

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) via Zoom or speaker phone
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Ralph Child
Steve Gokey
Thomas Derouchie
Dennis Egan
Ed Lockwood
Paul Lauzon

Staff

Chastity Miller
Ryan Cunningham -NYS Ag & Markets
Donna Wright
Kristin Ballou
Allycia Foote
Christopher Ballou

1. Meeting began at 12:00 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Ralph Child.

2. January 10, 2022 Board Meeting minutes - Discussed and approved
1st S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon: all in favor, **carried**.

3. Financial Reports (Donna):

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:

1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey; all in favor, **carried**.

Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved

1st D. Egan, 2nd P. Lauzon; all in favor, **carried**.

Transfer of Funds: P. Lauzon were reviewed and approved for the following:

Requested permission to transfer the following for the month of November:

- \$ 285.95 from Reg Checking to T/A account for January 2022 employee retirement;
- \$2,000.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings (February 2022);

1st S. Gokey, 2nd E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**.

4. Reports (Chastity):

NRCS –

FY 2022 EQIP: Eligibility deadline was 1/28. Any producers missing paperwork now considered ineligible for this round of funding. Working through assessments & rankings over the next couple of months. Preapprovals expected early Spring.

Ongoing Projects: Farmstead project in Brandon plans to commence this Spring. Engineers still hammering out details for design. COVID relief money set aside for certain practices and the list of eligible practices is very limited to compensate for increased cost of materials over the past year

Food Security Act: Franklin County is up to date on all requests at this time. There is a new electronic system to complete HEL determinations, cutting down on the time it takes for each request.

Administrative: **Calling 518-605-2508 (work cell phone) to schedule an appointment is the best way to contact NRCS** as Tric is still carrying projects in all 3 counties and she may not be in the Malone office.

FSA

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC): Supplemental DMC & 2022 coverage open through February 18th

Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage: 2022 enrollment ends March 15th

Organic & Transitional Education & Certification Program (OTECP): signup deadline 2020/2021 extended to 2/4/22

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): Deadline to obtain 2022 crop coverage growing season:

February 1 - Greens, herbs, lettuce, onions and more

March 15 - Spring seeded fruits & vegetables, hops, sunflowers, forage sorghum and more.

Conservation Reserve Program: taking applications under Continuous CRP.

Price Support Interest Rates for January 2022 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for January 2022 were given.

FSA-COVID-19 – FSA is open and still assisting by phone, mail, fax and email.

Agency guidelines allow for in-person appts. with one producer in the office at a time (masked), however the front door is locked.

NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)

NYS SWCC News

- 2021 State Aid to Districts: Due 2/15;
- Payments/Blackout Period: Fast approaching the annual blackout period during which time EPF funds cannot be accessed for payments. Claim for Payments need to be submitted by Friday, March 4th to meet the cut-off date. Any Claim for Payment received during the Blackout period will be included on the next fiscal year EPF list with payments processed the following month. If projects will begin this Spring/Summer and you still have not submitted a CFP for necessary advance or implementation payments, it is advisable that you submit these vouchers with

applicable supporting documentation ASAP. Questions: contact Maureen Irish (Maureen.irish@agriculture.ny.gov) or your Regional AEA.

- Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 6: \$8 million available. Project proposals due at 4:30 pm on May 2nd;
- AgNPS Rd 28: \$13 million available. Project proposals due at: 4:30 pm on May 2nd;
- 2022 CNMP Training Agenda and Registration: Scheduled for April 5th-7th - Cornell Campus in Ithaca. Registration due March 11th <https://forms.gle/UKLpyErizVsX1ejp7> Questions: Ron Bush (ronald.bush@agriculture.ny.gov)
- AEM Base Program: Final Report/Close Out package for Rd 16 of the AEM Base Program is due by February 28th
- SWCC Meeting: next meeting February 16th;
- AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2022: application deadline 5/1. Info: www.sandcountyfoundation.org/ApplyLCA

Other News/Events

- Sustain our Great Lakes 2022 Funding: In mid-January, 2022 Sustain Our Great Lakes will solicit applications for funding to restore & enhance habitat in the Great Lakes basin. Request for Proposals: www.nfwf.org/greatlakes Webinar 1/25/22 at 11AM, register here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/60391096373520397>
- Community Forest Grant Announcement: \$1 million will be available and applications are due by 2 pm April 13th

Kristin (District Forester)

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans: working on plans over the coming months based on 2021 inventory data and setting up inventories for 2022;
- Continuing implementation of plans with EQIP funding for 3 producers & implementation with 1 producer outside funding;
- Meeting with more producers with maple operations interested in this program;
- Assisting Clinton County SWCD with AEM Forestry.

Grants

- LCBP Forestry BMP Education and Implementation – 3 Workshops complete, submitted final report, payment received.

Meetings/Trainings/Events

- CWICNY

Part B - 4 Forest Management Plans-2022 4 Forest Management Plans-contacting landowners in the coming months.

Part C – 2022 Projects

- School Funding Program – sent notice to school districts; application due March 31st

WQIP NAACC –11 assessments left to complete; over 400 assessments completed to date; beginning to compile information collected into final report

Allycia (District Technician):

AEM:

- Tier 3a – Finished grazing plan;
- AEM Rd 17 Grant: Waiting for contract back from the state
 - Need the same contract to start grants;
- AgNPS: Rd 28 RFP has been released; applications due May 2nd
 - Potentially putting in 3 applications;
- Climate Resilient Farming (CRF): Rd 6 RFP has been released; applications due March 28th;
 - Potentially putting in 5 applications.

Training/Workshops: 1/11 – 1/27 CCA virtual training; 1/21 Cropware virtual training.

Ag Pack: 1/26 meeting: discussion of programs, upcoming workshops, etc.

Allycia officially submitted her two weeks' notice as she's taking a position closer to home.

Christopher (District Technician)

AEM: Assisted with 4 forest inventories and 2 timber Marking jobs over the past month;

WQIP Erosion Assessments: are completed and I am working on the data entry and final report;

NAACC Culvert Assessments: working on the final report and spreadsheet for the assessments that have been completed;

Education/Workshops: Webinars-Agricultural, Storm water, Forestry, Erosion to advance my knowledge in all aspects of my Soil & Water Technician position.

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Weekly: Submit Payroll, Deferred Compensation, "Semi-Weekly" tax deposit to IRS;
- Submitted January NYS Tax Monthly report/payment, NYS Retirement Monthly report/payment, reconciled all January bank statements, then scanned them to the proper FC Offices;
- Submitted January NYS Tax Qtrly report/pymt, Federal Tax Qtrly report/pymt and email our Worker's Compensation Report to FC Personnel;
- Board Meeting prep: reports, 2 mailings, typed minutes, posted minutes to website;
- Continuously updating the mailing list/secretary manual;
- Assisted customers/staff when needed and relayed messages to staff when they're in the field working;

- Received several water questions;
- Made regular bank deposits;
- Compiled a list of people who dropped off Christmas Trees to recycle, then prepared a postcard to mail closer to the Tree Sale pick up date;
- Worked on funding for grants for the 2024 Envirothon, in my spare time;
- Completed application process w/Arnold Oil, Inc to purchase gas/diesel. They will bill us monthly and gave us a discount also. They made it an easy transition for us!
- All W2's W3's and 1099's are complete;
- All Annual Reports are complete: Treasurer's Report, Plan A, Hourly Report, etc.
- Mailed the 2022 Tree Sale Newsletter
- Receiving lots of Tree Sale loth in the mail or over the phone.

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

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– Extension approved - good until 2023;
- Round 25, 16-3 – Working on bids;
- Round 25, 16-1 – Year 2 complete;
- Round 26 – Year 1 complete;
- Round 27 – Plan of work complete, waiting on contract, still.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 – They are beginning to get bids together.

CRF Rd 6 Applications – 3 to 4 applications – Due in April.

WQIP Grants awarded 2 WQIP grants for the Non-agricultural money from NYSDEC. (1 for Hydroseeding in County; 1 for planning of more culvert assessments). Waiting on contracts on this.

WQIP Planning: Culvert Assessments & RRAMP. Chris is back out working on RRAMP assessments and Kristin/Allycia are working on culverts. I am working with Device Magic on a database to report template...wrapping these up soon!

CWICNY WQIP Grant: Final invoice has gone in..

FCRTA- working on ATV easements/planning. Finished the GEIS, submitted it to NYSDEC at a meeting at NYSDEC; for an internal review before publishing it. Working on Phase 2 SEQRA for the snowmobiles. Some issues with easements and crossings; we are working on these. This project cannot move forward until we have these issues taken care of. Still...

Resubmitted a trail for the FC Snowmobilers. They are looking for the trail from Holiday Inn to D8A. The state is allowing for a resubmit on these. We have sent that in and should be in great shape.

SLRWP- This is COMPLETE! We've been re-setting meetings and getting things going again. Next meeting March 9th. Looking into funding options and some partnerships. Would like to begin working on fact sheets for each town highlighting projects and programs for each. We have also made a connection with the new Northeastern Chapter of the Sierra Club, which Carl Sherwin is connected to and he will be beneficial for pushing this project forward.

NYS CDEA: As Treasurer, I've been working on our online 4-hr class along with an RFP to transfer program to someone else as contact. Assisted w/water quality symposium classes/registration. Working on year end clean-up for organization. Getting closer to getting some of the work out of here!

2021-year end reporting: Completed 2021-year end reporting and putting together an Annual Report.

2022 Tree Sale: was mailed and posted to our website. Kristin has ordered all trees, berries, seeds and extras. Thank you and this has been a challenge this year!

6. **Correspondences:** Clinton County SWCD Fall/Winter 2021 Newsletter, NYACD Letter dated 12/31/21-Reminder of Legislative Days 3/1-3/3, NYACD Invoice-Conservation Investment FY22, Malone Chamber of Commerce letter dated 1/9/22-Kicking off Sponsorship Drive, Delaware Cty SWCD Winter 2021-2022 Newsletter, Congresswoman Elise Stefanic Newsletter 2021 in Review, NYS Ag & Markets Monthly Harvest February Edition, Grassroots February 2022 Edition, Brookside Solar-3 day Notice of Intent to file an application, Conservation Connections Winter 2022 Edition, NYACD Invoice for \$1500.00 (Tabled until March meeting)

7. **New Business:**

Chas requested the following and all were discussed and approved:

- Need Board approval to **purchase paint for Forestry projects not to exceed \$2,000:**
Motion: 1st T. Derouchie, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried.
- -Need Board approval to **Transfer \$22,114.96 from CWICNY to Checking** to pay the following payments totaling \$35,040.49, please note we our vouching the balance of \$12,925.53 from NYS DEC and will be deposited it in our checking account once received:

-Need Board **approval to pay the following:**

<u>Franklin County</u>	<u>\$ 5,350.00</u>
<u>Clinton County</u>	<u>\$10,332.07</u>
<u>Warren County</u>	<u>\$ 6,027.17</u>
<u>Washington County</u>	<u>\$13,331.25</u>

Motion: 1st S. Gokey, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried

- 4. Need Board approval to **rent a U-Haul for Tree** Sale order pickup not to exceed \$500:

Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, carried

- Need approval to **purchase Tree Shelters not to exceed \$250:**

Motion: 1st T. Derouchie, 2nd P. Lauzon. all in favor, carried

- Need approval to **purchase a Port-A-Potty for Tree Sale distribution at the FC Hwy Shed not to exceed \$300:**

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouchie. all in favor, carried

- Need approval to **purchase a Laptop for our District Forester not to exceed \$2500:**

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

- Need approval to **purchase network/computer contract:**

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried

- Need approval to **pay the balance of Tree Sale Invoices:**

- **Meadowview not to exceed \$ 10,000**

- **Indiana Berry not to exceed \$2,000**

Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2ⁿ T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried.

- Need approval to **advertise for a District Technician position:**

Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2ⁿ T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried.

8. **Old Business:** None

9. **Next meeting will be on Monday, March 28, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

10. **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:05 p.m.

1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager