

Technician's Report – Ben Luskin – 09/08/2017

Grants and Projects:

- Round 17- see below
- Round 18-
 - Trinkle - Tim brought in two checks. One for the amount that was owed to the SWCD for an incorrect payment and the other for the amount that was owed to the engineer. Both checks cleared but we are waiting for Tim to bring in copies of the cleared checks. The contractors have been calling to check on the status of the grant.
- Round 19-
 - Continued working on the closeout paperwork. Received some of the needed paperwork from Swezey View, but there is still additional papers needed and the 1,000 feet of fence needs to be installed. Scott and Bob had a meeting at the farm to go over how the fence needs to be installed and the animal trail also needs some maintenance. Red Top needs to pay the engineer and get a few cleared checks to the District. The grant end date is 12/31/2017.
- Round 20-
- Round 21-
 - Tiashoke: The fence was installed and the site has been seeded and mulched. The engineer was out to take the final as-built shots and he made a few final recommendations that the farm needs to work on. Brian is wrapping up his end of the paperwork and will be dropping it off in the next few days. Once the paperwork is received I will review and process it for Board payment approval at the next meeting. The farm has been looking into pricing on large rock and possibly blasting for the riverbank stabilization project.
- Round 22-
 - Kenyon Hill: Work has progressed nicely on the silage leachate system. The clean water exclusion drop-boxes, surface inlet, tile lines, and culverts have all been installed. The VTA is completed, seeded and mulched. 2 out of the 3 poured concrete collection boxes have been started and the pipelines buried. The concrete pad on the upper bunk is completed and the concrete swale is half done. Most of the remaining construction is concrete work on the lower pads, swales, and all the collection boxes. The designs for the manure push-off roof have been finalized and the contractor is working on the bid price. Brian Steinmuller, our acting AEA, came out for a sight visit to make a determination on whether or not we could cost share one of the walls. He said yes. Construction will be this autumn.
 - Woody Hill: Finalized all of the necessary bid paperwork for the pit, liner, fence, and pump. Construction has started and is moving very quickly. There is always 4 or 5 pieces of equipment moving at all times and in less than 4 weeks the 7.2 million gallon manure storage is just about ready for the poly liner to be installed. The liner is on site and will be installed within the next 2-3 weeks. A date has been set with the concrete companies to pour the floor and ramps. The old above ground staved manure storage has been remediated by the farm. It looks great and the engineer is going to send me a letter certifying the closure.

- Round 23 - (POW) Plan Of Work
 - Discussions with the farms regarding planned construction years for the funded systems and to get signatures on the commitment letters. Verified all dollar figures, codes, practices, numbers, etc. on the SW1-4 forms. Completed the SW-5 that is required with the POW. Looked up the construction locations on the Cultural Resource Inventory System (CRIS) and made documents to show that the sites were not in archeological sensitive areas. Contacted the engineer for his commitment letters.

Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition

- Department of State Grant timesheet report completed for the office.

Technical Assistance

- Pilot Knob: Forest site visit with Jim Lieberum of Warren County SWCD. We walked the parcel with the forester to review the plan that he put together for the logging operation. For timber harvesting within the Lake George Watershed, the plan and the site have to be reviewed by the SWCD or DEC and a letter submitted to the forester before harvesting can begin. Jim has done a few of these in Washington County in the past but would like to teach our office how they are processed so that we can take over doing these reviews in our county. The review is done strictly from an erosion and sediment control standpoint and the letter is essentially just making additional recommendations and comments to the forester's plan. Jim said that a review typically takes him 8-10 hours for some map and background work, the site visit, and to write the letter. This time can be billed to Part C.

AEM

- Woody Hill: Silage leachate system
- Tooley: Working with Champlain Valley Agronomics to get them information for the CNMP
- Landview: Culvert issues on the farm for clean water exclusion
- Austin: Milk house waste system discussed and designs reviewed

Miscellaneous

- Technician report
- Bank Reconciliations
- Newsletter
- Fair setup, worked, tear down
- Picked up 6 rain barrels from Albany County SWCD for customers

Meetings Attended

- Conservation District Employees Association - Waterloo, NY - July 19-20
- UVM Field Day - Alburgh, VT - July 27th
- State Fair Booth - Syracuse, NY - August 24th

Upcoming Meetings

- Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition - Warrensburg, NY - September 14th
- Conservation Skills Workshop - Cortland, NY - September 26-27th