

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting June 23, 2021

## Attending:

### Board Members

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

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager

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1. Call to order at 9:18 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 Dickinson/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for May 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 Luke
  - F. Natural Resources Conservation Service: No Report
  - G. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment 4, submitted by Cunningham
5. New Business:
  - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve cost of full-page advertisement (\$75) in the Washington County Association of Streets & Highway Annual Buyers Guide. **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve payment to DuBois & King (\$4,135) for the Mattison Road/Halfway Creek project – NYS-DEC Nonpoint Source Grant. **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve payment to NYS-CDEA (\$100) for the 2021 New York State Fair Assessment. **Unanimously carried.**
  - D. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to renew rental on storage unit for 6-month period July to December 2021 (\$420). **Unanimously carried.**
  - E. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve closing grant checking account Round #22 Contract C701281 Champlain Farmstead Runoff Control. **Unanimously carried.**
  - F. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve closing grant checking account for Round #22 Contract C701281 Farmstead Silage Leachate Control. **Unanimously carried.**
  - G. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve Round 24 Contract C701391 Assignment of Payment between Albert Marns and Aaron Weiss Engineering, PLLC and to approve engineering payment (\$9,503). **Unanimously carried.**

- H. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve staff to attend Conservation Skills Workshop. **Unanimously carried.**
  - I. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve Match Contribution (\$4,500 / \$1,500 over 3 years) for the Upper Hudson Watershed Revitalization Plan – LWRP Application for 9 Element Plan. **Unanimously carried.**
  - J. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to assign Lyndsy Hilder as CWICNY Representative. **Unanimously carried.**
  - K. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve Grassland Bird Trust Dues (\$50). **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on July 21, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

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

## **Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 06/23/2021**

### **AEM:**

- I have prepared a list of 5A's to conduct this summer. 5A's are an inspection of installed BMP's to check on if they are functioning and being properly maintained by the farm.
- AEM Tier IV Implementation: Working with Ron Decker and Flo Myrick to obtain landowner agreements for their projects.

### **Grants:**

- Round 24 – Walkers: Tentatively the contractor, Dave Clark, is set to begin work on June 21<sup>st</sup>.
- Round 24 – Marns (Deep Roots): Corrina and I met with Albert & Donna, the contractor – Friedman, Scott Fitscher and the NBT bank loan officer. The purpose of the meeting was to provide grant information so that the farm could obtain a bridge loan and begin construction. I also met with Aaron Weiss (engineer) to obtain final copies of the designs.
- Round 22 – Twin Brooks: Aaron Weiss (engineer) and I stopped at Twin Brooks to check on progress of the manure storage. Aaron had a small to-do list of items that needed to be completed.
- Round 3 CAFO – Chambers Valley: Checked on construction several times, once with the new employees.

### **Landowner Assistance:**

- I completed several landowner requests, including a pond evaluation.

### **No-Till Drill:**

- The drill went to Capital Tractor for repairs on the grain box door mechanism. The old one was just worn out. The drill is back out being used.

## Technician's Report - Amber Luke – 06/23/2021

### Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 24-
  - Wolff's- I have been in contact with the farm to get the final BMP's completed. The vegetation is well established now and therefore the Diffuser pipes at the beginning of the VTA can be installed. I have talked with the contractor and told him what needs to be done and have gone out and checked to make sure everything was being completed accurately and in a timely manner. Jay handed in all needed paperwork to us for the engineering and construction. So now we are just waiting for the diffuser pipes to be installed and in working order.

### CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- A pre-construction meeting was held with the contractor and engineer. Corrina and I attended with the new hires. Everyone seems to be on the same page with how construction will go. The engineer wants to do test pits again when they get closer to beginning construction to verify placement of the manure storage. Excavation is planned for July and concrete is planned for September. There was discussion about putting in a windbreak to help ease neighbor relations, but this was only mentioned as a potential AEM Tier 4 cost share project.
- Round 3-
  - Twin Brooks- I have been checking on final touch up things periodically. This project is nearly complete. The engineer came out on 6/16 to look at the project and give a checklist of what needs to be completed before he can sign off as being completed. The to-do lists the engineer gave the farm included push off safety bar, signage, fill marker, finish the leak detection manhole, and seeding and mulching.
  - Chambers- Construction has been in full swing. Excavation is complete and the concrete crew has meet with the engineer and begun laying rebar. I have been given a list of specific things to check for the engineer and have been sending photos to him on a weekly basis. The footers are planned to be poured on 6/22/2021. Lancaster poured walls is doing the concrete and they plan to pour the floor 1 pour (2 if they have too) and they plan to pour the walls in 3 pours max.

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

- Kathy Clark- Continuing to work on CNMP as time permits. All soil samples have been taken and I am working on drying them all out to get them all submitted, probably the week of 6/21/2021. The manure sample has been taken as well and results have been received. I took the new hires out with me to take the soil samples and manure sample and went over the whole process of writing the CNMP. Hopefully I can get all the soil sample results so I can wrap up this CNMP in June / Early July. Part B money is being used to pay for soil samples and manure sample.
- Fred Burch- Continuing work on CNMP as time permits. DEC has reached out to SWCD pertaining a well Contamination complaint. Corrina and I have been in contact with the farm and DEC to work on getting this resolved. DEC gave me a copy of the negative test results to include in my CNMP.

### Landowner Assistance-

- Meet with Pat and John Becker to assist with a grazing request. The farm wanted some help setting up grazing paddocks and some assistance with erosion in the pasture. I completed the Prescribed Grazing Management (PGM) Sheets and mapped out potential paddocks for the farm. I am working on compiling data on grassed waterways to tend to the in-pasture erosion and will send all information out shortly.

**Trainings/Meetings Attended-**

- Upper Hudson Meeting- Attended 6/10/2021 @ 4-H training center in Ballston Spa.
- CDEA Meeting attended 6/3/2021

**Miscellaneous**

- Bank Reconciliations



**US Forest Service GLRI Request for Applications:** The USDA Forest Service is now requesting applications for the Fiscal Year 2021 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) Grant Program. They anticipate that up to \$5.4 million in new funds will be available for reforestation, ecosystem restoration and forest health improvement projects. Submit applications by **6 p.m. Eastern on July 8th** in [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov), through two separate Requests for Applications (RFA) found here <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898821> and here <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898819>

**USEPA Announces \$9M in GLRI Funding Will Be Available Soon:** US EPA recently announced that they will be offering \$9 million in grant funding applications for projects aimed at addressing stormwater runoff carrying pollution from the land into water bodies. There are three categories applicants may apply: Green infrastructure in shoreline communities; Riparian restoration to reduce runoff and; Legacy phosphorus in agricultural settings. EPA will post a Request for Application (RFA) to their RFA website, where interested applicants can find a summary of the funding opportunities. <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects>