

District Manager's Report – Corrina Aldrich – 07/27/2018

Round 20 – Final Payment has been received; waiting on final payments from Round 17 and Round 18

Round 21 - Site plan and design materials for Riverbank project sent to Aaron Weiss. Project planned to move forward this summer; Brad Sherwood has approved the Army Corp permit and will be sending along later this week. Spoke with Brian Ziehm and he is still talking with some stone blasting companies as a source of on-site material. Carl Schwartz from USFWS is willing to come give some guidance with the project when we have a timeline in place (if available).

Round 22 - Waiting on design for smaller storage upgrade from Aaron Weiss.

Round 23 - We received the initial 25% of the grant funds for starting construction.

Pretty much with existing grants we are in a bit of a holding pattern for construction; waiting for tweaks to final designs from the engineers or NRCS process. There have been some minor changes but nothing that requires amendments. Spoke with Brian Ziehm and he is still talking with some stone blasting companies as a source of on site material.

Round 24 - RFP released on Wednesday June 6th Questions due to Albany by August 6th and applications due in August 20th; continuing to plan with farms - hours being billed to AEM. The farms we are working with are Marns and Walker Farms (Vaughn Road facility) for one application and Tooleys, Hick's Orchard, and Jay Wolfe for the second application. Have given the primary responsibility for the application process to Bob and Ben, will be involved in the final reviewing stage, we are targeting to have the applications completed by August 1.

CAFO Waste Storage – State contracts have come in; we have gotten our contracts signed with the farms and are working to move forward. Battenkill Dairy has decided to rework the location of the proposed Slurrystore on the farmstead which may actually be a little easier as far as pumping and amount of transfer line required.

AEM – Riparian Buffer evaluations - research on “buffers” installed in Grant Rounds 5 and 9. These are projects done on the Salem White Creek with Chambers Valley Farms and the Mettawee River with Ed Foote. Planning documents to be reviewed by SWCC staff, site visits and introduction to evaluation materials are planned for July 27th in the afternoon in preparation for the State TAC meeting to be held here on August 2nd.

State Aid Part C funding meeting in Albany on June 15th was enlightening to say the least and gives us some new opportunities to look forward to next year. Until then Status Quo.

RCPP/RCD - Vouchered for reimbursement on Technical assistance; Walkers need approval for payment and we still have around \$15,000 available for CAFO and Engineering Assistance payment.

RCPP/VT - Heritage Hill Farm is signed up for the Champlain Funds through EQIP.

Municipal Assistance – Have spent some time working with Town of Whitehall on culvert replacement on Buckley Road for RRAMP project, and with Salem DPW to relocate some woody debris that was accumulating in White Creek to be better positioned along the creek banks to help remediate erosion issues while remaining the system to provide habitat. Kudos to Salem DPW for willingness to try some new ideas for them that only cost them their time and labor input.

Had a three-way conversation with the County DPW and Battenkill Conservancy in regards to a couple of perched culverts on County Route 61 that are prohibitive to aquatic species passage. I think there is probably a little better understanding all the way around and we will be making an effort to see if there is a way to remediate without total culvert replacement as they are both in good shape - "planning"

Landowner Assistance – Have had many phone calls regarding ponds from building to weed, algae and drying up issues. I have taken Lydia along on some of these site visits and she has provided helpful knowledge and insight into pond habitat as well as doing some water quality testing in regards to pond limnology. Due to having Lydia as a great resource this summer we have setup another pond workshop with ASA for September 14th in the evening, titled Fish, Frogs, and Phragmites how to live with your pond naturally. Lydia has also spent some time at the reservoir on Thunder Mountain and at Carters Pond in Greenwich.

Have also answered some questions on invasive species - giant hogweed and poison parsnip in particular. Lydia has been doing some documentation of several invasive species as she has been traveling the northern part of the county for the NAACC assessments.

Participated in a couple of pasture walks about transitioning to organic dairy and dealing with the difficult weather pattern this year.

Participated in an educational summer program for Middle School Students in the Salem area put on by the Lunch Learn and Play program, Ben and I talked about Nutrient (fertilizer) Management and manure storages at Woody Hill.

Finished erosion and sediment control assessment for Bill Clough property in Dresden and submitted to Lake George Park Commission for him.

CWICNY - Working on our Legislative tour and getting letters out to local and state politicians, reporting requirements for the rain harvester grant, moving ahead for the septic education and outreach grant, as well as organizing a Statewide RRAMP meeting for November.

Met with Al Nolette and Chris Debolt in regards to budget and county appropriation and Lori has worked on a newer simpler form to present June 12th. Waiting to hear from Al Nolette on meeting again to see the county software for budget submission.

Newsletter is being reviewed almost ready to print.

Pulling together resource materials to send to several of the pond site landowners.

Upcoming – State Committee TAC meeting here on August 2nd – Primary Topic Riparian Buffers and tour of some project sites - to include Chambers "buffer," Woody Hill's Manure Storage, and Kenyon Hill's Silage Leachate System.

August 15-17th Wetland Delineation Training, in Bolton Landing

CWICNY teleconference August 16th

August 20 to 26th Washington County Fair

CWICNY Legislative Tour in Franklin County September 20th