

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

Regular Meeting – Monday, December 21, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) via Zoom or speaker phone  
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

### Directors:

Bill Wood  
Steve Gokey  
Paul Lauzon  
Ed Lockwood

### Staff

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

1. Meeting began at 11:58 a.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.
2. November 30, 2020 board meeting minutes were tabled as we did not have to proper Quorum present.
3. **Financial Reports (Donna):**  
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood; all in favor, **carried**.  
Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved, 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood; 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:
  - \$274.16 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> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
4. **Reports (Chastity):**  
**NRCS** -They are finishing a couple of construction projects. The office is closed until 1/4/2021.  
**Administrative-Work cell phone: 518-605-2508**

### **FSA**

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

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) -Signup through 12/31

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

December 31 - Honey & Maple Sap

February 1 - Greens, herbs & onions

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

Price Support Interest Rates for December 2020 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for December 2020 were given.

FSA-COVID-19 – FSA/NRCS-still at phase 1 of USDA re-opening plan. No producers allowed in office, assisting by phone, mail, fax and email.

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

Happy Holidays & Merry Christmas

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

NYS SWCC News:

- Performance Measures: you have the month of December to complete performance measures for Part C funding
- SWCC Meeting: was held on 12/15
- AEM 5 Year Strategy (2021-2025): Submit to State Committee anytime between now and 12/31/2020.

Other News/Events:

- Watershed Wednesday Webinar Series: mini webinar series every Wednesday in December at 9:30 a.m.  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87453133125> offered by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. Past webinars:  
<http://www.upperSusquehanna.org/usc/watershed-Wednesday/>
- International Joint Commission (IJC) Virtual News Conference: 2020 Triennial Assessment of Progress report released 12/10/2020. .
- WNY Soil Health Alliance Annual Meeting: held on 12/16/2020

- Great Lakes Action Agenda Collaborators Webinar: held on 12/17/2020.  
<https://www.ded.ny.gov/lands/91881.html>.
- Municipal Assistance Sub-Committee meeting: held on 12/16/2020

## 5. **Kristin (District Forester)**

### AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans – 7 completed, 5 inventories complete, working on plans, no more in 2020
- 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

- LCBP Education and Outreach Skidder Bridge Workshops Application
- 2020 LCBP NAACC Grant Applications – NOT funded

### Meetings/Trainings/Events

- CWICNY -nominated for the position of President
- Municipal Subcommittee Meeting
- WQS Planning Meeting

Part B – 4 Forest Management Plans – 4 inventories complete, 3 plans complete & signed by landowners, 1 plan complete and working with landowner on finishing touches

Part C - 2020 projects - complete

- EAB Monitoring and assessments – Plans beginning for 2021 monitoring & contacting landowners in affected areas. Virtual meeting with APHIS, USFS and other partners

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

WQIP NAACC –150 assessments completed to date; December 2020 quarterly report submitted

DEC Urban & Community Forestry Grant Rd 15: awarded to the Village of Malone and Kristin is working w/them.

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

AEM: 1 site visit with Kristin about AEM Forestry inquiry

- Tier 2 Site visit: a few site visits set up but were cancelled due to COVID
- Tier 3a: 1 grazing plan finished, 2 grazing plans to write (1 Silvopasture Plan, 1 Grazing)
- Tier 5a: Site visit for interest in AEM Rd 17 funding
- Tier 5b: 1 update finished
- AEM Yr. 16:AEM Rd 16 Interim Report finished and uploaded and attached
  - Billed for time \$22,003.00 (25%)
- AEM Yr. 16 Grant: No updates at this time
- AEM Strategy: No updates at this time

Training/Workshop: Continuing to work on CAA training and projects

Invasive Species Monitoring: We did not receive funding

AEM Assessments: working on Ag Assessments for the entire Town of Chateaugay

## **Christopher (District Technician)**

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

WQIP Erosion Assessments: 104 assessments completed to date in Constable, Brandon and Bangor; currently working in Malone. Will continue to assess while the weather is good.

Hydroseeder: is fixed and we hope to pick it up soon depending on the weather. Hoping the warranty will cover costs.

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

## **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
- October 26<sup>th</sup>-November 30<sup>th</sup> (additionally done)
  - 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

- Entered all 2021 Tree Sale items/5 invoices
- Submitted 2021 Dental/Vision paperwork, updated personnel forms, prepared new 2021 Timesheets
- Distributed FCSWCD policies to Bd Members for review/discussion at January Bd meeting
- COVID guidelines being followed in the office

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

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– Still working on plans.
- Round 24, 16-2– Project doing great! .
- 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 – Closed out/paid what we have/waiting on balance

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 - 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)

FCRTA- working on ATV easements/planning & we've found a way across Rt 11. Working on GEIS, almost complete.

SLRWP- plan complete! Waiting on completed amendments & pymts. on 2 bills. Putting together Add'l & final billing.

FSCWSC Office- closed to the public until 1/5/2021! Meetings by appointments.

7. **Correspondences**: Grassroots December 2020 Edition, thank you note/Donna, Lake Champlain Basin Program letter

8. **New Business**:

-Chastity requested up to **\$210.00** to pay National Business Technologies monthly invoice, not rec'd yet Discussed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**;

-Chastity requested **\$1,162.40** to purchase Paint for Forestry Discussed and approved 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**;

-Chastity requested to pay **\$27,583.96** CWICNY Billing #4 (Breakdown below), when payment is received.

Essex County SWCD	\$18,090.57
Warren County SWCD	\$ 2,602.40
Washington County SWCD	\$ 3,712.00
Clinton County SWCD	\$ 3,178.99

Discussed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> E. Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**;

-Chastity requested **\$500.00** for 2021 Tree Sale Advertising Discussed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> E. Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**;

-Chastity requested **\$200.00** for Ag Assessment Advertising, Discussed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> E. Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**;

-Chastity requested up to **\$1,500.00** to pay Vermont Wildflower Farm for 2021 Tree Sale Seeds, Discussed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

9. **Old Business**: None

10. **Next meeting** will be on **Monday, January, 19, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

11. **Meeting Adjourned** at 12:44 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