

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at 10am
Ag Service Center, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood, Dave Dunn
Donald Dabiew, Carl Sherwin
Ralph Child

Staff:

Chastity Miller
Karen Armstrong
Kristin Ballou

Other Agencies:

Sarah Fitzwater-NRCS
Bob Brower- Ag & Markets

Meeting began at 10:10am-Quorum present. Called to order by Bill Wood

- 1.) Chairman Bill Wood transferred the meeting to Chastity who opened the floor for election of officers. Chairman-Bill Wood, Nominated by C. Sherwin, 2nd D. Dabiew, All in favor; Carried. Vice Chairman-Ralph Child, Nominated Bill Wood, 2nd C. Sherwin, All in favor; Carried. Treasure-David Vincent, Nominated Bill Wood, 2nd C. Sherwin, All in favor; Carried. Chastity transferred the meeting to Chairman Bill Wood. Treasure Karen Armstrong was appointed as Secretary to the Board.
- 2.) Board members present, signed their oath of office and training plans for 2016.
- 3.) Approval of last board meeting minutes. Tabled due to not enough board members at the December meeting at this meeting. Will come back to this at the end of meeting. They were not approved due to forgetfulness. They will be on the agenda for the February 23, 2016 meeting.
- 4.) Financial Reports:
 - a.) Financial Reports were reviewed and **approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd D. Dunn all in favor-carried.
 - b.) Abstract and Vouchers were reviewed and **approved** 1st C. Sherwin 2nd R. Child, all in favor-carried.
 - c.) Permission to transfer \$178.85 from Reg. Chk to T/A account for monthly employee retirement, \$1,500.00 from Reg. Chk to Retirement savings and \$53,625.00 from Chk to Ag NPS RD 19-23. **Approved** 1st D. Dunn, 2nd C. Sherwin; all in favor- carried.
- 5.) Reports
 - FSA
 - NAP deadline for sign-up is February 1st
 - General CRP sign-up deadline is February 26th
 - CREP sign-up is ongoing
 - ARC-PLC for the 2016 program year is until August 1st
 - Farm Storage Facility Loans for 7 year loans approved in January 2016 is 2.00%
 - Sarah
 - Finishing high priority application cost estimate. Five applications are considered high priority.
 - March will get notice of who will be funded.
 - CPEP: Pushing this program in Clinton and Essex County. 90% of the practice is paid for.
 - Can still sign up for programs for 2017 funding.
 - Matt will be going to training in April to help him further what he can do at NRCS
 - Still opening the resource conservationist position in Malone. It will be going through a new hiring system and will be open to the public.

Ag & Markets

- The Governor has proposed an increase in state funding to Soil and Water Districts throughout NYS. It will be around 120 million more than 2015. This money will be going through different programs. Farmland protection, Climate resilient program, Ag NPS, AEM, Ag Waste.

Kristin

- Conducting Tier 2 evaluations for AEM
- Working with NRCS to complete necessary paperwork for RCPP
- Revised the 2016 Tree Sale book
- Plan to being AG NPS Rd. 22 grant application and continuing with AEM updating Tiers

Karen

- Finishing year end reports and taxes
- Helped Clinton County SWCD with yearend reporting since this is their first year with new secretary and manager
- Finishing the tree sale and will be getting the order form in the mail this week.
- Will be helping with workshops the district is offering

6.) District Managers Report:

- AG NPS RD 18: Working on collecting necessary paperwork to begin to close out this grant
- ATV: Have over 58 signed easements which is a total of 6,500 acres. Went on a tour of Santa Clara Track with members and NYSDEC. Working on a section of trails in that RMP
- Waiting for the Urban Forestry Grant to come out to begin the application process for funding
- Kristin working on getting the documentation that is needed for the CFA the district received for hydroseeding for a total of \$65,000
- SLWRP: Working with the
- WQCC: Next meeting will be 2/2/2016 at 10am at the office
- Tree Recycle program: This was the first year for this program. We received a total of 28 trees. Participants will receive a seedling in the spring for participating.

7.) Correspondents: American Farmland Trust, National Association of Conservation Districts, Staples, Ernst Seeds, Vans Pines, Rural Futures, Delaware County Newsletter, Maple Digest, Grassroots, NYSSWCC-Meeting Minutes, State Envirothon team registration, Legislature appointment for 2016, E-mail from Michael Latham in regards to the State budget, Fred Pryor Seminars, handouts from National Agroforestry Center.

8.) New Business

- NYACD has sent a letter with bill for annual dues. After discussion it was decided to not be paid at this time. A letter will be drafted to ask NYACD for more information on the dues that are being asked for and what they are used for and it will be requested to have information before February meeting
- District Law will be the training topic that is covered at the March board meeting
- Water Quality Symposium is March 15th-18th of this year. Chastity and Kristin will be attending. The cost will be \$580.00 per person. 1st D. Dunn, 2nd C. Sherwin. All in favor **APPROVED**
- In the recent years, NYS State Fair dues have not been paid. It was discussed and D.Dunn motioned to pay dues this year. 2nd D. Dabiew all in favor **APPROVED**
- After discussions monthly board meetings will be every 4th Tuesdays of the month. Beginning March 2016 until October 2016 monthly meetings will be at 7pm. November and December will be at 10am. 1st C. Sherwin 2nd B. Wood all in favor **APPROVED**
- District policies were reviewed. There were no discussions and all were **APPROVED** 1st C. Sherwin 2nd D. Dunn
- MOU between Clinton Co. SWCD and Franklin Co. SWCD. 1st D. Dabiew 2nd C, Sherwin all in favor **APPROVED**

- MOU between SLRWP and Franklin Co. SWCD Dabiew 2nd C, Sherwin all in favor **APPROVED**
- CWICNY has money from a grant to help gather information in the Champlain Watershed. They would fully reimburse a tablet and GPS system for the District to help them gather information. 1st D. Dabiew 2nd C, Sherwin all in favor **APPROVED**
- Civil Service is offering a workshop April 22nd to explain the civil service process. Chastity plans on attending.

9.) Old Business

-Karen contacted the Square credit card reader in regards to the questions about bonuses on credit cards and how it would affect the fees square would charge. Square does not charge more for bonuses that individuals have through their credit card. Due to this and after discussion it was decided to go ahead and get the square. Karen will be in charge of this. 1st D. Dunn 2nd R. Child all in favor **APPROVED**

Next meeting will be on February 23, 2015 @ 10:30am at the Ag Service Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:25pm 1st C. Sherwin 2nd D. Dunn, all in favor-carried

Respectfully,

Karen Armstrong/ Chastity Miller
Secretary/ District Manager

