

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting September 8, 2017 - USDA Service Center, 2530 St. Rt. 40, Greenwich, NY

Attending:

John Rieger, Chairman
John Dickinson, Vice Chairman
Jay Skellie, Director
Kate Ziehm, Director

Robert Kalbfliesh
Ben Luskin, District Technician
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Aaron Gabriel, CCE
Scott Fitscher, USDA-NRCS

Call to order at 10:11 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.

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

Treasurer's Report: After the Treasurer's review and approval of the finances (treasurer's report, bills & grant payments, bank reconciliations – all accounts), **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Reports for July and August and to pay bills and grant payments as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment 1 & 2)

Agency & Staff Reports:

FSA: Attachment 3 – submitted by Holck

CCE: Reported by Gabriel

- Last fall I started an inter-seeding experiment with red clover and alfalfa plots. Mowed 3-4 times in the fall and in the spring grass greened-up nicely. However, the clover was present throughout the plots at germination, but the alfalfa was not; therefore would not recommend alfalfa inter-seeding into hay field.
- Corn Foliar Fungicide Field Day at Woody Hill Farm on September 15th
- Planning some upcoming winter meetings: HVCC Small Grain, Barley, Whitman's Meeting.

District Manager: Attachment 4 – submitted by Aldrich

District Technician: Attachment 5 – reviewed by Kalbfliesh

District Technician: Attachment 6 – reviewed by Luskin

District Conservationist: Reported by Fitscher:

- Last couple of months have been working on reviewing CNMPs for future funding opportunities. Working on reviewing seven plans which require a lot of time because you need to get a handle on daily operations of the farm; it is a time consuming process but worthwhile. Seven of the plans have been in Washington County. EQIP application for Battenkill Dairy is ineligible because their planner never provided a CNMP, therefore, you cannot process their application.
- Woody Hill Farm is not applying for EQIP funding for 2018. They decided not to get their CNMP updated by the deadline.
- Most small contracts for grazing plans and high tunnels are on schedule.
- Tom Ranney has a Wetland Reserve Easement in Hartford that was recently purchased by NRCS.
- August 3rd Dave Holck and myself did a presentation at SUNY Adirondack – Armed to Farm; presentation was to help Veterans back on their feet by educating them on various aspects of agriculture.

Motion by Dickinson/Skellie to approve Cooperator Agreement for Richard Gurney. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Dickinson/Ziehm to cancel Cooperator Agreements for Arthur Archambault, James Briglin, John Carter, Gerald Chamberlain, Stephen Chamberlain, John & Susan Dougherty, George McGeoch, Larry Wicks, Jr., James Wilson. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Dickinson/Skellie to approve disbursement of Part C project funds for: Battenkill Conservancy – River Water Program (\$4,875) and Sediment Basins (\$15,000). **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Ziehm/Dickinson approving staff attendance at the following training workshops: Conservation Skills, Grassfed Exchange and North County Stormwater Conference. **Unanimously carried.**

Motion by Ziehm/Skellie to approve opening an interest bearing checking account for AgNPS Round 23 Ideal Heritage Manure Management Grant. Director Dickinson recused. **Carried.**

The Board reviewed the proposed 2018 budget. The next Board meeting will be held on October 13, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in Greenwich.

Motion by Skellie/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: Treasurer, FSA Report, District Manager, District Technicians