

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)  
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

## **Directors:**

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

## **Staff**

Ryan Cunningham, NYS Ag & Markets  
Kristin Ballou  
Devin Normandeau  
Chelsea Cash, FCSWCD Dist Cons Student Aide  
Hannah Manchester, FCSWCD Dist Cons Student Aide

1. Meeting began at 12:00 PM - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by R. Child, Chair
2. July 23, 2024, Board meeting minutes – Discussed, one revision made, then approved.  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried
3. **Financial Reports (Kristin/as Donna was out sick):**  
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey; all in favor, **carried**.  
Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan; all in favor, **carried**.  
Transfer of Funds: were reviewed and approved for the following:  
Requested permission to transfer the following:
  - \$ 367.05 from Reg Checking to Trust/Agency account - monthly employee retirement (June 2024)
  - \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (Aug 2024)
  - \$ 251.00 from Reg Checking to No Till (June 2024)
  - Motion to accept: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin; all in favor, **carried**.
4. **Reports:**  
**NRCS**  
FY 2024 EQIP-
  - Approved for NE2: 15 Wildlife, 8 Forestry, 1 Farmstead, 1 Grazing, 1 Energy (all signed / sent to Area Office for obligation).
  - EQIP Act Now - High Tunnel participants beginning construction: 12 High Tunnels/2 Forest Mgmt Plans.FY 2024 CSP – 11 Forestland/2 Agland; All contracts signed / sent to Area Office for obligation.  
FY 2025 – 127 active contracts, 58 new applications currently (includes SCP and EQIP applications).  
Tricia LaValley is now serving as Permanent District Conservationist for Northeast 2 Team (Franklin, Clinton and Essex Counties). She is stationed in the Plattsburgh field office but plans to be in Malone one a week. Feel free to reach out anytime! (Work Cell:518-605-2508).

**FSA** – none provided this month

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

### **NYS SWCC News**

- NYS SWCC Seeking Candidates for At Large Urban, Suburban, Rural non-farm Interest Voting Member Position
- Upcoming NYS SWCC Meeting – Sept 17<sup>th</sup> 10AM
- CAFO-Enhanced Nutrient & Methane Mgmt Prg - \$14M available; applications must be submitted by 10/28-5PM 4
- 2025 Annual Plan of Work – time to start updating for 2025. Deadline for submittal to AEA is 11/1

### **Other Events**

- 2024 NY Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Day – 8/15 Peru, NY; 8/19 Long Island, NY
- 2024 ConSkills – 9/23-9/26, Auburn, NY (Holiday Inn) Registration deadline: 9/2/24
- 2024 SWCD Admin Forum – Saratoga Springs, NY 11/18-19<sup>th</sup> – more info to follow

## **Funding Opportunities**

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – Forest Restoration – US Forest Service anticipating \$5.2M. Competitive funding awarded based on applications received by 9/18/24.  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898819>

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Cooperative – Weed Mgmt – US Forest Service anticipating \$1M. Competitive funding awarded based on applications received by 9/18/24.  
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898821>

### **Kristin (District Forester)**

#### **AEM**

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans – 1 more remaining based on 2022 data.
- Continuing implementation of plans with EQIP funding for producers – 2 projects to mark
- Assisting Clinton Cty SWCD w/AEM Forestry -1 more to complete, billed CL Cty SWCD, 2 more sch'd 2024-25
- LCBP Covered Barnyard Project - Engineer secured, press release submitted, working on contractor bids, qtlly. report and billing submitted.

Part B - 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – 2024 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – contractor working on inventories

Part C - 2024 projects – All that were approved are completed and paid out for 2024

### **Devin (District Technician)**

#### **AEM**

Tier 1 =1, Tier 2 =1, Tier 3 = 1 Prescribed Rotational Grazing Plan

Soil Sampling: 155 Acres

AEM Yr 18 Tier = 4 Projects: (#'s1,3,4,5,6,9 not started), #2-Fence posts in, #7-Tile Drainage done, needs to be planted, #8-Well drilled, some ground work done.

#### **AgNPS**

Rd 24, 16-1 Oakes - floor poured, walls will be poured soon

Rd 27 Trumble

CAFO Papa's Dairy Manure Storage monitoring - Contacted engineer

No Till - used once

### **District Interns (Chelsea/Hannah)**

Chelsea and Hanna have assisted with several projects to include: NCF assistance, FC Fair, site visits, soil sampling, workshops/summer programs/attended some meetings, project monitoring, data entry, hydroseeding and several other projects! They both have been very busy and a huge asset this summer! Thank you, ladies!

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

- Continue performing office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Maintain all financial records, along with managing payroll and Federal/State taxes, along with processing all NYS Retirement payments and NYS Deferred Comp payments.
- Complete daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly financial reports, along with my daily tasks.
- Complete all daily banking needs and monthly bank reconciliations.

5. **Correspondences**: NYACD \$1500 Assessment invoice, District 2024 Summer Edition newsletters from Ontario & Washington SWCD, Franklin County Farm Bureau News, 2023 NACD Financial Report, 7/31/24 letter from LSL.

6. **New Business**:

Board approved **to place an AD in Brushton Moira Ctrl Sch yearbook (1/4 pg @ \$90)**:

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

Board approved **for FCSWCD to assist Franklin County w/review of applications & close out of materials for Septic Prq Grant**:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey: 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, P. Lauzon & J. Martin abstained, all in favor, carried

Board **(TABLED until our AEA provides more guidance) to approve to advertise for open FCSWCD Board Member position/need 5 or 7- member board**:

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

Board **(TABLED until Dist Mgr is hired) to approve to advertise for FCSWCD District Technician position, starting pay, application due date, County Restrictions y/n**:

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

Board **(TABLED until Dist Mgr is hired) to approve to pay NYACD \$1500 Assessment (allowing Bd member voting rts. at 10/21-10/22 NYACD annual mtg in Penn Yan, if anyone attends**:

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

Board **approved to transfer \$500.00 from checking to Lk Champlain Basin Ag Acct (from NEIWPCB)**

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

Board approved **to pay \$200 per hr to auditors (Chris Zera, Associate of Roger J. Lis., CPA) to review financials before end of year, planning 9/12/24 for 4 hours**:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan: 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried

Board approved **to pay Endyne \$6,000.00 from PtC for "River Sampling"**:

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

Board approved **to pay NYSLRS Annual Invoice in the amount of \$24,085 by December 15, 2024 :**

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

Board approved **the 2025 mowing season to Scott's Lawn Care in the amount of \$2,500.00:**

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan; 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried

Board approved **pay Shelter Point (annual Disability Insurance) \$345.05:**

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

Board approved **to have D. Normandeau sell our old survey equipment on Auction International:**

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan; 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried

Board **approved K. Ballou to sign "Smart Growth" grant contract:**

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

Board approved to:

- **Transfer from RRAMP & Forest Rds 1 to Checking acct to pay the following:**
- **Warren Cty SWCD \$4,087.34 Town of Hague/Wardsboro Rd**
- **Town of Hartsford (Washington Cty) \$34,500.00 Hastings Rd Culvert**

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan; 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried

Board **TABLED until next month (need more information) to winterize window/wall/entryway, no more than \$500.00:**

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

Board approved **to pay H. Manchester (Summer Consv Aide) 16 hrs OT @ 1½ times reg. rate of pay, totaling 25 hrs total:**

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

Board approved to **reimburse K. Ballou \$354.43 (529 miles @\$0.67 for mileage) and pay tolls paid, when I received receipts :**

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

Board approved to **reimburse D. Normandeau \$45.17, Tire Recycling Event pizza/water purchase:**

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan; 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried

Board approved to:

- **Transfer from RRAMP & Forest Rds 1 to Checking acct \$34,500.00**
- **Pay Town of Franklin(Goldsmith Rd) \$15,700.00**
- **Pay Town of Franklin (Alder Brook Park Rd) \$18,800.00**

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Dennis; 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried

Board approved **to begin CRF Contract, currently delayed:**

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, S. Gokey & D. Egan abstained, all other members in favor, carried

Board approved to:

- **begin LCBP/CWICNY Cover Crops contract, currently delayed**
- **and to use PtC money, to reimburse landowner and wait for payment:**

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

7. **Old Business:**

2:10PM The Board went into Executive Session to discuss Personnel matters

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan

2:30 PM The Board came out of Executive Session

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey

8. **Next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

9. **Meeting Adjourned** at 2:30 PM - Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, carried

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Wright  
DistrictSecretary