

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood
Ralph Child Paul Lauzon
Steve Gokey Thomas Derouchie
Dennis Egan

Staff

Chastity Miller
Kristin Ballou
Donna Wright
Devin Normandeau

1. Meeting began at 12:05 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood, Chair

2. October 18, 2023, Board meeting minutes - Discussed and approved.
Motion: P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.

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

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:

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

Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved

Motion: 1st S. Gokey, 2nd P. Lauzon; all in favor, **carried**.

Transfer of Funds: were reviewed and approved for the following:

Requested permission to transfer the following:

- \$ 225.96 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (October 2023)
- \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (November 2023)

Motion: R. Child, 2nd D. Egan; all in favor, carried.

4. **Reports (Chastity):**

NRCS

EQIP – Deadline has passed for this year. Assessing and ranking the applications received for this round.

Potential Shutdown – possibly on Friday, 11/16, if so, office will be closed.

FSA

Emergency Relief Program (EERP 2022) – financial assistance to producers with eligible weather-related crop losses in 2022. The deadline has not been announced. Two (2) tracks for this program, contact FSA for details.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): Deadlines as follows:

- Perennial fruit & nut crops – 11/20/23
- Honey & Maple Sap – 1/2/24

**Socially Disadvantaged, Limited Resource, Beginning Farmer or Beginning Veteran Farmer are eligible for administrative fee waivers and premium reductions on buy-up coverage.*

Upcoming 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage:

- Fall seeded small grains – 11/15/23
- Honey bee colonies & Maple taps – 1/2/24
- Apples, grapes & peaches – 1/20/24

Price Support Interest Rates & Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for November 2023 were given.

NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)

NYS SWCC News

- New NYS Grants MGMT System Coming – NYS is anticipated to launch a new integrated grants management system in January 2024. Details coming in the next few weeks. This new system will be replacing the grants gateway; vendors (SWCD) registered in the old system will be rolled over to the new system automatically.
- SWCC Meeting – November 21st at 10AM
- 2023 Part C Performance Measures – Make sure your District is fulfilling Performance Measure goals.
- Reminder of Open Funding Opportunities –
 - Source Water Buffer Program - <https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/rfa-0181-source-water-buffer-program>
 - County Agricultural & Farmland Protection Planning Grants <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0262-county-agriculture-and-farmland-protection-planning-grants>

Other Events:

- 2023 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference – Double Tree, E. Syracuse 11/28-11/29 followed by a virtual track 12/12-12/13, when add'l programming will be offered. Info & registration link: <https://www.nysaba.com/educational-meeting>
- NACD 2024 Annual Meeting –Feb. 10-14. <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting>
- Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub Basin Work Groups-Save the Dates – Great Lakes Action Agenda Sub Basin Work Group meetings:
 - 11/29 1-4PM - McCrobie Civic Center, 21 Lake St., Oswego, NY
 - 11/30 1-4PM - Massena Town Hall, Massena, NY
 - 12/4 1-4PM - Tift Nature Preserve 1200 Fuhrmann Boulevard, Buffalo, NY
 - 12/5 1-4PM - Seymour Library, 161 East Ave. Brockport, NY
 Please let DEC know if you would like to attend in person or join remotely: greatlakes@dec.ny.gov
- Other Funding Options
- Urban Farms & Community Gardens Grant Program – Deadline is 12/1/23 (4pm) (<https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfp-0318-urban-farms-and-community-gardens-grant-program>).
- NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant - ≈240M to prioritize high-value, high-impact habitat restoration projects that advance resilience. Closes 11/17th. <https://fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/240-million-available-transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience>
- DEC Urban & Community Forestry Funding Available – accepting applications for a total of \$12.9 M for urban and community forestry projects through the Inflation Reduction Act funding opportunity. Can apply under 2 categories: Community Forest Mgmt Plan Implementation (\$10M) and Ash Tree Mgmt (\$2.9M); no match required. Deadline is Wednesday, January 31, 2024. The RFA can be found here: https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5285.html#Inflation_Reduction. Register here: <https://meetny.webex.com/webappng/sites/meetny/meeting/register/e9d8613039a14fac9460fd9ea65c74ca?ticket=4832534b000000684ded2171befed1f26676dae10067ec1d683ebd24a06e2f60e6ae4650bc148bc×tamp=1699014406078&RGID=raf052a25587ecb5b719641845d549d1>

Kristin (District Forester)

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans – 1 completed, 3 more remaining based on 2022 data.
 - Continuing implementation of plans with EQIP funding for producers
 - Assisting Clinton Cty SWCD w/ AEM Forestry-1 more to complete based on 2022; 2 scheduled for 2024-25
 - AEM 17 Impl Projects - working w/producers to complete projects; 2 complete, 3 closing out, 1 in progress,
 - Part B - 2023 4 Forest Management Plans 2 complete
 - Part C - 2023 projects - School Funding Program (all participating schools completed/reimbursed, except):
 - Saranac Lake - Outdoor learning, water quality monitoring, macro-invertebrate sampling/ID-. (need invoices to pay)
- 2024 Tree Sale – All trees/seeds ordered & confirmed. Berry plants ordered/to be confirmed in December.

Devin (District Technician)

AEM

- Tier 1 – 1 completed.
- Tier 2 – 1 completed.
- Tier 3a:
 - 2 Rotational Grazing Plan – contacting w/landowner.
- Tier 4:
 - 2 closed out.
 - 1 not started.
 - 3 projects finished.
 - 4 projects finished.
 - 5 projects finished.
 - 6 Closed out.

AEM outreach visit: Forest Mgmt Plan Implementation – Timber Marking was completed.

AgNPS Grant – Rd 26 Cover Crops – 1 farmer checked and certified.

Conservation in the Community – Hydroseeder was cleaned out and winterized.

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Continue to perform office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Preparing for year-end reporting.

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

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1 – waiting on bids for 2024 construction.
- Round 25, 16-3 – Done, closing out! Received 65% of funds!
- Round 26 – Working on paperwork for closing out.
- Round 27 – Got contract! LO contract done, he is working on bids for barnyard and manure storage.
- Round 28 – Barnyard and Manure pit LO contract complete. Waiting for the barn to be replaced.
- Round 29 – need to do plan of work if not going with CRF. 10 producers = \$387,655.00
- CRF – awarded, need to decide which side to go with.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 – Need to figure this one out. Requesting extension.

CRF Rd 7 Applications – awarded 1, but same as R29. Need to determine which way to go.

AEM Yr 17 – Devin and Kristin have been working hard on these! Great job!

AEM Yr 18 – approved resolution for next round over email. Thank you.

WQIP Grants – awarded 2 for non-Ag money from NYSDEC (1-Hydroseeding in County; 1-planning of more culvert assessments). Contract in place for culverts; working on hydroseeding.

Rec Park Parking Lot – working w/Rec Park for NYS DOS grant. Will work on extension; still don't have engineer.

Add'l. Grants/Educational Opportunities – working on finding some for district and schools.

Endyne – Another choice water testing option. Going very well! We are very happy with their services.

Sunny View – This month salt sampling will be done in that area.

NYACD Annual Conference and ADMIN Conference – Attended both/Great meetings! Thank you, Denis, for attending the NYACD Annual Conference.

Part C – working on projects, budgets and raise recommendations for next year. We have projects on insurance, benefits, and workers comp.

Plowing – Superior Glass was the winning bidder for snow plowing this season.

Tree Sale – Kristin is working on this, and Donna is working on Christmas Tree Recycling program postcards.

6. **Correspondences**: Invitation from Malone Chamber of Commerce to attend Annual Dinner/Awards in November 18th at the Malone Lodge of Elks.

7. **New Business**:

- **Need Board approval to pay Industrial Press \$679.00 for Fall Newsletter:**

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

- Board approved **to pay Malone Chamber of Commerce Annual Dues \$175.00 (need as we get our Dental/Vision Insurance through the Chamber):**

Motion: 1st S. Gokey; 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved to **pay Wordfence – Annual website protection \$99.00:**

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon; 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved to **pay Saranac Lake Central School up to \$1,500.00 (Part C-Sch Asst.):**

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

- Board approved to **pay King Clark Insurance \$538.00 (insurance: 174 Finney Blvd property):**

Motion: 1st S. Gokey; 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved to **transfer and pay from Forest Rds #1 account to Main Cking acct to pay Warren County SWCD \$18,700.00 for** (Glens Falls Water Dept \$8,700.00 and Warren County SWCD \$10,000.00):

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

- Board approved to **transfer from Forest Rds #1 to Main Cking acct to pay Warren Cty SWCD a RRAMP payment totaling \$11,154.24:** Motion: 1st P. Lauzon; 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved to **transfer from AgNPS Rd 25 Monica to Main Cking acct to pay Gary Monica no more than \$193,000.00,** once approved by NYS Ag & Markets: Motion: 1st S. Gokey; 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved to **transfer from AEM Yr 17 to Main Cking acct to and to pay no more; once approved by NYS Ag & Markets:**

- Aaron Carter \$23,000
- Justin Tucker \$11,000
- Bob Eckert \$20,000

Motion: 1st T. Derouchie; 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried.

8. **Old Business:** Thank you to Denis Egan for attending the NYACD Annual Conference in Penn Yan with us.
9. **Next meeting will be on Tues, December 19, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**
10. **Meeting Adjourned** at 12:58 PM
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager

DRAFT