

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting July 20, 2020 - USDA Service Center, 2530 St. Rt. 40, Greenwich, NY

*Free Conference Call.com*

**PLAY BACK RECORDING OF MEETING**

**TEL. 425-436-6309**

**511779#**

**Recording 4**

Attending:

Board Members

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

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager

---

Rieger Welcome everyone – let’s call the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.  
Next item on the agenda is the approval of the minutes of the previous meeting. Do I have a motion?

Skellie So moved

Rieger I have a motion, do we have a second

Dickinson Second

Rieger Questions, additions, corrections or comments. Not hearing any – all those in favor

Directors I

Rieger Motion is carried

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

Rieger Moving forward to our esteem Treasurer who has the black ink pen in hand

Ziehm Can I have a motion to accept and approve the treasurer’s report and to pay the bills

Rieger You have heard the motion, do we have a second

Dickinson Second

Rieger Questions or comments, additions or corrections. Not hearing any, all those in favor

Directors I

(Treasurer’s Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Dickinson to approve the Treasurer’s Report (as a whole) for June and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.**)

Rieger Motion is carried. I hope we are not moving too fast for anyone; if I am please say so. Okay – Corrina you are up

Aldrich So, one of the things you guys tasked me with last month was to check into the storage container that I was thinking about for storing mulch and seed for the hydro-seeder. I got ahold of Kyle McPhail and he said a good solid used container that has been refurbished – the ones that are pretty much brand new they have only been across the ocean once are around \$3,700 on down to \$2,500. He said he usually has between 75 and 100 in stock over at Fiddler’s Elbow and if you guys wanted to go pick one out, we could. I did get another quote off the internet from an outfit in the middle part of the state that has them and it was \$3,160 I believe, and I was going to see if I could find another one. That is for buying them out right. Kyle’s

rental fee is \$70 a month with a \$95 delivery fee and \$95 pickup fee. Most of them are 20 ft. long by 8 ft. 6 inches tall and 8 ft. wide. There are some that are 40 ft. long.

Skellie            Is one big enough to store everything in that you want to store Corrina

Aldrich            Yes and I almost think that we could fit the hydro-seeder in it. Kyle apparently was over here around the yard and seen the hydro-seeder here and was asking if we would be renting it out. I said once we get past our grant requirements in a year 1-1/2 that it could be a possibility and he also seem to think that it might also fit in one of those storage containers as well, so I wasn't off in my thought process with that.

Did a lot of site visits with landowners about ponds and building pond sites, weeds, algae and the like. Have another site visit lined up for Friday morning that Matt Hicks called me about this morning, a lady has a complaint about the wetland area behind her house and I think she just doesn't understand what wetlands are about. Anyways I will go visit with her on Friday. I have been trying to get Mattison's project going. I have talked to Ruben a couple of times; he is kind of on the fence with the weather. Bob is going to be calling him again tomorrow. Talked with Matt Fullerton this morning and he is going to solicit a bid from Fanes because they have wrapped up the project at Landview; there maybe a few things they have to go back and fix when Aaron does the as-builts and I'm pretty sure that it is going to be minimal, they have done an excellent job there. A very large, complex project and it looks great; and they said they were looking for some more work so I gave Matt their information and he is going to send a bid package on his project to them because he was having trouble getting bids. Everything is just kind of backed up. So, contractors are backed up on work because of what happened this spring and they are a little hesitant on bidding new projects until they get through some of their current workload, I guess. Jay Wolff is getting bids, we have a bid from Dave Clark and one from Travis Korb, and Jay is going to submit a bid on the project too, so we can get going with that. We just have a few questions for Travis on his bid - we will get them cleared up and get that project started. So, I am hoping to touch base again with Tooley's and see if they want to do their project this fall. After looking into doing robots to milk cows with they decided they would be to expensive and require too much changing of their current facility to do that, so now we are back to the original plan on their milk house waste tank. Hicks project is 95% complete and will be getting the paperwork wrapped up on that, they need to have the eyewash station for the chemical mixing facility, that needs to be hooked up and operational before the engineer will give us the as-builts on that. Bob has been on vacation; he will be following up on that. As far as the rest of the staff we are pretty much all going to be in the office full time from now on. I will be taking some time off the end of July and first couple of weeks in August. Lori is taking a week off in August, so that will give Laura time to be in the office. There seems to be most of the people are back in the service center for the most part, NRCS is still keeping one person teleworking and one person in the office. Things are resuming at a somewhat normal pace, I guess you could say. I guess that is probably it; you have the technicians reports and the rest of the things we need to go over and discuss are on the agenda. So, I will wrap it up

with that.

Rieger Questions or comments for Corrina including her request / information on a steel building. Do you want to move on that tonight?

Skellie Where does the money come from for that Corrina?

Aldrich It would probably come out of our Part C funds; there maybe a little bit more money in the CWICNY grant, I can check into that. We will see what we can do to keep it to a minimum. The question was last time – do we want to buy one or rent one for a season. I'm flexible either way. We have never had a problem being able to store equipment at the Fairgrounds so its not like we have to have it to store the hydro-seeder itself. Its more about having a rodent proof and dry area to store the hydro-seeder mulch and the seed itself.

Dickinson How much material do you have to inventory?

Aldrich We do not have any right now. Laura is looking at prices for a pallet of mulch and seed. I'm thinking we would be getting a couple pallets of mulch; the seed goes along ways, the mulch does not. So, think about 3x4 pallets of something that takes up a reasonable amount of space.

Rieger What was the rental fee again

Aldrich It was \$70 a month with a \$95 delivery and a \$95 pick up fee. So, you get charged on either end of it but there is no limit on how long you rent it for. You would have to basically rent one for 3 years before you would be paying the equivalent of buying one out right. The other thing is there is enough demand so if you buy one and don't need it anymore, it's pretty easy to re-sell them for almost the same value. It's the Board's discretion, I don't think there is any problem with renting one for a season and if you change your mind you can always buy it

Ziehm Yeah, that's kind of what I am leaning towards, renting one for a little bit

Aldrich If it meets the need and then go from there

Ziehm Yeah that would be my vote

Rieger Do I hear a motion

Ziehm I'll make a motion to rent one and then see what we think after we use one for a season

Rieger We have a motion, do we have a second

Aldrich Do you want to put a time frame on that, I guess that is the only question I have

Ziehm What do you think is a reasonable time frame

Aldrich Well at this point 6 months would get us to January

Ziehm So we would re-visit it in January

Aldrich I think that would be a good thought

Dickinson I will second it

Rieger Okay we have a motion on the floor to rent the building for 6 months, is that correct

Ziehm Yes, that is correct

Rieger Okay any further discussion, questions or comments. Not hearing any, all those in favor

Directors I

Rieger Opposed. Motion carried.

**(Motion by Ziehm/Dickinson to approve renting a storage unit for 6 months to store seed and mulch for the hydro-seeder. Unanimously carried.)**

Sheehan Excuse me, its Lori on the agenda we had storage unit for the hydro-seeder and materials. We are going to need a motion for approval to purchase the seed and mulch; Laura estimated around \$5,000 so we are going to need a motion for that one as well

Dickinson Is this Part C money?

Aldrich Yes it is Part C money, but it would benefit the towns we would be doing hydro-seeding for - the towns and possibly some for the county, and we will check in to seeing whether we can get some match from the CWICNY grant that we have. That is part of the reason why we got the hydro-seeder, the grant bought the hydro-seeder and there is not much point in having it sit here.

Skellie I think I asked you this before, but you guys will be operating it at least for the short term correct?

Aldrich Yes

Skellie So we will be able to put in your time for reimbursement there too

Aldrich Yes, it will be Part C reimbursement on our time. So, it actually earns us income. We provide some of the labor we get reimbursed for - so it is kind of a nice deal to be able to provide the seed and mulch for the towns and help them out, and it gets some of our widgets for everybody involved to say that we did 10 acres of hydro-seeding along the roadside – it makes everybody feel happy, including DEC.

Dickinson I will move that we purchase the seed and material

Rieger I believe that is up to \$5,000, is that correct?

Aldrich Yes

Rieger We have a motion, do we have a second

Ziehm I will second it

Rieger Questions or comments. All those in favor

Directors I

Rieger Opposed. Motion is carried. We are on a roll tonight – this is great

**(Motion by Dickinson/Ziehm to approve purchase of seed and mulch for the hydro-seeder (\$5,000). Unanimously carried.)**

Dickinson One question Corrina, back to your report. The issue at Mattison's - has anybody got a commitment from Ruben that he is going to get to that job and finish it or what

Aldrich I talked to him 2 weeks ago and of course he said it was suppose to rain over the weekend so I will get my cement crew in there maybe Wednesday next week. Bob was in the office Monday and Tuesday and I asked him to follow up with Ruben on Tuesday. Bob talked to him on Tuesday to see if the crew was going to be moving in there on Wednesday like he told me. Well Bob said Ruben was a little snarky with him – he said I just talked to Corrina and he said it will depend on the weather towards the end of the week, he was planning on having a cement crew in there and I didn't follow up with him on Friday and I was going to have Bob follow up with him tomorrow. I haven't heard anything from him since Bob talked to him saying that the cement crew has moved in. The weather is suppose to be good all week so there really is no excuse, and Bob did go out to Mattison's on Friday to see how things looked up there and he mentioned that the pond area from the silage leachate was full and needed to be pumped out

Dickinson Is that the first time you guys have been up there?

Aldrich Yes, in a while

Dickinson Has Ruben been there with excavators to dig out the back side there?

Aldrich No, not that I know of

Dickinson Then he has to get his dirt guys in there before he can pour concrete - correct

Aldrich No, it's all open. There is no dirt, they just got to get in there and pour

Dickinson Okay

Aldrich The other walls are all poured, the ones that had issues with dirt falling in – they are all done

Dickinson Okay, good, thank you

Rieger Any other questions or comments in reference to the technician reports and Ryan Cunningham's report

Rieger For approval to resubmit 2020 Part B Project for Coulter Brook, Corrina

Aldrich Okay, so Jay is familiar with this project. Coulter Brook which is down in Battenville - we had submitted it as a Part B project along with a couple of other projects. For Part B we have \$6,000 that we can spend, we can do it all on one project or we can split it up. Last year we decided to do some soil sampling for the farms that are going to be doing CNMP's with Amber; a forest management plan for Thunder Mountain - Laura was going to do that, and then spend some money on the Coulter Brook Project. We were expecting to get some match from Trout Unlimited through some funds that they could apply for; well the Trout Unlimited funds have not come through. The expected project costs according to Carl Schwartz who is doing a lot of the oversight (US Fish & Wildlife) is around \$8,000. I put my thinking cap on; and a lot of other districts have had to reconfigure and resubmit their Part B projects. Well the forest management stuff could come under Part C Municipal Assistance

and get reimbursed for those hours through Part C, so we just pushed that into a different pot and then the soil sampling is not entirely dependent upon being done this year, Amber can work through doing most of the other work on the CNMPs and getting reimbursed through AEM hours on that work, and then we can go back and do the soil sampling in the spring either through Part C or our next Part B project for 2021, which we will have to submit in November. And then we can just take the whole \$6,000 pot of money and use it on Coulter Brook and US Fish & Wildlife can probably come in with another \$2,000 to get that project done, and we are looking at probably doing it in August.

Skellie I wouldn't give up on Trout Unlimited, because they have money for projects if they can get it freed up if they aren't tied up for other projects

Aldrich They do, it's just part of what they thought they were going to be able to apply for was under like a public fishing rights from DEC and that pot of money has gone away and the location does not fit the project requirements. Its kind of doing the shell game with how we use those funds and where we reimburse ourselves from

Ziehm Corrina have you gotten any word about the grants and the funding for this year at all, any communication about getting money

Aldrich There is a State Committee meeting tomorrow and they are going to be going over some of that. The money that we have right now for Part B and C has all been allocated last year. We are good for this year, we are probably pretty good for next year if we keep a fair amount of Part C in-house through like the Thunder Mountain Project we would be reimbursing ourselves for Laura's hours planning it and now she could go beyond the scope of what we were thinking by not limiting it to \$2,300 to do that

Skellie I will move Corrina's plan to fund these different projects

Rieger We have a motion, do we have a second

Dickinson Second

Rieger Questions or comments, not hearing any, all those in favor

Directors I

Rieger Opposed. Motion is carried thank you

**(Motion by Skellie/Dickinson to approve resubmitting 2020 Part B Project Request for Coulter Brook Habitat Connectivity for the maximum funding of \$6,000 to NYS-SWCC. Unanimously carried.)**

Rieger Next Item, approval to purchase supplies for Thunder Mountain Project - Corrina

Aldrich That was a pedometer with a compass, so it is something for evaluating slope and the compass will be helpful for establishing and finding boundary lines and a log scale stick and a tree-cruz scale to be able to figure timber sizes; they are just a couple of small gauges, a log scale stick is like \$14.99 they are not something we have had to use before but with Laura being a forester and being able to do more of that type of work they are good to have and the pedometer can be used in nutrient

management planning applications for doing CNMPs with field slope measurements too

Skellie So Moved

Rieger We have a motion, do we have a second

Dickinson Second

Rieger Questions or comments, not hearing any, all those in favor

Directors I

Rieger All those opposed, not hearing any, motion is carried

**(Motion by Skellie/Dickinson to approve purchase of supplies for Thunder Mountain Project (\$100). Unanimously carried.)**

Rieger Approval to disburse Part C funds - Corrina

Aldrich To keep our general operating account at a good level we have already earned a good portion of Part C funds this year through landowner assistance and municipal assistance and we will keep being able to earn that, this is how we are able to keep ourselves going; they give us the Part C funds based on hitting our widgets last year and we get a specific amount of money, as we earn it we put it into our general operating account out of the Part C account.

Skellie So Moved

Rieger We have motion, do we have a second

Ziehm Second

Rieger Questions or comments, all those in favor

Directors I

Rieger Opposed, not hearing any, motion is carried

**(Motion by Skellie/Ziehm to approve disbursement of Part C Funds to reimburse the District for staff hours earned (\$30,000). Unanimously carried.)**

Rieger Moving forward. Approval to open interest-bearing checking accounts for Round 25 - Corrina

Aldrich We have those grant applications, so we just need to open those checking accounts and then voucher for funds. Funds are coming out from the State slowly for reimbursement from what I have heard. The new grant applications we have not heard anything on, what has been in the pipeline has been moving ahead, just at a slower pace than it has been in the past.

Rieger Okay, you heard the recommendation, do I have a motion

Ziehm I'll make a motion

Skellie Second

Dickinson Recuse

Rieger Questions or comments, not hearing any, all those in favor

Ziehm & Skellie I

Rieger Opposed, John you are recusing yourself on that one

Dickinson Abstained

Rieger Motion carried.

**(Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve opening (2) interest-bearing checking accounts for AgNPS Round 25 Grants: Ideal Silage Leachate Control and Luncrest Nutrient Management. **Dickinson abstained. Motion Carried.**

Rieger Moving forward the next thing is Storage Tank for Brine - Corrina

Aldrich So Deb Donahue called me last week and said that they have some more towns that are interested in doing the salt brine applications on paved roads, they did a test project up in Putnam and Dresden last year and it seemed to work out pretty well, this is a pre-application before storms to help keep the snow from really sticking to the roads and to help reduce the amount of salt that has to be applied to get rid of the snow. So, she was just wondering if the District had some funds to help out with that, she doesn't have a definite number on how many towns are interested, she knows of two and I didn't know if Jay and Cassie were interested on their towns. She was thinking 3-gallon plastic tanks and if they are vertical tanks, they are about \$2,000, the horizontal tank that has the legs and could go in the back of a truck are about \$3,000-\$3,500. I don't think we need to make a decision on this right now, and I didn't make her any promises, I just said that I would talk to the board and see what their feelings are. I guess I would kind of like to see where we are in the budget process before we make any promises; see what our budget looks like. We are in pretty good shape for AEM, we were thinking we would earn \$70,000 this year and we are at \$43,000 and we are half way through the year and pretty much the rest of the year our work is going to be AEM with Amber doing CNMPs for a couple of small farms and Bob doing Tier IIs and some O&M follow-ups, and 5Bs for accessing the Best Management Practices that have be installed. I will be working on some Tier IIs and possibly some 3A planning, so we will be in good shape with AEM. We will probably only have a couple more projects to do – Mattison's and Jay Wolff's project as far as construction this year. So, we should be able to earn the \$70,000

Skellie So Corrina, I think the towns are curious to see how it is going to work, the tests have been done up in the northern part of the county and the county barns have now gotten storage and I believe that we just passed a motion on the county level to help buy-in with Warren County on a brine making mobile unit that can travel from county barn to county barn, put the mix together and fill all the tanks

Aldrich I would assume that they would need a pump to go with these tanks in order to fill a truck or something; maybe if the District buys the tanks and the towns buy the pump - something where there is a little partnership involved with it

Skellie Yes, probably even like your fertilizer pumps that you get at Tractor Supply would work. What we have found out with discussions with DPW is that some of these guys could actually take their tanks that they put calcium down with in the summer and reset the nozzles to the correct rate and at the town level could use this brine to pre-treat on stuff. Another thing is that it has never really been tried on dirt roads which a lot of the towns have, and they may do a little experiment on that too. The salt savings seems really significant and that's quite a cost to the towns, and also you know the environmental impact on

that. I think all of our new trucks at the county are also set up with saddle tanks so they are able to do what is called pre-wetting where they can spray on the spinners that keeps the salt from hitting the road and bouncing off into the ditch – it kind of hits and stays and that saves a lot of salt too. There are a lot of good things that could happen, but I think this request we should just keep in the back of our minds, and if all of a sudden, we get a bunch of requests then re-look at it.

Aldrich She was going to try and bring it up at the next county highway meeting at the end of the month. I'm hoping they will be able to have one in August and I believe that the Executive Order for our public meetings and open meetings law is extended until August 5<sup>th</sup> – so after August 5<sup>th</sup> we could meet in person. If we don't meet in person we have to do a video Zoom conference, which I cannot do on my computer, I need to get a webcam, I can only call in, I tried it the other day with another organization, or we can meet out here in the parking lot or in John's parking lot

Skellie Since there is so few of us and we are spread out the 6 feet and if you want to wear a mask – then wear a mask. The Fair Board had a meeting last week and there was 20 some people there all spread out

Aldrich We will kind of be back to the old requirements on that unless he extends that Executive Order

Rieger Anything further on the brine situation or can we put that to bed, and if so, the next item on our agenda is the scheduling of the next meeting, which we briefly talked about. Any strong feelings on that before or after the potential Executive Order comes out

Aldrich I know in the past we have not had a board meeting in August because of the Fair, but I think we missed a couple this spring and they have relaxed the Part C Performance Measures on board meetings, but with budget season coming up, if we could meet it would be good

Rieger Jay do you have your calendar handy

Skellie No, I don't have my calendar handy

Ziehm Corrina, when are you proposing we have the meeting?

Aldrich Whenever it is convenient for you guys

Aldrich We can do another Monday night if you want

Skellie In person

Ziehm It doesn't matter to me, when are we looking at, are we looking at August that would be fair week; actually, that Monday night I cannot do if we are in person

Dickinson I don't know what my schedule is, probably the week of the 17<sup>th</sup> would be better if you want to do Monday, are we doing nights even in person – is that what the consensus is?

Aldrich Whatever works for you folks

Ziehm Do we have to do in-person or can we do another phone call for August? I just tend to be all over the board in

the summer

Rieger I think it's up in the air at this point in time. How about seeing as there is so much up in the air right now – if you leave it to Lori, Corrina and myself to come up with a proposed date and if we have to push it out – we push it out, if we have to cancel – we can cancel. We can email you because we may have Executive Orders that we have to comply with - that is going to make a difference. Are you comfortable with that?

Dickinson I am comfortable with that

Skellie Yes

Ziehm I'm good with that

Aldrich We need to meet in person at some point previous to budgeting because it would be a lot easier to go over it in person – so just keep that in mind

Rieger So let's see what the next 2 or 3 weeks brings, I think there is going to be a lot of changes and different things going on and right now we don't have a clue

Skellie It is all in your hands John – we will just wait to hear from you

Ziehm Yes

Rieger So Corrina, Lori and I have the authority. So now let's go back one more time before we close this meeting up. Corrina is there anything else you wish to bring up

Aldrich Not that I can think of right off hand. Everybody's been doing a good job, trying to stay on track and do things and get some work done – slow and steady wins the race. We are gaining all the time; it is nice to be back in the office and kind of feel almost normal

Rieger Lori

Lori Everything is fine – thank you

Rieger John

Dickinson Okay

Rieger Jay

Skellie All good

Rieger Last but not least – our treasurer Kate

Ziehm All is well

Rieger Are you going to put that in a motion to adjourn the meeting?

Ziehm Absolutely - I make a motion to adjourn this meeting

Rieger We have a motion, do we have a second

Skellie Yes, second

Rieger All those in favor, at 8:31 p.m. we adjourn

Directors I

Rieger Opposed – motion carried. Thank you all – good night

The next Board meeting date and time to be determined

**(Motion by Ziehm/Skellie to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Unanimously carried.)**

---

*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

*Director*

Reports Attached: *June Treasurer Report, District Technician Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*