

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Monday, March 28, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room or via Zoom  
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

## Directors:

Bill Wood (via Zoom)  
Steve Gokey  
Thomas Derouchie  
Dennis Egan  
Ed Lockwood  
Paul Lauzon

## Staff

Chastity Miller  
Donna Wright  
Kristin Ballou  
Christopher Ballou

1. Meeting began at 9:02 a.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

2. February 15, 2022 Board Meeting minutes - Discussed and approved  
1<sup>st</sup> S. D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon: 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> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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:

- \$ 288.03 from Reg Checking to T/A account for February 2022 employee retirement;
- \$ 2,000.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings (March 2022);
- \$10,000.00 from Regular Checking to Insurance (return \$ used to pay 2021 bills)
- \$ 5,000.00 from Regular Checking to Computer (return \$ used to pay 2021 bills)

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

### 4. Reports (Chastity):

#### NRCS –

FY 2022 EQIP: Ranking deadline was 3/18. Preapprovals April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Franklin County eligible application for FY 2022: 1 Energy, 3 Forestry, 1 Grazing, 6 Wildlife, 5 High Tunnel, 2 Farmstead, 1 Cropland, 3 Conservation.

Ongoing Projects: Engineer is starting to get onsite to survey for project designs. Farmstead contract plans to begin construction as soon as weather allows.

Wetland Reserve Program: Monitoring for the year has commenced. Each participant will receive a letter with a follow up call, if needed. On sites will be conducted early summer.

Food Security Act: Franklin County is up to date on all requests at this time.

Administrative: **Work cell # 518-605-2508 calling to schedule an appointment is the best way to contact NRCS** as Tric is still carrying projects in all 3 counties and she may not be in the Malone office.

#### FSA

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC): Supplemental DMC & 2022 coverage open through March 25<sup>th</sup>

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): Signup will take place April 4<sup>th</sup> – May 13<sup>th</sup>

Spot-Market Hog Pandemic Program (SMHPP): Deadline extended to April 29<sup>th</sup>

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): Benefits to eligible livestock owners or contract growers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by eligible loss conditions...contact FSA for more details.

Price Support Interest Rates for March 2022 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for March 2022 were given.

FSA-COVID-19 – FSA is open as staff are here to assist producers by phone, electronically and in person by appointment.

Please let them know if you have any questions. Thank you.

#### NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)

General Updates: Under Executive Order 202.1, temporary change made to Open Meetings Law authorizing remote meetings public bodies across NYS remains active for the duration of the State Emergency. Executive Order 11.3 extended it until April 4<sup>th</sup>

#### NYS SWCC News

- AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2022: Deadline for applications is May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 6: \$8 million available. Project proposals due at 4:30 pm on May 16<sup>th</sup>;
- AgNPS Rd 28: \$13 million available. Project proposals due at: 4:30 pm on May 2<sup>nd</sup>;
- SWCC Meeting: last meeting was 3/15;

#### Other News/Events

- Freedom of Information Law Virtual Training: was held on 3/24
- 2021 NYS Wetlands Forum Annual conference: Save the Date: April 27-28<sup>th</sup> at Double Tree Hotel in Niagara Falls

#### Other Funding

- Community Forest Grant Announcement: \$1 million will be available. Applications due by 2 pm April 13<sup>th</sup>
- NYS Pollution Prevention Institute Community Grant Application: Application deadline 4/15 at 5PM
- Great lake Sediment & Nutrient Reduction Program: Application due date is 5PM on 4/22.

#### Kristin (District Forester)

## AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans: working on plans over the coming months based on 2021 inventory data, setting up inventories for 2022;
- Continuing implementation of plans w/EQIP funding for 3 producers & implementation w/producer outside funding;
- Meeting with more producers with maple operations interested in this program;
- Assisting Clinton County SWCD with AEM Forestry.
- Developed checklists & contracts for all AEM 17 Implementation Projects, working with producers to begin projects

## Meetings/Trainings/Events

- CWICNY

Part B - 4 Forest Management Plans-2022 4 Forest Management Plans-2 inventories complete.

## Part C – 2022 Projects

- School Funding Program – sent notice to school districts; application due March 31<sup>st</sup>

Workshops – (Fruit Tree Pruning 4/2, Lake Placid 10:30-noon), (Blueberry Pruning 4/6, Constable 1-4:4:30 pm), (Arbor Day 4/30, Village of Malone Noon), (NYTL Timber Measurements, Malone, 5/5), (Structural Pruning Workshop, Lake Placid 10:30-noon), (Forestry BMP & Skidder Bridge Workshop, Tupper Lake 6/2), (First Aid & CPR for Loggers 2 in June)

WQIP Erosion – Working on final report

WQIP NAACC –11 assessments left to complete; over 400 assessments completed to date; beginning to compile information collected into final report

## Christopher (District Technician)

AEM: Assisted with a few forest inventories and checking on a harvesting operation over the past month;

WQIP Erosion Assessments: are completed and I am working on the data entry and final report. We found around 12 missing assessments that have to be reassessed.;

NAACC Culvert Assessments: working on the final report and spreadsheet for the assessments that have been completed:

Education/Workshops: Webinars-Agricultural, Storm water, Forestry, Erosion to advance my knowledge in all aspects of my Soil & Water Technician position. Also, attended the WQS the last two weeks via zoom.

Chris told the Board that he will be leaving around the first to the middle part of May to go into the NYS Ranger School and he thanked everyone for their support.

## Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Weekly: Submit Payroll, Deferred Compensation, IRS “Semi-Weekly” tax deposit;
- Submitted February NYS Tax Monthly report/payment, NYS Retirement Monthly report/payment, reconciled all February bank statements, then scanned them to the proper FC Offices;
- 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 lots of messages to staff when they’re in the field working;
- Received a lot of water questions now that Spring is here;
- Made regular bank deposits;
- Tree Sale orders have finally stopped;
- Mailed postcards for free seedlings to all who recycled Christmas trees;
- Mailed out reminder notices to pick up Tree Sale orders at the Malone site and Saranac Lake site;
- Preparing paperwork for new employees;
- Attended several WQS webinar classes.

## 5. District Managers Report: (Chastity)

### Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– Extension approved, good until 2023. Working on estimates. Concrete issues
- Round 25, 16-3 – Working on bids, received an updated engineering drawing;
- Round 25, 16-1 – Year 2 complete;
- Round 26 – Year 1 complete;
- Round 27 – Plan of work complete, waiting on contract, still.

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

CRF Rd 6 Applications – 3 to 4 applications, due in May

AgNPS – at least 3 apps, maybe more, due in May.

WQIP Grants awarded 2 grants for the Non-agricultural money from NYSDEC. (1 for Hydroseeding in County; 1 for planning of more culvert assessments). Still waiting on contracts on this.

WQIP Planning: Culvert Assessments & RRAMP. Chris is back out working on RRAMP assessments and Kristin is working on ranking and costing them. I am working with Device Magic on a database to report template...wrapping these up soon! Culverts are just about done also.

CWICNY WQIP Grant: Done and Paid.

FCRTA- working on ATV easements/planning. Finished the GEIS, submitted to NYSDEC at a meeting at NYSDEC; for an internal review before publishing. Working on Phase 2 SEQRA for snowmobiles. Some issues with easements and crossings; working on these. Project cannot move forward until we have these issues taken care of. Have been contacted by Office of Economic Dev; they want to take over SEQRA....we will see what happens and they have funding to do it.

Franklin County Snowmobilers-resubmitted a trail. They are looking for the trail from Holiday Inn to C8A. The State is allowing for a resubmit; sent in and should be in great shape. Working on the next round, unless EDC wants to take that on too, so it is all in one house.

SLRWP- This is COMPLETE! We’ve been re-setting meetings and getting things going again. Last meeting was 3/9. Looking into funding options and some partnerships. Would like to begin working on fact sheets for each town highlighting projects/programs for each. Made a connection 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. Working on fact sheets for the areas soon.

NYS CDEA 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/WQS classes/registration. Working on year end clean-up for organization. Getting closer to getting some of the work out of here!

2021-year end reporting: Completed 2021-year end reporting and putting together an Annual Report. Annual 2022 Tree Sale was mailed and posted. Kristin has ordered all trees, berries, seeds and extras. Sold out of all the trees; have some seeds/strawberries left.

6. **Correspondences**: The Empire State Granger-March/April 2022 Edition: Grassroots-March 2022 NYS Monthly Harvest Newsletter, FC Cornell University Coop-Ext February 2022 Emerald Gazette, Schuyler County SWCD 2021 Annual Report, Fall/Winter 2021 Newsletter, NYACD Invoice for \$1500.00, 3/15/22 NYACD Legislative Days letter thanking Chas for all her help with Legislative Days with zoom calls.

7. **New Business**:

Chas requested the following and all were discussed and approved:

- Need Board approval to:
  - a. **start a bank account for a Building Fund**;
  - b. **approval to transfer \$5,000 from Part C \$, when \$ is received**;

Motion:

1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan

2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey

All in favor, carried.

- NYS CRF Resolution 2022-1 - Approved via unanimous email vote on March 14, 2022. Soil Health and Irrigation applications. No board member interest.
- NYS AG Non Point Source Applications: S. Gokey left the zoom at 10:02am noting conflict of interest due to District submitting an application on his farms behalf. Discussion on application 1. Choiniere Farm CNMP implementation, 2. Stargo Silage Leachate 3. Potential Soil Health. **approval of Resolution #2022-2 dated March 28, 2022 Authorizing participation by FCSWCD in AGNPS Abatement & Control Program created pursuant to section 11-b of NYS SWCD Law (Round 28)**;

Motion:

1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan

2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon

Present: B. Wood, P. Lauzon, D. Egan, E. Lockwood and T. Derouchie All in favor, carried.

S. Gokey returned to the meeting at 10:10am.

- Need Board approval to pay **Device Magic-Annual Subscription of Erosion Control apps, not to exceed \$750**:

Motion:

1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon

2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey

All in favor, carried.

- Need Board approval to **purchase seed for the Hydroseeder not to exceed \$1,000**:

Motion

1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan

2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood

All in favor, carried.

- Need Board approval to **renew our Trident Insurance policy with King Clark Insurance, not to exceed \$6,000**:

Motion

1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie

2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon

All in favor, carried.

- Need Board approval for **support of our Annual Arbor Day Celebration on 4/30, not to exceed \$300.00**:

Moton

1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan

2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie

All in favor, carried.

- Need Board approval **for support of our Blueberry Pruning Workshop on April 6<sup>th</sup>, not to exceed \$200**:

Motion

1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey

2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon

All in favor, carried

- Need Board approval **for support of our BMP Workshop in June, not to exceed \$500**:

Moton

1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie

2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan

All in favor, carried

**Need Board approval to hire 2 District Technician as follows:**

- ❖ **Motion to offer 1st District Technician position to Devin Normandeau:**  
1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan  
2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey  
Roll Call: P. Lauzon, D. Egan, T. Derouchie, E. Lockwood, S. Gokey, B. Wood  
All in favor, carried
- ❖ **Motion to set salary for 1<sup>st</sup> District Technician position at \$35,000:**  
1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan  
2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon  
Roll Call: P. Lauzon, D. Egan, T. Derouchie, E. Lockwood, S. Gokey, B. Wood  
All in favor, carried
- ❖ **Motion to offer 2<sup>nd</sup> District Technician position to Steven Vincent:**  
1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey  
2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan

Roll Call: P. Lauzon, D. Egan, T. Derouchie, E. Lockwood, S. Gokey, B. Wood

All in favor, carried

❖ **Motion to set salary for 2<sup>nd</sup> District Technician position at \$35,000:**

1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon

2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan

Roll Call: P. Lauzon, D. Egan, T. Derouchie, E. Lockwood, S. Gokey, B. Wood

All in favor, carried

• Need **approval to shred FCSWCD Records Destruction - List #3 per LGS-01 of 2020**:

Motion

1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie

2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey

All in favor, carried

• Need approval **for support of First Aid/CPR Workshop for Loggers (times 2) not to exceed \$3500 will be reimbursed:**

Motion

1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan

2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood

All in favor, carried

8. **Old Business:**

- a. NYACD Dues of \$1500/tabled until next month again.

9. **Additional Comments**

- a. Bill Wood inquired about office hours and opening to public; Chas stated that FCSWCD office is and has been open to the public.
- b. Dennis Egan thanked Chas/Donna for the promptness in obtaining manure sample bottles and soil sample bags.
- c. Bill Wood thanked Allycia and Chris for their time and efforts in all they have done while working at FCSWCD and wished both well in their future endeavors.

10. **Next meeting will be on Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

11. **Meeting Adjourned** at 10:22 a.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller  
Secretary / District Manager