

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

Ag Service Center, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood
Ralph Child
Steve Gokey
Paul Lauzon
Thomas Derouchie

Staff:

Chastity Miller
Donna Wright
Kristin Ballou
Allycia Leach
Blake Glover, NYS NRCS

Meeting began at 4:50 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

- 1.) Approval of special board meeting minutes of June 8, 2019 –
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
- 2.) Approval of last board meeting minutes of June 24, 2019.
Tabled until next meeting as correct quorum not present.
- 3.) **Financial Reports:**
 - Financial Reports were reviewed and approved
1st S. Gokey, 2nd R. Child; all in favor, **carried**.
 - Abstract and Vouchers were reviewed and approved
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
 - Permission to transfer. \$83.90 from regular checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (Balance of July), \$276.08 from regular checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (August), \$1,500.00 from regular checking to retirement savings (August), \$200.00 from checking to no-till (August), , \$1,500.00 from regular checking to retirement savings (September), \$200.00 from checking to no-till (September).
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.
 - Requested pre-approval of \$300.00 from checking to T/A for September monthly employee retirement.
1st S. Gokey, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.

4.) **Reports**

NYS NRCS, Blake Glover

- Blake Glover, the new NRCS State Conservationist attended his first board meeting with us and gave a brief introduction. He began with NRCS in January of 2019 and one of his main objectives is to implement more effective ways for SW, NRCS and FSA to all work together throughout the state. It was very nice to have him attend our meeting.
- **Farm Bill**
 - Waiting on Final Rules from O & B, then NRCS will be on board
 - No \$ towards the farm bill at this time.
- **RCCP**
 - Proposals are being put together at this time which will be processed by the state
 - FY 20 - \$200,000 – towards Urban Ag
- **Locally Lead Conservation**
 - This is one of Blake's priorities to get back in NYS.
- **Staffing** is an issue at all NRCS agencies throughout the state.
- Bill Wood, FCSW Chairman, commended the work done by the two NRCS employees who serve Franklin County.

NRCS –

- FY 2019 EQUIP Funding: all Franklin County contracts have been obligated for a total of \$209,000
- FY 2020 EQUIP: Application deadline was 7/19/19 with 9 Wildlife, 3 High Tunnels, 2 CAP FMP, 3 Forestry, 1 Irrigation and 1 Farmstead applications received. Obligation Deadline has been set for June 2020.
- EQUIP: Silage leachate project is almost complete, engineer is working on as-built so project can be paid
- WRE: Restoration continues for 2 Franklin County easements.
- Food Security Act: No backlog at this time

FSA –

- 2019 Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC): Sign up ends 9/20/19. 2020 signups are expected to start later this fall
- 2019 Market Facilitation Program (MFP): Signups underway until 12/16/19. Eligible commodities for the trade mitigation programs include (but not limited to) dairy, hogs, corn, soybeans, alfalfa, rye, cranberries, grapes. Payments will be distributed in up to 3 payments.
- 2019 & 2020 Agricultural Risk Loss Coverage (ARC) Price Loss Coverage (PLC): Enrollment begins 10/7/19. The program pays on base acres and payments are triggered (or not) based on national market prices and/or national market prices and county yields depending on the program option selected.
- Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): Deadline is 9/30/19 to obtain crop coverage on hay for the 2020 growing season.
- Price Support Interest Rates (Sept 2019) were given.
- Farm Loan Program Interest Rates (Sept 2019) were given.

Ag and Markets-

- SWCC Meeting: Next meeting scheduled on 9/17/19 at 10:00 am.
- 2020 Annual Plan of Work (APOW) – Time to start updating your APOW for 2020. Deadline for submitting is 11/1/19.
- State Aid to Districts:
 - 2020 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance - Due 11/1/19, along with a signed hard copy of the Claim for Payment form. Funds will be dispersed in December 2019 and projects are to be completed by 12/31/2020.
 - 2019 Part B Performance Measures - Make sure your District is fulfilling obligations for meetings, training, training plans, etc., to be able to earn all the funds that will be available.
- Source Water Buffer Program: Request for applications (RFA) has been amended. The revisions include the following: allows SWCD's to choose between using Land Value Assessments and USDA NASS market values to determine the base price of the easement, adds Conservation Easement Incentive Payment options, increases the payment amounts available for these incentives and revises the Source Water Protection Multipliers to add value to the Conservation Easement. The template was also modified to add and clarify definitions. **The one-year timeline for applications submission has also been removed.** Applications will now be accepted on a continuing basis until available funds are expended or the RFA is closed.
- AEM Base Round 16: – documents available on SharePoint for the new two-year program, including an overview webinar recorded on 8/28/19. As a reminder, this Round will include two funding tracks 1) a Technical Assistance Track and 2) a new Tier 4 Cost-Share Implementation Track. Plans are due to the State Committee on 11/1/19
- Other Events:
 - NYACD Annual Meeting - 10/22-10/24/19 at the Hampton Inn located in Cazenovia, NY
 - 2019 Northeast Cover Crops Council Annual Meeting - 11/7 & 11/8/19 in Hyattsville, MD.

Allycia:

AEM:

- Tier 1
 - 8 Mailed back
- Tier 2
 - 6 Site Visits
- Tier 3a
 - 1 Grazing Plan finished- meeting with producer; Writing 1 Silvopasture Plan; Potentially writing 1 irrigation mgmt. plan; Need to add info to 2 already written irrigation plans
- Tier 5b
 - 4 Site Visits
 - Updating 2 Grazing Plans
- CAFO
 - Construction Visits
- Organic Maple
 - Sending Organic Maple application to Maple Producers; answering questions
 - Setting appointments to GPS lines
- AEM YR 16
 - Planning 2-year AEM program to start 1st of year.
 - Annual Action Plan (AAP) Due November 1st
 - Webinar on AEM Yr. 16
- High Tunnel Workshop – October 24, 2019 with Jud Reid and Paul Hetzler as speakers

NYS Grown & Certified:

- Meeting with Producers for Environmental Component (AEM) to become certified.
- New funding options coming out in Fall/Winter
 - Marketing Grant, Food Safety Grant, Environmental Plan Implementation Grant (AEM Plans)

Conservation in the Community: Fair- 8/6-8/8; State Fair 8/29; Ag District Hearing 9/5; Soil Samples

Pollinator Garden: Research on pollinator friendly flowers, purchased flowers, planted flowers. Working on Program/Workshop Plans for 2020

Training/Workshop:

- Irrigation Management Workshop in Cobleskill 8/13-8/15
- Ag Assessment/Ag District Workshop 8/22

Meetings: Met with CCE 7/31

Next Month

AEM:

- *AEM Yr. 16 AAP Due November 1st*
- Soil Your Undies Competition
- Plain Sect Newsletter
- GPS Main lines for Organic Maple Maps
- Finish Grazing and Irrigation Plan(s)
- Site Visits
- High Tunnel Workshop Flyer/Agenda

NYS Grown & Certified: Site Visits; Potential Grant applications

Training/Workshop: Conservation Skills 9/23-9/26

Environmental Education Foundation (EEF)- Call 10/7

Kristin:

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans and 3A training for Con Skills in September

Meetings/Trainings/Events

- Irrigation Training
- WQCC
- Franklin County Fair
- NYS Fair
- Planning con skills and symposium classes

Part B – 4 Forest Management Plans

- 2 plans complete, 2 other inventories complete working on plans

Part C - 2019 projects

- Proposals approved, working on schools that did not respond
 - 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 and water quality
 - P-Tech Malone – No response
 - Salmon River – Generator for Maple Operation (complete)
 - Saranac Lake – Tiered Garden and gardening supplies
 - St. Regis Falls – Raised beds/Composting
 - Tupper Lake – Macroinvertebrate sampling equipment and supplies
 - Invasive Species \$10,000 – Japanese knotweed inventory in Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake and EAB monitoring and surveillance
 - Allycia has been conducting monitoring and mapping of Japanese Knotweed and held a workshop
 - Sentinel trees are established, Devin monitored traps and found EAB in two traps, one in the Bombay State Forest and one on County Route 2 in Bombay. Lots of site visits with landowners wanting their trees looked at
 - River Sampling (previously Part B) \$7,000 – spring and fall sampling
 - Conservation in the Community \$14,000
 - Continuing to meet with landowners regarding forestry practice options, water kits, id books
 - 30 at home kits for Malone Middle School

Education (Workshops) \$10,000 (High Tunnel, Invasive Species)

- Chainsaw safety for municipalities

Rent and Utilities \$16,000

Soil Health

- 279.2 acres planted to date (only 150 acres left for fall cover crops)

Sea Grant NAACC Grant 2019

- Waiting on signed contract, assessments have begun 95 almost half complete

WQIP Round 12

- 93.5 miles complete (6.5 to go)

Next Month

- EAB Task Force 10/1/19, CWICNY, Con Skills Forest Management Plan reviews with landowners, timber inventories and marking, culvert assessments

Donna:

Weekly: Payroll and Deferred Compensation are submitted.

Monthly: NYS Taxes, NYS Retirement, Federal Taxes, board meeting notice, minutes from last meeting, reconciliation of bank accounts and preparation of Quick Book reports.

August:

- Continually updating our customer mailing list.
- Continually updating Quickbooks customer addresses, emails and telephone numbers.
- Assisted customers who come into our office.
- Answered the main phone line assisting people to the best of my ability or forward the call to the proper person who can assist them/
- Continually assist Chastity, Kristin and Allycia, whenever possible.
- I made bank deposits, whenever needed.
- I receipted in money received from customers through Quickbooks.
- Continually prepare for our next Board meeting.
- I assisted in the preparation of our quarterly newsletter.
- I assisted at our Franklin County Fair Booth on Kid's Day and I also assisted Chas at the Dairy Booth on the last Friday of the Fair.
- I took pictures of "Warning Signs" at the Sunset Farm in Burke.
- I have been updating the Secretary Manual.

September:

- Completed required monthly reports for the month of August
- Prepared for our board meeting on Tuesday, September 10th
- Ran mailing labels for our newsletter.
- Completed our Excellus Annual Group Information report.

Next month,

- I plan to assist Chas with the SLRWP program.
- I will be appointed administrator of our Face Book page and then send out weekly posts.
- At some point, I do plan on becoming a Notary Public.
- I plan to contact local schools to participate in 2020 Arbor Day Poster & Artwork Contest.
- I plan to continue gaining more knowledge in our office be much more helpful to everyone!!

5.) District Managers Report:

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Ag NPS Rd 24 Working on landowner contracts and both are in contact with engineers.
- Ag NPS Rd 25 – we submitted 4 applications. Hoping to hear in October.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 1

- CAFO: 33 – Constable- Under construction
- CAFO 35 - Chateaugay –Engineering and planning.
- CAFO 34 – Burke – closing out, need approval to pay. Ag & Markets to view on 9/12.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3

- Round 3 - Just received contract paperwork, signed and returned to the state.

CFA:

- WGIP- Hydroseeding (Chas)
- CFA WQIP Planning – Culvert Assessments & RRAMP (Kristin)
More than likely, we will not hear on these until December.

AG Land Protection

- We have many applicants now and Allycia is compiling them. Public Hearing was August 15th and public hearing was September 5th.

Other

- Rec Park is holding off implementing last years CFA while completing construction on main building with funding from Billy Jones' office.
- WQCC – Successful meeting on August 21st. Next meeting scheduled for October 1 at 6 p.m.
- ATV easement/planning- slowing down. Local group active and trying to help us do more. Next meeting October 16th at 1 p.m., 2nd floor conference room at the Court House.
- I was awarded and attended the NACD Annual Conference at Foxwood's on August 25th-28th. It was a great meeting and I was truly honored to attend. I was able to see what other states are doing and how they are doing it, along with creating connections and partnerships.
- I attended meeting with the Town of Malone and Brookfield Power and the focus of that meeting was to get permission to work within the area behind the McComb Dam, which Brookfield Power has the rights to. All involved are going to work together to work out solutions to the flooding issues.
- Franklin County Fair went great!! We had a lot of extra space this year and utilized it to set up more displays. Over 150 Remove a Tick kits and over 500 packages of mosquito dunks were handed out for free. Allycia did a fantastic grazing display and Kristin put together her tree contest again! Devin, Kristin and Andrew set up displays on many of our invasive species in our area. Great job done by all!
- Historical photos - many have been requested lately, mostly from tribal members looking to rectify their property boundaries with the tribe. This has been quite a challenge as part of the county does not have parcel boundaries that are available to the public or through Franklin County Real Property.

6.) **Correspondences:** 2 Grassroots, Albany Farm Bureau Newsletter, Adirondack Action,

7.) **New Business:**

- Part B -needs to be turned in on 11/1/19 - 2020 Conservation Project Financial Assessment Request
1st S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
- District Law Training – all present **completed** the training
- David Dunn - Chastity requested we plan a luncheon and present a gift to David who has served on the FCSW since 1999 and is giving up his spot as a member on our board. **All in favor.**
- Warren County SW – \$435.50 site visits for the CWICNY WQIP grant Invoice dated 7/30/19
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.
- Clinton County SW – MOU – AEM request to do Forestry work in Clinton County @ state AEM rate
1st S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
- Budget Work – Chastity let the board now that she is working on hiring a 5th staff member and will need board approval at the next meeting
- Mulch – Chastity requested \$6,600 to pay Page's Seed for mulch received
1st T. Derouchie, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
- Mulch (truck load) – Chastity requested we order a full truck load of mulch to replenish our stock/order now deliver in May. After discussion, it was approved to order but not to exceed \$14,000.
1st S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
- Con Skills Training – Chastity requested \$750 for Kristin/Allycia to attend.
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.
- High Tunnels Workshop – Chastity requested \$500 for this workshop
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
- Chainsaw Safety Training – Chastity requested \$6500 for this training
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
- CAFO Sunset – Chastity requested a maximum of \$192,938 to reimburse Sunset Farms as this job is complete and the paperwork has been submitted to the state, pending final state approval. NYS will return \$42,252.59. Ryan Cunningham is to visit the site on 9/12/19.
1st T. Derouchie, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
- Soil Probe Plunger – Chastity requested \$250

- 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd R. Childs, all in favor, **carried**.
- RCCP – Chastity requested the following for: Northwoods Forestry (\$1,000), Debra Wilkin (\$1,500), Stargo Dairy (\$4,584)
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd R. Child, S. Gokey abstained, all others in favor, **carried**.
- Intern – Chastity requested approval to hire an intern as a contractor at \$400 a week for 12 weeks.
This was **tabled** until more information is obtained and will be reconvened at a special board meeting, when that additional information is received.
- AEM Funding – Allycia discussed in length with all present at the board meeting, the AEM packet that was sent to all board members with their recent board notice information.
1st S. Gokey, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, **carried**.

8.) **Old Business:**

None

Next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. at the AG Service Center, Malone, NY

Meeting Adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager