

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting April 12, 2013 - USDA Service Center, 2530 St. Rt. 40, Greenwich, NY

Attending:

John Rieger, Chairman
Richard Conklin, Treasurer
James Lindsay, Director
Sara Idleman, Director

Joseph Driscoll, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer
Robert Kalbfliesh, Technician
Scott Fitscher, USDA-NRCS
William Keating, USDA-NRCS
David Holck, USDA-FSA

Call to order at 10:05 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.

Minutes: **Motion** by Idleman/Lindsay to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**

Treasurer's Report: As per the Treasurer's review of the finances, **Motion** by Conklin/Idleman to approve the Treasurer's Report for March, and to pay bills. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment 1)

Agency & Staff Reports:

FSA: Reported by Holck (Attachment 2 – FSA Newsletter)

- W-W-S FSA plans to provide monthly newsletters via email (instead of mailing to save money)
- MILC Program – Due to the sequestration, payments have been suspended; payments will not be reduced once the suspension has been lifted
- DCP – Due to the sequestration, payments may be reduced by 8-1/2%
- Discussed the strong interest in the Microloan program – 29 producers attended a Workshop sponsored by Kristen Gillibrand & CCE on 04/09
- Discussed various programs and signup deadline dates:
 - o DCP Signup: 02/19/13 – 08/02/13
 - o CRP Signup: 05/20/13 – 06/14/13
 - o 2011 SURE: Signup ends 06/07/13 (Disaster program based on revenue)

CCE: No Report

District Manager: Attachment 3 – reviewed by Driscoll

District Technician: Attachment 4 – reviewed in Kalbfliesh

District Technician: Attachment 5 – briefly reviewed by Driscoll in Aldrich's absence

District Conservationist: Attachment 6 – reviewed by Fitscher

New Business:

Motion by Idleman/Conklin to approve NRCS Conservation Plans for: Brian Ducharme, Edward Hart III, Harsha Dairy, Kenyon Hill Farm, Albert Marns, Douglas Pollak, Rathbuns Maple Sugar House, Tiashoke Farms LLC, and Walker Farms LLC. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Idleman/Lindsay to register SWCD with NYS Grants Gateway Program; listing Driscoll and Sheehan as Delegated Administrators. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Lindsay/Idleman to approve SWCD Employee Training Plans. **Unanimously carried.**

After a discussion regarding banking procedures, and whether to require two signatures on checks, it was decided to remain with one signature required on checks, however to add a third authorized signer in addition to Treasurer, Conklin and Assistant Treasurer, Sheehan. **Motion** by Lindsay/Conklin to add Sara Idleman as the third designated individual authorized to sign checks on all SWCD bank accounts. **Carried.**

Driscoll reviewed situation with Brotherhood Farms and NYS Ag & Markets Round 18 funding. Funding eligibility could be impacted by the farm's ongoing bankruptcy status. Driscoll working with the farm's attorney and Ag & Markets personnel to hopefully resolve this issue. Any release of Round 18 funds to the farm will be held back contingent on NYS Ag & Markets decision.

The next Board meeting will be held on May 10, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. in Greenwich.

Motion by Idleman/Lindsay to adjourn the meeting at 11:36 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: Treasurer, USDA-FSA, District Manager, District Technicians, District Conservationist