulations. REAP Board continues to conduct business as usual in the absence of a new farm bill. Next meeting of the REAP Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13.

### Recent Events & Happenings:

**Ag Advisory Board:** met on January 14<sup>th</sup> and discussed plans for a series of roundtable discussions to further high-priority projects and initiatives (see below).

**Upper Delaware River Roundtable:** Attended an agriculture roundtable on January 9. Two high-priority initiatives (dairy processing and the development of an "agrohall" to include commercial kitchen, associated services, etc.) were identified, and two working groups were formed to lead these. As part of the dairy working group, I am working to gather relevant information in preparation for our next meeting on March 7.

**Bethel Farmland Protection Plan Implementation Committee:** attended committee meeting on January 15. Having completed a set of zoning recommendations for the Town Board and worked on a town-wide agricultural awareness campaign, the group is now revisiting some of the other high-priority initiatives outlined in their implementation plan and determining next steps.

**Sullivan County Wellness Committee:** attended Wellness Committee meeting on January 23. Discussion of farm to school efforts and WIC-accessible farmers markets is ongoing.

### Upcoming Events:

**Ag Advisory Board:** February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013—special roundtable discussion on livestock processing. This is the first of three such roundtables, and will be followed by an April 24 session on dairy processing, and a June 26 session on developing food distribution infrastructure.

**Next UDRR Ag Roundtable:** March 7<sup>th</sup> 2013.



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## **HVADC-Sullivan County December 2012 Update**

HVADC has continued to work with the numerous partner offices and agencies on the ground in Sullivan County to reach out to the ag community and individual producers and companies. HVADC staff has accompanied Sullivan County Partnership and Planning staff on several trips to specific meetings and tours of farms and ag businesses. HVADC is committed to continuing these efforts as the opportunities are identified by our local partners. HVADC will work to increase and enhance these meetings over the next year.

***Microenterprise Assistance Program (MAP) - Entrepreneurial Training Program-*** HVADC continues to support the efforts of Sullivan County Planning to support the MAP program.

### ***Mid Hudson Regional Sustainability Plan (MHRSP)***

HVADC staff has been working as Co-Chair of the Ag & Foodshed working group for the MHRSP effort and has assisting in bringing in producers and agribusinesses to provide a regional perspective on sustainable agricultural issues. These broad reaching issues range from energy to economics to sustainable farming practices. Throughout this planning process, HVADC has worked with leaders from Sullivan County to ensure Sullivan's interests have been represented.

### **Hudson Valley Agribusiness Incubator**

Through this program, HVADC is able to provide individualized assistance as needed to new and expanding agriculture-related businesses throughout the Hudson Valley. These businesses range from small individual operations to agricultural co-ops; from start-ups to established businesses. But what they all share is a reliance on agriculture for the success of the business.

### **Incubator Projects**

*Value –Add Dairy Products Startup* – development of a business plan to facilitate financing of startup cheese manufacturing facility. The assistance has included a financial analysis; labor resource review and marketing plan review and enhancement.

### **Hudson Valley Bounty**

*HVB Recruitment of Members* – HVADC has begun an effort to recruit farms and restaurants into the HVB network. The initial outreach is utilizing Sullivan County's Visitor Association database which contains approximately 90 contacts for relevant businesses. We are working with County Ag leaders to expand this list to be more comprehensive and inclusive.

HVADC is an equal opportunity provider, and employer. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6392 (TTD).

**New York State Consolidated Funding Applications**  
**-Regional Opportunity for HVADC partner Counties**

***Regional Agribusiness and Food Systems Finance Program: Project Summary***

The Regional Agribusiness and Food Systems Finance Program is intended to create a regional financing program to provide loans to local food and agricultural businesses that bring employment and investment to the region while supporting the development and/or enhancement of the regional food system. Initial financing activities will provide loans of up to \$25,000 with the intent to grow in lending volume and deal sophistication. Loans will also be made in cooperation with local LDC and private lending sources. Counties participating in the loan program include Columbia, Greene, Ulster, Sullivan, Washington, and Rensselaer.

***Hudson Valley Food Hub: Project Summary***

The objective of the Hudson Valley Food Hub – Phase II project is to expand the infrastructure of two successful food processing and distribution firms in order to meet the growing demand for local healthy food grown by New York State Farms and HV farms in particular.

This food hub is responsible for aggregating, processing, and distributing multiple products across multiple markets from farms as small as 4 acres to farm cooperatives of 1,000 of acres. Currently the Farm to Table facility serves over **60 regional farms** and over **40 private label customers** including significant work for the Center for Discovery which is projected to increase for 2013. HVADC will work to increase access to the food hub for Sullivan County farms.

***Hudson Valley Fiber Processing Production Capacity Expansion: Project Summary***

Battenkill Fibers manufactures artisan quality natural-colored and kettle-dyed premium knitting yarns using traditional semi-worsted milling machinery. This project will expand the operations of Battenkill Fibers through the addition of specialized equipment and will provide working capital to allow Battenkill Fibers to purchase locally-sourced wool, alpaca, and mohair fleece. These additions will allow Battenkill Fibers to utilize more local fiber in manufacturing yarn for national customers and be more competitive in bidding on these jobs. The company will also be able to provide higher quality value-added products for its farm-based customers and local farms will have a better market for their lower quality fleeces. The fiber facility processes for over 350 farms including fiber farms in Sullivan County and the surrounding area. HVADC will work to increase access to the facility for Sullivan County farms.