



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

June 6, 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. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
2. Agricultural Planner Report/Ag Advisory Board Monthly Report- Jennifer Mall
3. Update – DPW

Presentation:

1. Solution Project
2. Ag/Forestry Sustainability Project-Common Water

Discussion:

1. Consensus for County Departments Climate Action Plan
2. Wind Project Funding

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

OSE Activities Report for June 2013

Reporting on May 2013 activities

I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

Pursued lighting evaluations with NYSEG/Enerpath for SC buildings.

- Reviewed Enerpath's proposal and recommendations for the SC jail, Court House, Sullivan County Museum and DPW Maplewood facility.
- Analysis of the proposals is attached.

Reviewed HelioSage PV proposal for SCCC.

- Concern about siting of the system – over the well fields for the campus ground source heat pumps. A walkway from the classrooms to the ball field is blocked – are there remediation plans to correct this?
- HS would be deriving large benefits in tax abatements from this proposed project. They should be leasing the land from Sullivan County and offering the electricity at a more advantageous rate with no escalator.

Reviewed BQ proposal for PV at the landfill site.

- Concern about the potential for damaging the cover of the slope of the landfill during construction. Will they post a bond to cover any DEC penalties, damage remediation, etc.?
- Their price of \$.11/kWh is extremely high, and their offer of \$10,000 per annum is extremely low considering the large tax benefits that would be realized.

Neither project specifies using panels made in New York State. This should be explored as a requirement – while it may increase the cost slightly, it could also increase production by 30% and help boost the NYS economy.

- **On-going discussions and exploration of the New York Sun Initiative and how it affects these projects.**

Liberty wind project

Follow up meeting was held on Friday May 17 and Thursday, May 23 to discuss options for financing. Attending were Legislator Cindy Gieger, Legislator Ira Steingart, County Attorney Sam Yasgur, County Treasurer Ira Cohen, Acting County Manager Josh Potosek, Luke Spencer of SED (via conference call), Stephen Stuart and Carol Roig.

Main Street Grants

OSE continues to provide technical support for the scoping process for Division of Community Planning Main Street grants program with Ethan Cohen.

NYPA Potential for Energy Retrofits

I am exploring the New York Power Authority building retrofit programs to see if there is capacity for Sullivan County Government to benefit. NYPA provides a full service retrofit program, from site study to engineering to commissioning. NYPA funds the construction over an agreed upon time frame.

We continue to research options for standby electricity utilizing the existing PV arrays at Travis and Mobility Management Center, to help reduce peak demand at county facilities by utilizing the stored excess energy to reduce the peak demand loads of County operations.

II. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- Tuesday May 7 at 10:30AM, CAP workshop session on Materials Management. Attendees were Erin Burch (representing Catskill Mountainkeeper), Ada Cole, Bill Cutler, Ninon Hutchinson, Karen London, Carol Roig, Stephen Stuart.
- Met with Dan Sturm and Karen London on May 16 RE Climate Smart Communities Pledge for the Town of Bethel. Supervisor Sturm will present to his Town Board in June.
- Met with the Tusten Energy Committee and Supervisor Wingert on May 16 to discuss energy efficiency and solar projects for a number of Town facilities. They will contact potential partners for PPA projects. Tusten has also joined the DOE Municipal Solid-State Street Lighting Consortium to access information and possibly become a pilot project for LED street lighting.

IV. ENERGY EFFICIENCY “CONCEPT OF THE MONTH”

Walgreens Net Zero-Energy Retail Facility

Analysis of Enerpath Lighting Proposals

	COST	PAYBACK	ANNUAL SAVINGS	GHG
Maplewood Facility	14,538.17	44.6 mos	4,408.17	48,600
SC Jail	5,429.75	29 mos	2,206.60	24,328
Sullivan County Museum	6752.86	24.8 mos	3581.53	36,939
Monticello Courthouse	7464.76	35 mos	2536.52	28,402
TOTAL	34,185.54	33.35	12,732.82	138269

Ag Planner Projects:

Dairy Processing RBEG: In April, I delivered lease agreement language to equipment lessee for his review and approval. In May, I sent a letter to follow up and inquire about his progress in securing a location and finalizing an equipment list.

Microenterprise Assistance Program: Continued administration of ag projects. As of May 30th we have submitted 14 draw requests totaling over \$103,000. We are working to assist grantees as they move their projects toward completion and submit all draw requests in advance of the October contract end date.

Sullivan County Farmland Protection Planning Grant: Received executed grant agreement from NYSDAM, finalized request for qualifications and issued it on May 24th to approximately 80 vendors. The RFQ deadline is Friday, June 7th.

Red Meat Processing Facility: Assisting the IDA and its consultants with the re-submittal of the technical assistance RBOG application to USDA.

NYS Agricultural Districts: Received approximately 550 forms in response to the Ag District 1 8 year review mailing. The vast majority were "no change" requests. Also responded to several hundred telephone calls, with help from DPEM and CWD staff. Received five requests for inclusion into the District, and 23 requests for removal. Researched parcel information and convened a meeting of the AFPB to review requests and make recommendations to the Legislature. Currently working to draft resolution authorizing public hearing, which will be scheduled for July 18th. Also drafting AFPB report to NYSDAM for review and approval by the Legislature.

Received two requests for inclusion into Ag District 4. Conducted site visits, researched parcel information, and convened meetings of the AFPB to review requests and make recommendations to the Legislature, prepared resolutions. Public hearing is scheduled for June 20th at 1:40 pm.

Sullivan-Wawarsing REAP Food Distribution Hub Project: Together with others in the Planning Office, the Department of Grants Administration, the Town Supervisors, SCVA and CCE, I have been assisting the IDA and HVADC in the development of two grant proposals for the development of a local food aggregation and distribution facility. IDA submitted the first proposal, for USDA-RBEG funds, on May 1st. Currently working on second application, for USDA-RBOG funds. Internal deadline for completion of proposal is June 14th and USDA deadline for submission for REAP set-aside funds is June 17th.

Recent Events & Happenings:

Ag Advisory Board: AAB held its dairy processing roundtable on April 25th at CCE.

REAP Board: The REAP Board held its regular quarterly meeting on May 1st at SCVA.

Sullivan County Wellness Committee: Participated in a Wellness Committee meeting on May 22nd, to discuss ongoing farm to school efforts and the continuation of last year's pilot farmers market here in Monticello.

Ag and Farmland Protection Board: Convened and attended meetings on April 30th and again on May 28th to discuss Ag District inclusion and removal requests, as outlined above.

Upcoming Events:

REAP Board: next quarterly meeting will be on August 7th at 9:00 am.