

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Ralph Child
Paul Lauzon
Thomas Derouchie
Dennis Egan
Steve Gokey

Staff

Donna Wright
Kristin Ballou
Devin Normandeau
Chelsea Cash, FCSWCD Dist Cons Student Aide
Hannah Manchester, FCSWCD Dist Cons Student Aide

1. Meeting began at 11:59 PM - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by R. Child, Chair
2. Reps from Community Bank, Darcy King, Branch Mgr and Lynn Dailey, Retail Branch Asst gave a short presentation on ZECrow, which the Board and Staff will be looking into. They also spoke about other options they have available for farmers. Thank you to Darcy and Lynn.
3. June 18, 2024, Board meeting minutes – Discussed and approved.
Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried

4. Financial Reports (Donna):

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:

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

Abstract and Vouchers were reviewed and approved

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

Transfer of Funds: were reviewed and approved for the following:

Requested permission to transfer the following:

- \$ 261.96 from Reg Checking to Trust/Agency account - monthly employee retirement (June 2024)
- \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (Aug 2024)
- \$ 466.50 from Reg Checking to No Till (June 2024)
- Motion to accept: 1st D. Egan, 2nd P. Lauzon; all in favor, **carried**.

5. Reports:

NRCS

FY 2024 EQIP- 32 contracts obligated; 10 more apps preapproved & moving forward.

FY 2024 CSP – 12 preapproved apps moving towards obligation.

FY 2025 – Taking apps & conducting site visits for all visits for all programs for FY 2025 projects.

Ongoing Projects – Engineering mtgs taking place for farmstead projects that are funded, Waiting on Cultural Resource reviews for all projects that are ground disturbing.

Food Security Act – All 1026 requests are up to date.

FSA - (Cell:518-605-2508).

FSA

FSA Cty Committee Elections - nominations due 8/1.

Reporting storm/natural disaster damage – Producers experiencing storm damages are encouraged to contact FSA.

Emergency Relief Program – Deadline is 8/14.

Organic Certification Cost-Share Program: Deadline 10/31

Conservation Reserve Program: Deadlines: Continuous signup deadline is 7/31

Price Support Interest Rates & Farm Loan Program Interest Rates: provided for July 2024

USDA Service Center 518-483-2850

NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)

NYS SWCC News

- CAFO-Enhanced Nutrient & Methane Mgmt Prg - \$14M available; applications must be submitted by 10/28-5PM 4
- SWCC State Programs Advisory Committee-Recording – Recording of 6/27/24 SPAC mtg has been uploaded to Sharepoint. Next meeting = 8/29
- Climate Resilient Farming Program Rd 8 - \$28.75M available; applications due 6/28 5PM.
<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC> - questions: Jennifer Clifford
Jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov by May 28, 2024. Submit applications by: 5PM 6/24/24
- July SWCC meeting - 7/16 10:00 AM

- 2024 NYS Envirothon Call for Volunteers - 7/28-8/3-Hobart & William Smith Colleges, needs volunteers

Other Events

- Watershed Forestry Webinar Series – 7/11
- NYS Soil Health & CRF Days: July 25th Rodman Lott & Son Farms in Seneca Falls
- Annual CDEA Golf Tourney: 8/1/24 Casolwood Golf Club
- 2024 NACD Northeast Regional Conference: August 10-14th in Boston, MA

Funding Opportunities

- New Grant for Restoring Wetland and Stream Habitats – WQIP offering maximum award is \$1M. App deadline 7/31 4PM

Kristin (District Forester)

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans – 3 more remaining based on 2022 data.
- Continuing implementation of plans with EQIP funding for producers – 1 project closed out
- Assisting Clinton Cty SWCD w/AEM Forestry-1 more to complete & billed to Clinton Cty SWCD, 2 more plans scheduled for 2024-25
- LCBP Covered Barnyard Project – engineer secured, press release ready submitted, working on contractor bids, quarterly report and billing submitted.
- Warren Cty AEM – Assisting w/development of AEM Forestry Prg

Part B - 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – 2024, 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – contractor working on inventories

Part C - 2024 projects

- Brushton Moira Ctrl – Approved/completed/paid - to further support FFA Maple operations.
- Chateaugay Ctrl – Approved, completed/paid - pumpkin patch to provide pumpkins to all students.
- Malone Ctrl – Approved/completed/paid -1st app: St Joseph’s Elementary- greenhouse, shelving, trays, etc to start plants & grow them in winter; 2nd app: Not Approved-Tees for distribution to students.
- Salmon River Ctrl – Approved, completed/paid - funding to add heat to high tunnel & extend growing season.
- Saranac Lake Ctrl – App #1: Approved/complete/paid - funding to continue working w/VIC educator to conduct winter ecology lessons w/students at HS campus; App #2: Approved funding to support Farm to School Prg enhancements.

Devin (District Technician)

AEM

- AEM Rd 18: Tier 4 project contracts
- Soil Sampled 112 acres for CNMP

AgNPS – Monitoring Rd 24, 16-1 Oakes an Rd 27 Trumble

- Contacted contractors & engineers

CAFO Papa’s Dairy Manure Storage monitoring

- Contacted engineer
- Assisted Warren Cty SWCD with AEM Forestry

No Till - used 7 times (98 acres total)

Part C – Set up 10 Emerald Ash Borer Traps

District Interns (Chelsea/Hannah)

Chelsea and Hannah have been busy assisting with setting up Emerald Ash Borer traps, taking soil samples, river sampling, surveying, working on FC Fair projects, hydroseeding, and going on AEM site visits, along with attending meetings and working on several other projects! Great job girls and thank you!

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Continue performing office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Maintain all financial records, along with managing payroll and Federal/State taxes and processing all NYS Retirement payments and NYS Deferred Comp payments.
- Complete daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and yearly financial reports, along with my daily tasks.
- Complete all daily banking needs and monthly bank reconciliations.

6. **Correspondences:** NYACD \$1500 Assessment invoice, District 2024 Summer Edition newsletters from the following SWCD Districts: Broome, Cattaraugus, Monroe, Niagara and Erie, Grassroots July/August 2024 Edition, Thank you card from BMC for staff presentation on Ag Safety Day, Thank you card from Chastity Miller, NYACD Annual Conservation Investment FY24 membership invoice.

7. **New Business:**

Board approved **to transfer the following when we receive the money:**

- From NYSDEC \$30,436.50 remain in Checking – reimbursement - hydroseeding
- From NYS Ag/Markets \$190,000.00 from Checking to AEM Yr 18 Impl - 90% Impl
- From NYS Ag/Markets \$238,875.00 from Checking to AgNPS Rd24, 16-1 Oakes - 65%
- From NYS Ag/Markets \$184,600.00 from Checking to AgNPS Rd27 Trumble - 65%
- From NE Interstate Water Pollution \$500.00 from Checking to Lake Champlain Basin AG
- From NYS Ag/Markets \$97,500.00 from Checking to RRAMP Forest Rds 2 - 50% request
- From NYS Ag/Markets \$239,239.00 from Checking to CAFO3 – 65% already received 7/5/24

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

Board approved **to pay \$150.00/Village of Malone – Water/Sewer Inv. due 7/31/24:**

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

Board approved **to pay \$155.00/staff membership (K. Ballou) Society of American Foresters:**

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

Board approved to:

- **Adopt new policy “Franklin County Code of Ethics policy, including Franklin County Government Statement of Financial and Other Interests”**
- **Add from FC Employee Handbook, pg. 4, “Confidentially” to FCSWCD Handbook:**
- **to adopt new policy(s) NYS DOL “Rights of Nursing Employees to Pump Breast Milk at Work” & “To Express Breast Milk at Work” from NYS Labor Law Sect 206-c:**

Motion: 1st D. Egan: 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried – Yes

Board approved **to pay Quickbooks Annual Subscription, no more than \$700:**

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

Board **DENIED to pay USPS-Extend Forwarding Mail Date, \$29.95/12 mos. (not necessary)**

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

Board approved **to pay \$80.97 to NYS Unemployment for 2024 Annual Interest Assessment Surcharge:**

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

Board approved **to pay FC Treasurer \$2,627.74 for 2024 Workman’s Compensation Annual invoice:**

Motion: 1st T. Derouchie: 2nd D. Egan, P. Lauzon abstained, all in favor, carried – Yes

Board approved **to pay NYSLRS Annual Invoice in the amount of \$24,085 by December 15, 2024 :**

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

Board approved **to pay an additional \$1,323.29 to Jonathan Cheney on top of the \$12,000.00 already approved for the roof replacement and we still need a copy of their insurance for our file:**

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

Board approved **to purchase laptop for District Secretary, no more than \$800**

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

Board approved **Tire Recycling Drop off/Town of Franklin, no more than \$2,200.00/per load winning bidder-Glenn Winterbottom:**

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

Board **TABLED motion until next meeting – review policy RE: spend no more than \$200 on BMC Yearbook ads):** Motion: 1st D. Egan: 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, carried – Yes

Board approved **to spend no more than \$1,000.00 on a Laser Level:**

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

Board **TABLED until next month for FCSWCD to administer the Septic Program Grant:**

Motion: 1st S. Gokey: 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, P. Lauzon abstained, carried – Yes

Board approved **1 application only - Part C Salt Reduction Program, up to \$2,000 (T-Franklin):**

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

Board approved **FCSWCD submit letter to NRCS State Con, Blake Glover RE: Cultural Resource Reviews:**

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

Board approved **2 staff to attend ConSkills, no more than \$3,000.00:**

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

Board approved **Tree Removal bid of \$1400.00 from S4I, Inc. – tree removal at 174 Finney Blvd (office):**

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

8. **Old Business:** None.

9. **Next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

10. **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:47 PM - Motion: 1st T. Derouchie, 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Wright
DistrictSecretary