

NYS-SWCC Report – Bob Brower – June 2014

Here is a monthly update of State Soil and Water Conservation Committee for June. Not a lot to report as everyone is getting construction lined up for the summer. A few things to mention:

Round 20 ranked list is again on the agenda for the State Committee Meeting in June. It was removed from last month's meeting as there was no ample time to conduct a Quality Assurance Quality Control (QA/QC) review of the scores before the meeting. Stay tuned for more details.

Update on the AEM Base Year 10 contracts. Our Division signed off on the contracts last week and Fiscal Management's contract unit started sending out the packets with the contract documents to the Districts for their review, approval and signature last Friday. Once a District returns the required documents, their contract can be signed on behalf of the Department. All contracts over \$50,000 must also be sent downtown for approval by both the Attorney General and the State Comptroller. Each District will be sent a copy of their fully-executed contract once it has been approved by all parties.

After more delays than a space shuttle, the Soil Health Mini Grant has finally launched on the Grants Gateway. The official announcement was emailed to Districts on June 6 and applications deadline *is July 28, 2014*. See the Department's funding page if you'd like to read a hardcopy version of the RFP (<http://www.agriculture.ny.gov/RFPS.html>), but all applications must be made via the Grants Gateway (<http://www.grantsreform.ny.gov>).

The 2014 AEM Award nominations are **due next Wednesday, 6/11/14** and so far only a few applications have rolled in. Please submit your nominations to Jodi.shain@agriculture.ny.gov for consideration.

The NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) RFP has been released with pre-proposals due July 14, 2014. Informational webinars will be offered on June 9th and June 18th. See the following link for info and webinar details (<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farmbill/rcpp/>).

Our Secretary, Virginia Weston will be retiring soon. If you have the opportunity, please wish her luck in her future retirement. She has been extremely helpful to the staff in delivering programs to District and in doing our jobs. Thanks Virginia!