

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, March 22, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) via Zoom or speaker phone
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood
Ed Lockwood
Thomas Derouchie
Dennis Egan

Staff

Chastity Miller
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. February 23, 2021 board meeting minutes –were tabled as the proper Quorum was not present.

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

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:

1st E. Lockwood, 2nd T. Derouchie; all in favor, **carried**.

Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved

1st E. Lockwood, 2nd T. Derouchie; 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:

- \$279.68 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement;
- \$1,500.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings,

1st D. Egan, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.

4. **Reports (Chastity):**

NRCS

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

FY 2021 EQIP: Ranking deadline now 4/2. Preapprovals to be announced 4/30 w/obligation deadline 6/22

5 Tunnels, 7 Wildlife Apps, 3 Forestry, 1 Forest Mgmt Plan, 1 Grassland, 1 Ag Energy Plan

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. Soil scientist site visits in Spring.

Administrative: Direct Hire Soil Conservationist position available in Malone. Work cell phone: **518-605-2508**

FSA

Conservation Reserve Program - CRP Grasslands signup delayed. General sign-up extended/no deadline at this time. Program provides rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes.

Quality Loss Adjustment (QLA) Program - sign up extended to 4/9. Program compensates producers for crop quality losses caused by qualifying disaster events in calendar year 2018 & 2019

Farm Storage Facility Loans – Contact FSA

Price Support Interest Rates for March 2021 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for March 2021 were given.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) 3 (?) – No additional information.

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- Governor extended suspension until 3/16

NYS SWCC News

- AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2021: Deadline 4/1 contact: Judy Littrell 518-457-6320 or judy.littrell@agriculture.ny.gov
- Round 26 AgNPS: awards announced - \$14.9 million will be awarded;
- Round 5 CRF: awards announced - \$4 million will be awarded;
- SWCC Meeting: next meeting 3/23;

Other News/Events

- Open Meetings Law Virtual Training: NYS Committee on Open Government presented training on 3/18

- Great Lakes Wind Feasibility Study: a webinar was held on 3/19. Website: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Clean-Energy-Standard/Important-Orders-Reports-and-Filings/Great-Lakes-Wind-Feasibility-Study>
- 2021 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual Conference: Save the Date. Conference in Niagara Falls 4/27 & 4/28

Other Funding Options

- American Farmland Trust Dairy Forward Program; <https://farmland.org/dairy-forward/>
- Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program: application deadline 4/16 at 5 p.m. <https://www.glc.org/wp-content/uploads/GLSNRP-RFP-2021-Final.pdf>
- 2021 Buffer in a Bag Program: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115903.html>

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: LCBP Forestry BMP Education & Implementation – Plan of Work and Workshop preparations

Meetings/Trainings/Events

- CWICNY
- TLRFC
- Water Quality Symposium

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 and contacting landowners in affected areas. Ordering supplies from APHIS. Beginning the removal of sentinel trees and meeting with National Grid. EAB TF meeting scheduled for April to work as a group to develop a monitoring plan

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 1: Making calls to get into field;
- Tier 2 Site visits: 2 tier 1, 2 site visits;
- Tier 3a: grazing plans;
- AEM Round 17 Grant: revamping newsletter to send out to ask for application.

Conservation in the Community:

- Working with CCE on Soil Health workshop with teens in Hogansburg (June)
- Summer Workshop series:
 - Pollinator (June 21st for kids)
 - Soil Health “Soil your Undies” (July)
 - Irrigation (date to be determined)

Training/Workshop:

- Water Quality Symposium Classes: PGM for Non-traditional farms, Pollination Habitat Benefitting Ag, Integrated Pest Mgmt. plan writing and certification, AEM Data Mgmt.;
- FACT: Federal Funding Opportunities for Livestock; Water Mgmt for Grazing
- Oregon Forage & Grassland Council: Lunch and Forages;
- CCE: How to Obtain Pesticide Applicator License;
- Soil Health in Pasture System.

Conservation Approval Authority (CAA); working on finishing “roof runoff”.

Christopher (District Technician)

AEM: Helping with forest inventories and assisting with other forest management activities;

WQIP NAACC: Finishing up the data entry and starting on the final report;

WQIP Erosion Assessments: Started the final report for the towns that are completed. Erosion assessments have already been completed in Constable, Brandon and Bangor with plans to start Malone next week;

Hydroseeder: Yanmar has covered the pars warranty issue;

Hydroseeder/No-Till Policies: continuing to update;

2021 Water Quality Symposium: attended and learned a lot of new things in all areas of soil and water.

Education/Workshops: Watched more webinars this past month pertaining to agriculture, erosion, forestry and stormwater to advance his knowledge for all aspects of his position.

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Weekly/Monthly/Quarterly/Yearly—weekly-submit Payroll, Deferred Compensation; monthly-NYS Tax, Federal Tax, NYS Retirement; Quarterly- NYS Tax, Federal Tax , Worker's Comp Report and all Yearly required reports
- February 23rd-March 22, 2021
- Prepared for Board Meeting-reports, mailings, typed minutes, posted minutes to website;
 - Reconciled bank accounts/scanned to 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;
 - Entered a lot of Tree Sales as received;
 - Preparing a 2nd copy of Tree Sale invoices to be mailed to all customers with delivery or pick up details;
 - Several water and soil sample questions received/answered;
 - Continued to follow COVID guidelines;
 - Attended WQS Webinars Training: Clerk's Forum, "And Why Should I Care"-Communicating w/the Public through Media, Overview of Gov't Acc'ting. & Reporting Responsibilities, Notary Public & Federal, NYS & Payroll Finances;
 - Compiled a list of attendees for Kristin's Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop on 3/27

6. District Managers Report: (Chastity)

Office-sill operating but closed to the public. Claim of Payment on Part C submitted and received \$112,874.08.

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– Reviewing engineering plans and getting ready for bids.
- Round 24, 16-2– Project doing great!
- Round 25, 16-3 - Working on bids.
- Round 25, 16-1 – Year 1 complete.
- Round 26 –3 Applications projects ranked; unable to announce. CRF Round 6 was announced & gives us hope!
 - Barnyard and Manure Storages in Dickinson,
 - Cover Crops,
 - Barnyard in North Bangor

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 – Checking in on this project.

WQIP Planning – Culvert Assessment & RRAMP have started and weather has delayed. Chris was working RRAMP assessments and Kristin and Allycia had been working on culverts before the snow hit.

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 and we expect to submit another voucher for Payment #6 by end of March.

FCRTA- working on ATV easements/planning. Attended a meeting for a Trail Coordinator. I continue to work on the GEIS. Wetland section is done for the main trail, working on Wolf Pond trail.

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

Legislative Days: Participated this year virtually via Zoom in 11 appointments. It went well and was very informative. We were told the "Stream" bill we fought against has been reintroduced. This bill would increase work on permits for projects, along with make additional work on the reviewer's side.

WQS - was held the week of 3/8 virtually. The Annual meeting was held on 3/9 w/95 attendees. Over 300 people signed up for various classes across the state. Classes that were allowed to be videoed were emailed. Great participation by all!

NRCS/FSA-are in the gating period, so one person in NRCS, 2 in FSA and everything done over the computer or phone.

7. Correspondences: Grassroots March 2021 Edition, Chemung Cty SWCD Annual Report of 2020 Activities, Clinton Cty SWCD Winter 2021 Newsletter, FCSWCD letter to FC Bd of Legs. Dated 2/24/21 requesting appointment of Dennis Egan to FCSWCD District Bd, FC Bd of Legs. Res #41 dated 3/4/21 appointing Dennis Egan to our board, NYSSWCD memo dated 3/1/21 from B. Luskin RE: 2020 Perf Measure awarded to FCSWCD for Part C \$112,874.08

8. New Business - Chastity requested the following:

- Request Board approval to set up Checking Account for AGNPS Rd 26;
Motion: 1st E. Lockwood, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.

- Request Board approval to pay no more than \$92,000 from SLRWP account to pay Ecologic;
Motion: 1st E. Lockwood, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, **carried**.
- Request Board approval to increase rental cost of U-Haul trailer to transport Tree Sale orders from \$150 to \$250;
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.
- Request approval to purchase a new server for the office to cost no more than \$1,000;
Motion: 1st E. Lockwood, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, **carried**.
- Request the Board approve Ag Assessment cost from \$20 to \$25;
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.
- Request Board approval of the FCSWCD Pandemic Policy;
Motion: 1st T. Derouchie, 2nd Ed Lockwood, all in favor, **carried**.

9. **Old Business**: None

10. **Next meeting will be on Monday, May 3, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) via Zoom**

11. Meeting Adjourned at 12:47 p.m.
1st D. Egan, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager