



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 MEETING MINUTES

Regular Meeting

Friday, October 15, 2021

Held virtually on GotoMeeting.com

Members Present:

Les Rathbun, Chair, Grange Rep.
Ed Lentz, Member at Large
Meg Kennedy, Vice Chair, Cty. Rep
Doris Moennich, Treasurer/Landowner

Staff Present:

Jordan Clements, District Manger
Jessica Miller, Administrative Assistant
Secretary/Assistant Treasurer.

Members Absent:

Michele Farwell, County Legislator
Larry Roseboom Sr., Farm Bureau
Helene Kraham, Ag Landowner

Guest:

Kate Hemsteet, FSA, County Executive Director

I. Call to order: Board Chairman, **Les Rathbun** called the regular meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

II. Approval of minutes:

- Motion was made by **Kennedy**, seconded by **Lentz** to approve August's regular board meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: Rathbun - Aye, Kennedy - Aye, Lentz -Aye, Moennich -Aye
- Motion was made by **Kennedy**, seconded by **Lentz** to approve September's regular board meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: Rathbun - Aye, Kennedy - Aye, Lentz -Aye, Moennich -Aye

III. Approval of Treasurer's Report & Bills to be paid

A list of September's bills to be paid and credit card statement were provided to the Board in advance of the meeting.



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- Approval of Septembers Treasurer’s report was postponed until next month. Discussion was had on amending budget and aligning with Profit vs. Loss sheet. Additional questions that were emailed were answered. Goal is have 2022 budget finalized by next meeting.
- Motion was made to approve September’s bills paid. Motion was made by **Kennedy**, seconded by **Lentz**. Roll Call Vote: Rathbun - Aye, Kennedy - Aye, Lentz -Aye, Moennich-Aye. Motion Carried.

IV. Partner Report

FSA, Kate Hemstreet, County Executive Director:

FSA can get County clerk records, and are willing to help. FSA major issue now is the difficulty backfilling position, interviews were held. The salary range isn’t making the position attractive. This is not an isolated issue; the job market is very competitive and usajobs.gov is hard to navigate. Lisa is working hard in Cooperstown.

On November 22, 2021 the USDA is requiring all federal employee to be vaccinated or have an exemption filed. Covid-19 disaster programs are coming to an end.

V. District Secretary/Assistant Treasurer Report

Grant expenses chart was emailed out prior to the meeting starting. Payroll has been good, quarterly tax reports were submitted, things have been business as usual. Cover crop acres are still being finalized. Service charges on grant accounts were refunded, yet we were charged again, a call into the bank has been made again. Working with Angelica again on the annual audit.

VI. District Reports

Jordan Clements’s Monthly Report:

Audit- no new news, will reach back out to auditors to see if they need anything additional.

Grant Updates-

Construction underway on projects. One project is 2/3’s done and riparian buffers have been planted. The 1st Tier 4 NRCS secondary fuel containment project has begun construction. The other Tier 4 project, a spring development need 3-4 days of good weather to complete.



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AgNPS-

Should hear in October on recent applications for AgNPS. Working on grant closeouts.

Forestry-

Timber sale contract was approved by committees. Motion was made to approve the ~\$318,000 bid. \$18,000 will be held for reforestation work after harvest. Waiting on Contractor to sign contract.

Dan finished another FMP, on par with finishing plans during contract. Mapping skills need improvement.

Farm Tour- Ag. and Farmland protection committee held a two-day farm tour in Delaware and Otsego Counties. The tour had 22 people in attendance. Guests visited 3 farms in Otsego, and one assemblyman had a private tour at a Dairy farm. It was a positive experience for assemblyman and senators to see and hear from the farmer upstate. Covid worked against us as far as attendance goes, and NYC had a recent flooding event. Hope to increase attendance for next year's tour. A NYS senator in the Bronx that attended saw animals that were well taken care of. There were a lot of diverse questions asked by all. Otsego obtained farms and hotel accommodations. Farm Credit donated \$500, and County donated \$2,500, it was a success. Local Farm tour was cancelled due to lack of participants.

Stream- Jordan was featured in a Daily Star article speaking on recent flooding issues, and programs. Preventative Stream program needs to be mobile, proactive approaches are cheaper than reactive approaches. It's going to take money to keep up with excavator, and would like to hire County employee to run it, and then they can be used to plow snow in the winter. OCCA Danny Lapin in on board with continuing to support to Stream program, we just need the County on board. Meg Kennedy discusses that shared services are coming back and that she agrees that approaching it as a county operator will help the cause. Pittsfield at a Town Board meeting shared they were unhappy with us because we didn't follow through with funding after the flood. Jordan spoke with him and explained we didn't promise funding, and reminded what the District has done for Pittsfield. Hopefully modeling Chemung's program will help pitch the stream program again in Otsego. Also showing objective measures to show how the program would work. Such as culvert replacement, gravel removal, riprap, stabilization.

Resolutions-



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Resolutions are needed in support of upcoming Ag and Markets deadlines.

- A motion was made to pass a resolution in support of the annual plan of work with additions made in support of grant management. Motion was made by **Kennedy**, seconded by **Lentz**. Roll Call Vote: Rathbun - Aye, Kennedy - Aye, Lentz -Aye, Moennich - Aye. Motion Carried.
- A motion was made to pass a resolution in support Part B Buffer Intern for 10 weeks. Motion was made by **Kennedy**, seconded by **Lentz**. Roll Call Vote: Rathbun - Aye, Kennedy - Aye, Lentz -Aye, Moennich - Aye. Motion Carried.

AEM Year 17, with Chris now certified we are eligible to earn up to \$115,000 per year. Chris and Karl will need to be at 100% AEM time, with Jordan and Jess picking up more admin hours and Tier work to maximize time. \$10,000 can be earmarked for soil sampling for CNMP.

NYACD- Meeting is in Cazenovia, NY on October 20-21. Need board members to attend, it's a performance measure. Meg and Ed will be attending.

Other-

- Farm Bureau should hopefully have an appointee to replace Larry.
- Karl and Mark attend Con Skills Workshop, and will send people to WQS in 2022.
- Carbon Credit with the Nature Conservancy will meet again in a few weeks to go over a proposal.
- Staff Evaluations will be held next month, Jordan will provide email and paper copies to Board.
- Working with Tony to determine contractor status on vaccine mandate.

VII. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting to be held on **Friday, November 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.** Sexual Harassment training and District Law training will be held at 9 am and after meeting for those in need.

VIII. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at **11:34 a.m.**



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Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Miller

Jessica L. Miller

Administrative Assistant/Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

October 26, 2021

DRAFT