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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, February 20, 2020

#### **Members Present:**

Les Rathbun, Chair, Grange Rep.  
Meg Kennedy, Vice Chair, Cty. Rep.  
Ed Lentz, Member at Large  
Helene Kraham, Ag Landowner  
Larry Roseboom, Sr., Farm Bureau  
Michelle Farwell, County Legislator

#### **Staff Present:**

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

#### **Absent:**

Doris Moennich, Treasurer/Landowner

#### **Guest:**

None

**I. Call to order:** Board Chairman, **Les Rathbun** called the meeting to order at 9:59 a.m.

Motion was made by **Lentz** to go into executive session at 10:07 AM to discuss a matter leading to the dismissal or removal of a particular person, seconded by **Kennedy**. All in favor. Discussion of employee resigning, and proposal was made to share secretarial duties between the District Manager, accountant, and an employee. Also discussed moving employee payroll to direct deposit while utilizing QuickBooks timesheets online.

**II. Approval of minutes:**

**Kennedy** made the Motion, **Lentz** seconded, to approve January's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

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

**Lentz** made the Motion, **Kennedy** seconded, to accept the Bills to be Paid. All in favor.  
**Rathbun** made the Motion, **Lentz** seconded, to approve January's 2020 Treasurers Report. All in favor. Financial meeting will be held during April's meeting.

**IV. District Reports**

District Manager, Jordan Clements, is requesting a partial reimbursement for Water Quality Symposium due to the recent change in staff. Sherry Mosher, Secretary, no longer works at



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Otsego SWCD. Jessica Miller, Conservation Technician, will be sharing secretarial duties with Jordan Clements, and the accountant moving forward.

Jordan presents a power point presentation to discuss with the board potential Part C projects. He also states that the District has met all performance measures and will be receiving Part A, B, and C funds from Ag & Markets. These state funds will be matched with County allocations. The projected amount for Otsego SWCD for 2020 is \$115,000.00

Clements presents power point as follows:

1. Forest Technician Benefits

Otsego County has 18 Parcels. Former Forest Technician completed 4 plans in two years, Dan has already completed 5. Implementation is the next step. **Farwell** would like to see progress made to have FMP's earn carbon credits. The legality of this was being looked into before. Forestry County contract will need to be reviewed at the next meeting.

2. Community Conservation Grant Program

In 2019 \$15K of Part C was set aside for community conservation and education projects. \$11,725 were expended to reimburse projects, \$3,275 will be carried over to the 2020 CCGP fund. \$12,000 will be taken out of Part C to be used for the 2020 round. Applications will be posted to website and mailed out to towns and villages.

3. Paid Internship

Continue funding summer intern for buffer maintenance at \$12/hour. Four month internship - \$7,700

4. Public Access Program

Parking lots were built at County forest properties. Like to continue improving access at these sites. Discussion on the need to promote public awareness to use these access areas on Social Media.

5. Staff Development

Stream Technician training will cost \$1,700 to attend Level 1 Rosgan Training.

Jordan Clements proposes for his own career development that he will be attending Paul Smith's College beginning on May 16, 2020 to obtain a Master's degree in Natural



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Resources Conservation with a Concentration: Aquatic Resource Management & Policy. Tuition is \$25,000, and would like the District to cover half the cost (\$12,500). The board discusses that they are supportive of this but would like to see a written commitment made by Clements to stay working for Otsego SWCD at least 2-3 years after obtaining degree.

6. Random Projects

Set aside \$3,500 for Soil Sampling for CNMP, Small Stream Projects, Grant leverage,

7. Refrigerated Trailer

A refrigerated trailer to hold our trees during buffer planting. We feel that it would be a good purchase to help maintain dormancy and give our trees the best opportunity for survival while waiting to get planted.

\$10,100.00 estimated cost.

8. Tire Cutter

Estimate \$25,199.99 Cut tires do not hold water, eliminating potential breeding ground for mosquitoes to comply with DEC law. Karl Giroux, Conservation Technician, will discuss brand and logistics during next board meeting

9. Vehicles

\$35,000 - \$50,000 to replace beat up District vehicles. Clements would like to replace Chevy Equinox soon. Clements would like F150 type truck. Discusses possible opportunity to sub lease with the County. Lentz would like Clements to look into electric vehicles.

10. District Board Idea's

Potential purchase of a walk in cooler to help tree sale and buffer trees to stay dormant to store in garage. RFB/Streambank restoration projects

Board votes all in favor of suggested Part C ideas, and will require further exploration, and will need preapproval before purchase.



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### Ag Non-Point Source Project Extensions

Jordan Clements requests a 1-year extension for the Otsego County Buffer Project. Project completion has been delayed by CREP. Motion was made by Michelle Farwell, and seconded by Larry Roseboom, Sr. All in Favor. Motion carried.

Jordan Clements requests a 1-year extension for the Lower Wharton Heavy Use Area & Buffer Project. Project is near completion but has not been completed due to the contractor not returning to finish the job. A new contractor is being hired. Motion was made by Meg Kennedy, and seconded by Ed Lentz. All in Favor. Motion carried.

**V: Partner Updates** NRCS and FSA- None

**VI: Next Meeting:** The next board meeting to be held on **Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.**

**VII: Adjournment:** Meeting adjourns at **12:28 p.m.**

Staff Reports Attached

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica L Miller, Secretary

Assistant Treasurer



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### **Karl Giroux Conservation Technician Report February-March 2020**

#### **AEM:**

- Continued work on Tier 3A's for several producers
- Conducted Tier 1 & 2's during field visits
- Progressed with AEM Implementation Forms
  - Ranking sheet
  - Application
  - Etc.
- Assisted with CNMP
  - Obtained wheel scales
  - Conducted manure spreader calibrations

#### **Ag Assessments:**

- Completed many ag assessments while working remotely and in the office

#### **Training:**

- Attended Water Quality Symposium classes
  - Agricultural Assessments & Agricultural Districts
  - Large & Small Pipelines
  - Innovative Grazing and Silvopasture
  - Barnyards: Design and implementation considerations

#### **Tree Sale:**

- Record keeping of tree numbers
- Communicated with nurseries for proper tree numbers up to this point
- Ordered compost

#### **Miscellaneous:**

- Reinstalled pavers around parking lot
- Fixed disturbed areas with loader tractor
- Maintained and repaired small engines
- Started rain barrel display
- Provided technical support on various topics



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## **Mark Kugler Stream Technician February-March Monthly Report**

### **Week of 2/17**

- Presidents' Day holiday
- Final review and submission of USC grant applications
- Planned for CREP projects
- Monitored Oaks Creek water quality

### **Week of 2/24**

- Wrote Watershed Wednesdays script
- Planned for CREP projects
- Filmed/edited/posted Watershed Wednesdays video
- Planned for potential Trees for Tribes project (2021 implementation)
- Worked to organize and recreate buffer monitoring spreadsheet

### **Week of 3/2**

- Worked on buffer monitoring spreadsheet, and Traveled to Albany for Legislative Days
- Legislative Days in Albany
- Researched NFWF Small Watersheds grant
- Attended NFWF grant webinar and further researched requirements
- Wrote Watershed Wednesdays post



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#### **Week of 3/9**

- Trees for Tribs planning, and printed materials for Water Quality Symposium
- WQS (General Permitting with Army Corps and DEC)
- WQS (Fun With Hydrology)
- WQS (Siting and Designing Saturated Buffers for Nitrate Removal)
- WQS (Stream Habitat and Fish Passage)

#### **Week of 3/16**

- Worked on Trees for Tribs planning, and built garden trellis
- Worked Trees for Tribs planning, and built maps for prospective projects (OLT published information in their newsletter, and I'm getting interest from prospective landowners likely for 2021 implementation).
- Wrote Watershed Wednesdays script, and reviewed study guide for drone certification.
- Working on Trees for Tribs planning, and reviewing new CREP regulations.



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Chris Andreassen

03/18/2020

Board Report 2/20-3/19/2020

### AEM # 507 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning

Plan revised and submitted to Ag. & Markets. Modifications/revisions completed including

- Manure spreading setback maps
- Animal Mortality Management System updates
- Pathogen Management System updates
- Petroleum Storage System updates
- Manure Spreader Calibration
- Meeting with Cornell Cooperative Extension Field Crop Specialist to adjust and confirm fertilizer and liming regimes

### Water Quality Symposium

- Tier 3a Core Nutrient Management
- Cornell Cropware (Nutrient Management Planning)
- Quantifying Economic and Environmental Outcomes using Partial Budget Analysis, NTT & COMET-Farm software
- Innovative Grazing Management Practices
- Silage Bags

### AEM # 266 Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning

- Manure Spreader Calibration
- Planning resumed

\*\*\* As of 03/17/2020, Bugbee daycare (where my 1-year old son attends) has shut down until at minimum of April 13, 2020 due to Covid-19. This is subject to change and I will keep Jordan informed as I receive information. As of today, March 18, 2020, Jordan and I are planning on having me work every other day (starting next week) from home and using vacation time every other day until I run out of time or daycare reopens. At that time, depending on what you folks and Jordan decide, I will either have to tentatively cut my time to (2)10-hour days or work from home 40 hours per week until my son's daycare reopens (unless my fiancé is deemed non-essential or Del.Opp. closes). I am in the process of transferring client data and necessary software programs to a district laptop in order to do so. I apologize for the inconvenience and am open to what all of you would like me to do moving forward. Please don't hesitate to call my cell phone at (607) 434-5840 with any questions or concerns regarding this matter. Thank you for being flexible with our





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scheduling and allowing us to deal with this difficult situation in the best way possible. I sincerely wish you all the best of health.

February 2020 Forestry Report



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February saw two forestry Friday face book posts. Paragraphs were written and photos taken in the field. The first was on February 14 and detailed Black Knot Fungus (*Apiosporina morbosa*) and its effects on Black Cherry (*Prunus Serotina*). The second post concerned Tree Trunk Snow Holes and their prominence and genesis in the winter forest landscape.

February forestry revolved around developing a forest management plan for Otsego County #8 Taylor Hill comprised of about 433 acres on Taylor Hill Road in the Town of Edmeston, NY. Property line identification and property corner identification took some time as not all lines and corners were marked. Several proved to be difficult to ascertain but with the use of Phone App Land glide I was able to find and mark these out. Experience with property lines also proved to be a deciding factor. Property lines are extremely important so one can work on the correct property! After property lines were put in, considerable work was employed in ARCGIS applications for planning inventory methodology. Extensive research into parcel mapping, identification, property line/boundary correlation, tax maps, forest stand delineation, inventory parameters, field inventory plot planning and location, and parcel history.

Field inventory was undertaken according to planning methodology. Trees that fell into plot radius (use of 10 factor wedge prism) were measured, species identified, and proper forest product class selected. Overall tree health, stand and site health, and other forest/site observations were noted and recorded for future use in prescription recommendations. Field work was conducted in winter conditions entailing one mile plus distancing from the road traversed in snowshoes. Considerable office work then ensued with detailed statistical analysis of ten forest stands, all by hand. Prescriptions and forest stand write-ups were completed on sixteen forest stands. Ten forest stands need to be done to fully complete Otsego parcel #8 Taylor Hill, it is postulated completion within the month of March 2020.

February 2020 Forestry report Page #2

On February 28, 2020 I attended the Farm Show in Syracuse, NY. While attending I manned the booth for the New York Forest Owners Association (NYFOA) as chapter chair, Forester, forest owner, and Otsego Soil and Water Conservation District Forester. I engaged Farm show attendees that stopped by and expressed interest in forest ownership issues, conservation, and membership interests. Professional advice and discussions dominated most of my time interacting with the public. I also attended some of the NYFOA seminars on: 1) “Woodlot Thinning for Tree Health and Maple Sap Production, By removing some trees and giving room for others to grow, you improve the overall health and resiliency of your woods and get more sap for maple syrup”. 2)



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“Woodlot Regeneration: Growing Trees and Limiting Deer Damage, Too many deer can significantly reduce the ability of your woods to regrow young trees after a timber harvest. There are some interesting new ways to have both deer and young trees”. 3)

“Insects and Diseases in Your Woods, An update on how to recognize the various insects that are invading the woods of New York and what can be done to save our trees”. 4)

Rights and Responsibilities of Landowners,” by David Colligan, attorney with Colligan Law Firm of Buffalo. Owning land brings certain legal responsibilities and possible liabilities. Learn what you need to know about maintaining boundaries, trespass, easements, zoning, etc

Daniel Zimmerman, Forester, MBA

March 2, 2020