

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting –Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 7:00 pm  
Ag Service Center, Malone, NY

## Directors:

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

## Staff:

Chastity Miller  
Karen Armstrong,  
Kristin Ballou, Allycia Leach

## Other Agencies:

Meeting began at 7:10pm-Quorum present. Called to order by Bill Wood

- Approval of last board meeting minutes September 27, 2018. 1<sup>st</sup> A. Dumas, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, **Approved**, all in favor, carried.
- Financial Reports:
  - a.) Financial Reports were reviewed and **Approved** 1<sup>st</sup> A. Dumas, 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Child; all in favor, carried.
  - b.) Abstract and Vouchers were reviewed and **Approved** 1<sup>st</sup> A. Dumas, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Dunn, all in favor, carried. S. Gokey abstained due to a conflict of interest.
  - 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, \$46,544.50 from CWICNY to Checking and \$200.00 from checking to No-till. **Approved** 1<sup>st</sup> A. Dumas, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, carried
- Reports
  - NRCS
    - FY 2019 Funding-Currently have 50 applications all in various stages of eligibility. More applications will be coming in.
    - WRE- 2 Franklin County easements closed in spring have been obligated for restoration. Plans for restorations in 2019.
    - CRP Grasslands- Currently have 4 applications. Grazing plans on 2 applications have been completed.
    - GRP-Grassed waterway is installed and moving to finalize contract.
    - Food Security Act- Working with FSA and Landowners on 4 CPA-569 wetland violations.
  - FSA
    - Dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP-Dairy): The margin for August was \$7.42662, resulting in a payment of \$0.57338 per cwt for \$8 margin coverage. This program will run through December 31, 2018
    - Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): Deadline of November 20<sup>th</sup> for berries, fruit and nut trees, and grapes. December 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for honey & maple syrup.
  - Ag and Markets
    - 2019 APOW are due by November 1, 2018.
    - Interim Progress Reports for Ag NPS, and CAFO are due by November 1.
    - NYACD Annual meeting is being held October 23-25
    - Rural Roads Active Management Program (RRAMP) a program through CWICNY will be hosting a statewide meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>
    - Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting will be held in Auburn on November 13<sup>th</sup>.
  - Kristin:
    - CWICNY- WQIP hydroseeding 7 sites are complete. AARA report is complete and finishing the final report.
    - Forestry-working on 2 management plans and 1 plan is complete and second is being reviewed by landowner.

- LCBP NAACC-Still assessing culverts in the town of Brighton, Franklin and Harrietstown.
- Part B- 4 Forest Management Plans are in process. Field work is complete on all of them working on plans.
- Moving forward with completing projects for Part C.
- Part C-Soil Health 712.9 acres was completed!
- Waiting to hear on LCBP Culvert Assessments 2019 and LCBP Stormwater Runoff and Rain Collection 2019 grants.

Allycia:

- Continuing to work on reaching out to plain sect farmers.
- AEM Yr 14 is moving along.
- Working with producers on NYS Grown and Certified grant opportunities. Currently 1 maple producer and 1 beef farmer have been awarded!
- Wrote 2 plans under Part C for Soil Health.
- Attended, Franklin County Farm Bureau Dinner and assisted Kristin with school programing at BMCS D.

Karen:

- Getting results back with Nitrate and Chloride testing and sending results to landowners.
- Assisted staff with animal mortality workshop.
- Completed quarterly reports.

- District Managers Report:

- Ag NPS Rd 23 received contract signed it and returned to state. Engineering drawings are under review with NRCS.
- Ag NPS Rd 24 list has been released. 2 out of 3 applications were awarded!
- CAFO Grants-All vouchers have been paid for. All contracts are moving forward. CAFO 32 is 99% complete.
- The 3 CFA grants were submitted. We are still waiting on award list.
- Ag Land Protection: 10.6% of land in Franklin County is in the Ag. District. That is 115,315 acres. In total Franklin County has 1,086,080 acres.
- Moving forward with wrapping up 2018 projects and preparing for 2019.

- Correspondents: Grassroots, NYACD-September update, Community bank, Farm Bureau-Renew membership, Franklin County Farm Bureau newsletter, Cornell Local Roads Program, Hydrograsscorp, Page's seed-Dave Bush has left, Excellus Dental Plan new group number.

- New Business:

- With the work that District technical staff do, it was brought to the attention of the Board that some of the work being conducted, requires special footwear. Following the county's policy, Chastity asked if technical staff could be allowed an allowance of \$120.00 per year to get the specialized footwear required for the work they do. After discussion, the following was decided. All full time staff of the District, will be allowed to purchase proper footwear with the approval of the District Manger to not exceed over \$120.00 per year. 1<sup>st</sup> A. Dumas, 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Sherwin, **Approved**, all in favor, carried.
- Due to the purchasing of the new Hydroseeder, Karen has contacted King-Clark to getting the new equipment insured. As on this morning, there has been no bill generated. Bill asked the Board for a pre-approval of \$500.00 to pay the premium increase when the bill arrives. 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Sherwin, **Approved**, all in favor, carried.
- At the September meeting, Chastity presented the Board with the draft of the Annual Plan of Work. After discussion, it was agreed that it was ready for approval. 1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie, 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Dumas, **Approved**, all in favor, carried.
- NYS Ag & Markets released the Ag NPS Rd 24 ranking list. 2 applications were selected. Chastity asked the Board for approval to open 2 separate accounts for the grants. 1<sup>st</sup> C. Sherwin, 2<sup>nd</sup> A. Dumas, **Approved**, all in favor, carried. S. Gokey abstained due to a conflict of interest.

- Due to winter and the holidays in the following months, it was decided that the Board meetings for the month of November and December, will be held at 9:30am on November 27<sup>th</sup> and December 18.
  - With Christmas falling on a Tuesday, it was asked if the office could close the day before. There was no issues with that and the office will be closed December 24 and 25, 2018.
  - The Board went into executive session to talk about performance review of Chastity Miller. A. Dumas made the motion to go into executive session at 8:25pm. This was followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Sherwin. The Board asked Chastity to leave. The Board came out of executive session at 8:28.
  - The Board went into executive session to talk about performance review for Kristin Ballou. T. Derouchie made the motion to go into executive session at 8:29. This was followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> by S. Gokey. The Board asked Chastity to stay. The board came out of executive session at 8:32pm.
  - The Board went into executive session to talk about performance review for Allycia Leach. T. Derouchie made the motion to go into executive session at 8:33pm. This was followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> by D. Dunn. The Board asked Chastity to stay. The board came out of executive session at 8:36pm.
  - The Board wanted to talk about performance review for Karen Armstrong. T. Derouchie made the motion to go into executive session at 8:38pm. This was followed by 2<sup>nd</sup> by R. Child. The Board asked Chastity to stay. The board came out of executive session at 8:40pm.
  - A motion by 1<sup>st</sup> C. Sherwin was put forth to increase salaries of present employees by \$1,000.00 per employee plus a 2.0% increase to start on December 29, 2018. A. Dumas 2<sup>nd</sup> **Approved**, all in favor, carried.
- Old Business:
- Chastity brought up the managers meeting in December. No Board member was interested in attending. Chastity will talk it over with staff and choose what 3 staff members will attend.
  - Due to the purchasing of the hydroseeder, Chastity asked to have \$6,000.00 transferred from equipment account to checking to help cover the cost that the District is responsible for. 1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, **Approved**, all in favor, carried.
  - With the workload that was acquired during 2018, it would be beneficial to have Devin Normandeau, assist with ongoing project to help get them complete. Chastity asked the Board if Devin would be able to work three 8 hour days starting the week of December 17 through January 11, 2019. He would be paid an hourly rate of \$11.50. 1<sup>st</sup> A. Dumas, 2<sup>nd</sup> C. Sherwin, **Approved**, all in favor, carried.

**Next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 27 at 9:30am at the Ag Service Center.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45pm

Respectfully,

Karen Armstrong/ Chastity Miller  
Secretary/ District Manager