

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting February 26, 2021 – Zoom Meeting

Attending:

Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman
John Dickinson, Vice Chairman
Kate Ziehm, Treasurer
Jay Skellie, Director
Cassie Fedler, Director

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Laura Generous, District Technician

Others

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

1. Call to order at 10:09 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Dickinson to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for January and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment 1)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: February GovDelivery Bulletin submitted
 - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
 - C. District Manager: Verbal Report
 - D. District Technician: Attachment 2, submitted by Kalbfliesh
 - E. District Technician: Attachment 3, submitted by Generous
 - F. District Technician: Attachment 4, submitted by Luke
 - G. Natural Resources Conservation Service: No Report
 - H. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment 5, reviewed by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to approve membership in Soil & Water Conservation Society (\$230); Water Quality Symposium Division 6 Silent Auction Donation (\$20). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Round 22 Champlain Farmstead Grant Payment for Twin Brooks Farm (\$2,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Round 23 Ideal Heritage Manure Management Grant Payments. **Dickinson abstained / Carried.**
 - Heritage Hill Farm (\$350,000)
 - Ideal Dairy (\$12,500)
 - D. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve Round 24 Kingsbury CAFO Grant Payment to Walker Farms (\$10,600). **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve acceptance of bid from DuBois & King, Inc. (\$29,500 (based on their stream expertise, site visit to review project site conditions and soil boring samples taken in preparation of bid proposal) for the NYS-DEC Nonpoint Source Grant Contract #DEC01-T00934GG-3350000 – Halfway Creek Streambank Study. **Unanimously carried.**

- F. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve acceptance of bid from Agricultural Engineering Services, PLLC (\$8,800) for the NYS-DEC Nonpoint Source Grant Contract #DEC01-T00958GG-3350000 – Highway Department Green Infrastructure. **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on March 26, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be a Zoom Meeting.
7. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: *January 2021 Treasurer Report, District Technicians Reports, NYS-SWCC Report*

Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 02/26/2021

AEM:

- Easton Station Farm – Tier 3A is complete, need to present it to the farm.

Grants

Round 24 – Walkers Kingsbury Farm: BMP Payment for Board approval on Livestock HUA Runoff Management for Barnyard #4.

Round 23 – Heritage Hill: BMP Payment for Board approval on all BMP practices installed.

Ag Assessments: I am up to date with ag assessment requests – it has been a busy February.

Landowner Assist: Worked on top maps for Lillian Loveday on properties she owns in Greenwich.

Meetings

- WQS – March 8 – 12 (virtual)

Technician's Report - Laura Generous – 02/26/2021

- **Grants and Projects**
 - Non-Ag Non-Point Source Planning Grant
 - Advertised and accepted bids, need approval
 - Created comparison chart to show details stated in bid submissions
 - Started Quarterly Report, due end of March
 - Will be requesting extension, due to short work turn around and potential COVID hinderances
 - WQCC
 - Revised and launched survey, available until March 19
 - Continued work on updating Strategic Plan - only had paper copy to start with
 - Held meeting on February 3
 - Good attendance, lots of participation
 - Focused around survey - revisions, changes, timeframe for submissions, what it will be used for
 - Created page/tab on website for WQCC
 - Part B
 - Reached out about moving forward with plans and coordinating site visits
 - Will be starting data collection on both sites
 - CWICNY
 - Working on Annual Report
- **Other**
 - Website information updates as needed
 - Researching drones
 - Watched recording of “Right Sizing Culverts” webinar presented by DEC, hosted by Tug Hill Commission
 - LCBP CAC teleconference

Technician's Report - Amber Luke – 02/26/2021

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 24-
 - Wolff's- Work has mostly been completed. The contractor needs to still connect the pipes to the VTA which he knows. They are waiting for the VTA to be vegetated before putting any leachate to the VTA. We are waiting for the As-Builts from the engineer which have been completed. I have been contacted by the contractor and let him know where the grant stands and I have also told the farmer that we will need all invoices and front and backs of checks pertaining to the grant in order to start the closeout process. I have also mentioned to the farmer to be patient as the whole process takes time.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-

- Round 1-
 - Kenyon Hill- Working on the bid process with Corrina.
- Round 3-
 - Twin Brooks- Work has been halted due to the weather and the rebar being covered in snow.
 - Chambers- I have received a partial bid from Korb Land Improvement. They are waiting on a quote for the concrete work to fully complete the bid. Placed the bid in the shared drive.

AEM-

- Corn planter parts were received as part of the Lake Champlain Basin Program Grant to buy parts to retrofit corn planters into no till corn planters. The parts were sorted and delivered to the respective farms with Corrina. This time will be charged to AEM Tier 4 (project Implementation).

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP'S)-

- Kathy Clark- Continuing to work on CNMP as time permits. I am planning for Soil testing in the Spring and should be able to finish up the CNMP by end of summer.
- Fred Burch- Continuing work on CNMP as time permits.
- Phippen (Rens County)- Completed and update on the CNMP that was approved by the state. The farm is applying for EQIP Funding for a manure storage and slightly changed his mind as to how he wanted everything laid out. So, I had to size for a barnyard and resize the manure storage to account for waste/water potentially going to manure storage. This will be charge to AEM 5B as an update to a plan.

Trainings/Meetings Attended-

- Attended an Upper Hudson Meeting-2/11/2021
- Water Quality Coordinating Committee meeting- 2/3/2021

Miscellaneous

- Been working on the planning of the Water Quality Symposium (WQS) and preparing all Division 6 documents for the Annual meeting on March 9, 2021. The Water Quality Symposium and Annual meeting will be held Virtually March 8th- March 12th.
- I reached out to the 8 counties in Division 6 for input on what they wanted to see for our Division's silent auction item at WQS seeing how the silent auction will be virtual. I received no input...and collected \$20 donation from 7 out of 8 counties totaling \$140 for our item. I chose to get a gift basket from Betterbee and a gift card to Betterbee for our item. They are holding the item until we know the winner and then they will be taking care of shipping. The money raised supports the Frank Bratt Scholarship Foundation. The scholarship program is through the CDEA for SWCD employees to cover the cost to attend trainings.
- Bank Reconciliations
- I had to go to Albany to get my new Lincpass as I reached my 5-year mark with SWCD's in January 2021. Should be good for 3 years then I will need to get my card updated. The lincpass allows me to get onto federal computers.
- Still working on trying to get my JAA from NRCS to get my Certified Planner Certification.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – February 2021
Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham – Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

General Updates

Suspension of In-Person Meeting Requirement: The Governor has extended the suspension of in-person meeting requirements of Open Meetings Law until **February 26th, 2021**. If your SWCD does indeed plan to continue with board meetings in some sort of “remote” fashion, please pay attention to the added requirement of meeting recording and transcription, if applicable.

NYS SWCC News

2020 State Aid to Districts – DUE 2/15: All 2020 annual reporting documents (State Aid, Treasurers Report, Annual Report, etc.) are now available on the SWCC SharePoint (<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/Home.aspx>), under Resources for Districts – State Aid to Districts. All reports are due to the State Committee by **February 15th, 2021**. Please contact ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov or your Regional AEA with any questions.

Payments and Blackout Period: We are fast approaching the annual blackout period during which time EPF funds are not available to process payments. Claim for Payments need to be submitted by **Friday, February 19th, 2021** to meet the cut-off date. Any Claim for Payment received during the Blackout period will be included on the next fiscal year EPF list with payments processed the following month. If you determine that projects will begin this Spring/Summer and you still have not submitted a CFP for necessary advance or implementation payments, it is advisable that you submit these vouchers ASAP. If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Irish (Maureen.irish@agriculture.ny.gov) or your Regional AEA.

SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee is scheduled for **10AM on Tuesday February 9th**. The meeting will take place video conference. A detailed meeting agenda will be available shortly.

Tools and References Wiki Update: The Tools and References Wiki has just been updated for 2021. This is a useful resource for new employees to learn about resources used in New York State conservation planning and design and related fields. Check it out! <https://www.nyscdea.com/useful-resources/>

Other Events

2021 Virtual Water Quality Symposium (March 8-12, 2021): Registration is due February 12, 2021 (www.nyscdea.com/training-sessions).

FSA Fridays in February Webinar Series Announced: FSA Fridays in February will cover a variety of programs and services FSA offers agricultural producers in New York. Topics include an overview of available programs and loans, conservation buffers, crop risk management programs, and loan programs. The hour-long webinars will be held **every Friday in February at noon**. The webinars are free however pre-registration is required to get a link to each webinar. Please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fsa-fridays-tickets-135329545313> or by emailing lynette.wright@usda.gov.

2021 Virtual Soybean & Small Grains Congress: The 2021 Soybean and Small Grains Congress will be held as a virtual conference on **February 10-11, 2021**. Pre-Registration is required and CCA Credits are also available. More information and registration link can be found here, https://nwnyteam.cce.cornell.edu/event_preregistration_new.php?id=1410

Other Funding Options

Sustain Our Great Lakes 2021 Funding: Sustain Our Great Lakes is soliciting applications for funding to restore and enhance habitat in the Great Lakes basin. Pre-proposals will be due **February 16th, 2021**. The Request for Proposal is available at <https://nysfola.org/2021-great-lakes-funding-opportunity/#:~:text=In%20early%20January%202021%2C%20Sustain,in%20the%20Great%20Lakes%20basin.&text=In%202021%2C%20grant%20funding%20will,Restore%20and%20Enhance%20Coastal%20Habitats>.

NY Great Lakes Research Consortium (GLRC) Small Grants Funding Available: The GLRC has announced the call for proposals for 2021 small research grants funding. Grants are available for up to \$25,000 per project as seed funding for new, cooperative projects that contribute to the protection and restoration of the health of New York's Great Lakes. Projects must meet one or more NY Great Lakes Action Agenda priority goals. Learn more at www.esf.edu/glrc. Proposals are due **March 1st, 2021**.

Great Lakes Trash Free Waters Grants Available: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that it is seeking applications under a newly developed Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant program focused on keeping trash out of the Great Lakes. Approximately \$5 million is available through the Trash-Free Great Lakes program to fund up to 10 projects. The deadline for applications is **Friday, March 5, 2021**. To register for the webinar or learn more about the request for applications, visit <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/glri-trash-free-waters-fy2021-request-applications-rfa>

DEC Now Accepting Applications for Hudson Estuary 'Trees for Tribs' Program: DEC announced that the Hudson Estuary Trees for Tribs Program is accepting applications for spring streamside planting projects. If you know landowners that own or manage property near streams in the Hudson River Estuary watershed (PDF) they may be eligible to apply for free native trees and shrubs. **The application deadline is March 1.**

DEC/EFC Engineering Planning Grant and EFC Green Innovation Grant Programs: DEC announced that applications are being accepted through the Consolidated Funding Application for the Engineering Planning Grant (EPG) and the Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP). The EPG funds production of an engineering report for eligible Clean Water State Revolving Fund water quality projects. The GIGP provides grants for projects that improve water quality and mitigate the effects of climate change through the implementation of green infrastructure, energy efficiency and/or water efficiency practices. Details on the EPG can be viewed here: EPG Round 10 Program Overview (PDF) and details on the GIGP can be viewed on EFC's GIGP webpage. **The application deadlines are February 12.**