

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting March 26, 2021 – Zoom Meeting

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman  
John Dickinson, Vice Chairman  
Cassie Fedler, Director  
Jay Skellie, Director

### Staff Members

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

### Others

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

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1. Call to order at 10:10 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Dickinson.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for February and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment 1)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
  - A. Farm Service Agency: March 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, reviewed 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 Skellie/Rieger to approve advertising for two job openings: Summer Intern/Laborer and District Technician. **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve tree order refunds to customers for orders that cannot be filled. **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve final Round 22 Contract C701281 Farmstead Silage Leachate Control grant payments (payments to be made upon approval from NYS-SWCC and receipt of state funds). **Unanimously carried.**
    - Kenyon Hill Farm BMP Payment (\$11,200.00)
    - Landview Farm BMP Payment (\$108,958.00)
    - Landview Farm BMP Payment (\$692.00)
    - Landview Farm Engineering Payment (\$6,300.00)
    - Washington County SWCD Personal Service Fee (\$18,528.00)
  - D. **Motion** by Rieger/Fedler to approve final Round 22 Contract C701282 Champlain Farmstead Runoff Control grant payments (payments to be made upon approval from NYS-SWCC and receipt of state funds). **Unanimously carried.**
    - Twin Brooks Farm BMP Payment (\$30,659.30)
    - Walkers Farm BMP Payment (\$30,271.00)

- Washington County SWCD Personal Service Fee (\$27,612.50)
- E. **Motion** by Rieger/Fedler to approve 2021 Part C Project funding (\$30,000.00) for Battenkill Watershed Restoration Projects. **Skellie abstained/Carried.**
  - F. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve Aldrich to prepare a project proposal for consideration by the Board for the Georgi Museum. **Unanimously carried.**
  - G. **Motion** by Fedler/Rieger to approve the District’s “*Public Employer Health Emergency Plan.*” **Unanimously carried.**
  - H. **Motion** by Dickinson/Rieger to move into Executive Session at 11:00 am to discuss staffing changes. **Unanimously carried.**
  - I. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to return to regular session at 11:20 am. **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on April 14, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. The meeting will be a Zoom Meeting.
  7. **Motion** by Rieger/Skellie to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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

March 2021



Farm Service Agency **Electronic News Service**

# BULLETIN

**GovDelivery**

Having trouble viewing this email? [View it as a Web page.](#)

- [Dave's NOTES](#)
- [Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security](#)

## Washington/Warren/Saratoga Counties FSA Updates

### Washington/Warren Saratoga Counties Farm Service Agency

#### Washington/Warren/Saratoga

2530 State Route 40  
Greenwich, NY, 12834  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
8:00 am - 4:30 pm  
Ph: (518) 692-9940  
Fax: 1-(855) 526-4787  
[www.fsa.usda.gov/NY](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/NY)

#### Farm Program Staff

David B. Holck, CED  
Keisha Timms, PT  
Patricia Pearson, PT  
Joanne Scoville, PT

#### Farm Loan Staff

Rebecca DeSorbe, FLM  
Jacob Evans-FLO  
Carolyn Lofredo-FLOT  
Jared Coons-FLOT  
Teresa Parrish, PT  
Janelle Moore, PT  
Shannon Fletcher, PT

### Dave's NOTES

#### GREENWICH FSA PERSONNEL CHANGES

**\*Congrats to Farm Loan Manager Rebecca DeSorbe**, who has accepted a position as a Farm Loan Specialist in the New York State FSA office. The entire State will benefit from Becky's expertise and knowledge of Farm Loan programs!

**\*Congrats to Jacob Evans**, who completed his training and now is a Farm Loan Officer. Jake's dairy farm background and experience will benefit producer's in our area.

**\*Allison Dwyer** has decided to pursue other employment opportunities. We wish Allison the best in her future endeavors.

#### DAIRY MARGIN COVERAGE (DMC)

The national average margin for January was \$7.14 per cwt. Dairy producers who selected \$9.50 coverage received a payment of \$2.36 per cwt. Payments for February 2021 should be announced the last day of March and issued in early April.

#### QUALITY LOSS ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM (QLA)

The deadline to apply for the QLA program has been extended until **April 9, 2021**. This program assists producers who suffered crop quality losses due to excessive moisture in 2019.

#### APPLYING FOR FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOANS

The Farm Service Agency, Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL)

### County Office Committee

Neil Peck-Chairperson  
Albert LaRue-Vice Chair  
Tom Curtis-Reg Mem  
Sandra Quinn-Reg. Mem  
Chris Koval-Reg. Mem  
Sheila Flanagan-Reg. Mem  
Larry Bailey-Reg. Mem

**NEXT MEETING:**  
**On an as-needed basis.**

program provides low-interest financing to help you build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new or used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks.

Eligible commodities include corn, soybeans, oats, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain, pulse crops (lentils, chick peas and dry peas) hay, honey, renewable biomass, fruits, nuts and vegetables for cold storage facilities, floriculture, hops, maple sap and syrup, rye, milk, cheese, butter, yogurt, meat and poultry (unprocessed), eggs, and aquaculture (excluding systems that maintain live animals through uptake and discharge of water). Qualified facilities include grain bins, hay barns, and cold storage for eligible commodities.

Loans up to \$50,000 can be secured by a promissory note/security agreement. Loans between \$50,000 and \$100,000 **may** require additional security and loans exceeding \$100,000 **will** require additional security.

### CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM (CRP)

The CRP General signup has been extended. CRP is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits. CRP participants establish resource conserving vegetation, such as grasses or trees, to control soil erosion, improve water quality, and enhance wildlife habitat.

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## Reminders for FSA Direct and Guaranteed Borrowers with Real Estate Security

Farm loan borrowers who have pledged real estate as security for their Farm Service Agency (FSA) direct or guaranteed loans are responsible for maintaining loan collateral. Borrowers must obtain prior consent or approval from FSA or the guaranteed lender for any transaction that affects real estate security. These transactions include, but are not limited to:

- Leases of any kind
- Easements of any kind
- Subordinations
- Partial releases
- Sales

Failure to meet or follow the requirements in the loan agreement, promissory note, and other security instruments could lead to nonmonetary default which could jeopardize your current and future loans.

It is critical that borrowers keep an open line of communication with their FSA loan staff or guaranteed lender when it comes to changes in their operation. For more information on borrower responsibilities, contact the Greenwich Farm Loan team.

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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).

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## Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 03/26/2021

### **AEM:**

- Easton Station Farm: Corrina and I met with Erin & Jeremy Perkins on March 17<sup>th</sup>. During the farm visit, many management ideas and options were discussed and determined that some of these ideas would be much more affordable options than an engineered covered feed area as early discussed. They were going to work on some of these ideas.
- John Peabody: Completed Tier I; scheduling a Tier II (5A update) with him also. ASA is requiring the Tier II summary in the application to conserve the farm. There may be opportunities to work with John on BMP's on the farm depending on the summary findings.

**Grown & Certified:** NYS Grown & Certified is changing its cover form that we fill out when we complete the AEM requirements for farms to become verified in the program. There will now be two forms, an AEM participation initial verification cover form and an AEM participation re-verification cover form. The new re-verification form is really just to help the farms that are already certified to go through re-certification. The forms are in "draft status," approval for use is expected shortly.

**Grants:** Beginning work on the plan of work for CRF grant.

**Ag Assessments:** I completed 84 ag assessments this year. That is an increase of 36 over last year. There is only one that has not been picked up yet.

**Landowner Assistance:** I have completed the maps that Lillian Loveday requested on her three properties she owns in Greenwich. I called her and left a message for her to pick them up.

**No-Till Drill:** I have 8 requests for the drill to date. We plan to take the drill out of storage on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Tree Program:** I have assisted many tree customers that have come to the door and some that have called with their orders.

### **Meetings – Attended & Planned**

- WQS – March 8 – 12 (virtual)
- Soil Health Basics for Technical Service Providers

## Technician's Report: Laura Generous – 03/26/2021

- **Grants and Projects**
  - Non-Ag Non-Point Source Planning Grant
    - Notified bid winners
    - Meeting March 31 with D&K and stakeholders at Mattison Road site
    - AES waiting for snow to clear to do survey work.
    - Quarterly Reports, due end of March
    - Requested extensions, due to short work turn around and potential Covid hinderances
  - WQCC
    - Launched survey, extended until March 26 in an attempt to get 200 responses
      - Sent out weekly updates to WQCC members about progress
    - Next meeting April 9 at 1:30pm
  - 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
  - CWICNY
    - Annual Report
    - Attended meeting March 18
- **Other**
  - Tree Sale
    - As stock got low, tried to gain additional plants
  - Website information updates as needed
  - Attended 3 WQS Sessions focused on Forestry
    - Current State of the Forests
    - Adaptation Training: Managing New York's Forests in a Changing Climate
    - Restoring Ecological and Productive Function to Woodlands

## Technician's Report - Amber Luke – 03/26/2021

### 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 received documentation of bills sent to the farm, but we have yet to receive any proof of payment.
- 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- Work is starting back up. Nice warm weather has helped. The plan is to pour concrete for the floor on 3/24/2021. I will be there to make sure all goes smoothly.
  - Chambers- Bids are in and contractor has been selected by farm.

### AEM-

- Corn planter parts have been delivered. Waiting for farms to start retrofitting corn planters to go out and take photos.
- AEM implementation Projects-Staff meeting to go over plan for getting these projects installed this summer. Discussion on AEM year 17 implementation projects that would be good to put in for.

### Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP'S)-

- Kathy Clark- Continuing work on CNMP as time permits. Planning on contacting in April to set up a good time to do soil samples so that I can finish up CNMP and get it submitted to the state for review.
- Fred Burch- Continuing work on CNMP as time permits.

### Trainings/Meetings Attended-

- Water Quality Symposium (Virtual) - 3/8/2021-3/12/2021. Classes taken included Beef, Sheep, and Goats Oh My, Pollinator Habitat, Working Effectively with Urban and Suburban Landowners, Integrated Pest Management Plan Writing, Manure Handling, and AEM data Management. The week was overall very good and went off without a hitch. Division 6's silent Auction item was won by Christine Watkins of Jefferson County SWCD. The item was shipped and has been Received by the winner.

### Miscellaneous

- Bank Reconciliations
- 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 need 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 – March 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 **March 16<sup>th</sup>, 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**

**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 is **April 1, 2021**. Any questions? Please contact Judy Littrell at 518-457-6320 or [judy.littrell@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto: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>

**Round 26 AgNPS:** Awards for Round 26 have been announced. Congratulations to all successful applicants! \$14.9 million will be awarded this Round to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the state. More than 140 farms in 25 Counties will benefit from Round 26 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control program. A memo with details regarding plan of work development will be sent out to Districts soon.

**Round 5 CRF:** Awards for Round 5 have been announced. Congratulations to all successful applicants! \$4 million will be awarded this Round to support agricultural water quality conservation projects across the state. More than 80 farms in 22 Counties will benefit from Round 5 of the Climate Resilient Farming program. A memo with details regarding plan of work development will be sent out to Districts soon.

**SWCC Meeting:** The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee is scheduled for **10AM on Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**. The meeting will take place video conference. A detailed meeting agenda will be available shortly.

### **Other Events**

**Open Meetings Law Virtual Training:** The NYS Committee on Open Government will be presenting a virtual Open Meetings Law training program on Thursday, **March 18, 2021 from 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** The program will consist of a one-hour overview of the statute, followed by 30 minutes of a question and answer period. **Pre-Registration is required at** <https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/k2/j.php?MTID=t47943970f8a351e4246fffa77b4fa839>

**Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study:** NYS Energy and Research Development Authority (NYSERDA) will be conducting a study of the feasibility of developing offshore wind energy in the Great Lakes adjacent to New York State. The feasibility study for Great Lakes wind energy will consider the environmental, maritime, economic, and social issues as well as market barriers and costs of developing wind in the Great Lakes. NYSEDA will be conducting stakeholder outreach in March, with a webinar being held on **3/19/21 at 11am**. To learn more and sign up to receive updates, visit <https://www.nyseda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Standard/Important-Orders-Reports-and-Filings/Great-Lakes-Wind-Feasibility-Study>



**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 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup>**. 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 years' 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. A webinar will be offered on **March 12, 2021 at 10:00 am**, to register visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/great-lakes-sediment-and-nutrient-reduction-program-2021-rfp-webinar-tickets-141732123597> Application Deadline: **April 16, 2021 at 5:00 pm EDT**,  
<https://www.glc.org/wp-content/uploads/GLSNRP-RFP-2021-Final.pdf>

**2021 Buffer in a Bag Program:** DEC's Buffer in a Bag program provides organizations and private landowners with free tree and shrub seedlings to help establish or improve a stream buffer on their property. Each buffer in a bag includes several different native species and must be planted alongside a stream, river, or lake. This year each recipient will receive 25 bare-root, native tree and shrub seedlings. Supplies are limited so sign up early at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115903.html>