

Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting July 21, 2021

Attending:

Board Members

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

Other

Ryan Cunningham, NYS-SWCC

Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager
Lyndsy Hilder, District Technician
Mackenzie Benoit, Intern
Olivia Hansen, Intern

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1. Call to order at 9:10 a.m. by Vice Chairman Dickinson.
 2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/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/Skellie to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for June and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment 1)
 4. At 9:30 a.m. Chairman Rieger arrived; he then chaired the remainder of the meeting.
 5. 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. District Technician: Attachment 4, submitted by Hilder
 - G. Natural Resources Conservation Service: No Report
 - H. NYS-SWCC Report: Attachment 5, reviewed by Cunningham
 6. New Business:
 - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve Round 23 Contract C701335 Change in Budget Amendment for increase in Personal Services State Funds. **Dickinson Recused; Carried.**
 - B. **Motion** by Ziehm/Skellie to approve Round 24 Farmstead Improvement HTW Engineering Payment to Jeremy Wolff (\$8,250). **Unanimously carried.**
 - C. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to approve NYS-DEC Nonpoint Source Grant – Mattison Road /Halfway Creek Project payment to engineer DuBois & King (\$830). **Unanimously carried.**
 - D. **Motion** by Skellie/Ziehm to approve Part B expense for Soil Sampling Projects (\$1,200). **Unanimously carried.**
 - E. **Motion** by Ziehm/Dickinson to approve purchase of supplies for Hydroseeder (\$1,000). **Unanimously carried.**
 - F. There was a discussion and review of the 2022 proposed budget and county appropriation request amount of \$208,000.
 7. The next Board meeting will be held on September 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.
 8. **Motion** by Dickinson/Ziehm to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

Lori Sheehan, Secretary

Director

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

Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 07/21/2021

AEM:

- I have completed a Tier 5b inspection of BMP's on Tiashoke Farm.
- I had a farm visit with Flo Myrick about her Tier IV implementation project. She is facing some hard-financial times, but still wants to complete the project.
- Ron Decker stopped by the office and signed his landowner agreement with SWCD.

Grants:

- Round 24 – Walkers Kingsbury Farm: Construction on the VTA has not begun due to the rainy weather.
- Round 24 – Marns (Deep Roots): I attended the pre-construction meeting. It looks like the contractor will start in 2-3 weeks.

No-Till Drill:

- The drill has been repaired by Capital Tractor. This is the time of year when there is a lot of down time for the drill.

Newsletter:

- I wrote an article for the August Newsletter.

Ag Assessments:

- I have been providing information for several landowners on the Ag Assessment Program.

Meetings Attended:

- July 8th: I attended the RC&D Meeting to discuss dissolution of the organization.

Technician's Report - Amber Luke – 07/21/2021

Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 24-
 - Wolff's-The farm has completed everything that needed to be done and he has been paid for his BMP implementation. We are working on starting the closeout process. Including the project summary narrative and final report for closeout purposes.

CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-

- Round 1-
 - Kenyon Hill- Construction has begun. There was some concern about the amount of rock that the contractor would run into while excavating. I have checked in with the contractor frequently to keep the engineer updated on progress of excavation. So far, they have run into some rock but nothing too hard that they couldn't deal with. The engineer was concerned with erosion from all the rain we have gotten but everything looks to be holding up well. No erosion is noticeable currently. I have been taking the interns out with me when they are free to construction site visits.
- Round 3-
 - Twin Brooks- The fill marker and all signage has been installed. Corrina went out to check on it. We are waiting for As-builts from the engineer. I have been in contact with the engineer as needed.
 - Chambers- I have been conducting field visits frequently at the request of the engineer. I have been going out and taking photos of the rebar with a measuring tape so that the engineer can see and approve the rebar without being there. I have been updating the engineer weekly. The footers and floor have been poured. The contractor flooded the floor after the pour with engineer approval. This was done to help prevent the concrete from drying too fast. Contractor has started work on forming up the walls but recently the rain has been delaying all work.

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

- Kathy Clark- All needed manure tests and soil tests have been completed and results received. Just finishing up some final details and then working on putting the whole plan together. Working on mailing out test results to landowners of rented field that Kathy Clark operates.
- Fred Burch- Continuing work on CNMP as time permits. Planning soil tests for this summer before interns go back to school. I am going to reach out to the farm and try to get a definite number of fields that need to be soil tested.

Trainings/Meetings Attended-

- Upper Hudson Meeting - Attended 7/8/2021 @ Warren County SWCD

- CDEA Meeting attended 7/28/2021
- Webinar- COMET Tool - how to use and apply NRCS's COMET Tool to measure carbon sequestration - CCA credits.
- I did a quick training with the Interns and new hire on the DEC Locator mapping program to locate PWL(S).

Miscellaneous

- Bank Reconciliations
- I wrote 2 Newsletter articles to include in the newsletter. One about what weeds are and why they are beneficial. The second about Ag NPS Round 24 Silage Leachate project at Wolff Farms.

Technician's Report - Lyndsy Hilder- 07/21/21

- **Grants and Projects**
 - **NYS-DEC WQIP**
 - Working on processing previous areas for hydroseeding proposed in the grant to see if hydroseeding was still needed
 - In contact with town highway departments for match on the projects as well as flagging assistance and water access
 - First hydroseeding project began in Hartford on June 30th
 - Grant hydroseeding has been completed in the town of Fort Ann
 - Currently have spots to hydroseed in Hartford, Granville, and Whitehall
- **Workshops and Meetings Attended**
 - Upper Hudson Meeting - Attended June 10, 2021
 - Town Highway Meetings - Attended June 3, 2021 and July 1, 2021
 - CWICNY Meeting - Attended June 17, 2021
 - "Soil Your Undies": Soil Health Workshop - Attended July 13, 2021
 - Warren County Water Quality Strategy Committee - Attended July 14, 2021
- **Other**
 - Researched invasive species for the fair booth
 - Harvested and preserved invasive and native aquatic and terrestrial plant species

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

General Updates

Suspension of In-Person Meeting Requirement: On June 23rd, Governor Cuomo announced that he would not be extending the State of Emergency declared on March 7, 2020 to fight COVID-19. As a result, public bodies across NYS are no longer able to conduct public meetings pursuant to the allowances under Executive Order 202.1. All meetings must be conducted in compliance with the NYS Open Meetings Law. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional AEA and/or visit the NYS COOG website for more information. <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/open-meetings-law>

NYS SWCC News

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

Attention Graziers

For farms implementing prescribed rotational grazing, and the technicians that assist, pasture re-growth is a critical component of decision making and understanding forage inventory. **The Pasture Re-Growth Monitoring Project** is a state-wide pilot demonstration that provides monitoring tools, weekly reporting and a schedule of pasture walks. To learn more visit <https://thegrasswhisperer.com/2021-nys-pasture-regrowth-monitoring-project/> and <https://cornell.app.box.com/s/yhrezmeb380m7klyx5sa375jakyv0apv>.

CRP/CREP Training Resources

Last month USDA – FSA/NRCS held a two-day remote training session on CRP and CREP. For those who were unable to attend, or as refresher for those who did, please visit the SharePoint site under “Resources for Districts” and scroll down to “Other Resources” and click on the [CREP](#) icon. There you will find the presentations for both days, links to the recordings, as well as the CREP Annual Reports back until 2016 and a series of factsheets meant to highlight the various ecological benefits of riparian buffers. If you have any questions about the training, CREP or the resources, please contact Region 3 AEA, Scott Fickbohm at scott.fickbohm@agriculture.ny.gov

Other Funding

NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 18 - Conservation Easement Projects – A reminder that these applications are taken on a rolling basis. The intent of the grant program is to fund the implementation of certain farmland protection activities intended to maintain the economic viability of the State’s agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture. For more information about applying, please visit, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0238-farmland-protection-implementation-grants-round-18-conservation-easement>

NYSDC Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Announced: Round 11 of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) is now accepting applications online through **4:00PM on July 30, 2021**. Included in the CFA is the NYDEC WQIP Program, which can support projects that directly address documented water quality impairments or protect a drinking water source. More info can be found here: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>

DAP Funding Available: Funds for business and environmental planning are now available via the Dairy Advancement Program (DAP) and can support: Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (update or new) - up to \$6,000 for farms with fewer than 300 mature cows; Design of eligible Best Management

Practices (BMPs) - up to \$10,000 for a combination of practices (BMPs) (\$5,000 for a single practice) for farms with fewer than 700 mature cows and; Business planning and implementation of recordkeeping funds for small to midsize dairies – up to \$5,000 available. More information can be found at: <https://cals.cornell.edu/pro-dairy/our-expertise/dairy-advancement-program>

USEPA Announces \$9M in GLRI: US EPA announced that \$9 million is available 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. Applications to this RFA are due by **August 20th, 2021**. <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects>

Upcoming Events

2021 Soil Health Center at Empire Farm Days: August 3-5

(https://blogs.cornell.edu/soilhealthinitiative/calendar_event/8-3-8-5-empire-farm-days-soil-health-center). More details available soon.

2021 Empire Farm Days: August 3-5 (<https://empirefarmdays.leetradeshows.com>).

2021 Cornell Aurora Farm Field Day: August 12 (<https://cals.cornell.edu/2021-aurora-farm-field-day>).