

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – November 15, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) via Zoom
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

Bill Wood
Ralph Child
Paul Lauzon
Dennis Egan
Tommy Derouchie
Ed Lockwood
Steve Gokey

Staff

Chastity Miller
Donna Wright
Allycia Foote
Christopher Ballou
Ryan Cunningham (NYS Ag/Markets)

1. Meeting began at 12:06 p.m. (Noon) - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

2. September 20, 2021 Board meeting minutes – Discussed and approved .

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

October 18, 2021 Board meeting minutes – Discussed and approved.

1st T. Derouchie, 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

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

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved

1st P. Lauzon, 2nd R. Child; all in favor, **carried**.

Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved

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

Transfer of Funds: were reviewed and approved.

Requested permission to transfer the following:

- \$ 349.60 from Regular Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (October);
- \$ 656.00 from Regular Checking to Equipment/Hydroseeder (October)
- \$ 611.00 from Regular Checking to Equipment/No-Till (October)

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

4. **Reports:**

NRCS No report this month. Work cell number: 518-605-2508

FSA No report this month. Office number: 518-483-8250

NYS Ag and Markets

NYS SWCC News

- Next SWCC Meeting: November 23rd at 10 AM.
- 2021 Part C Performance Measures: make sure your District is fulfilling its Performance Measure goals.
- Reminder of Open Funding Opportunities:
 - NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Rd 18: Conservation Easement Projects
<https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0238-farmland-protection-implementation-grants-round-18-conservation-easement>
 - Source Water Buffer Program: Funding to support purchase of development rights on agricultural land to support protection of active public drinking water sources. RFA/Documents on <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>

Other News/Events

- SW Conservation Society Annual Mtg: 11/16 9 AM virtual
<https://farmland.salsalabs.org/nyswcsannualmeeting/index.html>
- 2021 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference: Registrations: <https://www.northeastregioncca.com/>
- Cornell Offers Virtual Advanced Soil Health Certificate Course –12/5-12/14. www.soilhealthtraianing.org
- NYS Archives Training Webinar – <https://www.archives.nysed.gov/workshops/schedule>
- Climate Resilient Farming Rd 6 Coming Soon – u p to \$8M available for projects that reduce GHG emissions and help farms adapt to a changing climate. Contact jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov for questions.

Other Funding

- USDA Forest Service Funding Available for Community Forestry – annual request for applications for FY 2022 now available. Applications due to State Foresters by 1/10/22. Interested in applying:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/contact-us/community-forest-regional-coordinators>. Prospective applicants: contact NYSDEC Great Lakes Watershed Program greatlakes@dec.ny.gov

5. **Kristin (District Forester)**

Verbal Report Given

Allycia (District Technician):

AEM:

- Tier 3a: taking soil samples for plan.
- AEM Yr. 16: Year ends 12/31/2021; Final Report due 12/31/21.
- AEM Yr. 16 Grant:
 - Grant 1: Completely closed out;
 - Grant 2: Completely closed out;
 - Grant 3 Project finished-ready to start closeout process;
 - Grant 4: Completely closed out.
- AEM Round 17 Grant: Annual Action Plan sent in; Year 17 starts 1/1/2022.
- NACD Grant: Final report finished and we have been paid out the rest of the grant
- NAACC; Lots of culvert assessing with Kristin this month.

Christopher (District Technician)

AEM: Helping with forest inventories and assisting with other forest management activities. Will be completing a few more properties before snowfall.

WQIP Erosion Assessments: Up to 230 assessments. Towns completed: Duane, Brighton, Fort Covington, Malone, Constable, Brandon, Bangor, Burke, Franklin, Westville, Bombay, Santa Clara, Chateaugay, Harrietstown, Tupper Lake and Waverly. Towns remaining: Moira, Dickinson and Bellmont.

Hydroseeder: Both hydroseeders have been drained and ready to be put in storage. Compiled notes while doing erosion control and have several areas to do next spring/summer.

Education/Workshops: watched a few webinars pertaining to agriculture, erosion, forestry and stormwater to advance my knowledge in all aspects of the SWCD Technician position, along with the following webinars:

- 2021 North Country Stormwater Tradeshow and Conference;
- River Corridor, Flood Plain & Riparian Habitat;
- Franklin County Legislators Meeting.

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Board Meeting prep: reports, 2 mailings, typed minutes, posted minutes to website;
- Reconciled November bank accounts; scanned to required Franklin County offices;
- Continuously updating the mailing list and the secretary manual;
- Assisted customers/staff when needed;
- Received numerous water questions and sold several home water test kits;
- Bank deposits were made;
- Working on getting grant funding for the 2024 Envirothon
- Submitted October Monthly reports: NYS Tax and NYS Retirement;
- Relayed messages to staff when they are working in the field;
- Mailed out soil samples;
- Preparing to mail out Christmas Tree Recycling postcards soon
- Looking into the WEX-Fleet Gas card to purchase our fuel at the beginning of 2022;
- Attended our presentation to the FC Legislator's meeting on 10/21.
- Attended the NYACD conference with Chas on 10/19-10/21/21
- Set up Savings account for AEM Yr. 17 Implementation and I have the paperwork to set up the Checking account for the AEM Soil Sample account...need authorized board signatures.

6.

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

Our office is OPEN. USDA FSA & NRCS are not open, The front door is locked, but call any of the offices and we will come out to see you!

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1 - Submitted paperwork.
- Round 25, 16-3 - Working on bids.
- Round 25, 16-1 - Year 2 complete; Allycia has it covered.

- Round 26 –Cover Crops - Year 1 complete; Alycia has it covered!
- Round 27 – At this point we have at least 1, waiting on the official word on the line and potential returned funds.

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

2 WQIP grants submitted for the Non-Agricultural money from NYSDEC. One for Hydroseeding in the County and the other is for planning of more culvert assessments. We will see in November or December. Still waiting on these.

WQIP Planning: Culvert Assessments & RRAMP, Chris is back out working on RRAMP assessments; Kristin & Alycia are working on culverts.

CWICNY WQIP Grant: working w/CWICNY on grant for implementation of Non-Ag projects within Lk Champlain Basin in 5 counties. We are the grant administration. Submitted invoice #8. Approving the payments for this invoice today.

FCRTA: working on ATV easements/planning. Finished GEIS, submitted to NYSDEC at meeting w/NYSDEC for internal review before publishing. Working on the Phase 2 SEQRA for snowmobiles. Some issues w/easements and crossings. We are working on these.

SLRWP: Plan **complete!** Received payment on one of the bills, received the third billing and sent to consultant.

Completed audits for MWBE. Final close out payment received and paid consultant! Zoom meeting Nov. 18, 2021.

NYSCDEA Treasurer: working on the online 4-hour classes, need to work on shifting platform on this. Assisted w/Con Skills and NYACD registration. NYSCDEA zoom meeting 11/17

Presentation to FC Legislators: went great, all staff presented a few key aspects of what we do. It was received well. We also presented that we had just won the Diversity Award from the NYACD meeting; given to us due to our diversity of programs and assistance that we provide the county. We are honored to have received it but would not have if it was not for everyone's commitment and expertise!

8. **Correspondences:** Grassroots November 2021 Edition and a letter dated 10/1/21 from the FC Highway Dept.

9. **New Business -** Chastity requested the following:

- **Requested Board approval to set up online Bill Pay to pay:**

- Excellus Health Insurance monthly invoice
- Westelcom: Phone/Internet monthly invoice

Discussed and approved.

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

- **Requested Board approval to accept the NRCS MOA:**

Discussed and tabled until next month awaiting MOA

- **Requested Board approval to charge customers \$25 to conduct 3rd party water sampling:**

Discussed and approved.

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, **carried.**

- **Requested Board approve Bill Wood and Ralph Child to another three (3) year term:**

Discussed and approved.

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd D. Egan, (B. Wood and R. Child both abstained) all others in favor, **carried.**

- **Need Board approval to**

- **A. Make the following payments – Round 25 Cover Crop Yr. 2:**

- **Stargo \$5,961.00**
- **Poppydale \$1,788.30**

- **B. Transfer \$7,200.00 out of AgNPS R25 Cover Crops (Stargo/Poppydale) to Checking**

- **C. Then, when money is received from Ag/Markets, transfer from checking to AgNPS R25 Cover Crops (Stargo/Poppydale) \$5,037.05**

Discussed and approved.

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouchie, (S. Gokey abstained) all in favor, **carried.**

- **Need Board approval to**

- **A. Make the following payments – Round 26 Cover Crop Yr. 1**

- **Egan \$5,354.00**
- **Staib \$8,031.00**

- **B. Transfer \$12,400.00 out of AgNPS R26 Cover Crops (Egan/Staib) to Checking**

- **C. Then, when money is received from Ag/Markets, transfer from checking to AgNPS R26 Cover Crops (Egan/Staib) \$8,700.25**

Discussed and approved.

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon, 2nd S. Gokey, (D. Egan abstained) all in favor, **carried.**

- **Need Board approval to**

- **A. Transfer \$55,787.27 from Checking to CWICNY, when pay't #8 is r'cd from Ag/Markets;**

- **B. Then, transfer from CWICNY to Checking \$38,007.17**

- **C. Finally pay the following:**

▪ Clinton Cty SWCD	\$ 4,951.69
▪ Essex Cty SWCD	\$ 5,957.43
▪ Lk George/Lk Champlain Planning Bd	\$ 2,089.29
▪ Warren Cty SWCD	\$ 24,455.76
▪ Washington Cty SWCD	\$ 553.00

Discussed and approved.

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

- Need Board approval to **transfer \$10,000 from Insurance Savings/\$5,000 from Computer Savings to Checking to ensure we have money to cover all outlays for the remainder of the year, will return in 2022 once reimbursements are made:**

Discussed and approved.

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

- Need Board approval to
 - **A. Transfer \$21,669.95 from Retirement to Checking**
 - **B. Then pay NYSLRS annual invoice totaling \$24,298**

Discussed and approved.

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

- Need Board approval to **transfer money from Checking to AEM Yr. 16 to pay Aaron Caiazza for no more than \$19,239 , once Ag/Markets approves the project:**

Discussed and approved.

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

- Need Board to **approve CWICNY Resolution for Coordinator and Letter of Support:**

Discussed and approved.

Motion 1st S. Gokey, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.

- Need Board approval to pay the following 2022 Tree Sale expenses:

○ Vermont Wildflower Farms (seeds)	up to \$1700
○ Indiana Berry & Plant Co. (berries)	up to \$ 500
○ Meadowview LLC (trees)	up to \$3000
○ Double A Vineyards (grapes)	up to \$350
○ Gary Dumville (bat/bluebird/duck boxes)	up to 300

Discussed and approved.

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

- Need Board approval to **pay Alpha Nurseries \$132.97 (2022 Tree Sale Expense)**

Discussed and approved.

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

- Requested Board approval to pay the following from Part C School Assistance for:

- **Salmon River Central School \$1191.37**

Discussed and approved.

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

- Requested Board approval to pay the following from Part C School Assistance for:

- **Saranac Lake Central School for no more than \$1000**

Discussed and approved.

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

10. **Old Business:** Need Board approval to obtain WEX Fleet Gas Cards to purchase fuel as the FC Hwy Dept. will not be providing this service as of 12/31/21. Discussed and approved.

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

11. **Next meeting will be on Monday, December 13, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) via Zoom**

12. Meeting Adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager