

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. in the Conference Room or via Zoom
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

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

Staff

Chastity Miller
Donna Wright
Kristin Ballou
Devin Normandeau

1. Meeting began at 12:03 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

2. April 25, 2022 Board Meeting minutes - Discussed and approved,
1st S. P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan: all in favor, **carried**.

3. Financial Reports (Donna):

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:

1st P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan; all in favor, **carried**.

Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved

1st P. Lauzon, 2nd 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 November:

- \$ 249.86 from Reg Checking to T/A account for April 2022 employee retirement;
- \$ 2,000.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings (May 2022);
- \$ 254.00 from Regular Checking to Equipment/Hydroseeder
- 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, **carried**.

4. Reports (given by Chastity):

NRCS

FY 2022 EQIP: Franklin County pre-approved applications: 2 Energy, 3 Forestry, 1 Grazing, 3 High Tunnel, 1 Farmstead, 2 Wildlife and 3 Conservation plans. There will most likely be more preapprovals as contracts are obligated throughout the summer

Ongoing Projects: Engineer is starting to get onsite to survey for project designs and Farmstead contract has begun construction.

Wetland Reserve Program: Monitoring is ongoing.

Food Security Act: Site visits have taken place for all ongoing violations. Final determinations will be issued soon.

Administrative: Tric is serving as District Conservationist for the Clinton, Essex and Franklin team over the next 120 days. Feel free to reach out anytime. **Work cell # 518-605-2508**

FSA

2022 Acreage Reporting: Accurate crop reports are needed for many programs. Deadline for most spring seeded crops and hay forages is 7/15;

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): Applications are on an on-going basis for Continuous/CREP practices, (focusing on improving water quality). Contact FSA for more information.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Payment (FSFL): Provides low interest, fixed rate financing to construct on-farm crop storage and purchase new or used handling equipment and trucks for a wide range of crops. Contact FSA for more information.

Price Support Interest Rates for May 2022 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for May 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. **Office # 518-483-2850** Thank you.

NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)

General Updates: The Governor has extended the suspension of in-person meeting requirements of Open Meetings Law until June 8th.

NYS SWCC News

- SFY 2022-2023 Environmental Protection Fund: available at www.budget.ny.gov. This year's total approved EPF budget is very strong showing support for conservation programs with the overall appropriations approved at \$400 million, an increase of \$100 million over last fiscal year. Additionally, the approved budget authorizes the \$4.20 billion Environmental Bond Act of 2022. The Bond Act will appear on the ballot in the 2022 general election.
- SWCC meeting – No meeting in May, June's meeting date/time to be determined;
- Climate Resilient Farming Program Rd 6: \$8 million is available to support projects;
- AEM Leopold Conservation Award 2022: Deadline for applications was extended to May 27th;
- Interim Reporting: Reports were due 5/1 for certain open and active program contracts. Interim reports should be submitted for active contracts in the following funds: AGNPS contracts (Rd 21-Rd 23), CAFO WSTSP (Rd 1-Rd 2), CRF (Rd1-Rd 4). Send to Maureen.Irish@agriculture.ny.gov and to your Regional AEA;

Other Funding Assistance

- NY Flood Adaptation Grant Writing Capacity Program: Applications were due 5/25;
- Frank Bratt Scholarship: Application deadline is 6/1;
- NYS Water Quality Improvement Program: Grant application period is open through 7/29

Kristin (District Forester)

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans: working on plans over the coming months based on 2021 and 2022 inventory data, setting up the rest of the inventories for 2022;
- Continuing implementation of plans w/EQIP funding for 3 producers & implementation with 1 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

Part B - 4 Forest Management Plans - 2022 4 Forest Management Plans- 3 inventories complete.

Part C – 2022 Projects

- School Funding Program – sent notice to school districts/application were due March 31, 2022
 - Brushton – Grow towers to provide greens to cafeteria
 - Chateaugay – raised beds for growing vegetables to benefit a variety of classes
 - Freedom School – Fruits & berries from tree sale
 - Malone – Pollinator friendly edible gardens at sugarhouse & conifer trees for student handout

Workshops – Forestry BMP & Skidder Bridge Workshop 6/2 Tupper Lake 6/2

Devin (District Technician)

AEM:

- Working on Forest Management Plans – worked on 5 inventories – 1 more set up;
- Working on 2 plans
- AEM site visits – Meeting with maple, beef and other producers;
- AEM R17 field visits
- Assisting Clinton County SWCD with AEM Forestry

No-Till

- Ordered replacement parts;
- Should be ready to go by May 27;
- 3 people signed up to use the No-Till Drill so far.

Training:

- Attended a “Grazing Workshop” with Troy Bishop;
- Attended a “Timber Measurements” class

- Attended a “Ruffed Grouse Habitat” training;
- Reading and listening to information about the AEM program, soils and forestry.

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Weekly: Submit Payroll, Deferred Compensation, IRS “Semi-Weekly” tax deposit;
- Submitted April NYS Tax Monthly report/payment, NYS Retirement Monthly report/payment and I reconciled all April bank statements, then scanned them to the proper FC Offices;
- Board Meeting prep: print reports, 2 mailings, typed minutes, posted minutes to website;
- I’m continuously updating both the mailing list and the secretary manual;
- Assisted customers/staff when needed and convey messages to staff when they’re out of the office;
- Received several water questions and mailed out Soil Samples;
- Made regular bank deposits;
- Finalized setting up the “Building Fund” account and obtained Devin’s District Debit card;
- Registered several people to attend both the Structural Blueberry Workshop on 5/7 and the Forestry BMP & Skidder Bridge Workshop on 6/2;
- Fielding several calls from individuals to use the Hydroseeder and the No Till Drill
- Attended the Envirothon at Paul Smith’s College on 5/12;
- Finalized our Trident Insurance Policy with King Clark Ins Co for another year;
- Devin & I took a 3rd party water sample for a customer in St. Regis Falls;
- National Business Technologies Staff of 4 were in about printer issues;
- Completed the Annual Group Information worksheet for Excellus.

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 – 2 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 estimate for the county to complete the SEQRA and to assist with the county working with us pushing this together.

Malone Rec Park-

Hydroseeding-Hydroseeding has begun for the season with a couple of jobs completed and we will be hydroseeding at Carsada’s soon.

FCRTA- still working on this and Phase 1 is complete with the 1st trail was accepted;

NYSCDEA-Chas is the Treasurer, however, the 4-hr Soil & Erosion Sediment Course has been turned over to Monroe County SWCD. This allows for more time to concentrate on FCSWCD.

State Envirothon-Chas attended the State Envirothon held at Hobart Williams & Smith College in Geneva. on 5/25-5/26. Franklin Academy placed 1st in Current Issues and placed 4th overall and we plan on doing a press release soon.

6. **Correspondences**: Grassroots-May 2022, NYACD Dues \$1500 Invoice, Franklin County Emerald Gazette – May 2022, Empire State Granger – May/June 2022, April 30. 2022 NYACD letter.

7. **New Business:**

Chas requested the following and all were discussed and approved:

- Need Board approval to **purchase seed for the Hydroseeder**, not to exceed \$8000:

Motion: 1st D. Egan; 2nd E. Lockwood, all in favor, carried.

- Need Board approval to **transfer \$2565.00 from No Till acct to Checking acct (repairs):**

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon; 2nd E. Lockwood, all in favor, carried.

- Need Board approval to **transfer \$326.37 from Equipment/Hydroseeder acct to Checking acct (repairs):** Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.

8. **Old Business: None**

9. **Next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

10. **Meeting Adjourned** at 12:37 p.m.

1st P. Lauzon, 2nd E. Lockwood, all in favor, carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager