

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting –Tuesday, August 28, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Ag Service Center, Malone, NY

Directors:

Tommy Derouchie
Bill Wood, Steve Gokey
Andrea Dumas, Ralph Child
Carl Sherwin

Staff:

Chastity Miller
Karen Armstrong,
Kristin Ballou, Allycia Leach

Other Agencies:

Meeting began at 7:11pm-Quorum present. Called to order by Bill Wood

- 1.) Approval of last board meeting minutes July 24, 2018. 1st S. Gokey, 2nd C. Sherwin, **Approved**, All in favor, carried.
- 2.) Financial Reports:
 - a.) Financial Reports were reviewed and **Approved** 1st S. Gokey, 2nd C. Sherwin; all in favor, carried.
 - b.) Abstract and Vouchers were reviewed and **Approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd A. Dumas, all in favor, carried.
 - c.) Permission to transfer. \$234.00 from regular checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement, \$1500.00 from regular checking to retirement savings. **Approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd A. Dumas, all in favor, carried

3.) Reports

NRCS

- FY 2019 Funding-Currently have 50 applications all in various stages of eligibility. More applications will be coming in.
- AMA- All high tunnels need to be purchased, installed and certified by September 30th.
- CRP Grasslands- Currently have 4 applications
- GRP-Grassed waterway is currently being installed and should be completed by September.
- Food Security Act- No FSA backlog.

FSA

- Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) deadlines for specific crops are approaching for the 2019 crop year.
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP) is able to provide financial assistance to orchardists and nursery tree growers when natural disasters hit.

Ag and Markets-

- CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer System Program Rd 2 applications were due 8/6/2018.
- AG NPS RD 24 applications were due 8/20/2018. The District submitted 3 applications.
- 2019 Annual Plan of Work is due to AEA by November 1st.
- Statewide managers meeting is scheduled for November 14-15.
- Empire Farm Day was held August 7-9th in Seneca Falls. Ralph and Steve attended this year!

Kristin:

- CWICNY- Summer fieldwork for 2 grants is moving along. Septic workshop was attended by 9 participants. Moving along with planning of Legislative tour.
- Forestry-working on 2 management plans and 1 plan is complete.
- LCBP NAACC-90 Assessments are complete and many more to go. Will be doing 2 days a week to try to finish up before the end of the year.
- Part B- 4 Forest Management Plans are in process. Field work is complete on all of them.
- Moving forward with completing projects for Part C.

Allycia:

- Continuing to work on reaching out to plain sect farmers

- AEM Yr 14 is moving along
- Working with producers in Constable to get them into Ag District
- Assisted with 3 applications for Ag NPS Rd 24
- Assisting Producers on becoming NYS Grown and Certified
- Assisting with hydroseeding
- Worked at the fair and reached out to producers in barns.

Karen:

- Assisted with Fair
- Received NYS Retirement estimate for 2019. It is \$19,273.00.
- Moving forward with Nitrate and Chloride testing. Letter has gone out and responses are coming in.
- Began planning for WQS 2019
- Assisted with Ag District

4.) District Managers Report:

- Ag NPS Rd 23 received contract signed it and returned to state. Engineering drawings are under review with NRCS
- CAFO Grants-All vouchers have been paid for. All contracts are moving forward. CAFO 32 is under construction.
- Ag District has been presented to legislatures. All but one landowner have been approved and will join the Ag District.
- Still assisting with Salmon River Flooding project and the Malone Flooding Project. Met with core group on starting feasibility study.
- Have visited many landowners with questions in regards to ponds.
- Completed 3 CFA grants. Waiting to hear if any were accepted.

5.) Correspondents: Grassroots, Sample Lumber, Thank you form Brushton Dam, LEAD NY.

6.) New Business:

- At the beginning of October, QuickBooks will require the District to pay for the yearly subscription of payroll. This amount will be \$474.00. The cost of QuickBooks 2018 is \$499.99. It is recommended that every 2 years the software is updated. After discussion, the board decided the best choice was to update the software to QuickBooks 2018. **Approved.** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, carried.
- Steve Gokey and Chad Carter have used the no-till and qualify for the 2018 Soil Health Program. At the current time it is known how much acreage they will be eligible for. Karen requested \$1659.00 for Steve Gokey for 55.3 acres and \$303.00 for Chad Carter for 10.1 acres of reimbursement. **Approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd A. Dumas, carried. S. Gokey abstained from voting.
- The account has been set up for the no-till maintenance. After discussion it was decided that to begin the account with \$200.00. More information will be available at the next meeting to decide how much should be in this savings account for when maintenance is needed. Karen requested that \$200.00 be transferred from Checking to No-till maintenance account. **Approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd A. Dumas, all in favor, carried.

7.) Old Business:

- Due to low supply and high demand, we need to order bacteria kits. Chastity requested up to \$400.00 for this. **Approved.** 1st S. Gokey, 2nd C. Sherwin, all in favor, carried.
- Under Part C, Karen has sent out 100 letters to landowners on having their drinking water tested for nitrates and chlorides. Chastity requested that \$4000.00 for this testing. **Approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd A. Dumas, all in favor, carried.
- With the fall fast approaching, fall river sampling will be beginning. Chastity requested \$3000.00 for this testing. **Approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, carried.

- There will be an upcoming Produce Safety Alliance Grower training class in Watertown in November. It will be a two day training. Chastity requested that \$750.00 for this training be pre-approved for Allycia and possibly Kristin to attend. **Approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd A. Dumas, all in favor, carried.
- Kristin and Allycia will be representing NYCDEA at the state fair on Friday, August 31. Chastity requested \$250.00 for food, travel and hotel for overnight. **Approved** 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd A. Dumas, all in favor, carried.
- WQIP Rd 12 is moving along but more mulch needs to be purchased for the projects that are part of this grant. With splitting a load of mulch with Clinton County SWCD, the cost would be around \$6000.00. Chastity requested this preapproval for this. **Approved** 1st A. Dumas, 2nd S. Gokey. All in favor, carried.
- Devin's last day was August 17th. With the workload that the District has acquired, Chastity mentioned the idea of having Devin work when he is available to assist staff with the workload.
- After last meeting Chastity solicited for 3 bids on a hydroseeder. They are as followed: Hydrograss Corp-Finn T-90T- \$56,186.75. Taylor Rental-Finn T-90T-\$60,100.00. Northeast Bowie Sales-Bowie Victor 800 Hydro-Mulcher \$54,075.00. After discussion on which brand would be a better fit for the district, it was decided that the Finn T-90T is the better fit. With the CWICNY WQIP grant, \$43,000.00 of the cost would be covered. The remainder leaves the District with \$13,186.75 of the cost of the machine. A motion was made that the hydroseeder would be purchased through Hydrograss Corp for \$56,186.75. **Approved** 1st A. Dumas, 2nd C. Sherwin, all in favor, carried.

Next meeting will be on Thursday September 27, 2018 7pm at the Ag Service Center.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30pm

Respectfully,

Karen Armstrong/ Chastity Miller
Secretary/ District Manager