

**Washington County Farmland PDR Program
Status Report
May 20, 2009**

Projects in Progress

Moses Farm (Rich and Kathy Moses) – 2006 Award to Washington County (cross-endorsement from Rensselaer County AFPB)

Project package was submitted and approved by NYS Dept. of Ag. and Markets. Currently waiting for the state to process the voucher and then a closing will be scheduled. ASA is frequently in contact with Ag. and Markets and state legislators to try to get the funding request processed. Partial match secured. Projected closing date summer 2009.

Clark Family Farm (Skip and Selena Clark, ESNID, LLC) – 2007 Award to Rensselaer-Washington Counties (3 separate easements)

Draft easements and landplanning site maps were submitted to Ag. and Markets for preliminary review. Title work and surveys completed. Last appraisal being finalized. ASA will be under purchase contracts for the easements by the end of June. Partial cash match secured. Projected closing date late 2009.

Slocum Farm (Ed Slocum) – 2007 Award to Washington County

Draft easement and landplanning site map was sent to Ag. and Markets for preliminary review. Title work completed. Survey is anticipated to be completed within two weeks and then ASA will send out an RFP for appraisal services. Projected closing date late 2009.

Stewart Farm (Cliff and Janet Stewart) – 2007 Award to Easton

Title, survey and appraisal work completed. ASA is currently working on the purchase contract. Projected closing date late 2009.

Projects awarded May 2009

Hand Melon Farm (John Hand) – 2009 Award to Washington County

Hand Melon Farm is a diversified 418-acre operation offering u-pick fruit and vegetable, straw and hay as well as horse boarding. It contains 28% prime, 37% unique and 2% statewide important soils. There is also a well-known farm store on Route 29. The state awarded the project \$627,502 and ASA is contributing \$15,000.

Deep Roots Holsteins Farm (Albert and Donna Marns) – 2009 Award to Town of Kingsbury

The Marns family operates a 343-acre dairy farm with a roadside stand that offers sweet corn, pumpkins and gourds. They sell their milk to Stewart's and have received numerous awards. The farm contains 15% prime and 60% statewide important soils. The state has awarded the project \$470,211.

PDR Pre-applications for the next grant round are due to ASA by June 1st

Report prepared by the Agricultural Stewardship Association.



SEQRA – Case Study Training for Municipal Board Members Wednesday June 3, 2009 from 6-8pm

SEQRA

WHO: Members of Zoning Boards of Appeals and Planning Boards, Elected Officials, Municipal Attorneys, and others are invited to attend these training sessions. Questions are encouraged.

PRE-REGISTRATION: To register, please return the attached form or call Planning Department at (518)746-2290 by Thursday, May 28 so that we can be sure to have enough materials.

WHERE: The sessions will be held in Training Room 2 in the basement of Building B in the Washington County Municipal Center, 383 Broadway (Route 4), Fort Edward.

WHAT: Staff from the Washington County Attorney's Office and the Department of Planning and Community Development will provide a detailed walkthrough of the SEQRA process.

REGISTRATION

I will be attending the:

"SEQRA – Case Study" class

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

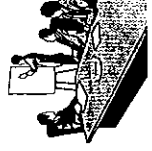
MUNICIPALITY: _____

OFFICIAL POSITION: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

Please Fax 746-2293, Call 746-2291 or Mail to: Chris DeBolt

Washington County Department of Planning
& Community Development
Washington County Municipal Center
383 Broadway Fort Edward, New York 12828



▪ Step-by-step through the SEQRA forms.

▪ Who is responsible for what?

▪ How does a local board fulfill their SEQRA requirements?

▪ How should a board critically examine an EAF?

▪ Making a declaration?

▪ What about filing? What happens after a declaration?

This session will be a detailed case study example of SEQRA in action. All aspects of the SEQRA forms will be covered. The goal of this class is to arm local board members with all of the knowledge necessary for them to confidently and competently navigate the SEQRA process and paperwork.

***NO CONTINUING LEGAL EDUCATION (CLE) CREDITS ARE OFFERED.**

Washington County Tourism Association

Report

To: Agriculture, Tourism and Planning Committee
From: Marge Mohn, Director
Date: May 20, 2009

Meetings & Shows

I met with Laurie Clothier from the Chronicle Newspaper on April 23. We will be running a two page ad depicting the Historical Map and historic tours of Washington County.

In addition, I met with Rodger Hurley, Granville Town Supervisor, on April 27. We discussed how to market Granville. I met with David Thornton on April 28 from Destinations of New York at which time I gave him a tour of the Whitehall area. We will be placing an ad for all the Golf Courses of Washington County in Destinations NY Golf Guide.

On May 12, we held a Board of Directors Meeting at Gemini Fitness Center, Granville. Brian Campbell and Rodger Hurley were in attendance. We discussed tourism becoming in house. The Board of Directors supported the Tourism Association asking "Why would you do away with something that works and start all over again?"

We distributed the new Tour Guide and brochures for Maple Syrup at Penn Station, NY.

Projects:

I Love NY Web Site

Avril Blake, Computer Specialist, has updated the New York State Web site adding many businesses, events, and tourist destinations.

Brochure for the Historic Theaters of Washington County

I have sent an RFP out for the printing of The Historic Theaters brochure of Washington County. The RFP has appeared in the Manchester Newspapers and I emailed a copy to A & M Printing and Kingsbury Printing.

Quadricentennial

We have submitted signed DEC voucher for The Cities and Counties Grant for the Quadricentennial. At this point no one has received the 25% of the grant that was promised. I met with Donna Filomio to go over the "They came by sail" sculptures. I entered the Calendar of Events for Washington County on the Quadricentennial Web Site.

Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events is ready to print. A thank you to those who contributed. An RFP went to A & M Printers & Kingsbury Printing.

The Map of Washington County

We have received the 2nd proof of the map. It will take about two weeks to print so we will have the finished product by May 29. They will try to have several cases of maps to me by Memorial Day.

Bike Race & Trail Video

I again met with Peter & Joseph Pepe and Mike Collins, Pepe Productions of Glens Falls, to discuss the Washington County bicycle trails video. The Tour of the Battenkill has sent a check for \$1,500 for the video which will be matched by the I Love NY Program. Washington County will be contributing \$750 and the Washington County Tourism Association will contribute \$750.00 making the total cost \$6,000.00. We will have a finished product of our bike trails in Washington County intertwined with the Tour of the Battenkill bike race.

Washington County Tourism Association, Golf Outing held a meeting on May 14. The outing will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2009, at the Pole Valley Players Club, Hartford, NY. We are presently consolidating lists of players, tee signs, gifts and major sponsors and others who have supported the outing in the last 5 years of its existence. We will shortly be sending out a save the date postcard. We have a committee of 5 volunteers and Howard Denison will once again serve as chairman of the committee. The proceeds will go to the Washington County Marketing Program. We will enlist the aid of all the recipients of the Washington County Marketing Program.

The Cambridge Valley Balloon Festival will be held on June 5, 6, & 7. The Washington County Tourism Association will sponsor a balloon. There will be refreshments and an opening celebration for the Quadricentennial before the balloon lifts off. This will be paid for out of the Quadricentennial Grant for Counties & Cities.

We continue to pay invoices, keep track of all the programs, fulfill requests for information and proof read all the brochures we are proposing to create this year.