

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting - June 8, 2022

## Attending:

### Board Members

John Rieger, Chairman  
Jay Skellie, Director  
John Dickinson, Director (via telephone)

### Staff Members

Corrina Aldrich, District Manager  
Lori Sheehan, Office Manager  
Bob Kalbfliesh, Technician

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1. Call to order at 10:08 a.m. by Chairman Rieger.
2. Minutes: **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve the minutes of the last meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
3. Treasurer's Report: After review and approval of the finances, **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for April & May and to pay bills as presented. **Unanimously carried.** (Attachment)
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, reviewed by Kalbfliesh
  - E. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Luke
  - F. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Hilder
  - G. NYS-SWCC Report: No Report
5. New Business:
  - A. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve purchase of mulch for hydroseeder for the NYS-DEC WQIP Round 15 Upper Hudson River Roadside Erosion Remediation grant. **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve AEM Round 16 – reimbursement to Washington County SWCD for technical assistance funds earned (\$77,886.50) and close dedicated checking account. **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve opening interest-bearing check account for AEM Round 17. **Unanimously carried.**
  - D. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve placing pre-orders for 2023 tree program. **Unanimously carried.**
  - E. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve paying interns overtime rate for hours worked in excess of 40 in a week. **Unanimously carried.**
  - F. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve Memorandum of Understanding between Town of Salem and Washington County SWCD for the 2022 Part B Project Certified Wildlife Habitat. **Unanimously carried.**
  - G. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve Round 24 Farmstead Improvement HTW grant payments to Jeremy Wolff (\$5,000) and Toolite Farms (\$1,500). **Unanimously carried.**

- H. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve CAFO Round 3 Chambers Valley Farm grant payments to Chambers Valley Farm (\$43,500) and Washington County SWCD (\$10,500) and close dedicated grant checking account. **Unanimously carried.**
  - I. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve closeout of NYS-DEC Contract DEC01-T00934GG-335000 Washington County Halfway Creek Streambank Stabilization Study. **Unanimously carried.**
  - J. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve closeout of NYS-DEC Contract DEC01-T00958GG-335000 Washington County Highway Department Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study. **Unanimously carried.**
  - K. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to table action on the Interseeder Bids for CRF Round 5 Grant until next board meeting. **Unanimously carried.**
- 6. The next Board meeting will be held on July 13, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
  - 7. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to adjourn the meeting at 11:06 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

*Reports Attached: April & May 2022 Treasurer Report, District Technicians Reports*

## Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 06/08/2022

**AEM:** I have signed up three farms for the AEM Tier IV Cover Crop Implementation Grant:

- Mercure Farms – Matt Mercure
- Rollin' Hills, LLC – Darren Tyler
- Burchdale Farm – Fred Burch

I completed Tiers I and II for the following:

- Jennifer Durham – Hampton Vegetable
- Mercure Farm – Granville Dairy
- Rollin' Hills – Fort Ann Dairy (Darren Tyler)

### **Grants:**

- Round 24 Marns – The contractor has finished the concrete pad and roof gutters. This phase of the project is almost complete.

**No-Till Drill:** Drill activity has slowed down. Recent rentals include:

- John Peabody
- Joel McLenithian
- Scott Morrissey

The last word on delivery of the new drill was the end of June, early July.

**Ag Assessments:** I completed three ag assessments for Guy Clark III, at the assessor's request.

**Interseeder (CRF Round 5 Grant):** I have contacted Fenning Equipment to obtain a more detailed list of specifications on the interseeder that they bid. They will be emailing the list.

### **Meetings Planned:**

06/09 – RC&D, Warrensburg

06/10 – GIS County Training, Fort Edward

## Technician's Report - Amber Luke - June 8, 2022

### Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 24-
  - Wolff's- Working on close out.
- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill - The Waste Transfer Application was submitted on time. I spent a lot of time researching and finding supporting information to help make a convincing application. Jeff Wilson (the engineer) did get back to us with cost estimates, so we did use these cost estimates with our knowledge to come up with the most accurate cost. We did take into account the instability of the market at the current time. At this time, we are just waiting to hear back if the grant was awarded. We should hear by the end of July if it was awarded or not!

### Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
  - Three CRF applications for Water Management on Grazing Land, Permaculture and Soil Health and Sugarbush Access Roads were all submitted on time! I did spend a substantial amount of time working on all 3 of these grants working to gather supporting documentation and mapping regarding the impact awarding these grants would have on the surrounding climate, water quality, community, intrastate and local economy.
  - Seeing how the deadline was extended to May 16, 2022 (originally March 28) we are now looking at an award date sometime in July hopefully.

### CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill- Work is progressing with ups and downs. I have been in constant contact with the farm, contractor, and engineer. All form ties have been sealed with the appropriate sealant. There was excessive honeycombing on the wall....30 ft on each side of the proposed ramp has been sealed with the appropriate sealant but the rest of the honeycombing needs to be sealed. The concrete crew is waiting to get more material in to seal the rest of the honeycombed areas. All forms have been stripped since the last pour on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Kent Foster has been notified of progress and should start to work on completion of the footer drain installation and start backfilling around the ramp so that we can get the ramp installed. I did make sure that the concrete crew checked each form tie to make sure there was no flaking, and they were all properly sealed as the engineer specified. I also had to make sure that the concrete crew picked up all garbage around the manure storage so that Kent would not need to prior to backfilling. There has been an excessive lack of communication on behalf of Patrick Tirado...this is not due to lack of trying. I have sent emails, text and phone calls trying to get a timeline of when this project will be done, and I get excuses or very short answers. I am doing the best that I can to stay on top of things. Progress is being made but it is very slow.

**AEM-**

- AEM Tier 4 cost share projects we will be doing for year 17 are cover crops on the farms that participated in the no till corn planter program this past year. All 3 are on board to implement cover crops. Bob is working on getting what fields each farm wants to do and I am working on the paperwork and budget forms that need to be completed.
- I will be asking staff to please fill out their AEM time logs for the second quarter by 7/15/22. Most time logs are up to date as of the end of the first quarter, but I am still waiting on a couple of AEM year 17 first quarter time logs. This is intended to help make sure we as a staff meet all of our AEM year 17 goals and to help with interim and year end reporting.

**Trainings/Meetings Attended-**

- Agroforestry Workshop - Warren County. 2 workshops were attended one on planning and design (5/26/22) and one on implementation (6/8/22).

**Miscellaneous**

- Bank Reconciliations

## Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder - June 8, 2022

- **Grants and Projects:**
  - **Part B Projects:**
    - Certified Wildlife Habitat: After running into multiple issues with Salem Art Works, we have talked with the Town of Salem, and we will be writing an MOU between SWCD and the Town of Salem to create the Certified Wildlife Habitat on the town's side of the property. The town fully supports our projects and will allow for us to move forward without any issues. All of the plants for this project have come in and are ready to be planted. Hopefully we will be planting alongside some local students on June 18<sup>th</sup>.
    - Tractor and PTO Safety Course: We put on our PTO safety course on Wednesday May 11<sup>th</sup> at Capital Tractor with NYCAMH educator Jim Carrabba. We had a total of 7 people and some of our staff join us for this training. This was an excellent program that went over a lot of information and put on a mock PTO entanglement that allowed for everyone to see how quickly something can go wrong and just how dangerous it can be. This fall we will be putting on the manure storage safety training at Ideal Dairy Farm on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 6p.m.- 8p.m. This will allow for local fire fighters, who may have to deal with these types of situations, and for farmers and farming families to attend.
  - **CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer:**
    - **Round 1:**
      - Kenyon Hill: Amber and I have been on multiple site visits as the final wall has been poured and the contractor has been sending guys out to take forms off and to patch tie holes. They have been able to patch the majority of the tie holes and take care of the honeycombing to allow for backfilling to begin around the storage, especially around the ramp area which will allow for the project to continue. They are currently waiting for the area 30-40' on either side of the ramp to be backfilled to begin working on the ramp.
  - **NYS-DEC WQIP:**
    - We have started lining up hydroseeding projects within the Upper Hudson River Watershed for the summer. We have also begun looking at the vendors we normally use for hydroseeding materials to use the grant money towards buying hydroseeding materials that will help us through the summer.
- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**
  - The Data-Driven Farmers Market: Using POS Systems to Inform Market Practices: Attended Zoom meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2022

- Washington County Federation of Sportsman's Clubs Meeting: Attended April 27<sup>th</sup>
- How to Set Up and Use Square, A Practical Guide: Attended zoom meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- NYSFOLA: Maximizing Your Lake Data: Attended April 29<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Plan-to-Pasture Walk: Attended May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022
- Leatherstocking Envirothon: Attended May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Food Waste and GHG: Attended Zoom meeting on May 10, 2022
- Tractor and PTO Safety Day: Attended May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- CWICNY meeting: Attended May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- NAACC training: Attended June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
- **SWCD Projects:**
  - **Tree and Shrub Sale:**
    - Our tree and shrub sale went very well, we had to call some people to come pick up their orders and we had a delay in the Balsam Fir arrival as the nursery had a bad crop and had to outsource the seedlings. This year was very hectic as it was my first year doing the sale and COVID disrupted some things. I am currently making a schedule for next year's sale that will allow for us to have less left over and I am learning how to use Square which will allow for us to create an online store for people to order online or to use credit cards. Saratoga Soil and Water have transformed their tree and shrub sale with Square and having a schedule and we hope to use their process as a way to guide our sale into something that will reach out to more people and hopefully make our tree and shrub sale available to more people and more efficient. We will be ordering our trees earlier this year, in July, which will give us more time to adjust numbers and to make sure that we will have all of the tree species wanted for our sale. Square will also be used for allowing people to order their trees online and will hopefully allow for us to reach more people and make it easier for us to keep track of inventory and sales.