

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)  
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

## Directors:

Ralph Child  
Paul Lauzon  
Thomas Derouchie  
Dennis Egan  
Justus Martin  
Steve Gokey

## Staff

Chastity Miller  
Donna Wright  
Devin Normandeau  
Kristin Ballou

1. Meeting began at 12:05 PM - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by R. Child, Chair
2. April 9, 2024, Board meeting minutes - Discussed and approved.  
Motion: D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried
3. **Financial Reports (Donna):**  
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey; all in favor, **carried**.  
Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan; all in favor, **carried**.  
Transfer of Funds: were reviewed and approved for the following:  
Requested permission to transfer the following:
  - \$ 372.15 from Reg Checking to Trust/Agency account - monthly employee retirement (April 2024)
  - \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (June 2024)
  - \$ 161.00 from Reg Checking to No Till (May 2024)
  - \$ 7,187.16 from NARE to Reg Checking (4/25/24 NARE event expenses)
  - Motion to accept: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan; all in favor, **carried**.
4. **Reports (Chastity):**  
**NRCS** – None provided this month  
**FSA** - None provided this month  
**NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)**  
**NYS SWCC News**
  - SFY 2024-2025 Environmental Protection Fund: now available at [www.budget.ny.gov](http://www.budget.ny.gov). \$400M approved.
  - Climate Resilient Farming Program Rd 8: \$28.75 Million available.  
<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC> - questions: Jennifer Clifford  
[Jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov) by May 28, 2024. Submit applications by: 5PM 6/24/24
  - May SWCC meeting: 5/21 10:00 AM
  - Spring Manager's Meetings: Region 4: June 7th APA Office 1133 NYS Rt 86, Ray Brook, NY 10AM-2PM
  - AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2024: Application deadline 5/15/24
  - 2024 NYS Envirothon Call for Volunteers: 5/22 & 5/23/24 at Cortland State University needs volunteers.  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScMFLrYPXZkYXm7qMQABYrUCCb7iYjR5nzi7Mx9Mu-6MKSzqg/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>
  - 2024 NACD Northeast Regional Conference: August 10-14<sup>th</sup> in Boston, MA

## **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, and billed to Clinton Cty SWCD, 2 more plans scheduled for 2024-25
  - LCBP Covered Barnyard Project – contract received/signed, landowner acquiring engineering bids, press release ready to submit
  - Warren Cty AEM – Assisting w/development of AEM Forestry Prg
- Part B - 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – 2024 – 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – landowners selected based on application date
- Part C - 2024 projects
- Brushton Moira Ctrl – Approved, complete and paid for funding to further support FFA Maple operations.
  - Chateaugay Ctrl – Approved for funding for pumpkin patch to provide pumpkins to all students.

- Malone Ctrl – 1<sup>st</sup> app: St Joseph's Elementary-Approved funding for greenhouse, shelving, trays, etc to start plants & grow them in the winter; 2<sup>nd</sup> app: Not Approved-Tees for distribution to students.
- Salmon River Ctrl – Approved funding to add heat to high tunnel to extend growing season.
- Saranac Lake Ctrl – App #1: Approved, complete and paid for 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 planning, cost estimates and applications
- 10 projects submitted
  - 4 Prescribed Rotational Grazing System
  - 1 Livestock Heavy Use Area Runoff Mgmt System
  - 1 Petroleum and Oil Products Storage System
  - 1 Irrigation Water Mgmt System
  - 2 Soil Health System
  - 1 Forestry/Agroforestry – switched to EQIP
- 1 project dropped out for EQIP funding

#### Soil Sampling – 20 Soil Samples received

Tree Sale assisted with packing berries and trees, along with distributing tree sale orders

No Till has been used 4 times (35 acres total) with 2 more jobs lined up

NARE assisted with set up and attended 4/25/24 NARE event

#### Conservation in the Community

- Arbor Day tree planting at Westville Community Park
- Malone Rec Park tree planting

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

- Continue performing office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Insurance binder complete; Chas will discuss later. Obtaining Certs of Liab Ins for customers using No Till Drill.
- Prepared Tree Sale Summary. Reviewed and discussed.
- Attended 4/25/24 NARE event

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

#### New Billings

- Need to bill AEM Yr 18 Implementation

#### Outstanding Billings

- LCBP \$10,000
- AEM Yr 18 Tech Assistance \$ 54,965
- RRAMP and Forest Rds 2 \$97,500 (50%)
- CAFO 3 \$239,239.00 (65%)

#### New Awards for Grants

- Smart Growth \$125,000 partnership with Trout Unlimited; working on contract

#### Completed Billings and Payments received

#### Applications Submitted

- CRF Rd 8
- NYSDOS Grant for culvert replacement in St Lawrence River Watershed – should hear in October

#### Current Grant Updates

- Rd 24 (manure storage) working on bids for summer construction, extension approved
- Rd 27 (barnyard, manure storage, silage leachate) working on estimates for summer construction
- Rd 28 (barnyard, manure storage) hoping to build barn this summer, then implement project. 4/22 inspected site w/NYSDEC. Hoping for forgiveness on consent order
- CAFO 3 (satellite storage) bids received; project awarded; construction should start soon. Billed 65% of BMP Implementation
- CRF Rd 7 (Soil Health/10 producers) waiting on contract
- AEM Yr 18 contract received, billed 25% technical portion, need to identify projects so we can bill for implementation money. Working with Devin on contracts.
- NYSDEC WQIP Culverts will work with intern this summer to complete project
- NYSDEC WQIP Hydroseeding some complete; will work with intern & new tech to implement this project
- LCBP Organizational Grant for CWICNY complete/waiting for payment

### Potential Grant Applications

- Salt Storage for Towns of Burke and Westville. CFA/WQIP

Intern & Dist Tec Applications: 3 applications for Conservation Student Aide position. Hoping to hire 1 & 1 intern  
Envirothons: Local Envirothon 4/25-Awesome fun event; State Envirothon May 22-23-T-shirts done, working on Oral Presentation/Preparation; Intl Envirothon 7/ 28-8/3 – working on \$\$/plans/ordering shirts/Oral Presentation.  
FC Snowmobile (\$3,000 contract for County & Rec: Phase 1 done/submitted to Phil Hans, 5/13, mapping all trails for an updated trail map, planning mtg to transfer over the 501c3.

Arbor Day was a hit! Nice Job by Devin organizing and planning!

Collecting Water Samples in Bombay area (Salt, Barium and Arsenic) C. Miller & J. Martin are conducting. Submitted 5 samples. Evaluating samples and may add some more in.

Add'l items: Landowner mining plans updated. Permits: landowner & Malone Rec Pk complete. Site visit w/NYSDEC today.

6. **Correspondences**: NYACD \$1500 Assessment invoice, 4/19/24 Chateaugay Ctrl School letter expressing sincere thanks for ongoing support for PtC School Ass't, Boralex Beyond Renewable Energy, Fort Covington – 60-day Notice of Intent to File an Application, Grassroots May/June 2024 Edition
7. **New Business**:
  - Board approved to purchase Insect Tents for St Regis Mohawk Tribe Farm, no more than \$1,000:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey: 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried – Yes
  - Board approved to pay King Clark Ins (2024-2025 Annual Insurance) \$9,687.59:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin: 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, carried – Yes
  - Board approved to purchase/pay American Water Services \$661.80 (50 Bacteria/25 Iron/Hardness Water kits):  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon: 2<sup>nd</sup> JD. Egan, all in favor, carried – Yes
  - Board approved CRF Rd 8 Resolution:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin: 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried – Yes
  - Board approved to hire one (1) Conservation Student Aid for 8 weeks @\$16.50 an hour:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin: 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, carried – Yes
  - Board approved to set up bank account for “NYSDEC: Adk Pk Rd Stream Crossing Mgmt Planning”:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey: 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried – Yes
  - Board approved CWICNY MOU with Add'l changes:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. T. Derouchie: 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried – Yes
  - Board approved to hire Independent Contractor to assist with Forestry work @ \$30/per hour, pay no more than \$10,000, they will need their own Liability Insurance and/or if none consult FC Atty or our Insurance Company:  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan: 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, carried – Yes
8. **Old Business**: Chas discussed District Tech position; asked if we could advertise for applicants again. All Board Members were in agreement to do so. Chas advised all present that the roof replacement should begin in June and we are looking for contractors to repair or replace the driveway.
9. **Next meeting will be on Tues, June 18, 2024, at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**
10. **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:41 PM - Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> JD. Egan, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna Wright / Chastity Miller  
Secretary / District Manager