

# Washington County Soil & Water Conservation District

Minutes of Regular Meeting -July 13, 2022

## Attending:

### Board Members

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

### Staff Members

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

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1. Call to order at 10:10 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/Fedler to approve the Treasurer's Report (as a whole) for June 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, reviewed by Luke
  - F. District Technician: Attachment, submitted by Hilder
  - G. NYS-SWCC Report: No Report
5. New Business:
  - A. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve a Letter of Support for the Town of Easton's Comprehensive Plan. **Unanimously carried.**
  - B. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve Letter of Support & Commitment of \$5,000 over 3-years for the Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition's Department of State Nine-Element Plan. **Unanimously carried.**
  - C. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve Erosion & Sediment 4-Hour Training for County Highway Departments (\$1,500 - \$2,000). **Unanimously carried.**
  - D. **Motion** by Fedler/Skellie to approve closeout and return of state funds (\$3,750) for the NYS-DEC Contract #DEC01-T00958GG-335000: Washington County Highway Department Green Infrastructure Feasibility Study. **Unanimously carried.**
  - E. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve CAFO Round 1 Deep Roots Holsteins second Time Extension request. **Unanimously carried.**
  - F. **Motion** by Fedler/Dickinson to approve the following for the CAFO Round 1 Fullerton Dairy Grant:
    - Acceptance of grant withdrawal letter from Matt Fullerton, Fullerton Dairy
    - Return grant funds to NYS Ag & Markets (\$337,006.81)
    - Reimburse Washington County SWCD Personal Services Earned (\$3,175.00)
    - Close grant checking account. **Unanimously carried.**

- G. **Motion** by Dickinson/Skellie to approve AgNPS Round 25 Luncrest Nutrient Management Time Extension request. **Unanimously carried.**
  - H. **Motion** by Skellie/Fedler to approve closing Trust & Agency bank account (account no longer required by GASB regulations). **Unanimously carried.**
  - I. **Motion** by Dickinson/Fedler to un-table approval of CRF Round 5 Interseeder Bids. **Unanimously carried.**
  - J. **Motion** by Skellie/Dickinson to approve the purchase of the 6-Row Fenning Interseeder for the CRF Round 5 Grant. **Unanimously carried.**
  - K. **Motion** by Fedler/Dickinson to set the amount of \$214,000 for the 2023 County Appropriation Request. **Unanimously carried.**
6. The next Board meeting will be held on September 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
7. **Motion** by Dickinson/Fedler to adjourn the meeting at 11:37 a.m. **Unanimously carried.**

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*Lori Sheehan, Secretary*

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*Director*

*Reports Attached: June Treasurer Report, District Technicians Reports*

## **Technician's Report: Bob Kalbfliesh – 07/13/2022**

**AEM:** I have signed up nine farms to the Basin Cover Crop Programing covering 2,655.25 acres.

I have completed Tier I's for the following:

- Jordan Ridge Farm – Zack Jordan
- Yorkmont Farm – Dave Perry

### **Grants:**

- Round 24 Marns – No activity. Waiting on as-builts from engineer, Aaron Weiss.

**No-Till Drill:** Capital Tractor has completed some minor repairs to the drill (disk and seed box control handle).

Recent rentals – Kevin Jablonski

No updates on the delivery of the new drill.

**Interseeder (CRF Round 5 Grant):** I completed an updated report on specs and questions of the interseeder bids. Everyone should already have this report.

### **Meetings Planned:**

UVM Field Day – 07/28 – Alburgh, VT

Empire Farm Days – 08/02 – 08/04 – Pompey, NY

## Technician's Report - Amber Luke - July 13, 2022

### Ag Non-Point Source-

- Round 28-
  - Kenyon Hill- Waiting to hear on if the application got funded. We heard it was in the hands of the reviewers last month. There were 81 applications with near level funding requested. The State Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC) is hoping for funding awards to be announced by the end of July.

### Climate Resilient Farming (CRF)-

- Round 6-
  - We are still waiting to hear on how our three CRF Round 6 grant applications fared. There were 69 applications and a total 13 million in funding requested. There was a total of 8 million in funding so this means there will be cuts. Track 2 Water Management was the most applied for track out of the 3 tracks. (soil health, water management and cover and flare)
  - SWCC was hoping for funding awards to be made by the end of July but seeing how it is an election year this may get pushed back and used as leveraging for votes in the upcoming election.

### CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer-

- Round 1-
  - Kenyon Hill. We are making progress. About 2/3 of the wall have been backfilled. They have excavated for the exterior ramp area and the concrete crew is working on the exterior ramp. I took Lainey out to survey the footer elevation in respect to the storage wall at the engineers' request (7/1/22). The survey was given to the engineer to check and make sure the elevation of the footer was correct. The footer was poured on Wednesday 7/6/22. Everything went well. The concrete crew started to set rebar for the exterior ramp walls but unfortunately after talking with the engineer I had to stop them due to the rebar not being correct. I corrected them and they stopped immediately and started fixing what was wrong. I have been having Patrick Tirado and Kent Foster both text me when they plan to be onsite in order for me to make sure I am onsite to catch any issues. The concrete crew is looking to pour the exterior wall sometime next week 7/11-7/15. I will be on vacation 7/25 - 7/29 but Lyndsy has been going out with me and she is up to date on everything so she will be conducting site visits as needed while I am away. I have let the engineer, farm and contractors know.

### AEM-

- I have sent out an email requesting all second quarter AEM hours to be updated by the end of the month. I am requesting hours quarterly to stay on top of budgeting and the goals we set forth in the beginning of the AEM year. This will help me to better direct staff as to what goals still need to be met. I will be sending out email reminders prior to leaving for vacation at the end of the month.

- Conducted an AEM site visit with Corrina to Gardenworks in Salem. We sat down and discussed the AEM procedure along with other grant procedures. We have decided that since their last completed AEM Tier 2 was done in 2010 we will work to set up a time to come out and update the Tier 2 to capture more of what is currently taking place on the farm. We are looking at setting up this Tier 2 site visit for some time in early August.

#### **Trainings/Meetings Attended-**

- Upper Hudson Meeting attended 6/9/22
- GIS County Parcel Layer Training put on by the county was attended 7/10/22
- Information Security Awareness Training has been completed. This training is a mandatory training to have access to the government system. It was completed on 7/8/22.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Bank Reconciliations
- Newsletter Article

# Technician's Report: Lyndsy Hilder - July 13, 2022

- **Grants and Projects:**

- **Part B Projects:**

- Certified Wildlife Habitat: Lainey and I were able to complete the mulched walkway on June 15<sup>th</sup> and then I was able to recruit some volunteers as well as Corrina and Lainey to help with the final planting on Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup>. The site has also been certified by the National Wildlife Federation.



- **CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer:**

- **Round 1:**

- Kenyon Hill: Amber and I have been on multiple site visits as they have been patching the tie holes as well as the honeycombing in the wall before the area around the ramp could be backfilled. Backfilling has finally begun which will allow for work to pick back up as the ramp will be constructed.

- **NYS-DEC WQIP:**

- We have started lining up hydroseeding projects within the Upper Hudson River Watershed for the summer. We have ordered two truckloads of hydroseeding material through the grant which will allow for us to continue our work with hydroseeding. Lainey has been trained on how to use the hydroseeder and once we

get all of the materials we need, we will be setting dates for the locations we already know about.

- **Landowner Assistance:**

- Assisted the Devries by removing the weed growth from their pond and recommended a bacteria additive that would assist with removing excess nutrients from the pond.
- Assisted Mrs. Bessette by planting shrubs along her fence line which will help in capturing water runoff from her driveway and hopefully help reduce the erosion along the bank of the Hudson. I am also helping in the creation of a plan that will further help her in protecting her house and the trees living on the bank from more erosion.

- **Workshops and Meetings Attended:**

- Agroforestry Workshop: attended June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Habitat Assessment: A Tool for Conserving Biodiversity During Site Design: Webinar attended June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- GIS County Parcel Training: attended June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- Growing Deep Topsoil for Watersheds and Communities: attended June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- CWICNY meeting: attended June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- NAACC Training: Attended June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022
- TRORC Wetland Restoration Workshop- Attended July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

- **SWCD Projects**

- **Assisting TU:** Along with some drone images taken at the Skellie Project, Lainey and I have been assisting with survey work along the Battenkill at other TU projects.
- **Drone Use:** I have updated the 3D map of the Kenyon Hill manure storage as the walls have been fully poured. This can assist by showing the progress on the wall. The drone has been used to show the progress at the Skellie Project to show how the river has moved and what needs to be changed and adjusted. These pictures are valuable because they give an overall view of the area and show exactly how the river has changed and how we should change our practices to adjust to the river's movements.
- **Tree and Shrub Program:** I have been working on the schedule for the tree and shrub program and I have come up with a list of species and prices for them. Most districts have been ordering earlier in the season to ensure that they can order the species they have decided on and we have also decided on ordering earlier. I have provided a list of species we are looking to order as well as the price from Alpha which is the same company we went through last year and had little issues with.

Species	Size	Price	Amount	Total Price	Company
Douglas Fir	10-18"	\$52.25(per 100)	200	\$104.50	Alpha
Fraser Fir	7-12"	\$152 (per 100)	200	\$304	Alpha
Colorado Blue Spruce	9-15"	\$50.35 (per 100)	200	\$100.70	Alpha
Paper Birch	6-12"	\$0.52*1.5= \$0.78	100	\$78	Alpha
American Chestnut	6-12"	\$1.62*1.5= \$2.43	150	\$364.50	Alpha

Swamp White Oak	6-12"	\$0.56*1.5= \$0.84	150	\$126	Alpha
Tulip Poplar	6-12"	\$0.48*1.5= \$ 0.72	100	\$72	Alpha
Black Walnut	12-18"	\$0.68*1.5= \$1.02	100	\$102	Alpha
Highbush Blueberry	9-12"	\$4.33	300	\$1,299	Saratoga SWCD
Raspberry	6-8"	\$2.85	120	\$342	Saratoga SWCD
Strawberry	3"+	\$0.62	400	\$248	Saratoga SWCD
Hardy Cranberry	4"+	\$185 (per 100)	100	\$185	Grover's Blueberries & Seed Co.
Lady Fern	Plugs	\$79.98/tray (32 per flat)	64 (2 trays)	\$159.96	North Creek Nurseries
Buttonbush	6-12"	\$0.42*1.5= \$0.63	100	\$63	Alpha
Black Chokeberry	6-12"	\$0.48*1.5= \$0.72	100	\$72	Alpha
Black Elderberry	12-18"	\$0.67*1.5= \$1.005	200	\$201	Alpha
Eastern Redbud	6-12"	\$0.52*1.5= \$0.78	150	\$117	Alpha

Alpha	Shipping and Handling	Total to Pay	% to pay when ordering
Total Ordered= \$1707.70	\$256.16	\$1973.86	25%=\$493.47

North Creek Nurseries	Shipping and Handling	Total to Pay
Total Ordered= \$159.96	Unsure	
Grover's Blueberry and Seed Co	Shipping and Handling	Total to Pay
Total Ordered= \$185	Unsure	

Saratoga SWCD	Total to Pay
	\$1,889

The Ferns and the Hardy Cranberries can wait to be ordered but the trees should be ordered this month to ensure that we are able to get them in.