



Otsego County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes and Order of Business

10 July 2023

Meeting called to order by Meg at 10:00AM.

In attendance:

Directors – Meg Kennedy (Chair), Ed Lentz (Treasurer/acting Chair), Darin Hickling, Helene Kraham, Jennifer Mickle, Doug Roberts

District Staff – Christos Galanopoulos, Dan Zimmerman

Absent:

Treasurer's Report

Motion to approve Abstract 13-2023 (\$6,252.46) by Darin, second by Jennifer. Vote to adopt 6-0.

Motion to approve WQCC Abstract 01-2023 (\$2,415.26) by Jennifer, second by Darin. Vote to adopt 6-0.

Motion to approve Part C Abstract 01-2023 (\$442.74) by Darin, second by Doug. Vote to adopt 6-0.

Motion to accept June financial reports with bank reconciliations by Helene second by Darin. Vote to adopt 5-0-1 (Ed abstains).

Ed will RFP for banking services.

District Secretary Report – appended.

District Manager Reports

Forester Report – Dan reports the Forest of the Dozen Dads logging is complete and has been done very well. In his report to Denise Hollis, County Attorney, he stated they had met all requirements and recommended the Performance Bond be released so Wagner can be paid. It appears there are discrepancies in some of the paperwork and communications (including whether a Performance Bond or cash was actually presented to the County) that must be straightened out before the project can be closed and the Performance Bond released. Dan plans to meet with Wagner later this week for the Taylor Hill logging job to discuss the plan for that, which will involve a \$15,000 Performance Bond.

Dan continues to work on the trails.

One last item Dan is working on is with Real Property to assess the Bird Sanctuary. The parcel appears to be landlocked, but there may be a utility company right-of-way access. He will work with Denise Hollis to determine exactly what the County rights are with respect to the bird sanctuary. A similarly situated parcels in Town of Otego and at Cooperstown Junction may also need new surveys to clarify boundaries. Meg suggested Dan compile a list of priorities for each landlocked parcel he knows of in

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the County to include next steps for logging, recreation, etc., so that survey plans may be made for each in the County budget.

Christos – No changes for Climate Resiliency. An engineer has been recommended to Unadilla Community Farms that has TSP certification, which is important since NRCS funding is also being pursued for this project. There have been no requests for payment for the engineering plans yet. The 65% we requested from the State is still not received due to State “blackout” on processing payments.

Round 29 Project 37-1 has been submitted and notice of acceptance or rejection should be in late fall or early winter.

AEM – Chris and the two interns have been putting in time for soil sampling and planning. *Christos* has increased Tier 2 farm visits, but not too much in outreach yet. However, the booth at the Springfield 4th of July parade and this Wednesday’s visit to Hartwick College at the invitation of OCCA should provide some AEM credits, as should the booth at the County Fair in August.

Otsego 9E Planning –

- The hydroseeder is not in great demand at the moment, but if any requests are made it should be let out on a first-come/first-served basis.
- The OCCA/Otsego Lake Association/Village of Cooperstown request for SWCD to administer WQIP grant through CFA is a good opportunity for outreach, but there is too little time and not enough budget information to craft a reasonable grant application. Also, there are too few people with CFA experience to draw upon for advice. Ed suggests the other agencies be tasked with filling out appropriate sections of the CFA, including any finances, data, and narratives they should have readily available. Finally, Chris will reach out to Delaware County SWCD for assistance with the application submission.

We are getting requests to help with dams around the area.

WQCC – There does not seem to be much interest in resurrecting the Committee.

Chris will work to arrange a Stream and Water Control training by fall.

Chris will forward the candidate finalists for the Conservation District Technician position.

Chris will contact Shelby MacLeish, OCCA Project & Education Coordinator, to accept her invitation to administer the NACD Poster Contest.

Old Business

Mini Grants – Chris reports all of the grant applicants did not receive notice that they had been awarded their grants. He followed up with them, many of whom had moved on with their projects anyway. Chris advised the grantees on how to collect the granted monies for their projects.

Envirothon – Only one student has reached out for an Envirothon scholarship. He is waiting for that student to provide proof of enrollment before the next steps can be taken.

Chris expects to have vehicle options to replace the Equinox by August.

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Board Training – Meg will reach out to Scott to arrange personalized Board training. Ordinarily the Board attends the October NYS ACD training at Cazenovia.

Regarding the AED Jennifer procured from County EMS, it is yet to be determined if SWCD is considered part of the County and therefore eligible to receive goods procured with the County ARPA allocation. Meg has asked guidance from the County Attorney but not heard back. She will follow up.

Next meeting 14 August 2023 at 10:00AM in the Meadows Complex, Classroom A.

Motion to adjourn at 11:47AM by Helene, second by Jennifer. Vote to adopt 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Robin Moshier, District Secretary

