



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

August 13, 2015 AGENDA

1:30 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. Agricultural Report- Melinda Meddaugh
2. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart

Presentation: None

Discussion:

1. Update on CCA

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

Agricultural Districts: The final report was submitted to NYS Agriculture and Markets. Once the NYSAM Commissioners reviews and approves the report, the Agriculture Districts updates will be finalized.

Educational Programming:

Introduction to Poultry Farming, July 16th (Part of our Beginner Farmer Series) The workshop covered breed selection, egg hatching, raising chicks and adult birds, feed and nutrition, equipment, healthcare, and the regulations for selling eggs and meat.

Herd Health and Management, July 20th Dr. Kim Crowe, of Dr. Joe D'Abbraccio's Catskill Veterinary Services, presented on livestock and dairy management updates and Milk Quality Assurance Compliance with regulatory standards, including herd health protocols.

High Tunnel Management Workshop August 3rd The workshop was held at Neversink Farm. Topics on the tour included: on-farm production methods using season extension structures, growing beyond a vegetable's intended season and at lower costs, management techniques for different plants in each structure and how current systems at farm are used in production circumstances

Educational Brochures: We recently completed the Sullivan County Catskills Farmers Market Directory. Directories are available in both print and electronic copies (on CCE website). Brochures have been handed out throughout Sullivan County. We are currently working on the Vegetable Directory.

Agri-Business Revolving Loan Fund: Staff are in the process of completing the new loan brochure. We are currently reviewing the first draft and anticipate having the brochure ready to print by September.

In House Assistance: Assistance included information on:

- Assistance with Livestock production
- Loan and grant information, specifically info on the County Agri-Business Revolving Loan Fund
- Information on Agriculture Districts & Agriculture Assessments
- Assistance with Dairy Processing Requirements & equipment
- Assistance with general Beginner Farmer information
- Provided assistance with business planning information
- Assistance with identifying diseases/pests
- Agriculture Infrastructures
- Animal Health
- Assistance with info on processing facilities
- Information on land use resources

Upcoming CCE Classes for 2015:

Little World's County Fair: Staff have been busy preparing for the annual fair and 4H fair programming. 8/13 – 8/16

Corn Plot Field Day, September 9th 11am – 2pm

Bethel Woods Agriculture Day, September 20th

Meat Processing Rules and Regulations, September 24th

Livestock Genetics and Breeding, October 3rd



Over 30 participants attended the High Tunnel Management workshop at Neversink Farm

OSE Activities Report for August 2015

Reporting on July 2015 activities

I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

All of these projects are pending:

- **NYPA Potential for HVAC replacement at SC Government Center:** PRES Engineering is to respond with specific design for review by SC.
- **Hybrid Vehicles for SC Fleet:** Proposed specifications are under review by DPW. SASD is working with DPW and the County Manager's office to review proposal for lease arrangement for County vehicles. The arrangement allows for an efficient and cost effective way to replace County vehicles with more fuel efficient models, which will help the County realize goals for GHG reduction in the County fleet and meet threshold requirements for eligibility for funding of projects through the Cleaner Greener Communities funding stream.
- **Solar PPA:** NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has given approval. Department of Labor issues are still under discussion.

II. COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION (CCA)

SASD is ready to submit an application to the Public Service Commission (PSC) for a pilot Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) project in Sullivan County. We have had a series of meetings with the County Manager's office and the County Attorney's Office to identify questions and any aspects of the application requiring greater clarity.

We have developed a proposal document for the SC Legislature to clarify what the CCA would accomplish on behalf of County residents and businesses, and what commitment we will seek from the Legislature. At the request of the Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee, we have also developed a table for comparison of the SCCCA as conceived by SASD, and the potential project that may be developed by MEGA.

III. CLEANER GREENER COMMUNITIES PHASE II/ROUND THREE/CATEGORY 2 FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Last month, we presented detailed information on the availability of funding through the Cleaner Greener Communities initiative for Sullivan County projects, including a re-submission of the SC Space and Energy Study by the end of 2016.

The deadline for applications for Category 2 is September 30, 2019, or sooner, if funds become exhausted. A 25% match is required, which can be dollars or in-kind. \$250,000 is the maximum for each application.

We are working to help Sullivan County meet threshold requirements for funding. Efforts include:

- Meeting with DPW to move forward with inventory of County fleet.
- Contacted NYSERDA with comments on the fact that several threshold actions are not available to counties because home rule assigns control of those actions to towns. NYSERDA responded that they are revisiting the requirements and may either add actions counties can take or reduce the number of actions required.
- Revisited the C-PACE initiative: Energize NY has issued new guidelines regarding the Municipal Tax Delinquency Fund. We have met with the County Treasurer to identify remaining concerns

IV. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN/CLIMATE SMART COMMUNITIES

The next CSC roundtable has been scheduled for August 27th. The roundtable will explore community outreach strategies for CSC committees to engage the general public – residential and commercial property owners, community groups, schools etc., in activities and measures that will address climate change and reduce GHG emissions. The roundtable will provide detailed information on GHG emissions from municipal waste water treatment and individual septic systems, and strategies for addressing this source of emissions.

V. NY PRIZE Micro-Grid Projects Liberty and Monticello

Booz Allen Hamilton has sent a request for information to stakeholders in Liberty and Monticello. We will help the municipalities and community stakeholders answer the questions. Booz Allen is hoping to receive the majority of responses by August 14th. Questions include:

1. Describe any energy efficiency, energy conservation or demand management measures you have taken in your building/facilities in the last five years.
2. Have your facilities/properties undergone energy audits or a CHP/PV analysis. If yes, please provide any reports or information produced from that effort.
3. Describe any potential energy efficiency and other demand response options to minimize energy usage and utility purchases at this facility.
4. How many individuals live, work, or receive service from full operation of your facility?
5. During a power outage, what level of operation can your facility support?
6. Please provide copies or access to your gas and electric utility bills for the past three years.
7. Do you possess any power generator (including back-up generators)? If so, please provide
 - a. Make
 - b. Model
 - c. Years in operation
 - d. Nameplate capacity
 - e. Maintenance schedule

Carol Roig and Stephen Stuart
8-5-2015