



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 2, 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
Doris Moennich, Treasurer/Landowner

Staff Present:

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

Absent:

All present

Guest:

None

- I. **Call to order** Board Chairman, **Les Rathbun** called the online meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.
- II. **Approval of minutes:**
Motion was made by **Farwell**, seconded by **Lentz** to approve February's Board Meeting Minutes with suggested corrections made. Due to the meeting being held online through Zoom due to COVID-19 a roll call was made. Motion Carried.
- III. **Approval of Treasure's Report & Bills to be paid**
Formatting of reports was different, will vote to approve during next meeting. Jordan Clements is keeping track of Coronavirus expenses. Working on getting online banking setup.
- IV. **District Reports**
District Manager, **Jordan Clements**, will follow up with Allen Ruffles for clarification on why Otsego SWCD paid school tax this year. Public notice of next online board meeting will be posted on website for public access.



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Lentz suggested potentially postponing non-essential expenses such as a summer intern, and CCGP 2020. Also discusses if construction of the addition should be held off for financial and safety concerns.

Clements warns Albany may be hauling, and grant closeouts will be delayed which is a concern for round 26 AgNPS funding. Hydroseeding DEC grant money, Part A, and Part C funding has come in. The County 2nd quarter allocation should also be coming in soon. Construction deemed with agriculture is essential, as far as moving forward with current grants.

The 2020 Tree and Shrub program is a concern due to COVID-19 however other districts are holding it surrounding us, and nurseries have orders ready to ship. The Date will stay April 24th, and 25th. No extras will be sold and people will stay in their vehicles at all times to minimize contact. Masks and gloves will be worn by staff for protection. Reminder postcards with order number and pick up times will be mailed out. **Kennedy** and **Lentz** suggest staggering pick up times, and spreading traffic out. Pick up will be scheduled by order number, and masks will be made mandatory for staff.

Les Rathbun gives the Tree Sale the approval to go ahead with precautions in place.

Civil Service Exam for Forest Technician has not yet been cancelled due to COVID-19. Post pounders are still being used. Board suggests they should be disinfected between use, or let sit for 2-3 days between use.

NRCS and FSA are down to one person working at the office each day, and the front door is locked.

Ag and Markets has delayed CRF, and Round 26 AgNPS deadlines by a month.

Corrections are being made to the pandemic policy and will need to be reviewed.

- V. **Partner Updates:** NRCS & FSA None
- VI. Other Business: None
- VII. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting to be held on **Thursday, April 16, 2020 at 10:00 am.**
- VIII. **Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at **11:06 a.m.**



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Respectfully submitted,

Jessica L. Miller, Secretary
Assistant Treasurer



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Mark Kugler Stream Technician March-April Monthly Report

Week of 3/23

- Trees for Tribs planning (StreamStats, Web Soil Survey, GIS, etc.)
- T4T planning and researched information for Watershed Wednesdays
- T4T planning and wrote Watershed Wednesdays post
- 2020 WRP training, and research for next Watershed Wednesdays
- Finalized 2020 T4T order (10 projects)

Week of 3/30

- Researched and wrote Watershed Wednesdays post
- Developed email contact list (lost when we converted to Outlook)
- Began Trees for Tribs program applications for 10 projects

Week of 4/6

- Worked on planning for one last T4T project
- Started planning for CREP projects
- Began reviewing Airman Knowledge Testing Supplement for drone certification
- Researched information for next Watershed Wednesdays post



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Week of 4/13

- Bereavement for the loss of my father

March 2020 Forestry Report

March saw two forestry Friday face book posts. Paragraphs were written and photos taken in the field. The first post was on a deer skull identification that was found on a branch while doing inventory plot on Otsego County #8 Taylor Hill, about one mile from the road while on snowshoes. The second post was on property line trees and who owns them- same location and on snowshoes also.

Field inventory was undertaken and completed on the remaining ten forest stands according to planning methodology on Otsego County parcel #8 Taylor Hill. 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 seven forest stands. Three forest stands need to be prescribed and written up to fully complete Otsego parcel #8 Taylor Hill. Finally, piecing together and editing the final Forest Management Plan needs to be done in April.

2020 Water Quality Symposium was attended March 10 through March 13, 2020. I attended the following classes in Syracuse, NY: 1) “Don’t Get Ticked” on Tuesday, 3/10 – all you wanted to know about ticks in New York, 2) “Strategies for management of interfering vegetation in forest landscapes” – mainly about beech and deer, Wednesday 3/11, 3) “outside invaders”- mainly about emerald ash borer and spotted lantern fly, Thursday 3/12, 4) “Understanding SHPA & CRIS”- mainly about how to identify and protect/permits for historically important sites, Friday 3/13.

I met with Peter Smallidge PHD, Cornell Cooperative extension Forester March 16, 2020 and proceeded to take him to Otsego County parcel #14 Clintonville where we toured the parcel and discussed my forest management plan and my identification of a regeneration problem on that parcel. Two to three hours were spent on parcel #14 and then we met with Jordan Clements and discussed holding an event with Peter and I in charge of the content and proceedings. It was agreed to hold the event outside and on the parcel. The



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district agreed to erect two fenced enclosures to keep deer out and show regeneration that happens in deer absence.

In the context of the Coronavirus, the plans with Dr. Smallidge have been postponed. Additionally, I have been instructed to work at home. Additional time has been spent on having my personal laptop connected to the districts computer and learning how to work remotely. I participate in two conference calls per week and continue to work from home on completion of Otsego parcel #8 Taylor Hill and other endeavors.

Daniel Zimmerman, Forester, MBA

Otsego Soil & Water Conservation District. April 1, 2020.