

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

June 15, 2017

Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Jordan Clements, District Mgr.
Sherry Mosher, District Secretary
Lisa Pedersen, FSA
Tony Capraro, NRCS
Stephanie Talaia-Murray

Absent:

Jim Powers, Cty. Rep.
Ed Lentz, Member @Large

Guest:

Scott Fickbohm, Ag & Markets

I. Called to order:

-Les called meeting to order at 10:00 am.

II. Approval of May minutes:

-Motion made to approve minutes by **Meg**, seconded by **Sam**. Motion carried.

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

-Sherry was pleased to inform the board that there were no services charges on any of our accounts last month; all previous service fees have been reimbursed. Sherry gave a financial report to the board for the tree/fish sale. Sam questioned why the district was not paying for the employees water, after discussion, **Sam** made a motion for district to pay for the water, seconded by **Larry**, motion carried. Motion to approve Treasurer Report and paid bills made by **Meg** and seconded by **Larry**, motion carried. Motion made for approval of paid bills made by **Sam** and seconded by **Larry**, motion carried.

IV. District Report-Jordan Clements, District Manager:

-Jordan introduced our new intern, Stephanie Talaia-Murray. Stephanie will be working on several projects for the summer including the Butternut Assessment, hydroseeding, wetlands, WRE's.

-Jordan reports that he has spoken to 3 of our legislators, including Senator Seward, Magee and Lopez. Jordan has met with Mr. Magee and has an appointment with Mr. Miller the end of this month. Senator Seward will hopefully be here in July or August to meet with Jordan.

-Jordan has also sent each of them a request for assistance with funding of a new addition to our current building as we have serious need for more staff and storage room.

-Jordan reported that the NYACD meeting will be October 17-19, 2017 in Cazenovia.

-Jordan asked for the board to approve attendance for him, Erica and Stephanie to attend Buffer Management conference at Paul Smith College on August 11, 2017. The cost per person is \$25.00. Motion for approval made by **Larry** and seconded by **Doris**, motion carried.

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The board members requested a job description for the office cleaner, in which Jordan supplied the board.

-Jordan stated that he and Sherry will be attending a manager's meeting in Fonda on June 26, 2017.

-Jordan states he has been working on 6 WQIP grants, 5 streams and 1 salt shed.

-Jordan stated that we will be doing a farm tour on October 12, 2017. Stephanie is working on the letters inviting 40-50 people. We will provide transportation.

- Jordan explained to the board members that Robert Weaver: AEM Contractor's contract was due for review. The board made an offer of a .050 per hour raise. Jordan will discuss with Robert.

-Jordan told the board he is working on a 3 year contract for the buffer coordinator, as the current contract will expire in October.

-Jordan reminded the board they will be doing their annual training at the next meeting on July 20, 2017. Scott Fickbohm will be here to assist with the training.

V. Conservation Technician:

-Jordan reported for Chris that he has been busy doing more ag. assessments, plastic baling, hydroseeding, WRE's.

VI. NRCS:

-Tony reports that they continue to be very busy. He is working on contribution agreements with Jordan. Tony and Jordan attended Sundae on the farm at Jennifer Hunnington's farm, Cooperstown Holstein. Tony stated it was a good turnout.

-Tony stated that he is working on a conservation stewardship, there are 6 landowners interested. There will be 2 forest and 4 agriculture.

-Tony stated the deadline for Equip. funding was June 16, 2017. There were 21 accepted for Otsego County, including Delaware County there were a total of 50. Tony stated he was short staffed in the Delaware office. Tony reported that 1 CRP planting is done and there are 5 more to complete. Tony attended a leadership meeting in Syracuse.

VII. FSA:

-Lisa reported that acreage reporting is in full swing. All crops must be reported by July 15, 2017. Lisa stated the with the weather conditions this year, extremely wet, cold spring, we have had a great deal of people unable to do spring seedling's or plant some of their own corn. We need to report the prevented planting by the end of June to be filed timely. Lisa stated that the ARC/PLC sign up, (old corn base program) has been going on for some time and they have about 80% signed up. We have until August 1, 2017 to complete sign up. Lisa stated that FSA continues to work with NRCS and Soil and Water District to get more producers to sign up to do riparian buffers through the CREP program while we have the extra Chesapeake Bay incentives. The County Committee election cycle has started again for this year and we are looking for nominations for LAA#1 that Jennifer Hunnington covers now. The towns are Springfield, Cherry Valley, Middlefield, Westford, Roseboom, Decatur, Maryland, and Worcester.

VIII. Buffer Coordinator:

-Erica reported that they received a donation from Trout Unlimited of used waders, (various sizes and types).

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- Erica did volunteer training at Morris volunteer Fire House on May 21, 2017.
- Erica has been busy training Stephanie, the intern on field protocol.
- Erica presented project to student interns and staff at the SUNY Biological Field Station and took students on Butternut for a stream corridor survey. Erica added more information to our website. Erica has met with landowners for potential new CREP sites/stream bank issues.

IX. Other Business:

-Scott Fickbohm reported that he and Jordan have working on closeouts. Round 23 will be announced next week. Scott stated that he is making efforts to help with buffers. Scott stated that Jordan is doing a good job with the close out of grants. The performance measure summit met in Utica last month. The goal for the meeting was to get input on understanding forms. Scott will attend the meeting in Syracuse next month, which will go towards performance measures.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 11:17 am.

Next Meeting:

July 20,2017 at 10:00am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Mosher
District Secretary/Asst. Treasurer