

## FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Monday, January 19, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) via Zoom or speaker phone  
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

### Directors:

Bill Wood  
Ralph Child  
Steve Gokey  
Paul Lauzon  
Ed Lockwood

### Staff

Chastity Miller  
Ryan Cunningham  
Donna Wright  
Kristin Ballou  
Allycia Foote  
Christopher Ballou

1. Meeting began at 12:03 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

2. **Reports (Chastity):**

#### **NRCS**

FY 2020 EQIP Funding: setting up surveys, engineering to be completed over winter, projects to begin in the spring;

FY 2021 EQIP: 19 applications in Franklin County- (67 in Clinton, Essex and Franklin). Assessing/ranking ongoing.

Deadline March 12<sup>th</sup>. Tric is working with Kristin on Forestry applications to get them planned.

Ongoing projects: Manure storage in Burke is complete. Receptions pit and components to be completed this year.

WRE: Restoration is complete for Bombay project

Food Security Act: Continuing work on HEL/Wetland 1026's. Soil scientist changed plans/coming in Spring for the 569's

Administrative: Direct Hire Soil Conservationist position available in Malone. Go to USAjobs.gov for more info.

Work cell phone: **518-605-2508**

#### **FSA**

Agricultural Risk Coverage (ARC)/Price Loss Coverage (PLC)-Signup until 3/15/2021

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program- Deadline to obtain 2021 Coverage listed below:

February 1 - Greens, herbs & onions

March 15 - Spring seeded Vegetables & fruit, hops, sunflowers, etc.

Conservation Reserve Program-General sign-up ends 2/12/2021. CRP Grasslands runs from 3/15 to 4/23/2021

Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program-sign up ends 3/5/2021

Price Support Interest Rates for January 2021 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for January 2021 were given.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program 3-funding available with more info coming soon.

FSA-COVID-19 – FSA/NRCS-No producers allowed in office, assisting by phone, mail, fax and email.

#### **NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)**

Money for Part A & Part C looking really good

Suspension of In-Person Mtg Requirements- Governor extended suspension until 1/29/2021

#### **NYS SWCC News**

- 2020 State Aid to Districts: Due 2/15;
- SWCC Meeting: none scheduled for January;
- NYS Public Employer Emergency Planning: Gov. Cuomo signed legislation to include SWCD to create plans by 4/3/21 to protect workers in the event of another state disaster emergency involving a communicable disease.

#### **Other News/Events**

- Empire Chapter SWCC Annual Meeting: was held on 1/12;
- Open Meetings Law Training: was held on 1/14;
- AFT Presents Guide to Outcomes Estimation Tools: Tues, 1/26/2021 webinar "Guide to Water Quality, Climate, Social and Economic Outcomes Estimate Tools".

#### **Other Funding Options**

- Five Star & Urban Restoration Grant Program: \$1.5 million in grants nationwide for projects addressing ecological improvements, targeted community outreach, education and stewardship. Applications due 1/28/2021;
- Sustain our Great Lakes 2021 Funding: Restore/enhance habitat in Great Lakes basin. Pre-proposals due 2/16.

3. **Kristin (District Forester)**

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans: 5 inventories complete, working on plans, setting up 2021 inventories;
- Beginning implementation plans w/EQIP funding for 2 producers & implementation w/1 producer outside funding;
- Meeting with more producers with maple operations interested in this program;
- Assisting Clinton County SWCD with AEM Forestry.

#### Grants

- Sustain the Great Lakes

#### Meetings/Trainings/Events

- Sustain the Great Lakes webinar

Part B – 4 Forest Management Plans – contacting landowners for 2021 inventories

Part C - 2020 projects – will be reaching out in March to all involved with our School Funding Program

- EAB Monitoring and assessments – Plans for 2021 monitoring & contacting landowners in affected areas. Planning EAB TF meeting for early February.

Sea Grant NAACC Grant 2019 – 332 assessments complete –final report submitted, waiting on final closeout

WQIP NAACC –150 assessments completed to date; beginning to compile information collected into final report

#### **Allycia (District Technician):**

##### AEM:

- Tier 3a: 2 grazing plans (both Silvopasture);
- Tier 5a: meeting with producer to solidify Tier 3a planning;
- AEM Yr. 16 Grant:
  - 1 producer closed out, finished and paid;
  - 1 producer finished, waiting on receipts to start close out process;
  - 2 producers to start up projects again in spring (2 Grazing).
- AEM Rd 17 Grant: applications will be put together and sent out in the spring newsletter and board members are still eligible to participate.

NYS Grown & Certified: Still waiting to hear from the State as to who was awarded this grant. Water Quality Symposium will hold a NYS G&C class where future direction will be discussed.

Training/Workshop: 1/14-1/16 attended virtual Vermont Grazing & Livestock Conference, 1/26 will attend FACT: Grazing to Avoid Trouble webinar;

EEF meeting 1/11, next call in February.

#### **Christopher (District Technician)**

AEM: Attended site visits, forest inventories and assisted with forest management activities

WQIP Erosion Assessments: completed erosion assessments in Constable, Brandon and Bangor, currently working on Malone; 108 assessments completed to date for a total of 227.2 road miles. Erosion assessments to continue once snow is off roads. December quarterly report has been submitted.

Hydroseeder: is fixed and we hope to pick it up next Friday. Hoping the warranty will cover costs.

Hydroseeder/No-Till Policies: starting to work on these policies

Education/Workshops: Watched the following webinars: 8 Agricultural, 6 Stormwater, 10 Forestry and 2 Erosion

#### **Donna (Secretary to the Board).**

- Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly/Yearly–submit Payroll, Deferred Compensation; monthly NYS Tax, Federal Tax, NYS Retirement; Quarterly NYS Tax, Federal Tax, Worker's Compensation Report and all Yearly required reports  
December 21st-January 19th
  - Prepare for Board Meeting-reports, mailings, type minutes, post minutes to website;
  - Reconcile bank accounts/scan to FC offices;
  - Add/update mailing list, update Secretary manual;
  - Assist customers and staff as needed;
  - Make regular bank deposits, post all Quickbook entries;
  - Entering Tree Sales as received;
  - Processed W-2's, W-3, 1099's, Hourly Report, Part A with Chas;
  - Several water questions received/answered;
  - Continuing to follow COVID guidelines;
  - Preparing to do Treasurer's Report;
  - 2021 Tree Sale/Newsletter to be mailed out this week.

4. Current Chairman Bill Wood transferred the meeting over to Chastity at 12:20 p.m.  
Chastity opened the floor for the election of officers.
  - Chairman: Bill Wood  
nominated by 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon; Bill Wood abstained, roll call held, all in favor, **carried**.
  
5. Chastity transferred the meeting over to the newly nominated Chairman, B. Wood at 12:22 p.m. to continue the election of officers.
  - Vice Chairman: Ralph Child  
nominated by: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, R. Child abstained, roll call held, all in favor, **carried**.
  - Treasurer: Thomas Derouchie  
nominated by: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> B. Wood, roll call held, all in favor, **carried**.
  - Secretary to Board/FOIL officer: Donna Wright appointed by Chairman B. Wood.
  
6. November 30, 2020 board meeting minutes – Discussed and Approved  
1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.  
December 21, 2020 board meeting minutes – Discussed and Approved  
1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**.
  
7. **Financial Reports (Donna):**  
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:  
1<sup>st</sup> E. Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon; all in favor, **carried**.  
Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved  
1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon; all in favor, **carried**.  
Transfer of Funds: were reviewed and approved for the following:  
Requested permission to transfer the following for the month of November:
  - \$342.75 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement;
  - \$1,500.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings,
 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Child, all in favor, **carried**.
  
8. **District Managers Report: (Chastity)**  
Chastity highlighted accomplishments of 2020  
Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants
  - Round 24, 16-1– Still working on plans.
  - Round 24, 16-2– Project doing great! Storage is done working on transfer.
  - Round 25, 16-3 – All set to go, need contract signatures from LO.
  - Round 25, 16-1 – 2020 good, made request for 65% of year 1 cover crop \$, made payments to landowners
  - Round 26 –projects are ranked unable to announce/Governor is holding all grant awards until further notice
    - Barnyard and Manure Storages in Dickinson,
    - Cover Crops,
    - Barnyard in North Bangor

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 1 - CAFO 35 – All complete and paid out!  
CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 - All ready to go, waiting on construction.  
WQIP Planning – Culvert Assessment & RRAMP got contracts from NYS DEC culvert surveying has begun!  
CWICNY WQIP Grant: working w/CWICNY on grant for implementation of Non-Ag projects within Lk Champlain Basin in 5 counties. We are the grant administration. We are waiting on 1 payment (#4), just submitted payment #5  
FCRTA- working on ATV easements/planning & we've found a way across Rt 11. Still working on GEIS.  
SLRWP- plan almost complete! Final document is at DOS for review. Waiting on amendments to complete & payments to be made on 2 bills. Putting together add'l & final billing.  
FSCWSC Office- closed to the public until 1/25/2021! Meetings by appointments.
  
9. **Correspondences**: Grassroots January 2021 Edition, Schuyler Cty SWCD 2020 Annual Report, FC Legislature letter dated 1/8/2021 appointing Edward Lockwood and Paul Lauzon to our Board, NYACD 2021 Assessment invoice
  
10. **New Business**:  
-Chastity requested scheduling training for board and staff  
Discussed and approved Sexual Harassment training/District Director Responsibilities date to be determined

- Chastity told the board that annual reports are still in progress
- Chastity stated that Training Plans (Board & Manager – all sign) will be mailed to each of them when complete
- Chastity brought up for discussion the FCSWCD policies for any possible changes  
Discussed and approved the Permit Fee policy hourly rate change will be amended from \$40/hr to \$50/hr and the Funding Opportunity through AEM Program policy has a last name change from Leach to Foote.  
1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**;
- Chastity requested the following appointments for staff:  
Kristin-CWICNY President  
Chastity-SLRWP, President  
EEF- Chastity and Allycia  
NYSCDEA-Chastity and Kristin  
Chastity-National Environthon  
Chastity-WQ Chair  
Discussed and approved 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**.
- Donna requested \$820.00 for Water Kits/American Water Services  
Discussed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> R. Child, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**;
- Donna requested approval to transfer \$12,646.49 from Checking to CWICNY  
when money is received for services provided/request #5  
Discussed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**;

11. **Old Business:** None

12. Paul Lauzon thanked all staff/board members for all their hard work and dedication. He was honored and very proud to be a part of our board.

13. Bill thanked Ed and Paul, both sitting on our board as appointed Franklin County Legislators, for all they do for us. He also thanked everyone for all that has been done throughout this difficult and hectic year!

14. **Next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 23, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

15. Meeting Adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller  
Secretary / District Manager