

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Monday, January 10, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) via Zoom or speaker phone
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood
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 12:02 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.
2. Current Chairman Bill Wood transferred the meeting over to Chastity at 12:03 p.m.
Chastity opened the floor for the Election of Officers.
 - Chairman: Bill Wood
nominated by 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey;
Motion to close ballot: 1st T. Derouchie, 2nd P. Lauzon
B. Wood abstained all in favor, **carried**.
3. Chastity transferred the meeting back over to the newly nominated Chairman, B. Wood at 12:07 p.m. to continue the Election of Officers.
 - Vice Chairman: Ralph Child
nominated by: 1st T. Derouchie, 2nd P. Lauzon,
Motion to close ballot: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouchie
R. Child not in attendance, all in favor, **carried**.
 - Treasurer: Thomas Derouchie
nominated by: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd B. Wood,
Motion to close ballot: 1st D. Egan, 2nd P. Lauzon,
T. Derouchie abstained, all in favor, **carried**.
 - Secretary to Board: Donna Wright appointed by Chairman B. Wood.
4. December 13, 2021 Board meeting minutes – Discussed a correction that was made, then it was approved
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, **carried**.
5. **Financial Reports (Donna):**
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:
1st D. Egan, 2nd E. Lockwood; all in favor, **carried**.
Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved
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 for the month of November:
 - \$ 349.60 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement;
 - \$2,000.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings,
 - \$ 737.00 from Regular Checking to No Till1st S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
6. **Reports (Chastity):**

NRCS – No report provided this month/they are trudging along!

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

FSA

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC): Supplemental DMC & 2022 coverage open through 2/18/22

Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage: 2022 enrollment ends 3/15/22

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

NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)

Suspension of In-Person Mtg Requirements: In 2021, Gov. Hochul signed into law several provisions related to COVID-19 impacts. One provision temporarily changed Open Meetings Law (OML) authorizing remote meetings to resume through January 15, 2022. This change to the law has not yet been extended. As a result, public bodies across NYS are no longer able to conduct public meetings pursuant to the allowances under Executive Order 202.1. All meetings must be conducted in compliance with the NYS Open Meetings Law. If you have any questions, please contact your Regional AEA and/or visit the NYS COOG website for more information. <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/open-meetings-law>

NYS SWCC News

- 2021 State Aid to Districts: Due 2/15;
- SWCC Meeting: next meeting in February, date/time/details will be sent later;

Other News/Events

- 2022 Virtual Water Quality Symposium: March 14-25, 2022 – Registration packet will be available soon;

Other Funding Options

- NOAA Funding for Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership: Proposals due 1/12/2022. Website: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/noaa-great-lakes-fish-habitat-restoraton-regional-partnership-grants>
- Five Star & Urban Waters Program: 2022 applications to award approximately \$2.6 Million to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations. Full proposal due date is 1/25/22. Info: <https://www.nfwf.org/programs/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program/five-star-and-urban-waters-restoration-grant-program-2022-request-proposals>
- 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>

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

- LCB" P Forestry BMP Education and Implementation – 3 Workshops complete, submitted DRAFT final report

Meetings/Trainings/Events

- CWICNY

Part B - 2022 4 Forest Management Plans, will be contacting landowners in the coming months

Part C - 2022 projects – will be reaching out in March to all involved with our School Funding Program

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:

AEM Yr. 16: Ended December 31, 2021

- Final Report finished and uploaded for state approval 1/4/2022
 - AEM Year 16 ran 1/1/20-12/31/21:
 - 2956.8 technical hours completed by staff in that time period;
 - 582.75 Supporting activity hours may been completed (education, outreach, partnership, reporting);
 - \$130,099.20 earned in Technical Assistance (will only get paid out for Max of \$129,712.00) (Max for Option A);
 - 57 farms assisted within AEM Yr. 16;
 - 27 Tier 1 (New participants);
 - 26 Tier 2 Site Visits conducted;
 - 21 Tier 3a (conservation plans) completed encompassing 1,866.34 acres; 8 to be carried over into AEM Yr. 17;
 - 7 farms have implemented plans this AEM Yr.;
 - 17 Tier 5A (Updates) have been completed;
 - 2 Tier 5b (Plan updates);
 - 3 Tier 5b (BMPs updated).

AEM Yr. 16 Grant:

- Grant 1: Closed out and paid;
- Grant 2: Closed out and paid;
- Grant 3: Closed out, waiting for approval from state;
- Grant 4: Closed out and paid.

AEM Yr. 17: Started 1/1/2022 and runs through 12/31/2023 (waiting on contract from state)

- Approved for full technical assistance amount and for full implementation, requested amount!
- Approved for full Soil Sampling amount as well;

AEM Yr. 17 Grant: All six applications accepted (waiting on contract from state);

- Grant 1: Petroleum Secondary Storage in Burke;
- Grant 2: Petroleum Secondary Storage in Chateaugay;
- Grant 3: Petroleum Secondary Storage in Dickinson;
- Grant 4 : Prescribed Rotational Grazing in Malone;
- Grant 5: Erosion Control in Paul Smiths;
- Grant 6: Soil Conservation in Burke.

NACD Grant: Closed out; final report finished and approved. Paid out.

Training/Workshops: CCA training (Soil & Water 1/11, Crop Mgmt 1/18, Nutrient Mgmt 1/13, Pest Mgmt 1/20) and Crop Training 1/20

Christopher (District Technician)

AEM: Helping with forest inventories, timber cruising, marking trees & assisting with other forest management activities;

WQIP Erosion Assessments: All towns completed; working on final report;

NAACC: entering culvert assessment data into computer for assessments completed this year:

Hydroseeder: Both hydroseeders are now in storage for the winter. Compiled notes while doing erosion control and have several areas to do next spring/summer.

Education/Workshops: Webinars-Agricultural, Storm water, Forestry, Erosion to broaden 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 December NYS Tax Monthly report/payment, NYS Retirement Monthly report/payment, reconciled all December bank statements, then scanned them to the proper FC Offices;
- Submitted December 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;
- Compiling a list of people bringing us Christmas Trees to recycle;
- Worked on funding for grants for the 2024 Envirothon, in my spare time;
- Received "Lack of Business Credit" denial from Wex-Fleet Gas card to purchase fuel Jan. 2022, I sent an application to Fuel Express/Total Fuel Mgmt and I'm waiting on a response;
- Emailed the County to see if we could possibly fall under their WEX Fleet Gas Card – No, but Chas is working with Donna Kissane on this.
- Working on W2's W3's and 1099's;
- Annual Reports are in the process of getting done: Treasurer's Report, Plan A, Hourly Report, etc.

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

2021 went by fast! Office is OPEN, but front door is locked as USDA FSA/NRCS are not open, so, call 1st for an appointment. Accepting Christmas trees for recycling! Will be receiving \$ from County for 2020 Budget cut soon! We closed out Round 24, AEM Yr. 16, held 3 workshops, managed office closures and most importantly, we survived Covid!

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.

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

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). This is great, but adds more work!

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: working with CWICNY for the implementation of Non-Ag Projects within Lk Champlain Basin in 5 counties, as we are the grant administration on this. Submitted invoice #8, been paid and have paid districts. Wrapping this one up now, we should be submitting the final invoice soon.

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.

SLRWP- This is COMPLETE! We've been re-setting meetings and getting things going again. Next meeting Jan 11, 2022. Looking into funding options and some partnerships. Would like to begin working on fact sheets for each town highlighting projects and programs for each. Made connections 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.

2021-year end reporting- will be working on this and putting together the Annual Report.

2022 Annual Tree Sale - Kristin has completed it. It will be going to the printer, then we will mail them out. Kristin has ordered all our trees, berries, seeds and extras. Thank you!

Thank you: I would like to thank the Legislators for restoring the FCSWCD's cut funding from 2020. Thank you so much for the support, everyone! Email went out to board members following this from Bill wood to approve the change from a 1.5% raise to an 3% raise for the District Manager as discussed in the previous meeting. All unanimously approved.

8. **Correspondences:** Grassroots January 2022 Edition, Clinton County SWCD Fall/Winter 2021 Newsletter, NYACD Invoice for \$1500.00 (Tabled until February meeting)

9. **New Business:**

- Chastity requested scheduling training for board and staff
Discussed and approved **District Law training**/date to be determined;
- Chastity told the board that annual reports are in progress;
- Chastity stated that Training Plans (Board & Manager/staff – all completed);
- Chastity brought up for discussion the current FCSWCD policies - any changes?
Discussed and approved with recommended changes.
1st D. Egan, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**;
- Chastity requested the following appointments for staff:
Kristin-CWICNY President
Chastity - SLRWP, President
EEF- Chastity and Allycia
NYS CDEA - Chastity (Treasurer) and Kristin (District 5 Rep)
National Environthon - Chastity
WQ Chair – Chastity
CCE Ag Pak – Chastity and Allycia
FOIL Officer/Records Retention Officer - Donna
Discussed and approved 1st S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
- Requested Board approval to add/adopt 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.”
Discussed and approved
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
- Requested Board approval to pay NYS Fair Dues, when we receive the invoice (\$150):
Discussed and approved.
Motion: 1st T. Derouchie, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
- Requested Board approval to pay NYS Envirothon for 4 Counties to attend (4 x \$550, if they go):
Discussed and approved.
Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
- Requested Board approval to pay Northwoods Forest Consultants \$500 (BMP Instructor Fees) and WSWHE BOCES (Saratoga) \$807.93 (Fees/Donation) for Skidder Bridge Workshop Training assistance:
Discussed and approved
Motion: 1st E. Lockwood, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

10. **Old Business:** None

11. **Next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

12. Meeting Adjourned at 1:05 p.m.
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouche, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager