

SFY 2012-2013 Subcommittee on Environment/Agriculture/Housing

To: Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos, Co-Chair
Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Co-Chair
Joint General Conference Committee

From: Senator George Maziarz, Co-Chair
Member of Assembly Vito Lopez, Co-Chair
Joint Conference Subcommittee on Environment/Agriculture/Housing

Subject: Detailed Report of the Subcommittee on Environment/Agriculture/Housing

Date: March 26, 2012

On March 26, 2012, the Environment/Agriculture/Housing Subcommittee completed its work. We present this report, which provides detail on all of the budget matters agreed to by the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee has reached agreement on spending and on various Article VII proposals for agencies under the jurisdiction of this subcommittee as follows:

Adirondack Park Agency
Department of Agriculture and Markets
Department of Environmental Conservation
Environmental Facilities Corporation
Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
Olympic Regional Development Authority
Energy Research and Development Authority
Department of Public Service
Division of Housing and Community Renewal
Hudson River Park Trust
State of New York Mortgage Agency
Greenway Heritage Conservancy
Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council

The subcommittee apportioned its General Fund allocation as follows:

- \$742,000 for the NYCHA Resident Watch Program
- \$821,000 for the Farm Viability Institute
- \$100,000 for Long Island Rabies
- \$100,000 for Farm Net (Farm Family Assistance)
- \$500,000 for Northern NY Agriculture Development
- \$150,000 for Equine Encephalitis
- \$100,000 for the Tractor Rollover Program
- \$100,000 for Cornell Rabies
- \$100,000 for the Maple Producers
- \$100,000 for Historic Homes
- \$400,000 for Cornell Integrated Pest Management
- \$500,000 for Invasive Species

The Subcommittee utilized a portion of its General Fund allocation, plus other resources identified by the General Conference Committee, to provide: \$10,072,000 for the Neighborhood Preservation Program (\$150,000 of which shall be allocated to the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition) and \$4,204,000 for the Rural Preservation Program (\$150,000 of which shall be allocated to the Rural Preservation Coalition)

The Subcommittee resolved the following Article VII issues:

- Accept the Executive's proposal to modify the exemption for fees related to recycled hazardous waste;
- Amend the Executive's proposal to modify various fishing and hunting provisions to increase disclosure and remove the authorization for an extension of the surf clam and quahog fee;
- Authorize the Department of Environmental Conservation to offer gift cards for hunting and fishing licenses and stamps;
- Accept the Executive's proposal to remove State Operating Fund support for the Environmental Facilities Corporation;
- Amend the Executive's proposal to transfer the operation and management of the Belleayre Mountain Ski Center to include increased local representation and workforce protections;
- Extend the New York State Diesel Emissions Reduction Act compliance deadline until December 31, 2013;
- Accept the Executive proposal of a \$913,000 NYSEERDA transfer to the General Fund to support West Valley nuclear facility debt service expenses;
- Accept the Executive's proposal continuing the utility assessment used to fund NYSEERDA's research, development and demonstration programs;
- Accept the Executive's proposal authorizing the Department of Health to continue to finance public service education activities with revenues from an assessment on cable companies;
- Accept the Executive's proposal requiring NYSEERDA to file a declaration of each Green Jobs-Green New York loan which is repaid through an On-Bill Recovery charge;
- Create the Western New York Power Proceeds Allocation Board to fund certain economic development projects;
- Accept the Executive's proposal to expand seed testing authority to allow testing by the Department of Agriculture and Markets or a qualified laboratory;
- Amend the Executive's proposal to allow the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to recover certain costs from federal or out-of-state entities;
- Accept the Executive's proposal to redirect the Consumer Food Account and the Commercial Feed Licensing Account to the General Fund and streamline licensing renewals;
- Reject the Executive's proposal to authorize the Commissioner of Agriculture and Markets to issue a dairy research and education order; and,
- Reject the Executive's proposal regarding Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

The Subcommittee agreed to the following capital allocations:

- funded the Environmental Protection Fund at \$134 million

The Subcommittee approved an additional \$1,275,000 in spending from the Conservation Fund with \$775,000 for invasive species and \$500,000 for fish and game stocking.


Senator George Maziarz, Co-Chair
Joint Conference Subcommittee on Environment/Agriculture/Housing


Assembly Member Vito Lopez, Co-Chair
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