

**FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING**  
Regular Meeting – Monday, July 12, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) In Person or via Zoom or speaker phone  
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood  
Ralph Child  
Thomas Derouchie  
Steve Gokey  
Ed Lockwood  
Paul Lauzon

Staff

Chastity Miller  
Donna Wright  
Kristin Ballou (Zoom)  
Allycia Foote  
Christopher Ballou (Zoom)  
Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCD  
Jennifer Bosley, FSA  
Tric Lavalley, NRCS

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

2. June 14, 2021 Board meeting minutes - Discussed and Approved minutes  
1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie; all in favor, **carried**.

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

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved

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

Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved

1<sup>st</sup> E. Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Child; all in favor, **carried**.

Transfer of Funds: were reviewed and approved.

Requested permission to transfer the following for the month of May/June:

- \$279.68 from Regular Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (May);
- \$1,500.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings (May);
- \$349.60 from Regular Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (June);
- \$1,500.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings (June);
- \$1243.76 from Regular Checking to No-Till (June)

1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**.

4. **Reports (Tric):**

**NRCS**

FY 2021 EQIP – Applications have all been approved and contracts have been obligated.

FY 2022 EQIP - 20 applications taken for next year's funding; no deadlines yet, but expect them to be in July.

Ongoing Projects - Engineering commenced for a farmstead project in Bangor. Construction not expected until next year.

Food Security Act - Soil Scientist and biologist conducted site visits the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>. There were several wetland violations and we will continue to work with the farmer to bring them back into compliance for farm programs. Biologists plans to return on 7/15 to provide OJT for anyone who needs it in the NE area.

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

No one will be in the office from 7/18-8/1 due to Tric being on vacation...contact the Plattsburgh office if you need assistance. Work cell phone: **518-605-2508**

**FSA**

County Committee Election: for representative of the area consisting of Altamont, Bombay, Constable, Dickinson, Fort Covington, Hogansburg, Moira and Westville. Nomination forms due back by 8/2.

Acreage Reporting – Deadlines are: Spring/Summer planted crops-7/15, Cabbage/Beans-8/15 Christmas Trees-9/30.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) - CFAP 2 continuing for those who didn't apply or have revisions.

Conservation Reserve Program – Signup starts 7/12 through 8/20. NYS FSA hosting CRP Grassland webinar on 7/21<sup>st</sup>.

Price Support Interest Rates for July 2021 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for July 2021 were given.

USDA Covid-19 guidelines allow us to have one producer in the office at a time by appointment. In addition, we can assist producers over the phone, mail or email. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

**NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)**

Suspension of In-Person Mtg Requirements - On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Governor Cuomo announced all meetings must be conducted in compliance with the NYS Open Meetings Law.

NYS SWCC News

- AGNPS Round 27 - \$13 million available. This is now in the review and ranking process
- AGNPS Round 28 – will be out this fall
- SWCC Meeting: 10AM on Tuesday, 7/20.
- AEM Round 17 – due 11/2021
- Engineering Needs Survey – looking for all SWCD districts to complete survey  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeNaUWTLKCV1zDe0uNgtSWsSnGp82SlokKcm0fUif349vv3Gf/vi/wform?usp=sf> link
- Open Meetings Law – Districts should review to hold in-person meetings

#### Other Events

- FOIL Virtual Training – NYS COOG presented a virtual FOIL training program on 6/10
- Webinar: How can I prepare my community for coastal hazards? – One Region Forward will host a webinar on 6/17 1-3:30 pm. Register: <https://cornell.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMlde6uqDgqEtixegGWGHQmJGFgaYIOYc0Q>

#### Other Funding

- NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Announced – Rd 11 of the Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) accepting online applications through 4:30 PM on 7/30 <https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>
- DAP Funding Available – <https://cals.cornell.edu/pro-dairy/our-expertise/dairy-advancement-program>
- US Forest Service GLRI Request for Applications – USDA Forest Service is requesting applications anticipating up to \$5.4 million in new funds for reforestation, ecosystem restoration & forest health improvement projects. Submit applications by 6PM Eastern on 7/8 in [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) through 2 separate Requests for Applications found here <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid+FSEPRD898821> & here <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid+FSEPRD898819>
- USEPA Announced \$9M in GLRI Funding – Applications due to this RFA by 8/20. <https://www.epa.gov/great-lakes-funding/fy-2021-rfa-glri-nonpoint-source-runoff-nutrient-reduction-projects>

#### Upcoming Events

- 2021 Soil Health Center at Empire Farm Days – August 3-5  
<https://blogs.cornell.edu/soilhealthinitiative/calendarevent/8-3-8-5-empire-farm-days-soil-health-center>
- 2021 Empire Farm Days – August 3-5 – <https://empirefarmdays.leetradeshow.com>
- 2021 Cornell Aurora Farm Field Day 8/12 - <https://cals.cornell.edu/2021-aurora-farm-field-day>

### 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.
- Working on statewide sample 3A Forestry Conservation Plan.

#### Grants:

- Submitted AgNPS applications for 4 farms to replace their existing fuel storage with one that has a secondary containment
- LCBP Forestry BMP Education & Implementation – 1<sup>st</sup> workshop, June 18th & quarterly reporting complete, second workshop, July 30<sup>th</sup> in Hague, NY & the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop, October 2<sup>nd</sup> in Franklin County

#### Meetings/Trainings/Events

- CWICNY
- First Aid & CPR
- Forestry BMP & Skidder Bridge Workshop
- Irrigation Workshop
- TLRFC
- Planning 2 days of Con Skills classes (agroforestry & forest regeneration & rehabilitation)

Part B – 4 Forest Management Plans – 2021 inventories, 3 inventories complete to date, 2 more planned

Part C - 2020 projects

- School Funding Program
  - ADK Education- maple sugaring equipment (waiting on proposal)
  - Brushton – Pollinator gardens
  - Chateaugay – Community Garden
  - SRMT – seedling donation, community handout & native plant nursery
  - Malone Central - seedlings for students & maple equipment – Complete, 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal submitted for “What’s flowing and growing in the Salmon River?”
  - Salmon River – Indoor and Outdoor gardening for the magic maker after school program

- Saranac Lake - macroinvertebrate & water quality sampling
  - Wilder Farm – tree and plant ID signs (waiting on proposals)
  - EAB Monitoring & assessments – Traps were hung for 2021 monitoring & will be checked for the 1<sup>st</sup> time this week
- Sea Grant NAACC Grant 2019 – 332 assessments complete –final report submitted, waiting on final closeout. Contacted again on 6/15/2021 with no response
- WQIP NAACC –150 assessments completed to date; beginning to compile information collected into final report

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

#### **AEM:**

- Tier 1: 1 site visit
- Tier 2 Site Visit: 1 site visit
- Tier 3a: Still working on finishing up plans
- Tier 5B: Still working on updating plans;
- AEM Yr. 16 Grant:
  - AEM Grant 1: Still in progress – looking to finish up in September at the latest
  - AEM Grant 2: Project finished; closeout paperwork sent to state for approval
  - AEM Grant 3: Need to speak with producer
  - AEM Grant 4: Project finished and completely closed out.
- AG NPS R27: Applications due June 28<sup>th</sup> – 5 grant applications submitted
- NACD Urban Ag Grant: 2 of the 3 summer series workshops have been completed
  - Pollinator Palooza – June 21<sup>st</sup> 5-7 pm – location switched to Malone Firehall. Started off National Pollinator Week!! 17 families attended = 40 participants. Some families left due to mask requirements
    - From this-attending 4H meeting to do workshop with a group in Chateaugay
  - Irrigation Workshop: June 25<sup>th</sup> 9am to 1pm – Riverside Supply and Childstock Farm. 18 participants. Raffle off a starter irrigation kit.
  - “Soil Your Undies” Soil Health – July 13<sup>th</sup> 9am – 2:30pm – STARGO Dairy. Need to speak with vendors, no one has said they are coming. About 30 people have signed up so far, hopefully more will sign up
  - NACD Quarterly Reporting: Quarterly reporting due July 15<sup>th</sup>

#### **Training/Workshop:**

- Skidder Bridge – June 18<sup>th</sup>
- CPR & First Aid Recertification – June 21<sup>st</sup>
- USDA Pollinator Week Webinar Series June 21<sup>st</sup> – June 25<sup>th</sup>
- Pollinator Palooza – June 21<sup>st</sup>
- Irrigation Workshop– June 25<sup>th</sup>

Hydroseeding: Tucker’s Ranch

### **Christopher (District Technician)**

#### **AEM:**

Helping with forest inventories and assisting with other forest management activities.

Cruised 2 different properties and started the process of data entry and final reports for both.

#### **WQIP NAACC:**

Getting the excel spread sheet completed for the final report for towns that are completed.

#### **WQIP Erosion Assessments:**

Malone is almost completed and I have started working on the town of Westville. I am up to 140 assessments completed and counting. The towns of Constable, Brandon, Bangor and Westville and completed.

#### **Hydroseeder:**

We are still fielding calls on the hydroseeder with people still showing an interest. We hydroseeded approximately 1.5 acres for a private landowner this past month. I hope to get to the town of Chateaugay and Franklin to start seeding roadside shoulders and ditches

#### **Education/Workshops:**

I watched a few webinars this past month pertaining to agriculture, erosion, forestry and stormwater to advance my knowledge in all aspects of my Soil and Water Technician position (Agricultural, Stormwater, Forestry and Erosion).

### **Donna (Secretary to the Board).**

- Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly/Yearly–weekly-submit Payroll, Deferred Compensation; monthly-NYS Tax, Federal Tax, NYS Retirement; Bank reconciliation; Quarterly- NYS Tax, Federal Tax , Worker’s Comp Report; and Yearly - throughout the year submit all required reports as necessary.

June 14, 2021 – July 12, 2021

- Board Meeting preparation: reports, mailings, typed minutes, posted minutes to website;
- Reconciled May & June bank accounts/scanned to required FC offices;
- Added/updated mailing list, updated Secretary manual as needed;
- Assisted customers and staff as needed;
- Made regular bank deposits, posted all Quickbook entries;
- Lots of water and soil sample questions, along with bug and tree issue questions;
- Registered several people for upcoming workshops;
- Attended Allycia's Pollinator Workshop on 6/21;
- Attended a Franklin County Legislative discussion with Chas RE: Recreational Trails;
- Attended First Aid/CPR training;
- Ordered more Mosquito Dunks as they are a popular item;
- Watched a webinar "The End of The State of Emergency & the Start of a State of Confusion: The Return to In-Person Governmental Meetings";
- Called/emailed Ins. companies to get Certificates of Liability insurance for people to use No-Till Drill/Hydroseeder;
- Continued to follow COVID guidelines;

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

Office: Our office is OPEN! USDA FSA and NRCS are not open, you must call for an appointment.

##### Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– Reviewing engineering plans and getting ready for bids, going to ask for an extension;
- Round 24, 16-2– Done working on close out, paperwork to Ryan;
- Round 25, 16-3 - Working on bids;
- Round 25, 16-1 – Year 1 complete. Planning on year 2;
- Round 26 –Cover Crops: Plan of work complete. Working on contracts. Account has been opened. Need to voucher for initial 25%.
- Round 27 – Submitted 5 applications. Cover Crops, Petroleum Storage, Barnyard & Manure Storage in Bangor, Silage Leachate System in Burke and a Barnyard/Manure Storage/Silage Leachate in Moira.
- We are hoping to have a ranked list maybe in August or September

CAFO Manure Storage Grants - Round 3 – Hoping for this summer. Going to check on this.

WQIP Planning: Culvert Assessment & RRAMP. Chris is back out working on RRAMP assessments and Kristin and Allycia will be working on culverts later in the summer.

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. Waiting for Voucher #7. This is the last construction season on this grant, there is also an update due on the identified projects in the region.

FCRTA: working on ATV easements/planning. Finished the GEIS, submitted it to NYSDEC at a meeting at NYSDEC for internal review before publishing it. Working on the Phase 2 SEQRA for the snowmobiles.

SLRWP: This plan is **complete!** Payment has been received for one of the bills, we received the 3<sup>rd</sup> billing and sent it to the consultant, completed the audits for MWBE and waiting on final close out!

NYS CDEA Treasurer: I have been working on the online 4-hour classes. We need to work on shifting the platform on this, but we will see what works. I assisted with the regional, state and national Envirothons.:

Ag Land & Protection: Meeting is July 26 at 6PM. Public hearing should be August 5<sup>th</sup>. We have a few new additions; nothing that is an issue.

#### 7. **Correspondences:** Grassroots June 2021 Edition, Franklin County Farm Bureau Newsletter-June 2021 Dairy Month, Cornell University Cooperative Extension-Franklin County April Newsletter, Sympathy card from Bill Wood.

#### 8. **New Business - Chastity requested the following:**

- Requested Board approval for Recalling & canceling the FCSWCD COVID-19 Policy passed on June 8, 2020; utilizing plan approved: Public Employer Health Emergency Plan for the FCSWCD passed March 22, 2021 AND the District will now follow CDC recommendations as they are adopted by NYS for any emergency as they are approved  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried.**
- Requested Board approval to pay the NYS Fair Association in the amount of \$100.00:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried.**
- Requested Board approval to transfer \$6234.00 from AEM Yr. 16 Savings Acct. to Checking Acct:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> E. Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried.**
- Requested Board approval to pay Kevin Burke \$6234.00 from Checking account:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried.**
- Requested Board approval to transfer \$6234.00 from Checking Acct to AEM Yr. 16, once money is r'cd from State:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

- Requested Board approval to pay the following invoices for the month of July, once invoices are received:

○ National Business Technologies (printer copies) no more than	\$350.00
○ Plattsburgh-N. Country Service Corp (Dental/Vision Insurance)	\$381.42

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

- Requested approval to pay the following invoices that were just received and now due:

○ Life Science Labs (River Sampling)	\$ 620.00
○ Dairy One (Soil Samples Part C)	\$ 70.00
○ FC Highway (Gas/Supplies)	\$ 310.11
○ FC Treasurer (4 cases of Copier paper)	<u>\$ 88.96</u>

▪ **TOTAL** **\$1089.07**

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

- Requested Board approval to pay up to \$2500 to Fr. County Treasurer for Annual Worker's Compensation invoice:  
1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie; 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Child, all in favor, **carried**
- Requested Board approval to pay up to \$500.00 to Shelterpoint for Annual Disability Insurance invoice, when rec'd:  
1<sup>st</sup> R. Child; 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.
- Workshop announced and is listed on our Facebook page: Certify your Sugarbush as a Bird-Friendly Forest.

9. **Old Business:** None

10. **Next meeting** will be on **Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

11. Meeting Adjourned at 1:07 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> E. Lockwood, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller  
Secretary / District Manager