

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) via Zoom or speaker phone
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood
Ralph Child
Steve Gokey
Paul Lauzon
Ed Lockwood

Staff

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

1. Meeting began at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

2. January 19, 2021 board meeting minutes – Discussed and Approved
1st E. Lockwood, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.

3. **Financial Reports (Donna):**

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:

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

Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved

1st P. Lauzon, 2nd R. Child; 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:

- \$279.76 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement;
- \$1,500.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings,

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

4. **Reports (Chastity):**

NRCS

FY 2020 EQIP Funding: Practice reminder letters sent out to all participants who have practices due this year;

FY 2021 EQIP: all applications planned and assessed; rankings now being completed. Deadline 3/12.

Ongoing projects: Manure storage in Burke complete. Receptions pit and components to be completed this year.

Food Security Act: Continuing work-HEL/Wetland 1026's. Burke offsite wetland determination completed. Soil scientist-site visits in Spring.

Administrative: Direct Hire Soil Conservationist position available in Malone. Go to USAjobs.gov for more info.

Work cell phone: **518-605-2508**

FSA

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

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

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

Conservation Reserve Program-General sign-up extended-no deadline at this time. CRP Grasslands runs from 3/15 to 4/23/2021. Program provides rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program-sign up ends 3/5/2021

Marketing Assistance Loans (Commodity Loans)-Deadlines listed as follows

March 31st -oats, barley and wheat

May 31st -corn (high moisture/dry shelled and soybeans

Price Support Interest Rates for February 2021 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for February 2021 were given.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 3-some activities suspended and some changes. Call their office.

FSA-COVID-19 – FSA/NRCS-No producers allowed in office, assisting by phone, mail, fax and email.

NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)

Money for Part A should be to all Districts this week & Part C should be distributed in March

Climate Resilient Award Letters were sent out to some farmers;

Suspension of In-Person Mtg Requirements- Governor extended suspension until 2/26/2021

NYS SWCC News

- 2020 State Aid to Districts: was due 2/15;
- Payments & Blackout Period: Any claim submitted after 2/19 will be included on next fiscal year EPF list;
- SWCC Meeting: last meeting was held on 2/9;
- Tools & References Wiki Update: <http://www.nyscdea.com/useful-resources/> Updated/Great for new employees;

Other News/Events

- 2021 Virtual Water Quality Symposium: 3/8-3/12/2021
- FSA Fridays in February Webinar Series Announces: Every Friday at noon/FREE/pre-register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fsa-fridays-tickets-135329545313> or by emailing lynette.wright@usda.gov
- 2021 Virtual Soybean & Small Grain Congress: was held on 2/10 & 2/11/2021

Other Funding Options

- Sustain our Great Lakes 2021 Funding: Pre-proposals were due 2/16;
- NY Great Lakes Research Consortium (GLRC Small Grants Funding Available): Grants up to \$25,000 will be available and are due 3/1/2021. Learn more at www.esf.edu/glrc

5. Kristin (District Forester)

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans: 5 inventories complete, working on plans over the coming months and setting up 2021 inventories;
- Beginning implementation plans w/EQIP funding for 3 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: CBP Forestry BMP Education and Implementation

Meetings/Trainings/Events

- CDEA
- CWICNY - Kristin was recently appointed President of this association!!
- EAB Task Force
- EAB Webinar Series
- ESF Ranger School Advisory Committee
- Silvopasture Workshops
- TLRFC

Part B – 4 Forest Management Plans – contacting landowners for 2021 inventories

Part C - 2020 projects – will be reaching out soon to all involved with our School Funding Program

- EAB Monitoring and assessments – Planning 2021 monitoring, contacting landowners in affected areas, ordering supplies from APHIS, beginning removal of sentinel trees, meeting w/National Grid & scheduled April EAB TF meeting.

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

WQIP NAACC –150 assessments completed to date; beginning to compile information collected into final report

Allycia (District Technician):

AEM: Tier 3a: 2 grazing plans (both Silvopasture);

AEM Yr. 16: no changes since last month;

AEM Yr. 16 Grant: no change;

Ag Assessments: received many calls for updating Soil Group worksheets. 151 g Assessments completed to date;

School Presentations: completed six school presentations about SWCD's;

Outside Grant Opportunity: Nat'l Assoc. of Cons. Dist. (NACD): Urban Agriculture Conservation Grant due 2/15;

Training/Workshop: 2/3 NY Grazing Coalition: Silvopasture for Beef webinar; 2/10 NY Grazing Coalition: Equine Grazing webinar; 2/11 FACT: Solar grazing webinar, 2/19 NY Grazing Coalition: Improving Pasture Mgmt for Sustainable Livestock, 2/23 NRCS: Silvopasture Training.;

EEF: call 2/1/2021.

Christopher (District Technician)

AEM: 2 days marking AEM property in Brushton. Assisting with forest inventories and other forest management activities;

WQIP Erosion Assessments: completed until the snow melts. Erosion assessments in Constable, Brandon and Bangor, Malone is over 1/2 completed; 108 assessments completed to date for a total of 227.2 road miles.

Hydroseeder: is fixed and back at the County Garage. The company is going to cover all parts and labor!

Hydroseeder/No-Till Policies: starting to write these policies

Education/Workshops: Watched the following webinars: 5 Agricultural, 4 Stormwater, 5 Forestry and 4 Erosion

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
December 21st-January 19th
 - 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;
 - Entering Tree Sales as received;
 - All year end reports are completed: 1099's and Treasurer's Report;
 - Several water and soil sample questions received/answered;
 - Continuing to follow COVID guidelines;
 - 2021 Tree Sale/Newsletter to be mailed out this week.
 - Assisted Kristin with WQS mailings & Tree Sale distribution preparation

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

Office-sill operating but closed to the public. All annual reports have been completed and sent to the State. Claim of Payment on Part A has been submitted and we are awaiting word on Part C. Tree Sales are coming in.

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– I should have plans by the end of this week.
- Round 24, 16-2– Project doing great!
- Round 25, 16-3 – All set to go, need contract signatures from LO. Working on bids.
- Round 25, 16-1 – 2020 good, made request for 65% of year 1 cover crop \$, made payments to landowners. Received amendment for grant and mailed it back. Snow on the ground, so nothing happening.
- Round 26 –3 Applications ranked, still unable to announce. Governor holding all grant awards until further notice.
 - Barnyard and Manure Storages in Dickinson,
 - Cover Crops,
 - Barnyard in North Bangor

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 - All ready to go, waiting on construction. Planner to see where we are at.

WQIP Planning – Culvert Assessment & RRAMP have started and weather has delayed. Chris was working RRAMP assessments. Kristin and Allycia had begun working on culverts prior to all the snow. Getting a quote for app subscription!

CWICNY WQIP Grant: working w/CWICNY on grant for implementation of Non-Ag projects within Lk Champlain Basin in 5 counties. We are grant administration. We are waiting on 1 pymt (#5), expect to submit another voucher by end of May
FCRTA- working on ATV easements/planning. Still working on GEIS, wetlands section almost completed.

SLRWP- plan is **complete!** Payment has been received for one of the bills, waiting on the 2nd, working on 3rd & final bill.

WQS-week of 3/8. We are working on classes, meetings and plans. We would like to see at least one of our board members attend the annual meeting via Zoom and it counts towards Performance Measures.

NRCS/FSA-1 person in NRCS & 2 people in FSA per USDA guidelines. No producers allowed in office, assisting by phone, mail, fax and email.

FSCWSC Office- closed to the public until 1/25/2021! Meetings by appointments.

7. **Correspondences**: Grassroots February 2021 Edition, Delaware Cty SWCD December Newsletter, Malone Chamber of Commerce letter explaining member benefits, NYACD 1/2/2021 Letter, 2021 NYACD Legislative Day Booklet, NYAC Request for full membership payment request, Erie Cty SWCD Winter 2021 Newsletter

8. **New Business - Chastity requested all of the following:**

- Request to add/adopt to the FCSWCD Monthly Disbursements Policy:
“An availability period of revenues will be set for 30 days after the first day of the new year to coincide with tax revenues of the municipality under the modified accrual basis of accounting.”
Motion: 1st E. Lockwood, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
- Request to transfer \$17,537.00 from Checking to AEM Yr. 16
Implementation Request-Tucker from NYS Ag & Markets
Motion: 1st S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
- Request approval to pay CWICNY-WQIP Payment #5, when \$12,646.49 NYS DEC payment is rec'd:
Essex County SWCD \$ 10,927.68
Washington County SWCD \$ 1,410.00
Warren County SWCE \$ 1,637.21

Motion: 1st R. Child, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

- Request up to \$500 for Arbor Day Workshop

Motion: 1st E. Lockwood, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

- Request up to \$200 for NAACC Workshop

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

- Request up to \$6000 for Lake Champlain Basin Grant Skidder Bridge Workshop

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

- Request up to \$100 for EAB Supplies

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**.

- Request up to \$150.00 - Rent U-Haul Tractor to p/u Tree Sale orders at Fulton County SWCD

Motion: 1st E. Lockwood, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

- Request up to 325.00 - pay Fulton County SWCD for picking up Tree Sale orders:

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

- Request approval to pay up to Indiana Berry \$2000 & Meadowview up to \$13,000 for balance of Tree Sale invoice(s)

Motion: 1st S. Gokey, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, **carried**.

9. **Old Business:**

- Chastity requested the Board's approval to reach out to see if Dennis Egan is still interested in our vacant Board position. All Board members were in agreement.

10. **Next meeting will be on Monday, March 22, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) via Zoom**

11. Meeting Adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

1st P. Lauzon, 2nd E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager