

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Monday, July 20 2020 at 7:00 p.m.
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

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

Staff:

Chastity Miller
Donna Wright

Kristin Ballou (via Zoom)
Allycia Leach (via Zoom)
Christopher Ballou (via Zoom)

Meeting began at 7:00 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

1. June 8, 2020 board meeting minutes approved.
1st S. Gokey, 2nd E. Lockwood, all in favor **Carried**.

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

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:

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

Abstract and Vouchers were reviewed and approved:

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

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

\$274.16 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement for balance of June;

\$1,500.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings for June

Amended resolution to transfer monthly rental fees into the No Till account, instead of a set amount.

Adding to the Equipment & Hydroseeder account the monthly rental fees and mulch;

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

\$79.20 from Checking to No-Till

\$5,764.04 from Checking to Equipment/Hydroseeder

\$260,000.00 from Checking to AG NPS RD 24, 16-2

\$165,750.00 from Checking to CAFO 35

\$49,450.00 from Checking R25, 16-3

\$7,228.00 from Checking R25, 16-1 Cover Crops

\$96,250.00 from Checking to CAFO 3

Approval requested and reviewed for all June transfers to be made:

1st E. Lockwood, 2nd T. Derouchie, S. Gokey abstained and all others in favor, **carried**.

3. **Reports (Chastity):**

NRCS

FY 2020 EQIP Funding - Due to ongoing health crisis, FY2020 deadlines have been adjusted. Pre-approvals for eligible applications have been posted. Obligation slated for August 14th. 20 applications currently pre-approved for funding.

FY 2021 EQIP - Application deadline is July 17th 2020. Currently have about 40 applications.

WRE - Restoration will continue this summer on newly acquired WRE easement in Bombay.

Food Security Act - No backlog at this time.

Administrative – With only one staff member in the Franklin County office now, please call 518-605-2508 to get in touch with someone, if you need assistance as the office may not be manned every day due to the current workload extending into Clinton and Essex County

FSA

Conservation Food Assistance Program (CFAP): Signup through 8/28, which provides financial assistance to producers of agricultural commodities suffering a 5% or greater price decline or who had losses due to market supply chain disruptions due to COVID-19 and face additional significant market costs. Eligible commodities include: Non-specialty Crops, Wool, Livestock, Dairy, and Specialty Crops.

County Committee Election: This year's election is for a representative for the towns of Malone, Bangor, Brandon, Santa Clara, Harrietstown, Brighton, Duane, Belmont and Franklin. Nomination forms are due to FSA (8/1/2020 post mark).

Acreage Reporting: Deadline was extended to 8/14 for producers to file acreage reports who are w/o crop insurance.

Price Support Interest Rates for July 2020 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for July 2020 were given.

USDA FSA Farm Storage Facility Loan Price Support Fact Sheet is available in the FSA office.

Office: still only open by phone, mail, email and "curbside" at this time. Please call prior to stopping by our office so we can be prepared for you. Thank you.

Ag and Markets - Presented by Ryan Cunningham via ZOOM (June and July Reports)

- **Coronavirus Updates:** Reminder, see SWCC SharePoint site (<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>) "Announcements" to access/post your county's emergency/Continuity of Government plans/other steps the District is taking during this emergency, including "reopening" plans to safely resume program/project/and operations. Please use this site to post plans/information for others to access to help in developing with their own reopening plans. Do not hesitate to contact your Regional AEA if you have any questions/concerns. Ryan hopes everyone, including staff, Board members and our families are feeling well and staying healthy.
- **NYS SWCC News:** A meeting was held on 6/23 and next one is 7/21/2020 via WebEX video/teleconference.
- **Community Resiliency Training Program Funding:** Open enrollment until February 2022, Material through NYS Grants Gateway. Questions: Lauren.prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov
- **AGNPS Round 26:** \$15 Million available. Questions: Bethany.Bzduch@agriculture.ny.gov Deadline was 6/15.
- **Source Water Buffer Program:** \$5 million available. Questions: bethanybzduch@agriculture.ny.gov Share Point: <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com> Request for Applications have been amended.
- **2019 SWCC Annual Report:** can be found on the Departments website at: [https://agricultrue.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/2019 annual report pdf](https://agricultrue.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/06/2019%20annual%20report.pdf). Congrats all SWCD's on another year of tremendous accomplishments! Thank you to all partners in conservation.
- **NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda Partners & Projects Webinar Series:** sign on to http://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/NYSDEC/21020/06/03/file_attachments/1465830/Summer2020GLAAWebinarSeriesFlyer.pdf Learn about partners & projects working to protect, restore and enhance our Great Lakes and waters and funding opportunities to advance additional projects, in support of NY's Great Lakes Action Agenda.
- **Upcoming Virtual Trainings (including CCA CEU's):** Visit <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/Home.aspx>.
 - **July 29-31** - Empire Farm Days Virtual Soil Health Center presentations and farmer panels
 - **July 30-31** - Soil Health Institute's 5th Annual (Virtual) Meeting
 - **Aug 6** - Virtual Cornell Aurora Field Day
- **CDEA Erosion & Sediment Control Training:** Saratoga County SWCD will be hosting this training, Thursday, 8/6 from 8:30 am- 4:30 pm through 8/7 from 9 am-12 pm Cost: \$125/per person/pre-registration required. Questions: call/email Jessica Verrigni 607-796-221 jbverrigni@stny.rr.com
- **Watershed Wednesday:** 2020 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Virtual Forum-Wednesdays at 9:30 am in July and August for short conservation-oriented presentations. Questions: contact Wendy Walsh at WalshW@co.tioga.ny.us
- **Riparian Buffer Training-** July 28th at 9 AM
- **Great Lakes Bay B-WET Funding Opportunity:** NOAA - seeking proposals and project proposals up to \$80,000 are requested by 8/21. More info at: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/bwet/greatlakes/>

Kristin (District Forester):

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans – 8 completed since February 2020, 3 more hopefully done soon.
- Setting up site visits to complete more inventories
- Meeting with more producers with maple operations interested in this program

Meetings/Trainings/Events

- CWICNY
- Con Skills Planning Meeting
- Urban Forest Pests and Diseases Webinar
- WQS Planning Meeting

Hydroseeders – lots of interest from towns and the public so far this summer

- Assisted Chris And Allycia with hydroseeding multiple ditches and village park
- Coordinating rentals and material pickup for private contractors

No-till –2 producers interseeded before first cut, 2 producers interseeded after first cut and a few interested for the fall cover crop planting

Part B – 4 Forest Management Plans – 2 inventories complete, 1 plan complete

Part C - 2020 projects

School Funding Program \$15,000 (\$1,500/school)

- Brushton – generator and tubing supplies for maple operation - complete
- Chateaugay – raised bed gardens
- Malone Central – Water Quality Data Collection Equipment
- Saranac Lake – Farm to School Program Enhancements
- Tupper Lake – Elementary Schoolwide Community Garden Project - complete
- Wilder Farm – Virtual Tour (Switched project)

Invasive Species \$4,000 – Japanese knotweed inventory in Saranac Lake (Allycia)

EAB Monitoring and assessments – \$6,000 - 9 sentinel trees - 3 Bombay, 2 Fort Covington, 3 Chateaugay and 1 Moira.

7/20 findings: 3 positives: 1 Fort Covington/Bombay, 1 Bombay, 1 Moira

Conservation in the Community \$10,000

Continuing to meet with landowners regarding forestry practice options, water kits, id books

Education (Workshops) \$10,000 (EAB, Irrigation, Pollinator, Soil Health, Multi-species grazing, ag district ag assessment) -

CANCELLED

Rent and Utilities \$18,300

Cooperators Dinner – CANCELLED

Sea Grant NAACC Grant 2019 – 332 assessments complete – final report submitted

WQIP NAACC – plan of work submitted waiting on contract

WQIP Erosion Assessments – plan of work submitted waiting on contract

Allycia (District Technician):

AEM

Tier 3a: 1 Grazing plan, 1 Silvopasture plan, 1 Irrigation plan

Tier 5a: 1 Site visit.

AG NPS 26: All 3 applications have been submitted; waiting for ranked list

AEM Strategic Plan:

- Deadline: December 2020
 - Need to set up meeting with committee to discuss moving forward
 - Need to find location to hold this “Social Distance” meeting
 - Need meeting scheduled for the month of August
- Trying to get the field for AEM visits.

NYS Grown & Certified: met with 2 producers interested in certification,

Invasive Species Monitoring: the southern end of Franklin County is complete and I'm moving north

- Towns completed:
 - Tupper Lake – 2018-19
 - Saranac Lake – 2019-20
 - Brighton – 2020
 - Duane – 2020
 - Santa Clara – 2020
 - Franklin - 2020
 - Waverly (St. Regis) – 2020
- Towns ½ completed:
 - Dickinson Center (hopeful for completion by end of August)
 - Dickinson (hopeful for completion by end of August)
 - Belmont (hopeful for completion by the end of September)

Training/Workshop:

- Still working on receiving CAA for approved practices
 - Trails and Walkways, Stream Crossings, Heavy Use Area Protection, Diversions, Roof Runoff Structure, Micro and Sprinkler Irrigation and Grass Waterway

EEF: July meeting cancelled, next meeting August 3rd

Hydroseeding: Working with Chris and Kristin as professional flagperson

Christopher (District Technician)

AEM

- Attended site visits and assisting with forest management activities

Part C

- Assisting with EAB monitoring, checking trap location for invasive pests

Sea Grant NAACC

- Final report submitted, meeting with municipalities where culvert surveys are completed and discussing the report information with them and priority areas for future grant applications.

WQIP NAACC

- Completed NAACC online training, prepping for fieldwork, waiting for signed contract

WQIP Erosion Assessments

- Reviewing Erosion assessment information and erosion control practices, prepping for fieldwork, waiting for signed contract.

Hydroseeding

- Chateaugay – Sections completed on Cassidy Road, CR 52 and their Village Park. Town Hwy Supervisor states there will be a lot more to do in the next few weeks
- Burke/Constable – started on CR 38 and the Dumas Road with hopes of completion this week
- Franklin/Bombay – have an interest in us hydroseeding in the next few weeks

Donna (Secretary to the Board):

Weekly: Submit payroll and Deferred Compensation, update timesheet hours on spreadsheet.

Monthly: NYS Taxes, NYS Retirement, Federal Taxes, board meeting notice, minutes from last meeting, reconciliation of bank accounts and preparation of Quick Book reports.

Quarterly: NYS Tax Qtly Report, Federal Tax Qtly Report, Worker's Compensation Report,

Yearly: Disability Ins pd in August, complete Excellus Annual Group Report by September, NYS Retirement Annual Inv pd in December to get discount, Annual Treasurer's Report, Part A Report, process W2's, W-3's & 1099's with a 1096 attached, Annual Tree Sale.

Typical month (along with the above)::

- Continuously add/update customer address files.
- Assist customers who come into our office.
- Answer the main phone line assisting people to the best of my ability.
- Assist Chastity, Kristin, Allycia and Chris, whenever possible.
- Make regular bank deposits.
- Receipt money received into Quickbooks.
- Prepare for monthly Board meeting.
- Update the Secretary Manual, as needed.
- Complete monthly reports

June 8th – July 20th

- Call Ins. Companies for Certificate of Liability Insurance as needed for the Use of our Hydroseeder or No-Till Drill
- Continuing to log in/out in our Reopening Employee/Customer Log to listing date, name, arrival/exit times and who each employee comes in contact with throughout the day.
- Practicing "Social Distancing", washing hands, and wearing face mask as required.
- In steps 5/6 or transitioning from Silver to Gold Certification with NYS Retirement System as required. Taking continuous required webinar training/hope to be near the end of this 3-month process. (6/1-9/30)
- Many telephone calls coming in regarding Opt In/Out of Ag District
- Wrote article on pollinators for upcoming Newsletter
- Compiling a list of contents in my filing cabinets to better organize for maximum efficiency and to see what can be destroyed through the Records Retention process.

4. **District Managers Report:**

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24.1– Working on engineering plans, planning on construction this summer.
- Round 24.2– Engineering complete, bidding is out, meeting this week, construction soon. Completed 65% billing
- Round 25.1 – State contract approved; 25% billing complete; construction planned for this summer. LO contracts complete, need signatures.
- Round 25.2 Cover Crops – Contract received. 25% billing complete. LO contracts complete, need signatures

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 1

- CAFO: 33 – Constable- Closed out, completed final pay out to LO. District share \$4,435.00
- CAFO 35 – Chateaugay –Project started. 65% billing complete

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3

- Round 3 – Contract received. 25% billing complete. Waiting on engineering.

WQIP Planning – Culvert Assessment & RRAMP (Kristin)-waiting on contracts from NYS DEC

WQIP Round 12 Hydroseeding Grant – complete, need to close account. Anticipate applying for another WQIP hydroseeding grant if the CFAs ever come out.

CWICNY WQIP Grant: working w/CWICNY on grant for implementation of Non-Ag projects within Lake Champlain Basin in 5 counties. We are the grant administration on this and we are working on tightening up the process and the information.

FCRTA- working on ATV easements/planning. DOT has reached out and they are still working on identifying potential Rt 11 crossing. Still working on the GEIS.

SLRWP- progressing and we have a draft plan with an implementation plan. Contract extended to March 2021 with actual project completed by December 2020. Working on 3rd and final public meeting for this fall via WEBEX, with NYSDOS approval.

COVID-19 – Office is now open to the public however, we are still trying to do most work by appointment

8 Year Ag District Review –Ag Land Protection Meeting, July 23rd with over 2000 acres to add in /about 80 acres to opt out.

5. **Correspondences:** Newsletters: Franklin County Cornell Cooperative Extension, Erie County SWCD,2019 Annual Report form NYS SWCD. Grassroots – July 2020 Edition, Franklin County Cornell Cooperative Extension, letter dated 6/29/2020 asking for \$100 to put an advertisement in their newsletter, NYACD, letter dated 3/31/2020, NACD, billing (2 notices 4/1, 7/1/2020) asking for us to renew our membership.

6. **New Business:**

- Chastity introduced for discussion the NYS Governor’s Bill No. 204 “Declaring Juneteenth a Holiday for New York State Employees”;
Discussed and approved,
1st S. Gokey, 2nd E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**.

7. **Old Business:**

- Performance Measures Requirements amended and approved by the SWCC voting members 4/14/2020 meeting due to 2020 COVID-19 were presented by Chastity.
- Budget: Current, revised and projected 2021 budget was presented to the board by Chastity with much discussion on that the submittal should be for next year. It was discussed to present a 20% reduction.
- Forestry: Discussion on a potential alternative funding source. This would be the oversight of some planned forestry projects. Chastity is going to work on a policy for our next meeting.

Next meeting will be on Monday, August 24, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the AG Service Center, Malone, NY.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager