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## 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

Thursday, April 16, 2020

Held remotely on GoToMeeting.com

#### **Members Present:**

Les Rathbun, Chair, Grange Rep.  
Meg Kennedy, Vice Chair, Cty. Rep.  
Ed Lentz, Member at Large  
Michelle Farwell, County Legislator

#### **Staff Present:**

Jordan Clements, District Mgr.  
Jessica Miller, Secretary/Asst. Treasurer

#### **Absent:**

Larry Roseboom, Sr., Farm Bureau  
Doris Moennich, Treasurer/Landowner  
Helene Kraham, Ag Landowner

#### **Guest:**

Tony Capraro, District Conservationist, NRCS

- I. **Call to order:** Board Chairman, **Les Rathbun** called the online meeting to order at 10:19 a.m.
- II. **Approval of minutes:**  
Motion was made by **Lentz**, seconded by **Farwell** to approve February's minutes corrected, and March's board minutes. All in favor. Motion carried.
- III. **Approval of Treasure's Report & Bills to be paid**  
Motion was made by **Lentz**, seconded by **Kennedy** to approve February and March's treasurer's report and bills to be paid. All in favor. Motion carried
- IV. **District Reports**  
District Manager, **Jordan Clements**, will have IT check into computer connections of board members having trouble accessing Go to Meeting.com site for board minutes. Emailing board materials through email will continue for those members who have access to email.



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Otsego SWCD is continuing to have staff work remotely, and will be in good shape to continue business once we are back open to the public. The 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter County allocation was received, and the forestry allocation should be in soon. Jordan will continue to fight for level county funding, and has the new District's report being reviewed by a County legislator. "We should be in good shape compared to the other District's that are not operating during these times."

There is concern about AgNPS deadline for application being extended again. **Kennedy** explains that the County is waiting till May 1<sup>st</sup> for a new budget, and the District may be contacted for a negotiation for future allocations.

**Clements** explains that partners and himself are maintaining social distancing and the office front door is locked. Grants are still being worked on, and post pounders are being rented out regularly still. Jordan does have concerns with the 4 CREP projects due to be completed by September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Extensions for CREP will be submitted on a case by case basis.

### **V. Partner Report- NRCS**

**Tony Capraro**, District Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Services, hopes everyone is healthy. In terms of USDA-NRCS and USDA-FSA are open for business. **Jeanine Harter**, Soil Conservation Technician, is manning the field office, while the rest of the NRCS staff telework. The EQIP deadline remains July 17<sup>th</sup>, and CSP applications for 2020 are due by May 29<sup>th</sup>. The office is still making payments, and the offices are all covered. Mentions that USDA is a retroactive program, and discusses how some farmers are forced to dump milk. Demand is a concern, the supply is certainly there.

- VI. Other Business:** Forestry contract is currently generic but would like to include 5-10% of timber sales go back into the forestry budget. Would be formed after other District's forestry contracts. Revisions will need to review during May's meeting. Forestry technician's vehicle is operational but is in need to repairs to be safer. Fuel gauge, and gear selection indicator is not functioning.

### **Resolutions to Pass:**

**Resolution #1:** Open new checking account for Round 23 NYS AG NPS Calhoun Creek Waste Storage & Buffer Project



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Motion made by **Lentz**, to open new checking account, seconded by **Kennedy**. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

**Resolution #2:** Open up checking account for Round 2 CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program

Motion made by **Lentz**, to open new checking account, seconded by **Kennedy**. All in favor.  
Motion carried.

**VII. Next Meeting:** Next meeting to be held on **Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 10:00 am.**

**VIII. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at **11:19 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica L. Miller, Secretary  
Assistant Treasurer