

Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District

967 CO HWY 33 - RIVER ROAD - COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK 13326-9222 - PHONE (607) 547- 8337 ext 4

OTSEGO COUNTY SWCD BOARD MINUTES August 17, 2017

Members Present:

Les Rathbun, Chair, Grange Rep.
Meg Kennedy, Vice Chair, Cty. Rep.
Doris Moennich, Land Owner Treasurer
Ed Lentz, Member @Large
Larry Roseboom Sr., Farm Bureau
Sam Dubben, Member @ Large

Staff Present:

Jordan Clements, District Mgr.
Sherry Mosher, District Secretary
Sandra Scott, FSA, County Executive Director

Absent:

Jim Powers, Cty. Rep.
Tony Capraro, NRCS, District Conservationist

Guest:

Scott Fickbohm, Ag & Markets, AEA

I. Called to order:

- Les called meeting to order at 10:35 am.

II. Approval of July minutes:

- Motion made by **Meg** to approve July meeting minutes, seconded by **Ed**, unanimous vote, motion carried.

III. Reading and Approval of July Treasurer Report and paid bills:

- Motion made by **Ed** to approve Treasurers Report and paid Bills, seconded by **Larry**, unanimous vote, motion carried.

IV. District Report-Sherry Mosher, District Secretary:

- Sherry reminded all board members of date changes for monthly meeting for September and October. September meeting will be held on Wednesday, 9/13/17. October meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 10/26/17.
- Sherry stated the NYACD meeting will be held October 17-19, 2017. Jordan, Bob, Chris, Erica, **Meg**, **Doris**, **Larry** will be attending.
- Sherry reported that we purchased a water proof camera with a case for staff to use on field visits. Jordan asked Sherry to purchase a second camera and case.
- Robert Weaver AEM Contractor's contract was reviewed, signed and dated.
- Discussion of starting a new company for Quick books as of January 1, 2018, **Ed** made a motion to approve, seconded by **Meg**, unanimous vote, motion carried.
- Personnel policy was updated, reviewed, signed, and dated.

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V. District Manager-Jordan Clements:

- Jordan stated that this is budget season which he has completed.
- Jordan attend SWEC meeting to discuss a Forestry Technician, he also provided the budget for them to review. Jordan will also present this to Public Works Committee on Monday, August 21, 2017.
- Jordan proposed a budget for this position to the board members; motion for approval was made by **Ed** and seconded by **Larry**, to propose this to the County Board subject to seeing final details. Unanimous vote, motion carried.
- Jordan stated that Chris, Erica, Bob and Stephanie attended USC Wetland training on August 15, 2017 in New Berlin at TWT Wetland Research Station.
- Jordan stated that he, Erica and Stephanie went to Paul Smith's College for the Adirondack Alliance Conference.
- Jordan reported for Chris, stating he has been busy doing WRP's and hydroseeding. All WRP's have been completed.
- Jordan reported that he has started 3 year contracts for Buffer and NRCS.
- Jordan stated that Erica have been busy working on the Butternut project.

VI. NRCS:

- Jordan gave report on behalf of Tony Capraro. Tony stated not much has changed since last month.
- NRCS has accepted 17 applications for General EQIP sign up, 6 applications for the RCPPP-Upper Susquehanna Coalition sign up. That is a total of 25 for Otsego County, for Tony's team (all 3 counties), they have accepted a total of 68 applications.
- Tony reported that he is losing another staff member in the Walton office, so as of next Monday it will leave Jeanine, Andrew and Tony to cover all 3 counties.
- Tony and Andrew will work together on a schedule to have at least NRCS staff in the Walton office 3 days a week to service our producers in Delaware and Sullivan Counties.
- Tony stated with the hiring freeze on, it is hard to say when we will get a full team again.
- Tony stated that he is glad that they have a good working relationship here in the office because he will be leaning on the district from time to time to help with phone calls and to let producers know where and how to find him.
- Tony reported they have construction going on, some small jobs, grazing systems and watering systems.
- Tony said over the next month they will be making several site visits to each of the 25 applications to get planning completed before our next deadline.

VII. FSA:

- Sandy reported that she attended the national meeting in Missouri. Discussion of CREP is the highest priority. They discussed NRCS and FSA customer service might be under 1 mission.
- Sandy stated 2018 budget looks better. Sandy stated they have finished the acreage report.

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VIII. Buffer Coordinator:

- Erica reported the following; The Upper Butternut stream crossings are complete.
- Middle Upper Butternut stream crossings have been started.
- Erica reported on the Surveyed stream corridor;
- 90% complete mainstream Butternut, 5 % complete tributaries.
- Erica is working on CREP conservation plans for current projects, working with land owners drafting plan designs, and writing plan designs.

IX. Other Business:

- Scott Fickbohm was here today to perform training for the board members for annual performance measures. The training topic was Climate Resilient Farming Program Project Summary.

X. **Next Meeting:******

- **Wednesday, September 13, 2017 @ 10am.**

Sincerely Submitted,

**Sherry Mosher
District Secretary**