

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting May 14, 2021

Attending:

Board Members

Jay Skellie, Director
Cassie Fedler, Director
Kate Ziehm, Treasurer
John Dickinson, Director

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager

1. Call to order at 8:45 a.m. by Director Skellie.
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 April and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment 1)
4. Agency & Staff Reports:
 - A. Farm Service Agency: GovDelivery Bulletin distributed
 - B. Cornell Cooperative Extension: No Report
 - C. District Manager: Verbal Report by Aldrich
 - 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, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Fedler/Ziehm to approve reimbursement of Part C Funds to the District for the cost of trees from the tree program used on Streambank Restoration Projects (\$282). **Unanimously carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Fedler to approve Round 24 Farmstead Improvement HTW BMP grant payments to Toolite Farm, LLC (\$25,661.25) and Wolff Farm (\$55,263.60). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. The Spring Fish Program was cancelled. **Motion** by Dickinson/Fedler to approve refunds to Customers who placed pre-orders. **Unanimously carried.**



RESOLUTION

Motion by Fedler / Seconded by Ziehm. Unanimously carried.

Authorizing participation by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District in the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program created pursuant to section 11-b of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Districts Law.

WHEREAS, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued a Request for Proposals inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit proposals for funding under Round 27 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for projects that consist of activities that will reduce, abate, control, or prevent nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural sources; and

WHEREAS, the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District has determined that certain work, as described in its application and attachments, (the "Project") is in the public interest and consists of activities that will reduce and/or prevent nonpoint source pollution from agricultural sources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the **Washington** County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

1) That **Corrina Aldrich, District Manager**, or such person's successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District's governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under Round 27 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program. The representative is authorized to make application, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Project;

2) That the District agrees to fund its portion of the cost of the Project as provided in the application;

3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 27 of the Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program;

4) That this resolution take effect immediately.

6. The next Board meeting will be held on June 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

7. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

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

Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 05/10/2021

AEM:

- AEM Tier IV Implementation: I am continuing to work with Ron Decker and Flo Myrick on their implementation projects.

Grants:

- Round 24 Walkers: Working with Jeff Wilson (engineer), Dave Clark (contractor), NRCS and Larry Bailey on setting a date for a pre-construction meeting on the Kingsbury Farm.

Landowner Assistance:

- I assisted Fred Barnes of Salem with seeding recommendations for a very gravelly area on his property.

No-Till Drill:

- The rainy weather has slowed down the movement of the drill. The weather looks good this week, so we should be able to keep it moving.

Interviews:

- I have been participating in the interview process for both advertised positions.

Meetings – Attended

- Soil Health Basics for Technical Service Providers

Technician's Report - Laura Generous – 05/14/21

- **Grants and Projects**
 - Non-Ag Non-Point Source Planning Grant
 - Grant extension request extended, now due 4/30/2022
 - Informed both engineers that extension accepted so they didn't have to rush
 - Quarterly reports due end of June
 - WQCC
 - Further processing of survey results
 - Overall vs Lake Champlain vs Hudson River results
 - Working on draft survey section for Strategic Plan update
 - Next meeting May 25 at 1:30 pm
 - Primary discussion will be about draft survey section for Strategic Plan update
 - Part B
 - Completed Management Plans, sent to Town of Granville for review
 - Forest
 - Focus on water quantity and quality while improving forest health
 - Landfill
 - Focus on increasing recreational activities and improve pollinator habitat
 - Worked on close out materials
 - Septic Replacement Fund
 - Created spreadsheet of landowners interested in program
 - Created maps for Lake George and Cossayuna Lake of all parcels fully or partially within 250 feet of shoreline
 - Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)
 - Plan of Work
- **Other**
 - Website information updates as needed
 - NYCAC Meeting April 26 about CWICNY (presented by Peter Hagar, Clinton County SWCD), membership manual, appointments for voting members, by-laws, next meeting May 24

Technician's Report - Amber Luke - May 14, 2021

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 24-
 - Wolff's- Staying in contact with the farm. Had a discussion with the engineer about what had to be done still to get the project tied up. Aaron Weiss asked me to go out and check on the vegetation establishment on the VTA. I conducted a site visit on 5/4/2021 to check on the vegetation and the rest of the project. Grass was growing but it was too sparse to let the leachate go to the VTA. Aaron said that he has talked with Travis about re-grading the top of the VTA and connecting the diffuser pipes. Jay came in office on 5/5/2021 and handed in copies of front and backs of checks used to pay Korb's. Jay is waiting on cancelled checks from Aaron for the engineer. I gave Jay copies of time sheets for his time to fill out in the meantime and told him if he has any other receipts towards his work on the project to hand those in too.
- Round 26-
 - Attended the Plan of Work meeting (virtual)-3/18/21. Plan of work due May 21, 2021.

Climate Resiliency Farming (CRF)-

- Plan of Work documents were submitted by the deadline.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-

- Round 1-
 - Kenyon Hill- A bid has been selected. Meeting at the farm with contractor and concrete sub-contractor on Friday (5/7/2021) to go over prices and logistics behind getting the project completed.
- Round 3-
 - Twin Brooks- I have been doing construction inspections frequently and have been in contact with the engineer sending photos about progress. The manure storage ramp has been backfilled and compacted and work has begun on backfilling the walls. What is left to be completed is to install the manhole for clean water and the leak detection manhole, install the drip trench and diversion along the barn, install the concrete ramp and push off.
 - Chambers- I checked in with Marty Fane to see when he was going to start. The plan is the end of June now due to the concrete people not being ready. Marty did not want to start and get the pit all excavated and not have the concrete ready to pour the manure storage. Marty has talked with Bob Chambers and he is ok with this plan. I will check back in with both the farm and Marty Fane in mid- June to check on plans.

Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP'S)- (AEM Planning)

- Kathy Clark- Continuing to work on CNMP as time permits. Went out and took soil samples for the home farm. Waiting for results on those. I got the fields that the farm is planning on using this year nailed down. Kathy says I should not have a problem going to and taking soil tests on those. I have figured out that it will take me approximately 2 days of good weather to get the rest of the soil samples done due to proximity to each other. I want to get these done as soon as possible. I will take the manure sample when I am out getting the last soil tests. Hopes are to get the results and get the plan submitted to the state sometime in June. Part B money is being used to pay for soil samples.
- Fred Burch- Continuing work on CNMP as time permits.

Landowner Assistance-

- Meet with Alex Torda and took 3 soil tests. The results have come back and been delivered to the farm via email and mail. He has been given lime and fertilizer recommendations according to the soil tests.

Trainings/Meetings Attended-

- Soil Health TSP Training- April 27-29th, 2021
- Webinar: Hydrology, Geology, and Biology of Springs
- Upper Hudson Meeting- Attended 5/13/2021 (ZOOM)

SWCD Programs:

- Tree and Shrub- We had a successful tree and shrub sale. Bob and I picked up all the berries from Saratoga County the week before the sale and tree and shrubs from DEC the week of the sale. All trees were packed by Lori, Bob, Corrina, and myself on 4/22. We held a drive through sale here at the office and all went smoothly.

Miscellaneous

- Bank Reconciliations
- Staff meeting to discuss applicants for the open positions and interviews

General Updates

Suspension of In-Person Meeting Requirement: The Governor has extended the suspension of in-person meeting requirements of Open Meetings Law until **May 16th, 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.

NYS SWCC News

Interim Reports Due: A reminder that interim reports are due (**May 1st**) for certain open and active program contracts. Interim reports should be submitted for active contracts in the following funding rounds: Rounds 21 – 23 of AGNPS; Round 1-4 of CRF and Rounds 1 - 2 of the CAFO Waste Storage Program. Interim reports should be sent to Maureen.Irish@agriculture.ny.gov, the appropriate program manager and to your Regional AEA.

SWCC Meeting: The next meeting of the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) is scheduled for **10AM on Tuesday, May 18th**. The meeting will take place via video conference. A detailed meeting agenda will be available shortly.

Plans of Work Due: A reminder that Plans of Work for the AGNPS program are due on **May 21st**. Please contact your Regional AEA with any questions or concern that you may have regarding your POWs.

AGNPS Round 27: The NYS SWCC is preparing for the release of Round 27 of the Ag NPS Program. Although an official release date cannot be provided at this time, SWCDs may want to begin thinking about potential applicants/projects now so that they are prepared for when the RFP is released. Please feel free to reach out to your Regional AEA with any questions.

AEM Base Program – Round 17 Update (2022-2023): The next round of the AEM Base Program was presented in draft form at the April Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting and the draft will be discussed at the May 18th NYS SWCC meeting. Updates to AEM Round 17 are being considered based on feedback gathered during the current round. Given the solid District response and work in the current round and to help in identifying priority projects for AEM Round 17 this spring and summer, the following, basic program framework and timings were provided at the April TAC and SWCC meetings.

DRAFT AEM Base Program – Round 17 DRAFT	
Non-Competitive Funding for Technical Assistance and Tier 4 Cost-Share 2-Year Action Plan (due <u>11/1/21</u>) and Contract Based on AEM Strategy AEM Base Round 17 Calendar: <u>1/1/2022</u> thru <u>12/31/2023</u>	
AEM Technical Assistance (TA) Track	AEM Tier 4 Implementation Cost-Share (CS) Track
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Option A: up to \$130K over 2-years Option B: up to \$220K (AEM Planner) Option C: up to \$170K (CCA or NRCS Planner) + up to \$10K for soil nutrient, manure/compost, and soil health testing services (or additional TA) TA Track funds District staff time for Tier 4 CS projects \$48/hour TA rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to \$100K State share <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capped at \$50K State share per farm Up to 87.5% cost share For project expenses external to the SWCD Priority projects from Tier 3 Plans All BMP Systems from Catalogue For projects doable in < 2 years
<p>SWCC staff will introduce the draft design of AEM17 during the <u>May SWCC meeting</u>, seek approval during the <u>June SWCC meeting</u>, and, pending NYS AGM fiscal counsel review, release AEM17 for District use in <u>July/August</u>. Contact AEM Base Program Coordinator, Greg Albrecht, with any questions (607.229.4654 or greg.albrecht@agriculture.ny.gov).</p>	

Other Events

NOAA Great Lakes Webinar - Climate and Water Levels in the Great Lakes: As a follow up to quarterly webinars last year, NOAA in the Great Lakes will be providing a spring update to its Great Lakes Climate and Water Levels Outlook. A multi-partner public webinar will be held on **May 10 at 1 pm** and will share information regarding conditions that contributed to the current water levels, a climate outlook through the next season and an outlook for lake levels going forward. Register at: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1599800828132162573>.

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 additional regenerative practices. Application and more information at <https://farmland.org/dairy-forward/>

Frank Bratt Scholarship: A reminder to all SWCD employees that the Frank Bratt Scholarship application deadline is **June 1, 2021**. An application can be obtained from the CDEA Website at, www.nyscdea.com Questions and/or completed applications for consideration should be sent to Scott Collins, Region 1 CDEA Representative, @ scott.collins@ny.nacdnet.net