

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood Justus Martin
Ralph Child Paul Lauzon
Steve Gokey
Dennis Egan

Staff

Chastity Miller
Kristin Ballou
Donna Wright
Devin Normandeau
Mitchell Miletich

1. Meeting began at 12:00 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood, Chair
2. March 27, 2023 Board meeting minutes – Discussed and approved
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, carried.
April 18, 2023 Board meeting minutes – Tabled until next meeting for proper quorum approval
May 16, 2023 Board meeting minutes – Discussed and approved
Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, carried.
3. **Financial Reports (Donna):**
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd R. Child; all in favor, **carried**.
Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved
Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey; all in favor, **carried**.
Transfer of Funds: were reviewed and approved for the following:
Requested permission to transfer the following:
 - \$ 270.38 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (June 2023)
 - \$ 300.36 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (July 2023)
 - \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (June 2023)
 - \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (July 2023)Motion: 1st J. Martin, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, **carried**.
4. **Reports (Chastity):**
NRCS – None provided this month

FSA
Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) - Applications for reimbursement runs through 10/31
Organic Dairy Marketing Assistance Program (ODMAP) – Signup through 8/11
Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – Deadlines: Garlic 9/1, Christmas Trees/Floriculture 9/30 and Hay/Small grains 9/30
2023 Acreage Reporting – Deadline extended to 8/16
Price Support Interest Rates for August 2023 were given
Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for August 2023 were given
FSA office is open with staff present to assist by phone, email or in person

NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan) (Reports for June, July and August were provided)
NYS SWCC News
 - State Aid to Districts Forum – will be held 8/16 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
 - 2024 Annual Plan of Work – Time to update. Deadline to submit to AEA is 11/1
 - SWCC Operations Sub-Committee – SWCC is preparing to re-establish the Operations Sub-Committee with anticipation of the first meeting to occur in the Fall of 2023
 - SWCC August Meeting – not meeting in August/will reconvene in September
 - SWCC CAA Training – Basic conservation practices are being updated and transferred to YouTube. Hydrology, Culverts and Fence courses are all updated, with more on the way.
<https://www.youtube.com/@nysdepartmentofagriculture9462/playlists>

- Status of Existing Contracts – all contracts between the State of NY and SWCD's must be closed out in a timely manner.
- Reminder, Applications are Taken on a Rolling Basis – the following NY AGM funding opportunities accept applications on a rolling basis:
 - Source Water Buffer Program - ~\$5M to support the purchase of conservation easements and the implementation of buffer systems
 - Rd 19 of Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Program – Agricultural Easement Projects – <https://agricultural.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0294-farmland-protection-implementation-grants-round-19-agricultural>
- Director Training – Regional AEA is available to present training modules to Bd of Directors

Other Events

- 2023 NY Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Field Days – registration now live for the following events: Miner Institute on 8/16, Penn Yan on 8/24 and LeRoy on 8/31
- 2023 Conservation Skills Workshop - September 18th - 21st in Auburn

Other Funding Options

- 2023 NACD Northeast Regional Conference - September 17th – 20th Portland, ME
- Regenerate NY Forestry Cost Share Grant Program – Applications for Rd 3 due 10/6
- Consolidated Funding Application Requesting Proposals – Rd XIII of CFA is open and applications are requested by 8/11
 - Water Quality Improvement Project Program – <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>
 - Non-Ag Nonpoint Source Planning and MS4 Mapping Grant – <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/116725.html>
- Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants - ~175M available. Proposals must be received by 10/16 <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants>

Kristin (District Forester)

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans - working on plans over the coming months based on 2022
- Continuing implementation of plans with EQIP funding for 3 producers
- Meeting with more producers with maple operations interested in this program;
- Assisting Clinton County SWCD w/ AEM Forestry-1 more to complete based on 2022; met w/another on 5/5
- AEM 17 Impl Projects - working with producers to complete projects; 2 complete, 3 in progress, 1 waiting

Part B - 2023 4 Forest Management Plans

Part C - 2023 projects - School Funding Program

- ADK Education - Maple sugaring equipment (complete/reimbursed)
- Brushton – 1 app submitted for Add'l grow towers for farm to school program (complete/reimbursed)
- Chateaugay - Expanding raised beds and growing capacity; (complete/reimbursed)
- Malone Central - handouts (not funded under Sch Ass't; funded through Cons in Comm) and raised beds/materials to establish gardening club at St. Joe's Elem (complete/reimbursed)
- Saranac Lake - Outdoor learning, water quality monitoring, macro-invertebrate sampling/ID-. (complete/reimbursed)

Devin (District Technician)

AEM

Soil Sampling – 288 acres

- Tier 1: 1 completed
- Tier 2: 1 completed – Irrigation site visit (St. Lawrence County)
- Tier 3a:
 - 2 Farmstead Plans – both applied for AgNPS
 - 1 Grazing Plan – Implementation AEM Rd 18
 - 1 Silvopasture Plan – Implementation AEM Rd 18 – Cover Crop Planning Tool – 4 completed
- Tier 4: 3 Projects left to close out
 - Grant 4 – finish laneway
 - Grants 2, 3, & 5 - Still working

Part C - Soil Health Workshop held on 7/28

AgNPS Rd 29 – Cover crop grant – 11 farms and 2 Covered barnyards

CRF – Cover crop grant – 11 farms

No-Till Used in June for AEM Tier 4 Implementation

Conservation in the Community – 2 Stream Table presentations and Agricultural Safety Days at BMCSO

Mitchell (District Intern)

Conservation in the Community – Stream table talk at Malone Elementary Schools

Invasive Insect Monitoring –

○ 10 traps monitored across northern part of Franklin County w/1 positive for Emerald Ash Borer in Bangor

Hydroseeding – Farm ditch experiencing erosion was hydroseeded

NACC – Creek assessed in Whippleville where culvert had blown out

Part B – Forest inventory completed and Forest Mgmt plan is being developed

Part C – Assisted and attended Soil Health Workshop`1

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Continue to perform office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Have been working on several things for our new office location.

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

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– extension approved, getting estimates.
- Round 25, 16-3 – Estimates received.
- Round 25, 16-1 – closeout in process.
- Round 26 – Year 2 complete, planning for Year 3.
- Round 27 – Got contract! Working on LO contracts. Whole plan implementation.
- Round 28 – Got contract and LO signatures. Barnyard and Manure pit.
- Round 29 – Submitted 6 applications, Soil health for 1,320 AC, Satellite Manure pit, Clean water exclusion and 3 barnyards.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 – Received; engineering working on bids.

CRF Rd 7 Applications – planning at least 2, maybe 3. Devin, Kristin and Chas worked on them and are planning, awaiting it coming out. Approved at last board meeting.

AEM Yr 17 – Third project well underway; 3 for this construction season. Devin's working on applications for next round and planning his attack.

Ag District – opt in period is completed. Hearing is August 17th.

Fair – AEM display, Invasive Species, Soil Health, Ticks and Mosquitos

Solar Farms – Seeing more Notice of Intents

Intern – Hired intern for summer who has assisted with many programs and projects. Mitchell has been amazing!

Hydroseeding – Lots done across Franklin County and in St. Lawrence County

St. Lawrence Cty SWCD – They have a new District Manager and Secretary and we have assisted them some.

6. **Correspondences:** NYS LTAP Ctr, Cornell Local Rds. Prg-2023 Work Zone Equip Pkg, NYACD letter dated 5/31/23, FC Coop Ext letter dated 6/2/23, NYACD 2023 Annual Mtg pkt, NACD Cons Investment, Broome Cty SWCD Summer 2023 Newsletter, Grassroots July/August 2023 Edition, Erie Cty SWCD Summer Newsletter

7. **New Business:**

- Bill Wood, Chair, expressed to the two FC Legislators who sit on our Board, gratefulness for the County's support in the recent purchase of our new office location. Dennis Egan, Board Member, also thanked them and stated the County's support assists us so we can move forward. All other Board Members/Staff expressed their appreciation for the County's support. Bd of Legislator, P. Lauzon stated that FCSWCD does so much for FC and the County was glad they were able to do it for us. He said he was honored to sit on our Board and emphasized that FCSWCD staff work very hard, he then stated Chastity never says no when asked to do anything! He also thanked all the Board Members for all volunteering.
- Board approved to **pay American Water Service, LLC, \$649.25 (50 Bacteria/25 Iron Hardness kits):**
Motion: 1st D. Egan; 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried.
- Board approved **to pay NYSLRS \$20,903 by 12/15/23 - Annual Estimated Employer Contribution:**
Motion: 1st S. Gokey; 2nd J. Martin, all in favor,

- Board approved **supporting upcoming Logger Rescue CPR, 1st Aid Workshops 8/21, 8/22 & 8/23, not to exceed \$7,000 (to be reimbursed under WDI Grant):**
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd J. Martin, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved **to pay the following invoices for the 2024 Tree Sale:**
 - **Alpha Nurseries (Deposit only), not to exceed \$3,000**
 - **Vermont Wildflower Farm, not to exceed \$2,000**
Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved to **pay Shelterpoint (Disability Ins.), not to exceed \$400:**
Motion: 1st S. Gokey, 2nd J. Martin, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved to **pay FC Treasurer – 2023 Worker’s Compensation, not to exceed \$3,500:**
Motion: 1st J. Martin, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved to **pay for 3 staff to attend ConSkills in September, not to exceed \$3,000:**
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved to **pay for 2 staff/1 Bd member to attend NYACD Annual Mtg in October, not to exceed \$2,000:**
Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved to **pay Quickbooks Plus Annual Subscription, not to exceed \$549:**
Motion: 1st J. Martin, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved to **override Sect 902 of Employee Handbook to comply w/NYS requirements and to adopt the updated Sexual Harassment Policy for All Employees in NYS, dated April 11, 2023:**
Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved **the purchase of BMP guides (\$15 x 20ea. +\$300, plus shipping), not to exceed \$350:**
Motion: 1st S. Gokey, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved **apply for Credit Card, once approved & received, cancel Debit cards for all staff:**
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd J. Martin, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved **to purchase signs for our new office location, not to exceed \$1,200:**
Motion: 1st S. Gokey, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, carried.
8. **Old Business:** none
9. **Next meeting will be on Tues, September 12, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) in our New location**
10. **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:48 p.m.
1st J. Martin, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager