

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)

FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

## Directors:

Ralph Child  
Paul Lauzon  
Thomas Derouchie  
Dennis Egan  
Justus Martin  
Steve Gokey

## Staff

Chastity Miller  
Donna Wright  
Devin Normandeau  
Kristin Ballou

1. Meeting began at 11:59 a.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by R. Child, Vice Chair
2. Meeting was called into Executive Session at 12:00 p.m. by R. Child, Vice Chair to discuss Personnel Matters  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried.
3. Meeting was taken out of Executive Session at 12:13 p.m. by R. Child, Vice Chair  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, carried.
4. Resolution discussed, accepted and approved RE: Bill Wood's resignation as Chairman of our Board for FCSWCD effective February 29, 2024 at 5pm.  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, carried.  
Roll Call Vote: T. Derouchie-yes, S. Gokey-yes, P. Lauzon-yes, D. Egan-yes, J. Martin-yes and R. Child-yes, all in favor, carried.
5. Resolution to discuss, accept and approve Personnel Report:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, carried.
6. March 4, 2024, Board meeting minutes corrected item #5 – to reflect the correct Board member's name who seconded the motion to be P. Lauzon, not D. Egan - Discussed and approved.  
Motion: S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried
7. **Financial Reports (Donna):**  
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon; all in favor, **carried**.  
Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin, 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:
  - \$ 217.66 from Reg Checking to Trust/Agency account - monthly employee retirement (February 2024)
  - \$ 261.96 from Reg Checking to Trust/Agency account - monthly employee retirement (March 2024)
  - \$ 6,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (March, April and May 2024)
  - \$ 20,000.00 from Reg Checking to Building Funds
  - \$ 20,000.00 from Reg Checking to Disaster acct.
  - \$ 20,000.00 from Reg Checking to Unemployment act
  - \$ 20,000.00 from Reg Checking to Insurance acct.
  - \$ 25.00 from Reg Checking to SLRWP Funds (Maintain activity to avoid fees)
  - \$ 25.00 from Reg Checking to FC Rec Trails acct. (Maintain activity to avoid fees).Motion to accept: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan; all in favor, **carried**.
8. **Reports (Chastity):**  
**NRCS** – None provided this month  
**FSA**  
Disaster Designation: Emergency loans available through 3/25/2025 as FC received an Administrator's Physical Loss designation for damages caused by heavy January 2024 winds  
Dairy Margin Coverage Prg: 2024 enrollment runs through 4/29; retroactive to 1/1/24  
Farm Storage Facility Loans: low interest financing to help build or upgrade storage facilities and to purchase portable (new/used) structures, equipment and storage and handling trucks. Contact FSA for details.  
Conservation Reserve Program: Deadline is 7/31

Emergency Relief Program (EERP 2022) – deadline has not been announced. Contact FSA for details.  
Price Support Interest Rates & Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for April 2024 were given.

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

### NYS SWCC News

- New Water Quality Prg. Mgr. Jason Kokkinos, new Assoc. Environmental Analyst for SWCC Water Quality Prg!
- April SWCC meeting: 4/16 10:30 AM in person in Utica, NY
- AEM 18 T4 Cost Share Track Project Pkgs due 5/1/24: upload T4 CS Track project pkgs to AEM18 SharePoint folder and email your AEA and Greg Albrecht to let us know they are complete and ready for review
- NYS SWCC On-Demand Conservation Approval Authority: training videos available for Dist Techs
- Interim Reporting: for AgNPS contracts (Rd 21 & Rd 23), CAFO WSTSP (Rd 1 & 2), CRF (Rd 1- Rd 4) must be submitted by 5/1/24
- New NYS Grants Mgmt System: reminder – 1/16 NYS transitioned from Grants Gateway to SFS (NYS government's accounting & financial mgmt. system used to manage contracts and payments)
- AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2024: Application deadline 5/15/24
- 2024 NYS Envirothon Call for Volunteers: to be held on 5/22 & 5/23/24 at Cortland State University needs volunteers. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMFLrYPXZkYXm7qMQABYrUCCb7jYjR5nzi7Mx9Mu-6MKSzqg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

### Other Events

- 2024 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: May 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, in Saratoga, NY  
<http://www.wetlandsforum.org/registration.html>
- CREP In-field Eligibility Training: Otsego Cty 5/2, Tioga Cty 5/9 & 5/20, Jefferson Cty 5/29 and Monroe Cty 5/30. Complete form by 4/22. <https://forms.gle/7k5xcgTCedQncA849>
- Silvopasture Field Course: Essex Cty SWCD hosting Field Day 5/4, 8:30AM – 3PM, To register, please contact Renee Clark at the Essex SWCD (518) 962-8225 or [rcclark@essexcountyswcd.org](mailto:rcclark@essexcountyswcd.org). Cost is \$20/person (lunch/ refreshments provided).
- GLAA Sub-Basin Work Group Meetings:  
Southeast (SE) Lake Ontario: 4/23, 1-4PM Cayuga County SWCD, Office, 7413 County House Road Auburn, NY  
NE Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River: 4/24, 1-4PM Gouverneur Comm Ctr, 4673 NY-58, Gouverneur, NY 13642  
SW (SW) Lake Ontario: 5/8, 1-4PM Rm 213 Chili Community Center, 3237 Chili Avenue, Rochester, NY 14624  
Lake Erie: 5/9, 9AM–12PM in Rm 108, Appletree Business Park, 2875 Union Rd, Cheektowaga, NY 14227

### Other Funding

- Great Lakes Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Prg: applications due 4/29/24 by 5PM EST
- NYSP21 2024-2025 Community Grants Prg: applications due by 5/3/24 5PM

## **Kristin (District Forester)**

### AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans – 3 more remaining based on 2022 data.
- Continuing implementation of plans with EQIP funding for producers
- Assisting Clinton Cty SWCD w/ AEM Forestry-1 more to complete based; Draft sent to landowner, will complete billing to Clinton Cty SW CD, 2 more plans scheduled for 2024-25
- LCBP Covered Barnyard Project – POW submitted, waiting for contract and next steps to begin
- Warren Cty AEM – Assisting w/development of AEM Forestry Prg

Part B - 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – 2024 – 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – landowners selected based on application date

Part C - 2023 projects – Notices sent to all school districts with applications due 3/28.

- Brushton Moira Ctrl – Applied for funding to further support FFA Maple operations – Completed & Paid.
- Chateaugay Ctrl – Applied for funding for pumpkin patch to provide pumpkins to all students.
- Malone Ctrl – 1<sup>st</sup> app: St. Joseph's Elem. applied for funding for greenhouse, shelving, trays, etc to start plants & to grow them in the winter; 2<sup>nd</sup> app: applied for funding to support Farm to School Prg enhancement
- Salmon River Ctrl - Funding to add heat to high tunnel to extend growing season.
- Saranac Lake Ctrl – App #1: funding to continue working w/VIC educator to conduct winter ecology lessons w/students at HS campus (app'd); App #2: funding to support Farm to School Prg enhancements.

2024 Tree Sale –complete.

## **Devin (District Technician)**

### AEM

- Tier 1: 1 completed
- Tier 2: 1 completed
- Tier 3a: 1 Farmstead Plan
- Tier 4: AEM projects – closed out and paid

- AEM Rd 18: Meeting with farmers to discuss funding, plans and cost estimates  
Ag Assessments – just a few at the beginning of March

**Donna (Secretary to the Board)**

- Continue performing office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Updating Secretary Manual and all folders as I work on them;
- Still working w/our Ins Co. on renewal binder and obtaining Certs of Liab Ins for customers using No Till Drill and billing customers
- Processed 176 Tree Sales and working on Tree Sale Summary

9. **District Managers Report: (Chastity)**

New Billings:

- RRAMP & Forest Rds #2 – will be billing \$96-98,000
- CAFO Rd 3 – billed 65% \$239,239

Outstanding Billings:

- LCBP \$10,000
- AEM Yr 18 Tech Assistance \$ 54,965

Completed Billings and Payments received:

- AEM Yr 17 Tech Asst, Implementation and Soil Samples
- Rd 25 Stargo/Poppydale
- Rd 26 Egan/Staib
- Rd 25 Monica

Applications Submitted:

- Lake Champlain Basin Workforce Development – Did not get funded
- NYSDOS Grant for culvert replacement in St Lawrence River Watershed – should hear in October

Current Grant Updates:

- Rd 24 (manure storage) working on bids for summer construction, extension approved
- Rd 27 (barnyard, manure storage, silage leachate) working on estimates for summer construction
- Rd 28 (barnyard, manure storage) hoping to build barn this summer, then implement project. 4/22 inspected site w/NYSDEC. Hoping for forgiveness on consent order
- CAFO 3 (satellite storage) bids received; project was awarded, construction should start soon.
- CRF Rd 8 (Soil Health/10 producers) waiting on contract
- AEM Yr 18 contract received, billed 25% technical portion, need to identify projects so we can bill for implementation money.
- NYSDEC WQIP Culverts will work with intern to complete project
- NYSDEC WQIP Hydroseeding some complete; will work with intern & new tech to implement this project
- LCBP Organizational Grant for CWICNY complete/waiting for payment

Potential Grant Applications:

- Salt Storage for Towns of Constable, Burke and Westville. CFA/WQIP

Intern & Dist Tec Applications: 3 Intern and 7 Tech apps received; Compiled database

Envirothons: Local Envirothon 4/25, State Envirothon May 22-23, International Envirothon July 28-August 3<sup>rd</sup>

FC Snowmobile & Rec: organizing GPS files for Phase 1, mapping trails for an updated trail map, planning 4/15 mtg to transfer over the 501c3.

Collecting Water Samples in Bombay area (Salt, Barium and Arsenic) C. Miller and J. Martin are conducting.

10. **Correspondences:** Chemung Cty SWCD 2023 Annual Report of Activities, NYACD \$1500 Assessment invoice, FC Cornell Coop Ext letter dated 3/20/24 requesting 4-H sponsorship

11. **New Business:**

- Board discussed two (2) CD rates received from 2 local banking institutions - Community Bank & SeaComm for Grants we are holding- then, Board approved to accept SeaComm- 9-month CD rate at 4.5%:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan: 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried – Yes
- Board approved to transfer \$25,000.00 from Regular Checking Acct. to a 4.5% 9-month CD @ SeaComm:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon: 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, carried – Yes
- Board approved to purchase new Laptop, not to exceed \$1,500.00:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey: 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried – Yes
- Board approved to pay from Pt C -, School Asst the following:  
Chateaugay Central School, up to \$2,000.00  
Salmon River Central School, up to \$2,000.00

Saranac Lake Central School up to \$1,000.00

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon: 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried – Yes

- Board approved to pay Device Magic \$1,728.00 (RRAMP & Forest Rds):

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin: 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, carried – Yes

- Board approved for the AEM Yr 18 Implementation Project list that Devin discussed (attached):

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey: 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried – Yes

- Board approved for up to \$500.00 for upcoming 2024 Workshops/Fair:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin: 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, carried – Yes

- Board approved up to \$2,000.00 for the 2024-2025 Trident Insurance Policy (King Clark working on it):

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon: 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried – Yes

- Board approved resolution to recognize and thank Bill Wood for 26 plus years of service to our Board, staff & taxpayers, after Donna Wright, Secretary to the Board read her letter praising and thanking Bill for all he has done for the All. P. Lauzon stated that the FC Bd of Legislators plan to recognize Bill and he would be glad to combine our FCSWCD recognition with the FC Board of Legislators recognition:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon: 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, carried – Yes

- Board approved Jonathan Cheney's total roof bin in the amount of \$9,880.00, proper insurance needed (total of 8 bids were received) :

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan: 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, carried – Yes

- Board approved to send a response letter to Franklin County for the SEQRA request for Franklin County to be lead agency for the Franklin County Multi-Use Recreational Trail System:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey: 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried – Yes

12. **Old Business:** Chas stated that she appreciates all everyone does and thanked all present. Paul said he was honored to work on the Board and that this District is very impressive, dedicated and all will be supportive as we move forward.

13. **Next meeting will be on Tues, May 14, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

14. **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:38 PM

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller  
Secretary / District Manager