

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, November 15, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. in the Conference Room or via Zoom  
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

## **Directors:**

Bill Wood  
Paul Lauzon  
Thomas Derouchie  
Ed Lockwood

Steve Gokey  
Dennis Egan

## **Staff**

Chastity Miller  
Donna Wright  
Devin Normandeau  
Mason Stine

1. Meeting began at 11:05 a.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.

2. July 18, 2022 Board Meeting minutes – Discussed and approved with correction:

1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie; all in favor, **carried**.

October 4, 2022 Board Meeting minutes – Discussed and approved:

1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon; all in favor, **carried**.

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

Financial Reports : reviewed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey; all in favor, **carried**.

Abstract & Vouchers: reviewed and approved: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie; S. Gokey and D. Egan both abstained; all in favor, **carried**.

Transfer of Funds: reviewed and approved, then requested permission to transfer the following funds:

- \$ 286.16 from Reg Checking to T/A account for September 2022 NYS Ret Emp Cont.;
- \$ 286.16 from Reg Checking to T/A account for October 2022 NYS Ret Emp Cont.;
- \$ 2,000.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings Yrly. Ret Dues (November 2022);
- \$ 2,000.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings Yrly. Ret Dues (December 2022);
- \$ 1,095.00 from Regular Checking to No Till (September/October payments)
- 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried**.

4. **Reports (given by Chastity):**

**NRCS** - (work cell number: 518-605-2508) No Report given this month.

**FSA** Open and staff present to assist producers by phone, electronically or in person

Dairy Margin Coverage: September 2022 is \$8.62. 2023 calendar year signup through December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Agricultural Risk Coverage/Price Loss Coverage: 2023 Crop Year signup now through 3/15/2023.

Acreage Reporting: deadline for 2023 crop year: Fall planted small grains is 11/15; Honey/Maple is 12/31;

2023 Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): call FSA for upcoming deadlines;

Organic Certification Cost Share & Organic Transitional Education Certification Program: late-file application deadline until 2/3/2023.

Price Support Interest Rates: for November 2022 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates: for November 2022 were given.

## **NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)**

General Updates: State of Emergency has ended in NY & Executive Order suspending Open Mtgs law has expired.

NYS SWCC News:

- Next SWCC meeting scheduled for November 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.;
- 2022 Statewide Manager's Meeting: December 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> – Doubletree Hotel in Syracuse;
- Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Program Rd 6: Congratulations to Districts receiving funds;
- NYS Connects-Climate Smart Farms & forests Projects Coming to NY: More info to follow;
- Rd 7 CRF Program/Rd 29 AgNPS Program Tentative Timelines: to be announced in January 2023;
- 2022 Part C Performance Measures: Check to make sure your District is fulfilling Performance Measures;
- Reminder of Open Funding Opportunities: accepting rolling applications for: Source Water Buffer Program and County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Planning Grants;
- Agricultural Non-Point Source Grant Program Rd 28: Congratulations to Districts receiving funds.

Other Events:

- Upcoming Great Lakes Webinars – Let's Talk Lake Ontario -11/16, Let's Talk Lake Erie 11/21;
- 2022 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference: 11/29-11/30 Doubletree Hotel, East Syracuse, NY;
- NACD 2023 Annual Meeting February 11-15, 2023 New Orleans, Louisiana.

Other Funding:

- US Forest Service Great Lakes Restoration Grant: USFS requesting applications through 11/14/22.

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

#### **AEM**

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans; working on plans based on 2021 & 2022 inventory data;
- Continuing implementation of plans w/EQIP funding for 4;
- Meeting more producers with maple operations interested in this program.
- Assisting Clinton County SWCD with AEM Forestry – 1 plan complete and billed; 1 more to complete in 2022 ;.
- AEM 17 Implementation Projects; working with producers to complete projects.

Part B - 4 Forest Mgmt Plans - 2022 4 Forest Mgmt Plans – 4 plans complete, 4 additional inventories complete.

Part C – 2022 Projects sent notice to school districts; reports and receipts due 11/11/22. Several local schools did not respond. The following schools were assisted and the projects are completed: Brushton, Chateaugay and the Freedom School. We need approval to pay Malone Central and then this project will also be completed.

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

AEM – Completed Conservation Approval Authority (CAA) for Fence

- Tier 2 - 3 Site visits with Interest in grazing plan;
- Tier 3a - Working on farmstead plan and looking at funding options, grazing plan and Silvopasture plan;
- Soil samples taken for grazing plan. Producer working with us in future for implementation. Assisting producer with EQIP funding for FMP.
- 1 Forest Inventory completed.

AEM Yr 17 – Checked status of grazing project.

Part C - Soil samples taken and waiting for report.

AgNPS – Fields checked for cover crops on 4 farms. All certified by CCA.

CWICNY - 1 farm participating – field checked and sending in paperwork;

Agricultural Assessment Program – Soil Group Worksheets started.

Conservation in the Community – Assisted cutting trees to help stabilize stream bank. Site visit for producer's trees..

### **Mason (District Technician)**

- Town of Chateaugay working to secure funding and materials for project on county line road;
- Town of Franklin working on large scale project by Franklin Falls..

Hydroseeder - Hydroseeded for Town of Malone near the golf course and winterized both hydroseeders.

Drone - Attended a drone skills workshop and fixed some problems with our current drone..

Invasive Species - Attained Commercial Pesticide Technician's license, submitted grant proposal to kickstart our invasive species program and buy equipment to begin spraying herbicide on Japanese Knotweed.

Conservation in the Community – cut down trees w/Chas & Devin to divert high flows of water from an eroding bank.

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

- Performed office administrative duties as requested/required; will continue to keep operations progressing.
- Christmas Tree Recycling Program postcards are here, will label and mail mid-December.
- Called around for Health Insurance rates and Online Payroll services.

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

### **Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants**

- Round 24, 16-1 – Extension approved, good until 2024. Need to get an update;
- Round 25, 16-3 – Estimates & engineering going; extension approved;
- Round 25, 16-1 – Year 2 complete; this is year 3, bills for approval today;
- Round 26 – Year 1 complete; now in year 2, bills for approval today;
- Round 27 – signed contract waiting to receive back
- Round 28 – Awarded one! Barnyard and Manure storage.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3: Extension approved;

CRF Rd 6 Applications: Nope, planning for next round; have asked for a debriefing;

AEM Yr 17: Contract received, received 25% (technical & 90% implementation). Working on paperwork for second closeout for one of the projects.

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

Submitted an application for 3 culverts in the Town of Franklin: Did NOT receive;

Malone Rec Park: working with Rec Park for Parking lot NYSDOS grant. Retaining wall over by pond needs to be looked at and work on permit for opposite side of pond;

Mason and Devin worked on dropping trees for a stream protection permit we had and we need to go look at that.

Budget & Funding Plans for 2023 –trying to get all info & plans for 2023 projects & programs to match the plan of work.

NYACD – I attended the meeting and working on issue with NYS Watershed Coalition who is trying to change NYS SWCD Law. Will discuss further in New Business.

2023 Part B and Part C Funding– Discussed Part B and Part C 2023 Funding.

6. **Correspondences:** Grassroots/October & November 2022, FC Coop Ext 2022 Annual Dinner Invitation, NYACD letter dated 10/1/22 - 2023 membership renewal, NYACD letter dated 10/31/22 - Stream C bills & 2022 Annual mtg highlights, NYS Monthly Harvest October & November 2022, FCSWCD letter - NYS SWCD 2021 Annual Report/

7. **New Business:**

- Chastity requested of the Board approval to **pay from Pt C School Asst-Chateaugay Ctrl School \$1467.95:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried.**
- Chastity requested of the Board to **increase Petty Cash from \$100 to \$200:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> E. Lockwood; 2<sup>nd</sup> S. Gokey, all in favor, **carried.**
- Chastity requested of the Board to **pay AgNPS Rd 25 CC 3<sup>rd</sup> payments as follows:**  
**Poppydale \$1788.30 and Stargo \$5961.00**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan; 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, S. Gokey abstained, all in favor, **carried.**
- Chastity requested of the Board approval **to pay AgNPS Rd 26 CC 2<sup>nd</sup> payments as follows:**  
**Egan \$5354.00 and Staib \$8031.00**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie; 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, D. Egan abstained, all in favor, **carried.**
- Chastity requested of the Board approval to **for Devin Normandeau to certify “Fence” projects:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie; 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, **carried.**
- Chastity requested of Board approval **to pay Malone Ctrl School, no more than \$1500 from Pt C Sch Asst Prg:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon; 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried.**
- Chastity requested of the Board approval **to sell current Drone on Auctions International & purchase a new Drone w/increased capacity & longer battery life for no more than \$7000:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried.**
- Chastity requested of the Board approval **to change from Quickbooks Payroll to Community Bank Online Payroll for \$56 monthly**  
Motion 1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, **carried.**
- Chastity discussed the 2023 Budget Request
- Chastity discussed the “Threat to Soil & Water District Law”

8. **Old Business:** None

9. **At 12:38 p.m. the Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel- Manager- First by Paul, seconded by Steve, all in favor Invited Chastity to stay, then excused at 12:55 p.m.**

10. **At 1:19 p.m., the Board came out of Executive Session with motion from Denis and seconded by Paul all in favor. No resolutions or motions were made from this session.**

11. **Next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at a.m.**

12. **Meeting Adjourned** at p.m. Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> Denis, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried.**

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