



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

August 15, 2019

Members Present:

Les Rathbun, Chair, Grange Rep.
Meg Kennedy, Vice Chair, Cty. Rep.
Michelle Farwell, Cty. Rep.
Ed Lentz, Member @ Large
Doris Moennich, Land owner

Staff Present:

Jordan Clements, District Mgr.
Sherry Mosher, District Secretary

Absent:

Larry Roseboom Sr, Farm Bureau

Guest:

None

I. -Les called the meeting to order @ 10:00am.

II. –Approval of July Minutes, motion to approve made by **Ed**, seconded by **Meg**, motion carried.

III. -Approval of July treasurer report, motion to approve made by **Ed**, seconded by **Doris**, motion
- Approval of paid bills, motion to approve made by **Ed**, seconded by **Doris**, motion carried.

IV. – District Reports: Sherry

- Sherry reported that the 2-day QuickBooks training in Albany was outstanding, and she learned a lot more about QuickBooks.

-Sherry requested approval from the board to purchase the Diamond VIP support membership, as training classes are requested on her evaluation to accomplish her goals. **Ed** made a motion to approve the purchase and seconded by **Meg**, motion carried.

-Sherry received all information required for all interest-bearing accounts for the Investment policy. A resolution was made by **Meg** and seconded by **Ed** to change the insured amount of up to \$250,000, as that is required from the bank.

- Sherry reported that due to the amount of staff we now have they will see more frequent tax liability, and retirement payments on the paid bills report, she explained that payments were only required monthly, now they are required within 3 days of each payroll, which means bi-weekly payments.

-Sherry asked which 2 of the board members would like to attend the Annual NYACD meeting in Cazenovia on October 23, 2019. **Ed** and **Meg** stated they would attend the meeting. Sherry asked them to complete the registration form to receive an early bird discount for registration, the forms were completed.

-Sherry reported that she had ordered new compliance poster for the office as required by law.



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-District Reports: Jordan:

- Jordan inquired about active shooter training, Michelle stated that the county was going to be doing training and she would let Jordan know when it is so our staff can attend.
- Jordan reported that he is filing for an extension for the Buffer project grant. Our interns have been busy working on buffer maintenance as well as working w/Mary from OCCA on invasive species.
- Jordan informed the board that he was invited to speak at the Water Quality Symposium at Hartwick College on October 14, 2019.
- Jordan gave each board member a hard copy of the summer newsletter that is only available on the District's website or Facebook page.
- Jordan reported that there were no bids on the last timber sale & it would be put back out for bid again.
- Jordan reported that the farm tour will be on October 11, 2019. We will be visiting 2 Forestry parcels that have been worked on and to 1 farm, & possibly a buffer site if time allows. After the tour we will have lunch at Boces.
- Jordan stated that flood plain training is being offered.
- Jordan reported on the Butternut Creek Watershed Plan:
 1. Kickoff mtg took place on 7/17/19
 2. 20-25 People attended
 3. New Lisbon Town Hall
 4. Participating partners are OCCA, OLT, BVA, NYSDEC (funders)
 5. The second mtg was on 8/14/19
 6. 10-15 people attended.
- Please see attached reports.

V.- NRCS:

- WRP Easement monitoring is getting finished up.
- Working on 2020 eligibility application & planning.
- Continuing to work on 2019 & prior contracts.

Meeting adjourned @ 11:32am

VI. – FSA: See attached report

Next meeting: Thursday September 19, 2019

Finance mtg-9:30

Regular mtg-10:00

Respectfully submitted,

**Sherry Mosher
District secretary**



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July 2019 Forestry Report

Timber Sales

The hardwood sale that was sent out to bid from Reforestation Area #6 came back with no bids. I believe that it went no bid due to the low prices in the timber market at this time. The timber market is flooded with white ash, dropping the price. Everyone also has a large quantity of ash available to them due to the emerald ash borer. Although I believe I priced this sale on the low end of the pricing scale I have now lowered the price and sent the contract out to rebid. It is my hope that the lower price will attract a bidder. If the sale goes no bid again, I will consider adding more timber to it, or sitting on the sale until market conditions improve. Boundary Marking

Through the month of July I have completed the boundary marking on Charles. H. Bingham Memorial Forest on Bourne hill road in Morris. This boundary is now mostly completed barring a few hundred yards that go through a wetland. I was also able to complete the boundary marking on Reforestation Area #8 on Taylor hill road, in the town of Edmeston. This boundary is mostly complete but has few property corner pins. I believe that they are either buried underground or were originally trees and have since fell and decomposed.



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Projects

Parking lot construction has begun on our Ottaway road property. This parking lot was funded with part C funding. I worked with the highway department to provide a plan and construction layout for the parking area. It is my hope that the lot will be completed by September. Using the grant funds from the Soil and Water District's mini grant program We will also be constructing and educational Kiosk in the parking area on Ottaway road.



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July 19th, 2019 – August 15th, 2019

Conservation Technician Report

Jessica Miller

RCPP

- Working with NRCS, USC, and producer to update RCPP plan for prescribed grazing, livestock watering system, and riparian forest buffer.

AEM

- Conducted Tier 1 site visit with Jordan at a farm that has changed hands.
- Produced aerial and soils maps at farmers request.

Miscellaneous

- USC verification for Ag BMP and data entry to meet USC deadline.
- Worked on putting together newsletter and editing based on correction suggestions from the entire office.

Website and Facebook edits weekly



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Mark Kugler Stream Technician

July-August Monthly Report

Week of 7/22

- Worked on WRP on-site monitoring/reports
- Buffer Taskforce meeting with USC in Cortland
- Meeting with Town of Hartwick about stream related projects

Week of 7/29

- Helped organize exhibit for the county fair
- Tauzel site visit with NRCS
- Site visit for prospective pond construction
- Worked at the fair for half a day
- Worked on permits for Town of Hartwick projects

Week of 8/5

- Cleaned up exhibit at the county fair



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- Worked on WRP off-site monitoring/reporting
- Site visits with NRCS to observe and document WRP violations
- Site visit for prospective pond construction

Week of 8/12

- Worked on WRP off-site monitoring/reporting
- Worked on producing protected stream map for Town of Roseboom
- Went to Syracuse to activate USAccess credential
- Beginning to plan for Tauzel project
- Exploring Erica's files on USDA computer



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FSA Lisa Pedersen

- DMC (dairy program) - sign up continues and the deadline is September 20, 2019. Currently we have most producer's signed up and getting payments out to them. So far the trigger has paid every month since January.
- 2019 MFP (tariff program) – Sign up started July 29th and ends Dec. 6th. We will be paying dairy producers using their production history from their DMC contract. Other covered commodities include corn, soybeans, oats, alfalfa, etc. We are using crop reporting history from 2018 and 2019. Whichever year has the least amount of acres, we will use that and they will be paid \$25.00 acre. Payment software should be available this month. First payment will only be 50% of the gross payment.
- ARC/PLC (base program) – Sign up will start September 3rd. County offices will be trained the last week in August.