

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting April 14, 2021 – Zoom Meeting

Attending:

Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman
Cassie Fedler, Director
Kate Ziehm, Treasurer

Staff Members

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

Others

Aaron Gabriel, Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE)

1. Call to order at 10:08 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for March and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment 1)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: April GovDelivery Bulletin submitted
 - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: Attachment 2, reviewed by Gabriel
 - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
 - D. District Technician: Attachment 3, submitted by Kalbfliesh
 - E. District Technician: Attachment 4, reviewed by Generous
 - F. District Technician: Attachment 5, submitted by Luke
 - G. Natural Resources Conservation Service: No Report
 - H. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment 6, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve donating trees left over from the tree program for district conservation projects. **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve and execute DuBois & King Agreement for Mattison Road Streambank Stabilization project. **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve extending current policy – assigning Laura Generous' residence (Clemons, NY) as her duty workstation, working 2 days in office until Maternity Leave. **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on May 14, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be a Zoom Meeting.
7. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 10:44 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

Reports Attached: March 2021 Treasurer Report, CCE, District Technicians Reports, NYS-SWCC Report

April 5, 2021



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

BULLETIN

GovDelivery

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FSA Accepting CFAP 2 Applications Beginning April 5

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces the availability of \$2 million to establish partnerships with organizations to provide outreach and technical assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. The funding was made possible by USDA's new Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative, an effort to distribute resources more broadly and to put greater emphasis on outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers impacted by the pandemic.

FSA's Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 2 (CFAP 2) signup will reopen on April 5, 2021, as part of the Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Farmers and ranchers will have at least 60 days to apply or make modifications to existing CFAP 2 applications.

Cooperative Agreements The cooperative agreements will support participation in programs offered by FSA, including those that are part of USDA's Pandemic Assistance for Producers initiative. Interested organizations must submit proposals by May 5, 2021.

Outreach and technical assistance cooperative agreements support projects that:

- Increase access and participation of socially disadvantaged applicants in FSA programs and services.
- Improve technical assistance for socially disadvantaged applicants related to county committees focused on urban agriculture as well as FSA programs, including loan, disaster assistance, conservation and safety-net programs.

FSA will prioritize review of proposals that support outreach on CFAP 2. To ensure effective outreach during the signup period for CFAP 2, these applications will be reviewed immediately following the submission deadline for prioritized approval and project initiation.

This funding opportunity is available to non-profits having a 501(c)(3) status with the Internal Revenue Service (other than institutions of higher education), Federally recognized Native American tribal governments, Native American tribal organizations (other than Federally recognized tribal governments), and public and state-controlled institutions of higher education, including 1890 land grant institutions and 1994 tribal land-grant colleges and universities.

Awards will range from \$20,000 to \$99,999 for a duration between six months and one year. Applications focusing primarily on CFAP 2 will be expedited. For other proposals, FSA anticipates announcing or notifying successful and unsuccessful applicants by June 20, 2021 and expects to have Federal awards in place by September 1, 2021.

For more information, view the cooperative agreement opportunity on grants.gov (No. USDA-FSA-MULTI-21-NOFO0001104) or visit fsa.usda.gov/cooperativeagreements.

Reopening of CFAP 2 CFAP 2 provides financial assistance that gives producers the ability to absorb increased marketing costs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible commodities include specialty crops, livestock, dairy, row crops, aquaculture, floriculture and nursery crops. The initial CFAP 2 sign-up ended on Dec. 11, 2020, but USDA will reopen sign-up for CFAP 2 for at least 60 days beginning today. Visit farmers.gov/cfap for details on all eligible commodities, producer eligibility, payment limitations and structure and additional program resources.

Producers have multiple options to apply for CFAP 2, including through an online application portal and by working directly with the FSA office at their local USDA Service Center. Customers seeking one-on-one support with the CFAP 2 application process can call 877-508-8364 to speak directly with a USDA employee ready to offer assistance. This is a recommended first step before a producer engages with the team at the FSA county office.

Additional CFAP Actions

USDA will also finalize routine decisions and minor formula adjustments on applications and begin processing payments for certain applications filed as part of the CFAP Additional Assistance. The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, enacted December 2020 requires FSA to make certain payments to producers according to a mandated formula.

While USDA offices are currently closed to visitors because of the pandemic, Service Center staff continue to work with agricultural producers via phone, email, and other digital tools. To conduct business, please contact your local [USDA Service Center](https://fsa.usda.gov/servicecenter). Additionally, more information related to USDA's response and relief for producers can be found at farmers.gov/coronavirus.

Questions?

Please contact your local [FSA Office](https://fsa.usda.gov/servicecenter).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (866) 632-9992 (Toll-free Customer Service), (800) 877-8339 (Local or Federal relay), (866) 377-8642 (Relay voice users).

Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 04/14/2021

AEM:

- Working on updating Tier 3A plans for Ron Decker and Flo Myrick.
- AEM Tier IV Implementation: Amber and I met with Dr. John Braico of Trout Unlimited and Noel Dydo (contractor) at Flo Myrick's to discuss the streambank repair project. John had positive input and Noel is very interested in doing the work.
- I am also working on obtaining Ron Decker & Flo Myrick's signatures on letter of commitments for the projects.

Grown & Certified:

- I completed a verification form for John Peabody's beef operation.

Grants:

- CRF: Working on collecting signatures from participating farmers for the interseeder grant: Brotherhood Farm (George Houser), Tiashoke Farms (Brian Ziehm) and Woody Hill Farm (Mark Carey). Also, Jamie Snyder of Happenstance Farm for his pond project.

Landowner Assistance:

- I have assisted 5 people with soil sampling information.

No-Till Drill:

- I have received 14 requests for the drill this spring. It has been used on several farms already. I am giving everybody an information sheet on how to calibrate the drill. The drill has about 4,200 acres on it and the dials to set the rate are starting to wear down. Also, attached is the 2020 Drill Usage Summary.

Meetings – Planned

- Soil Health Basics for Technical Service Providers

CCE Report – Aaron Gabriel – 04/14/2021

- Farm Business Meetings presented by Dayton Maxwell (CCE) on Tuesdays
- Grazier Meeting on Adapting Livestock, Pasture Forbs, Spending Money scheduled for April 29th – online Zoom Meeting
- Working on future Soil Health Meeting with CCE, ASA and SWCD

Technician's Report: Laura Generous 04/14/21

- **Grants and Projects**
 - Non-Ag Non-Point Source Planning Grant
 - Meeting March 31 with D&K and Town Highway Superintendent at Mattison Road site
 - AES waiting for snow to clear to do survey work
 - Quarterly Reports, submitted
 - Requested extensions waiting to hear about final approval
 - WQCC
 - Compiled survey results
 - 205 total responses
 - Meeting April 9 at 1:30 pm
 - Primary discussion revolved around survey
 - Part B
 - Completed initial site visits, will go back to see ground conditions as snow melts
 - Started working on plans
 - Forest
 - Focus on water quantity and quality while improving forest health
 - Landfill
 - Focus on increasing recreational activities and improve pollinator habitat
 - Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)
 - Plan of Work for Happenstance Farm and Luncrest
- **Other**
 - Website information updates as needed
 - Daughter under quarantine from 3/31-4/9, had to stay home to care for her, Covid test April 10

Technician's Report - Amber Luke – 04/14/2021

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 24-
 - Wolff's- Staying in contact. I have been reminding the farm to get all the proper paperwork to the office. We have updated workman's comp insurance.
- Round 26-
 - Attended the Plan of Work meeting (virtual)-3/18/21. Plan of work due May 21, 2021.

Climate Resiliency Farming (CRF)-

- Attended the Round 5- Plan of Work meeting 3/18/21. Plan of work documents are due by April 20,2021.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-

- Round 1-
 - Kenyon Hill- Bids are coming in for Manure storage.
- Round 3-
 - Twin Brooks-Construction has begun. The entire footers and floor have been poured along with half of the manure storage walls and ramp wall. 6 Test cylinders were taken during the first wall pour. These are to be broken at 7, 14, and 28 days to test PSI of the concrete. Testing is being done by Atlantic Testing. The concrete crew did not account for the distance to pump the second half of the walls so they have pushed off pouring the second half of walls until the ramp is filled in. Freidman's are working on getting the ramp filled in so that progress can continue. I have been in contact with the engineer and doing weekly inspections.
 - Chambers- Attended a pre-construction meeting at the farm with Jeff Wilson (engineer) and Marty Fane (contractor). Jeff Wilson laid out the 4 corners of the manure storage and added another benchmark for the contractor to work off of. We discussed the plan and timeline for the project. There is a tile line that empties into the planned manure storage location, this will be tied into the footer drain around the pit. Plans are for Fane's to start construction this week (Week of 4/12/2021).

AEM-

- Corn planter parts have been delivered. Farms have started retrofitting corn planters. Plan is to go out and take photos as they start using them in the next couple of weeks.
- Attended a meeting at Flo Myrick's with Bob. This was for one of the AEM implementation projects for AEM YR 16. We met with a contractor and Trout Unlimited to go over plans and designs for a project on Camden Creek. This project involves stabilizing a bend in the Camden Creek using woody material and some rock as well as recreating access to the Eastern Floodplain. This is in hopes of preventing the stream from flowing out of its banks into a hay field while stabilizing the bank.

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP'S)-

- Kathy Clark- Continuing to work on CNMP as time permits. Set up a time this week to go out and soil test now that it is getting warmer. I will also take a manure sample and get those sent in so we can get the results by the end of April. On Track to have the plan completed this summer.
- Fred Burch- Continuing work on CNMP as time permits.

Landowner Assistance-

- Set up a meeting with Alex Torda of Argyle to do 2 to 3 soil tests on small fields the week of 4/12/2021.

Trainings/Meetings Attended-

- Working Effectively with Organic Producers- Attended NRCS sponsored training. This training is happening over 4 days...April 6, 8, 13 and 14th from 1 to 4 pm. This is the last training required for the NRCS Certified Planner Certification. I have been in contact with Mary Kerstetter about NRCS reviewing my first CNMP towards the NRCS Certification as well (this would be the next step).
- Upper Hudson Meeting- Attended 4/8/2021 (ZOOM)

Miscellaneous

- Bank Reconciliations
- Picking up Sulfur this week (4/12/21) for Tree sale. We have 22 lbs. (packed in 1 lb. bags) left over from last year but we have 35 orders this year so we will need to buy a bag from Hoosac Valley Farmers Exchange.
- Still working on trying to get my JAA from NRCS to get my Certified Planner Certification. Talked with Mary Kerstetter (NRCS) to get Job Approval Authority (JAA) and I was informed that JAA is no longer needed for NRCS Certified Planner Certification. I decided to try to pursue JAA for at least planning purposes as it would let me sign off on grazing plans, nutrient management plans and cover crop plans etc. I have given all documentation needed to Mary Kerstetter and she will get back to me if anything else is needed. We also discussed using my first CNMP towards NRCS certified Planner as well I will just need to add a couple of things in.

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report – April 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 **April 20th, 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

SFY 2021-2022 Environmental Protection Fund: The Enacted SFY 2021-2022 Budget is now available at www.budget.ny.gov. The budget has been approved with an increased level of funding to State Aid for all SWCDs. In total, this year’s approved EPF budget is yet another very strong showing of support for conservation programs. Overall appropriations for the FY 2021-2022 EPF were approved at \$300 million. Proposals of interest to SWCC/SWCDs in this budget include the following:

- \$18 million for Agricultural Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Projects, including \$1 million for Cornell IPM, \$500,000 for the CCE of Suffolk County and \$250,000 for Cornell PMEP
- \$11 million for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (\$500,000 increase over last year’s levels)
- \$4.5 million for the Climate Resilient Farms Program, including \$200,000 for the Cornell Soil Health Program
- \$18.0 million for Water Quality Improvement Program
- \$14.15 for Waterfront Revitalization Program (Watershed Management and Implementation Funding through DOS)
- \$13.238 million for Invasive Species
- \$18.5 million for the Oceans and Great Lakes Initiative
- \$2.3 million for Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Protection Alliance
- \$250,000 for Lake Erie Watershed Protection Alliance
- \$18 million for Farmland Protection

Additionally, the approved budget authorizes the \$3 billion Environmental Bond Act of 2021, "Restore Mother Nature," to fund environmental improvements that preserve, enhance, and restore New York's natural resources and reduce the impact of climate change. The Bond Act will appear on the ballot in the 2022 general election.

AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2021: NYSDAM is partnering once again with the Sand County Foundation to present the AEM Leopold Conservation Award to recognize landowners who inspire others with their dedication to ethical land, water and wildlife habitat management on agricultural land. New York’s award recipient will be presented with the \$10,000 award provided by the Sand County Foundation, in partnership with the Department, American Farmland Trust, and Cornell Cooperative Extension. **The deadline for applications has been extended to May 1, 2021.** Any questions? Please contact Judy Littrell at 518-457-6320 or judy.littrell@agriculture.ny.gov More information can be found here, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/news/new-york-state-agriculture-commissioner-announces-application-open-aem-leopold-conservation>

SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee is scheduled for **10AM on Tuesday, April 20th**. The meeting will take place video conference. A detailed meeting agenda will be available shortly.

Plans of Work Due: Awards for Round 26 of Ag Nonpoint Source Grant Program (AGNPS) and Round 5 of Climate Resilient Farming Program (CRF) have been announced. Congratulations to all successful applicants! A reminder that Plans of Work for the CRF Program are due to your Regional AEA by **April 20th** and AGNPS plans are due on **May 21st**. Please contact your Regional AEA with any questions or concern that you may have regarding your POWs.

Other Events

“RE-PLUMBING” Roadside Ditches: Water Quality Event: Join the Finger Lakes Land Trust for a presentation by Dr. Rebecca Schneider, Professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. Dr. Schneider will discuss how networks of roadside ditches are degrading water quality and suggest solutions for improving local watershed management. This virtual event is free and open to the public. **Wednesday, April 14th, 2021, 7:30—8:30 PM, Register in advance at,** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErcempqTltH9yiGNCBDouN9PinfW9KY7Tm>

2021 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: Save the Date. The 2021 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference will take place at the DoubleTree Hotel in Niagara Falls on **April 27th & 28th**. Registration information is pending and will be shared when available. For more information, go to: <http://www.wetlandsforum.org/index.html>

Other Funding

American Farmland Trust Dairy Forward Program: Grants of \$500 to \$5,000 are currently available to help dairy farm families in New York access information and professional services to plan for farm transitions. These funds may be used for farm transfer and succession planning, farm business planning, permanently protecting land, or adopting regenerative practices. Application and more information at <https://farmland.org/dairy-forward/>

Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program: The Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (GLSNRP) Request for Proposals was recently announced, for projects that reduce nutrients and sediments entering the Great Lakes. Consistent with focus area 3 of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Action Plan III, this year’s GLSNRP will fund projects focused on reducing nutrients from three different sources: agricultural non-point sources, stormwater runoff, and Great Lakes shoreline or streambank erosion. The maximum grant award is \$200,000, and a 25% match is required. Application Deadline: **April 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm EDT,** <https://www.glc.org/wp-content/uploads/GLSNRP-RFP-2021-Final.pdf>

NY’s Great Lakes Small Grants Request for Proposals: New York Sea Grant (NYSG) in partnership with NYS DEC, is requesting proposals for projects that serve to benefit the environment and economy of New York’s Great Lakes basin by demonstrating the application of ecosystem-based management (EBM) to local watershed challenges. NYSG is soliciting proposals (up to \$25,000 in total costs) for projects that implement actions outlined in the goals of NY’s Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA). For this RFP, they have chosen not to highlight a specific goal, but are focusing their request for projects that engage youth (under 21) in either formal or informal educational experiences. Proposals are due **April 30th, 2021 at 4:30pm.** For more information and to apply, visit <https://seagrant.sunysb.edu/articles/t/nysg-s-new-york-s-great-lakes-basin-small-grants-program-2021-request-for-proposals-grants-policies-funding-opportunities-current-rfps>