



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, September 17, 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
Michele Farwell, County Legislator

Staff Present:

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

Members Absent:

Larry Roseboom Sr., Farm Bureau
Helene Kraham, Ag Landowner

Guest:

Tony Capraro, NRCS, District Conservationist
Kate Hemsteet, FSA, County Executive Director

I. Call to order: Board Chairman, **Les Rathbun** called the regular meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Approval of minutes:

- Motion to approve August's regular board meeting minutes was deferred to next month's meeting. Moennich and Farwell abstained from vote.

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

- Finance meeting will be held quarterly from now on.

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

- Motion was made by **Lentz**, seconded by **Kennedy** to approve August's treasurer's report. Roll Call Vote: Rathbun - Aye, Kennedy - Aye, Farwell -Aye, Lentz -Aye,



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Moennich-Aye. Motion Carried with reservations to amend the budget, discussion next month meeting.

- Motion was made to approve August's bills paid. Motion was made by **Moennich**, seconded by **Lentz**. Roll Call Vote: Rathbun - Aye, Kennedy - Aye, Farwell -Aye, Lentz -Aye, Moennich-Aye. Motion Carried.

IV. Partner Report

NRCS, Tony Capraro, District Conservationist: had technical difficulties with speaker.

FSA, Kate Hemstreet, County Executive Director:

Kristin Rumovitz left the office to teach in August. Covid aside FSA is not interested in extending contracts further. New PT in Schoharie, hopefully Cooperstown opening will be filled shortly. Nicole Angelino was hired as a conservation specialist, she was a PT in Geneseo, currently position is housed in Western New York. She has worked under lead of NY before, has good leadership behind her. Farm Bill renews in 2023.

V. District Secretary/Assistant Treasurer Report

Will provide expanded grant expenses report. Karl and I manned the CDEA booth at the fair. Reporting and payroll have been completed successfully. Had some QuickBooks report training with Chenango County. Will be billing for WRP, waiting on AEM BMP monies, and USC buffer steward.

VI. District Reports

Jordan Clements's Monthly Report:

Audit- no new news, positive comments on the turnaround times to requested documents.

NBT Bank-

Working with bank to get service charges refunded. Grant account has 3 years' worth of service penalty fees. Once funds are received monies can be returned to the State.

AgNPS-

Should hear in October on recent applications for AgNPS. Round 23 buffer grant has 23 days left to install spring development. Pre-construction meeting is next Thursday.

Forestry-



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Two saw mills bid on Taylor Hill and Dozen Dad's timber sale bid announcement. Wagner lumber won both bids. Public Works Committee accepted bids, Admin committee meets next week, then full board will need approval. Have 60 days to finalize. Some bidders were deterred by working with Onondaga, no guarantee on tree count, low bid minimum. Wagner requested tree count be guaranteed before they sign the contract. A motion was made at public works to reserve money for replanting forest properties. We will get an estimate from tree planter contractor. Dan has two more forest management plans to write. County is trying to locate missing deeds.

CRF- Signed contract.

Lee & Irene- DEC visited the site, Jordan provided documentation.

Office Issues- Lease up in two years. Addressed issues that were brought up by partner agencies.

Form for vaccine status was sent out by USDA for contractors and staff to fill out.

All staff filled out, except one. Discussion on working from home and waiting on covid test results. Discussion on following state government policy.

Morris- Working with Mayor Mike Newell on emergency stream permits. Took a month and a half to get the permit, and DEC granted one month to do 10,000 sq. yards of gravel removal from stream. Any other work done is outside of the District's hands. Mayor Mike Newell and the DPW are doing gravel and tree removal as stated in permit. Mayor Mike Newell knows that by doing anything extra outside of the permit that he is taking that on his own risk.

A lot of people are frustrated with DEC. Discussion on misinformation people have about streams. Funding for watershed studies need to be done on Morris Brook and Reservoir Creek, and public education.

Intern-

SUNY Oneonta intern, Karah Morton started needing 80 Hours of credit time in the immersion program. Giving her a variety of experiences, she's a Biology major.

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



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Printer Lease- Lease is ending in November. The printer we are currently leasing is going to be 5 years old and is showing its age. Upgrading it to a new model and adding a stapler feature will only add \$3.00 a month to the current lease price.

- A **Motion** was made to approve leasing a new printer, made by **Lentz**, seconded by **Farwell**. Roll Call Vote: Rathbun - Aye, Kennedy - Aye, Farwell -Aye, Lentz -Aye, Moennich -Aye. Motion Carried.

DEC Cover Crops- Discussion on price per acre to expand the wealth. Should know acreages by next meeting.

VII. Next Meeting: Next meeting to be held on **Friday, October 15, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.**

VIII. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at **11:33 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Miller

Jessica L. Miller

Administrative Assistant/Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

September 21, 2021