

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Monday, December 16, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Ag Service Center, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood
Ralph Child
Carl Sherwin
Paul Lauzon
Steve Gokey
David Dunn

Staff:

Chastity Miller
Donna Wright
Kristin Ballou
Allycia Leach
Ryan Cunningham NYS Ag & Markets

Meeting began at 9:27 a.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

1. Bill began our meeting by commending, congratulating and sincerely thanking David Dunn on behalf of himself, the entire board and staff of the Franklin County SWCD for David being such a truly devoted "Two Century Man" to our Franklin County SWCD Board for the past twenty years. Bill then commended, congratulated and thanked Carl Sherwin, who is also retiring from our Board. Carl sits on our Board as a representative from the Franklin County Board of Legislators. Bill wished both David and Carl well in the future and extended a warm welcome for them to attend our future meetings. David and Carl's terms both expire on December 31, 2019.
2. Approval of board meeting minutes of November 18, 2019
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd C. Sherwin, D. Dunn/S. Gokey abstained. all others in favor, **carried**.
3. **Financial Reports:**
 - Financial Reports were reviewed and approved
1st C. Sherwin, 2nd S. Gokey; all in favor, **carried**.
 - Abstract and Vouchers were reviewed and approved
1st C. Sherwin, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
 - Donna requested permission to transfer:
 - \$250.00 from Regular Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement for November,
 - \$1,500.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings for November,
 - \$200.00 from Reg Checking to No-till for November,Approval requested and reviewed for all transfers to be made,
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
4. **Reports**
 - NRCS –**
 - FY 2019 EQIP Funding – All 2019 Franklin Cty contracts have been obligated for a total of \$209,000.
 - FY 2020 EQIP – Deadline was July 19, 2019.
Applications Received: 4 High Tunnels, 3 Forestry, 2 CAP FMP, 1 Grassland, 1 Irrigation, 1 Farmstead
Pre-approvals set for February 2020; obligation deadline of June 2020.
 - EQIP – Constable waste storage project nearing completion.
 - WRE – Restoration complete for 1 easement. Partial restoration is complete for 2nd easement. Restoration will continue next construction season
 - Food Security Act – no backlog at this time.
 - Patricia LaValley from our local NRCS office conducted the Annual NRCS Civil Rights Overview for Soil & Water Conservation Districts which also included the Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist which was signed by all Franklin County SWCD Board Members who were present and Patricia LaValley, NRCS Rep.
 - FSA –**
 - Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) -Signup begins 12/9/19. General CRP deadline 2/28/20; continuous CRP sign up-ongoing. Fact Sheets presented and available in FSA office. A separate CRP Grasslands signup offered each year following general signup.
 - Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): Deadline 2/1/20 to purchase coverage for greens, herbs, leeks, lettuce, onions, radishes, etc. 3/15/20 deadline for other spring seeded crops.
 - 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP): Signups extended until 12/20/20 for eligible commodities to include, but not limited to dairy, hogs, corn, soybeans, alfalfa, rye, cranberries, grapes.

- 2020 Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program: Signup extended to 12/20/19.
- 2019 & 2020 Agricultural Risk Loss Coverage (ARC) Price Loss Coverage (PLC): Enrollment underway.
- Price Support Interest Rates for December 2019 were given.
- Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for December 2019 were given.

Ag and Markets-

- Performance Measures -reminder to complete performance measures for Part C funding in December.
- SWCC Meeting: next meeting December 17th in Albany.
- NRCS MOU –questions Blake Glover, NRCS State Conservationist at blake.glover@usda.gov
- Round 25 AgNPS – Awards announced/congrats to all! \$16.2 million will be awarded this Round. .
- NYS SWCC Program Updates and Round 25 Plan of Work Webinar – 12/9 updates to NYS SWCD Committee programs.
- Farmland Protection Planning Grants – Dept of Ag & Markets, \$600,000 available to municipalities/ counties who submit proposals for an Ag & Farmland Protection Plan. More info at <https://www.agriculture.ny.gov/funding-opportunities>
- Other Events:
 - 2019 Northeast Regional Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) Training – 12/3-12/5/19 DoubleTree Hotel, Syracuse, NY

Kristin (District Forester):

- AEM- working on Forest Conservation Plans
- Meetings/Trainings/Events- CWICNY
- Part B – 4 Forest Management Plans – project complete
- Part C - 2019 projects – All projects complete working on final report
 - School Funding Program \$15,000 (\$1,500/school)
 - ADK Education – Arbor Day Plantings and supplies (complete)
 - Brushton – Maple equipment (complete)
 - Chateaugay – not participating
 - Freedom School – No response
 - Malone Central – Composting (complete)
 - P-Tech Malone – No response
 - Salmon River – Generator for Maple Operation (complete)
 - Saranac Lake – Tiered Garden and gardening supplies (complete)
 - St. Regis Falls – Raised beds/Composting (complete)
 - Tupper Lake – Macroinvertebrate sampling equipment and supplies (complete)
 - Invasive Species \$10,000 – Japanese knotweed inventory in Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake and EAB Monitoring and surveillance- Sentinel trees will be evaluated in December/January
 - Conservation in the Community- Continuing to meet with landowners regarding forestry practice options, water kits, id books, 30 at home kits for Malone Middle School
 - Soil Health – 309.9 acres planted
- Sea Grant NAACC Grant 2019 – Waiting on signed contract, 312 assessments complete 20 more to go (4 in Bellmont and 16 in Chateaugay).
- WQIP Round 12 – complete (Chas closed out)

Allycia (District Technician):

AEM:

- Providing information to landowners about various conservation practices
- Trying to set up a time to meet with Tasha from SRMT Ag Division to talk about Pollinator Workshop
- Tier 3a
 - Went over grazing plan w/producer, writing: 2 farmstead plans, 1 Irrigation plan, 1 grazing, 1 crop plan
- Tier 5b
 - Updating one grazing plan
- AEM Yr. 15: Year 15 ends December 31, 2020
1042.25 HOURS = \$42,807.94. 191.06 off from requested amount

- AEM Yr. 16 Grant: On 12/11 received letter confirming Round 16 funding for
 - \$201,505 for Round 16 → Contract dates Jan. 1, 2020 – Dec. 31, 2021
 - Funding for full \$129,712 in technical time as well as all 4 T4 Cost-Share Implementation Grants for \$71,793
 - Money in T4 Implementation Grant will be spread over 3 watersheds
 - Plain Sect. Getting articles together → mail out newsletter first week in January

Conservation in the Community: College Presentation 11/25, Ag Pack 12/9 Training/Workshop: Certified Crop Advisory (CCA) 12/3-12/5; Webinar 12/9, EEF 12/9, NAACC: Culvert Surveying with Kristin

Donna (Secretary to the Board):

- Continually adding updating our customer address files.
- Assist customers who come into our office.
- Answer the main phone line assisting people to the best of my ability.
- Assist Chastity, Kristin and Allycia, whenever possible.
- Make regular bank deposits, when needed.
- Receipt money received from customers into Quickbooks.
- Prepare for our monthly Board meeting.
- Update the Secretary Manual, as needed.
- Required monthly reports for the month of November were completed.
- Labeled 1500+ Christmas Tree Recycling Program postcards/mailed them out.

5. District Managers Report:

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Ag NPS Rd - Landowner contracts complete and both have been in contact with engineers.
- Ag NPS Rd 25 – we received 2 grants and will begin the plan of work soon!

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 1

- CAFO: 33 – Constable- Under construction and almost completed.
- CAFO 35 - Chateaugay –Engineering and planning.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3

- Round 3 – Waiting on contract to come back from the state.

CFA – Still waiting to hear!

Other

- WQIP Round 12 Hydroseeding Grant – submitted final billing
- ATV Easements – slowing down on easements and planning. Next meeting is 1/7/20 at 6 p.m.
- St. Lawrence Watershed Restoration plan – progressing slowly. We are working with a consultant and we have a draft of the preliminary assessment of the watershed, which was reviewed by the Watershed Advisory Committee with a public meeting scheduled for 12/3/19 at 5:30 p.m. in Gouverneur, NY. Billing is being worked on.

6. Correspondences: Newsletters from Hamilton, Rockland, Wyoming and Clinton County SWCD's, December Grassroots Edition

7. New Business:

- Chastity requested the board modify the accrual basis availability period to cover up to 30-120 days after December 31, 2019 – to cover any invoices, expenses that we may receive for the 2019 in 2020. 1st S. Gokey, 2nd C. Sherwin, all in favor, **carried**.
- Donna requested up to \$200.00 to pay Nat'l. Business Technologies for December bill not rec'd yet 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, **carried**.
- Chastity discussed having a possible "Cooperator's Dinner" in 2020. Discussed with the board; decided more information would be brought to them in upcoming board meetings.
- Hydroseeder & No-Till Repairs/Emergency Truck Light– Kristin requested a total of \$1,150.00 for repairs and to purchase a Emergency light for the top of one of our trucks, 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

8. Old Business: Bill, again sincerely thanked both David and Carl for their dedication to our Franklin County SWCD board and David was presented with a gift certificate for his loyalty. Carl was presented with a bright, yellow bow tie.

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. to discuss the new hire of the 2nd District Technician, - Motion made by Carl, seconded by Ralph. **The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:35 a.m.** Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child- The Board stated that they had agreed to hire Christopher Ballou. 1st C. Sherwin, 2nd R. Child, B. Wood abstained. Bill Wood called for a Roll Call of board members present. All in favor were the following board members: C. Sherwin, D. Dunn, R. Child, S. Gokey, P. Lauzon. B. Wood abstained. **Carried.** - Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child- Christopher Ballou would start at a wage of \$35,000. Bill Wood called for a Roll Call of board members present. All in favor were the following board members: C. Sherwin, D. Dunn, R. Child, S. Gokey, P. Lauzon, B. Wood. **Carried.**

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:46 a.m. to discuss the current District Manager, Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child. **The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:48 a.m.** Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child. - Motion made by S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon- The board stated that they agreed to give District Manager a 3% raise. Carried. Bill Wood called for a Roll Call of board members present. All in favor were the following board members: C. Sherwin, D. Dunn, R. Child, S. Gokey, P. Lauzon, B. Wood. **Carried.**

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:49 a.m. to discuss the current District Forester, Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child. Carried. **The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:51 a.m.** Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child. Carried. Motion made by S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon to give District Forester a 3% raise. Bill Wood called for a Roll Call of board members present. All in favor were the following board members: C. Sherwin, D. Dunn, R. Child, S. Gokey, P. Lauzon, B. Wood. **Carried.**

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:52 a.m. to discuss the current District Technician, Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child. Carried. **The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:54 a.m.** Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child. Carried. Motion made by S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon to give District Technician a 3% raise. Bill Wood called for a Roll Call of board members present. All in favor were the following board members: C. Sherwin, D. Dunn, R. Child, S. Gokey, P. Lauzon, B. Wood. **Carried.**

The Board went into Executive Session at 10:55 a.m. to discuss the current Secretary, Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child. Carried. **The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:57 a.m.** Motion made by C. Sherwin, seconded by R. Child. Carried. Motion made by S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon to give District Secretary a 2% raise. Bill Wood called for a Roll Call of board members present. All in favor were the following board members: C. Sherwin, D. Dunn, R. Child, S. Gokey, P. Lauzon, B. Wood. **Carried.**

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. at the AG Service Center, Malone, NY.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager