

Technician's Report – Ben Luskin – 04/13/2018

Grants and Projects:

- Round 17- Worked with Bethany Bzduch the state AGNPS coordinator to finalize the final dollar figures on the closeout paperwork. After many discussions and figuring the District will need to repay much less out of the general fund than previously estimated. The paperwork has been approved but we will not be able to proceed further until the state's blackout period for making payments is over. Once the blackout period is over (hopefully in May) we will be able to make the final payments and close the Round 17 account.
- Round 18- Finalized the closeout paperwork and did an onsite review of the paperwork and implemented projects with Brian Steinmuller. Brian signed off on the work for Brotherhood and Trinkle heifer facility. I completed & assembled the closeout packet that was mailed to the state office on Wednesday. Once the packet is reviewed by the state, we will receive payment when the blackout period is over. The District has earned \$13,879 working on this grant.
- Round 19- Closeout completed. Bank account has been closed.
- Round 20- I completed the final closeout paperwork for this grant and emailed it to Brian Steinmuller for his review. A partial closeout on the Red Top BMPs was already completed for this grant in 2016, so this final closeout is for those BMPs and the 4 farms that implemented cover crops for 3 years. If needed I will schedule a closeout meeting with Brian for the first 2 weeks in May. The district has earned an additional \$7,215 on this grant beyond what was previously vouchered for.
- Round 21- Discussed the riverbank stabilization project and buffer with the farm to be implemented this summer. Tiashoke just installed sand saver mats in the free stalls to help keep sand out of the manure storage.
- Round 22-
 - Woody Hill: Once the weather clears Corrina and I will do a site visit for the proposed herbaceous buffer system so that a design can be assembled. Some preliminary design and map work was done for the buffer area. The farm had a custom dragline manure applicator at the farm this week to empty the storage.
 - Twin Brooks: Met with the farm, private engineer, NRCS engineer, & NRCS planner to go over the site plan and preliminary designs. Everyone is on the same page and the private engineer will have the designs finalized in a month. Once the designs are reviewed and accepted by the NRCS engineer, the District will put 1 of the systems out for bid. Implementation of the HUA and roof on the walkway is planned for late summer.
- Round 23-
 - Heritage Hill: Working with the farm planner and engineer to get the project designs completed so that they can gain NRCS concurrence for a VT RCPP application.
 - Ideal Dairy: Discussed the implementation and design on 1 of the satellite storages in the contract with the farm and engineer. Farm plans on implementing this summer. Reviewed preliminary designs.
- CAFO Waste Grant- Round 1-
 - Fullerton Dairy: Met with the farm and NRCS to go over the RCPP contract and discuss how that contract and the state CAFO contract will work together. Review and recommendations of project designs.

AEM

- AAP - Annual Action Plan
- Reviewed Year 14 materials released from the state
- AEM Time log

Miscellaneous

- DEC bunk silo tire regulation reviewed; discussed with Montgomery Co. SWCD
- Completed quarterly report for GA RCPP grant
- Technician report
- Bank Reconciliations
- Environmental Education Foundation Teleconference
- No-till drill insurance
- AGNPS time logs
- AGNPS interim reports

Meetings Attended

- Water Quality Coordinating Committee – Greenwich - March 27th
- State Committee Meeting - Albany - April 3rd
- Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition – Warrensburg - April 12th

Upcoming Meetings

- Heritage Hill meeting with NRCS - Fort Ann - April 18th
- Saratoga Regional Envirothon - Saratoga Springs - May 2nd
- Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition – Warrensburg - May 10th
- Silvo-Pasture Workshop.- Saranac, NY - May 15th
- NYS Envirothon - Geneva, NY - May 23-24