

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 16, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)  
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

## **Directors:**

Bill Wood  
Steve Gokey  
Dennis Egan  
Justus Martin

## **Staff**

Chastity Miller  
Kristin Ballou – via Zoom  
Donna Wright  
Ryan Cunningham NYS SWCC – via Zoom

1. Meeting began at 12:09 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood, Chair
2. March 27, 2023 Board meeting minutes – Tabled until next meeting for proper attendance to approve  
April 18, 2023 Board meeting minutes – Tabled until next meeting for proper attendance to approve
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> S. Gokey, 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 for the month of **April 2023**:
  - \$ 270.38 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (April 2023)
  - \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (May 2023)
  - \$ 1,021.48 from NARE to Reg CheckingMotion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried**.
4. **Reports (Chastity):**  
**NRCS** –  
FY 2023 EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Prg) - Apps preapproved in Franklin Cty: 9 Wildlife, 3 Forestry – All apps are moving toward obligation.  
FY 2023 CSP (Conservation Stewardship Prg) -: 1 Cropland app, 4 Forestry apps, all apps preapproved and ready to move toward obligation.  
EQIP IRA/CSP IRA (Inflation Reduction Act) Funds - An add'l funding pool was available this year with certain "Climate Smart" Ag & Forestry practices included. 3 Forestry apps, 1 Energy app  
Ongoing Projects - Engineering meetings are taking place for farmstead projects that were funded last year, final designs should be available early summer.  
Food Security Act - All 1026 requests are up to date at this time.  
Administration - Tric is Acting District Conservationist for 120 days, (began 4/9). Work cell phone- **518-605-2508**  
NRCS Funding Highlights for the team in 2022-2023 were given.  
**FSA**  
Grassland Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) – Signup until 5/26  
Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) - Applications for reimbursement runs 5/15 through 10/31  
2023 Acreage Reporting – Most field crops/vegetables have 7/15 deadline for signup. Contact FSA.  
Emergency Relief Program (ERP)Phase 2/Pandemic Asst Revenue Prg: Signup through June 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Price Support Interest Rates for April 2023 were given  
Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for April 2023 were given  
FSA office is open with staff present to assist by phone, email or in person  
**NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)**  
**NYS SWCC News**
  - SFY 2023-2024 Environmental Protection Fund – Enacted Budget is now available at [www.budget.ny.gov](http://www.budget.ny.gov). and is yet another very strong showing of support for conservation programs.
  - Climate Resilient Farming Prg Rd 7 - \$15M available, questions: [Jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov) by 6/5/23. Applications due by 4:30pm - 8/7/23 on SharePoint <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>

- AgNPS Rd 29 - \$13.5M available, Questions: [bethany.bzduch@agricultural.ny.gov](mailto:bethany.bzduch@agricultural.ny.gov) by 5/22/23. Applications due by 4:30pm – 6/26/23 on SharePoint.
- SWCC Meeting – May 16th 10AM
- Spring Managers Mtgs-Save the Date – 6/12-Reg. 3, 6/14-Reg. 2, 6/15-Reg. 5, 6/16-Reg. 1, 6/21-Reg. 4.
- AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2023 – Deadline is 5/27/23.  
Info: <https://www.sandcountyfoundation.org/uploads/NY-CFN-23.pdf>

#### Other Events

- 2023 Practical Pasture Mgmt Trg – Grazing training 5/18 10 am to 3 pm
- 2023 Conservation Leadership Conference-Save the Date – July 18<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> at the Ranger School
- 2023 NACD Northeast Regional Conference: Save the Date – Sept 17-20<sup>th</sup> in Portland, ME
- The Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool – webinar recording available at Webinar: Using the Riparian Opportunity Assessment Tool – You Tube. The link to NY Natural Heritage Prg Riparian Opportunity Assessment tool is <https://www.nynhp.org/projects/statewide-riparian-assessment/> Questions/Comments: [Emily.fell@dec.ny.gov](mailto:Emily.fell@dec.ny.gov) or [kch235@cornell.edu](mailto:kch235@cornell.edu) (Kristen Hychka).

#### Other Funding Options

- Federal Funding available for Urban & community Forestry – approximately \$1 Billion expected to be awarded under this program nationally. All proposals must be received by 6/1/23 at 11:59 p.m. EDT. For more info and to apply, visit: <https://iraucfgrants.urbanandcommunityforests.org/>

### **Kristin (District Forester)**

#### AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans - working on plans over the coming months based on 2022
- Continuing implementation of plans with EQIP funding for 3 producers
- Meeting with more producers with maple operations interested in this program;
- Assisting Clinton County SWCD with AEM Forestry – 1 more to complete based on 2022 inventory and met with another on 5/5
- AEM 17 Impl Projects - working with producers to complete projects; 2 complete, 1 in progress, 3 waiting
- Assisting Hamilton County with AEM Program development.
- Assisting Washington County with Silvopasture Planning for 1 producer
- Assisting with soil sampling

#### Part B - 2023 4 Forest Management Plans

#### Part C - 2023 projects - School Funding Program

- ADK Education - Maple sugaring equipment (in progress)
- Brushton – one app submitted for Add'l grow towers for farm to school program (app'd and in progress) – reimbursed for initial purchase in April
- Chateaugay - Expanding raised beds and growing capacity - \$1,700 approved in April
- Freedom School – met with them last week
- Malone Central - seedlings for Arbor Day handout (not funded though School Assistance, funded through Conservation in the Community) and raised beds & materials to establish gardening club at St. Joe's Elementary - \$1,500 approved in April
- Saranac Lake - Outdoor learning, water quality monitoring, macro-invertebrate sampling/identification - \$1,500 approved in April.

### **Devin (District Technician)**

#### AEM

Soil Sampling – 288 acres

- Tier 1: 2 completed
- Tier 2: 3 completed
- Tier 3a:
  - 2 Farmstead Plans
    - Reviewing and meeting with landowners
  - Forest Management Plans
    - 1 completed, meeting with landowner
  - Grazing Plan – revisions due to power line replacements
- Tier 4: Assisted landowner with project implementation.

## No Till

- Maintenance performed
- Rented out once so far

## Conservation in the Community

- Franklin Academy Career Fair 5/5
- Malone Rec Park tree planting (5/10)

## Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Continue to perform office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Presented 2023 Tree Sale Summary

## 5. District Managers Report: (Chastity)

### Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1 – extension approved, getting estimates.
- Round 25, 16-3 – Estimates and engineering going. Still working on estimates, may be looking at a new manure storage also, need to touch base with planner.
- Round 25, 16-1 – closeout with Ryan, just need signatures.
- Round 26 – Year 2 complete, planning for Year 3.
- Round 27 – Contract received. Working on LO contracts.
- Round 28 – Barnyard and Manure storage contract back to state, working on LO contracts.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 - Extension approved, working on revisions for engineering.

AGNPS Rd 29 - applications are being thought about and put together, maybe 4-5. Devin, Kristin and Chas worked on them and are planning, awaiting it coming out. Approved at last board meeting.

CRF Rd 7 Applications – planning at least 2, maybe 3. Devin, Kristin and Chas worked on them and are planning, awaiting it coming out. Approved at last board meeting.

AEM Yr 17 - Third project well underway; 3 for this construction season. Devin's working on applications for next round and planning his attack.

WQIP Grants - awarded 2 grants for Non-Ag money from NYSDEC (1 Hydroseeding in County; 1 planning culvert assessments). Working on the work plans for hydroseeding and completed the one for culverts.

Malone Rec Park - working with Rec Park for parking lot NYSDOS grant. Will work on extension next summer. Asked Blue Mountain Engineering for an estimate on the planning.

Add'l grants/Educational Opportunities – working on findings some for the district and schools.

New Truck: investigating the purchase of a new truck; sold the Equinox on Auctions International

Permit - permit for rec park eastern shore and plants – had someone look at the western side, looking for engineering drawings.

Permit for Bannon's – working on this

Snowmobiles – Phase One is complete and handed over to the County on 5/15.

St Lawrence Cty SWCD – both District Mgr & Clerk's last day was 5/12, asked to cover up to 8 hrs per week at \$70 an hour, as needed.

6. **Correspondences**: Malone Telegram April 20, 2023 Edition recognized Chastity Miller, our District Mgr for receiving the 2023 Willard R. Croney Distinguished Service Award and Devin Normandeau, our District Tech, for receiving the 2023 Heroic Action Award, Grassroots-May/June 2023 Edition, Franklin County SWCD & Chemung Cty SWCD Annual Report of 2022 Activities, NYACD Annual Training/Mtg in Penn Yan 10/24-26<sup>th</sup>, NYACD letter dated 4/30/23, Lead Agency designation for Town of Chateaugay.

## 7. **New Business**:

- Board approved to **pay Pt C School Assistance Funding balance**:

- **Brushton Moira Central School \$64.42**

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> J. Martin; 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved **support of up to \$3500 for Forestry BMP & Skidder Bridge Workshop on 6/9**:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan; 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor,

- Board approved **Part C School Assistance to pay Adirondack Education (BOCES) \$2,300**:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> S. Gokey; 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved **a NARE purchase up to \$800 for sweatshirts/t-shirts**:

Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan: 2<sup>nd</sup> J. Martin, all in favor, carried.

8. **Old Business**: none

9. **Next meeting** will be on **Wednesday, June 14, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

10. Meeting Adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller  
Secretary / District Manager

DRAFT