

# FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – October 18, 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

## Staff

Chastity Miller  
Donna Wright  
Kristin Ballou  
Allycia Foote  
Christopher Ballou

1. Meeting began at 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood.
2. August 17, 2021 Board meeting minutes – Discussed and Approved  
1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried**.  
September 20, 2021 Board meeting minutes – tabled until next meeting as the proper quorum was not present.

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

Financial Reports were reviewed and approved

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

Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved

1<sup>st</sup> R. Child, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (August);
- \$2,000.00 from Regular Checking to Retirement savings (September);
- \$ 656.00 from Regular Checking to Hydroseeder (September)

1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Child, all in favor, **carried**.

### 4. **Reports:**

#### **NRCS**

FY 2021 EQIP - Moving forward with designs for recent contracts

FY 2022 EQIP – November 1<sup>st</sup> is signup deadline! 26 applications have been taken for next year's funding. Still no deadline: 3 Energy Apps, 7 Forestry Apps, 1 Grazing Apps, 11 High Tunnel Apps, 3 Farmstead Apps, 1 Cropland App.

Ongoing Projects – Engineering has commenced for a farmstead project in Bangor. Construction expected next year.

Food Security Act – Franklin County is up to date on all requests at this time

Administrative – I am acting District Conservationist while Sarah is on extended leave. Work cell phone: **518-605-2508**

#### **FSA**

Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP)–Assistance provided obtaining or renewing certification under Ntl.

Organic Prog up to 50% of annual certification fees pd 10/1/20-9/30/21, not to exceed \$500 per scope. Deadline 11/1/21.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) – Deadlines Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>: Perennial fruit & nut crops; Dec 31<sup>st</sup>: honey & maple sap.

Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMS) – 2022 enrollment period expected to start soon as well as DMS Supplemental Coverage

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program (FSFL) – Producers should contact USDA for details as this program provides fixed, low-interest financing for constructions of on-farm storage and for handling equipment and trucks on eligible crops.

Price Support Interest Rates for October 2021 were given.

Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for October 2021 were given.

USDA Covid-19 guidelines remain the same, one producer in the office at a time by appointment. Visitors are to wear a mask whether they are vaccinated or not. Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

#### **NYS Ag and Markets**

##### NYS SWCC News

- SWCC Staffing Update – Abigail Edwards is the new Excelsior Fellow, working with SWCC on the advancement of programs, specifically related to the implementation of Climate Leadership & Community Protection (CLCPA)

and Peter Lopez is a policy specialist, assisting the implementation of new and existing programs & policies centered around CLSPA statutory goals related to climate and renewable energy.

- September SWCC Meeting: was on October 19th

#### Funding Opportunities Available via Grants Gateway

- RFP0237 – Saturated Buffer Pilot Program: \$400,000.00 available to evaluate the effectiveness of saturated buffers in removing nitrates from tile drainage systems functioning within agricultural fields. <https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfp-0237-saturated-buffers-pilot-project>. Application deadline: 10/25, Questions: [Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov) by 10/8. Webinar: Tuesday, 9/14 10-11am
- Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Grants for the Genesee River & Finger Lakes Watersheds - R2: \$770,000.00 of EBM funding available to improve water quality of the Genesee River & to Reduce Harmful Algal Blooms in the Finger Lakes. <https://agriculture.ny.gov/rfp-0260-erosion-and-sediment-control-implementation-grants-genesee-river-and-finger-lakes> Application deadline 10/25, questions by 10/8: [Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Lauren.Prezorski@agriculture.ny.gov).

#### SWCC November 1<sup>st</sup> Reminders:

- 2022 Annual Plan of Work (APOW): Deadline November 1, 2021.
- 2022 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance –Due 11/1/21, submit to: [ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov).
- AEM Base Program Rd 17 – will run from 1/1/22 through 12/31/23 and is due 11/1/21. Details on SharePoint <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC>
- Interim Reporting: Interim reports for AGNPS Contracts (Rd 21-Rd 23), CAFO WSTSP (Rd 1-Rd 2), CRF (Rd 1–Rd 4) are due November 1<sup>st</sup>. Reports to: [Maureen.Irish@nyagriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Maureen.Irish@nyagriculture.ny.gov)

#### Other News/Events

2021 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference – virtual basic training prep for CCA exams/Advanced Training track for current CCA's. Registrations: <https://www.northeastregioncca.com/>

Cornell Offers Virtual Advanced Soil Health Certificate Course –12/5-12/14. [www.soilhealthtraianing.org](http://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](mailto:jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov) for questions.

#### Other Funding

NYS Pollution Prevention Institute Community Grants – applications due October 29<sup>th</sup>

Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Request for Applications – USDA is requesting FT 2022 applications through 11/15. More info: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r9/workingtogether/grants/?cid=FSEPRD898818>

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](mailto:greatlakes@dec.ny.gov)

## 5. Kristin (District Forester)

### AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans: 5 inventories complete, working on plans over the coming months and setting up more inventories for 2021.
- Beginning implementation plans w/EQIP funding for 3 producers & implementation w/1 producer outside funding;
- Meeting with more producers with maple operations interested in this program.
- Assisting Clinton County SWCD with AEM Forestry.

### Grants:

- LCBP Forestry BMP Education & Implementation – 2 workshops & quarterly reporting complete, the final workshop being planned for October 2021

### Meetings/Trainings/Events

- Con Skills
- CWICNY
- WQS Planning Forestry Track

Part B - 4 Forest Management Plans – 2021 inventories; 3 inventories complete to date, 2 more planned

### Part C - 2021 projects

- School Funding Program
  - ADK Education- maple sugaring equipment (waiting on proposal)
  - Brushton – Pollinator gardens – bill for payment
  - Chateaugay – Community Gardens
  - SRMT – seedling donation, community handout & native plant nursery
  - Malone Central - seedlings for students & maple equipment – Complete, 2<sup>nd</sup> proposal submitted for "What's flowing and growing in the Salmon River?"

- Salmon River – Indoor and Outdoor gardening for the magic maker after school program
- Saranac Lake - macroinvertebrate & water quality sampling

Sea Grant NAACC Grant 2019 – 332 assessments complete –final report has been submitted, waiting on final closeout. Contacted again on 9/24/21, Stony Brook asked if we are waiting on payments; I am waiting for a response back.  
WQIP NAACC –150 assessments completed to date; beginning to compile information collected into final report

### **Allycia (District Technician):**

#### **AEM:**

- Tier 3a: working on one grazing plan.
- AEM Yr. 16 Grant: Met with producer to aid in implementing grant.
  - Grant 1: Finished and closed out;
  - Grant 2: Finished and closed out;
  - Grant 3 Fence is being implemented – irrigation line to be implemented this week;
  - Grant 4: Finished and closed out.
- AEM Round 17 Grant: Waiting on AgNPS results to figure out funding (Oct 19<sup>th</sup>)
  - Need to pass resolution
  - 8 applications (3 Petroleum Storage, 1 Prescribed Grazing, 1 Forest Trails & Landings, 1 Cover Crop, 1 Irrigation)
- AgNPS
  - Round 25: Checked cover crop growth;
  - Round 26: Checked cover crop growth;
  - Round 27: Waiting to hear about ranked list.
- NACD Grant: Final report due October 15th.

### **Christopher (District Technician)**

AEM: Helping with forest inventories and assisting with other forest management activities. I hope to cruise a few more properties before snow flies.

WQIP Erosion Assessments: Santa Clara is almost done. I am up to over 200 assessments and counting. I have completed the towns of Duane, Brighton, Fort Covington, Malone, Constable, Brandon, Bangor, Burke, Franklin and Westville. Towns left include: Bombay, Belmont, Chateaugay and Harrietstown as well as all of Moira, Dickinson, Tupper Lake and Waverly.

Hydroseeder: Not many calls on the hydro seeder(s) this month. We are planning to clean them up and get them into the shed for winter storage. I have been taking notes while doing erosion control and have several areas for next spring/summer. I have made a call to the dealer as the same error code came up that we had last year.

Education/Workshops: I watched a few webinars this past month pertaining to agriculture, erosion, forestry and stormwater to advance my knowledge in all aspects of my Soil and Water Technician position. I also attended two workshops: a Maple Workshop held at the Forest Farmers and a Post Flood Emergency Stream Intervention Training.

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

- Weekly: Submit Payroll, Deferred Compensation and semi-weekly tax liabilities to IRS;
- Monthly: submit NYS Tax, NYS Retirement, bank reconciliation statements;
- Quarterly: submit NYS Tax, Federal Tax , Worker’s Compensation Report
- Yearly: submit all reports as required.

#### **August 17<sup>th</sup> to September 20<sup>th</sup>**

- Board Meeting preparation: reports, mailings, typed minutes, posted minutes to website;
- Reconciled September bank accounts and scanned them 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;
- Emailed Insurance companies for Cert of Liability Insurance for people to use our No-Till Drill & the Hydroseeder;
- Working on getting grant funding for the 2024 Envirothon
- Submitted Monthly/Quarterly reports: NYS Tax, Fed Tax and NYS Retirement;
- Relayed messages to staff when they are working in the field;
- Mailed out soil samples;
- Ordered the Christmas Tree Recycling postcards;
- Working on presentation for the FC Legislator’s meeting on 10/21.

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

**Our office is OPEN. USDA FSA & NRCS are not open, call for an appt. The front door is locked, but give us a call and we will come out to see you!**

**Presenting to the legislators on October 21<sup>st</sup> – RE: what we are all about!!**

**Heading to NYACD Meeting October 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>**

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– going to ask for an extension; approving the motion today.
- Round 25, 16-3 - Working on bids.
- Round 25, 16-1 – Year 1 complete; Allycia has it covered.
- Round 26 –Cover Crops: Working on Year 1; Allycia has it covered!
- Round 27 – Submitted 5 applications. Cover Crops, Petroleum Storage, Barnyard & Manure Storage in Bangor, Silage Leachate System in Burke and a Barnyard/Manure Storage/Silage Leachate in Moira. We are hoping to hear about it the day before this meeting; so maybe we will have an update then.

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

Submitted 2 WQIP grants 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.

WQIP Planning: Culvert Assessments & RRAMP, Chris is back out working on RRAMP assessments; Kristin & Alycia will be working on culverts later in the summer.

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. Paid out voucher #7, waiting on invoice #8. This is the last construction season on this grant, there is also an update due on the identified projects in the region.

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

SLRWP: This plan is **complete!** We have received payment on one of the bills, we received the third billing and sent it to the consultant. Completed the audits for MWBE. Still waiting on final close out payment.

NYSCDEA Treasurer: I have been working on the online 4-hour classes. We need to work on shifting the platform on this and we will see what works. Assisted with Conservation Skills and the NYACD registration.

Ag Land & Protection: met and approved all applications and it was also approved by the legislature. Final approval for the state has been received and we are all set!

7. **Correspondences:** FC Farm Bureau Sept 2021 Newsletter, Grassroots October 2021 Edition, NYACD letter dated 9/30/21 and a letter dated 10/1/21 from the FC Highway Dept.
8. **New Business** - Chastity requested the following:
  - **Requested Board approval to pay the following invoices once we receive them:**
  - National Business Technologies – copy charges due 9/16/21 (no more than) \$ 350.00  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried.**
  - **Requested Board approval to purchase new tires for the 2018 Chevy Silverado not to exceed \$1000:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> T. Derouchie, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, **carried.**
  - **Requested Board approval to extend deadline on AgNPS Rd 24 16-1 Contract #C01358 to 12/31/22:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> R. Child, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, **carried.**
  - **Requested Board obtain a tax-exempt gas credit card as the FC Hwy Dept will no longer provide gas or diesel as of 12/31/21:** After discussion, this was tabled for more review.
  - **Requested Board approval to pay the following from Part C School Assistance for:**  
**Malone Central (pre approve) \$1100.00**  
**Brushton Moira (BMC FFA) \$1040.72**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> R. Child, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, **carried.**
  - **Need Board approval to set up a Savings account for AEM Yr. 17 Implementation:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> T. Derouchie, all in favor, **carried.**
  - **Need Board approval to set up a Checking account for AEM Soil Samples:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried.**
  - **Need Board approval to make repairs on No Till Drill for no more than \$3000, and to transfer funds from No Till account to Checking account to make the repairs:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> P. Lauzon, all in favor, **carried.**
  - **Need Board approval to accept NRCS MOA:** discussed only, then tabled until next month's meeting.
  - **Need Board approval to accept the FCSWCD Plan of Work:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> R. Child, 2<sup>nd</sup> E. Lockwood, all in favor, **carried.**
  - **Need Board approval to accept the Resolution for AEM Annual Action Plan (Allycia):**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> D. Egan, 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Child, all in favor, **carried.**

- Need Board approval to **accept the AEM Implementation (Allycia):**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> R. Child, all in favor, **carried**.
- Need Board approval to **make repairs on Chevy Equinox, not to exceed \$1000:**  
Motion: 1<sup>st</sup> R. Child, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, **carried**.

9. **Old Business:** None

10. **Next meeting will be on Monday, November 15, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) via Zoom**

11. Meeting Adjourned at 1:11 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> P. Lauzon, 2<sup>nd</sup> D. Egan, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller  
Secretary / District Manager