

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (Noon)
FCSWCD Office, Malone, NY

Directors:

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

Staff

Chastity Miller
Kristin Ballou
Donna Wright
Devin Normandeau

1. Meeting began at 12:04 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood, Chair
2. September 12, 2023 Board meeting minutes - Discussed and approved
Motion: D. Egan, 2nd J. Martin, all in favor, carried.
3. **Financial Reports (Donna):**
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:
Motion: 1st S. Gokey, 2nd T. Derouchie; all in favor, **carried**.
Abstract and Vouchers: were reviewed and approved
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd J. Martin; 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 (Sept. 2023)
 - \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (October 2023)
 - \$ 372.60 from Reg Checking to Equipment/Hydroseeder (Jauch) *Amount is different than approved at Board Meeting to reflect the correct transferred amount*Motion: J. Martin, 2nd T. Derouchie; all in favor, carried.
4. **Reports (Chastity):**
NRCS – None provided this month
FSA
Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP): Deadline to apply is 10/31
Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): Deadlines as follows:
 - Perennial fruit & nut crops – 11/20/23
 - Honey & Maple Sap – 1/2/24Upcoming 2024 Dairy Margin Coverage:
 - Fall seeded small grains – 11/15/23
 - Honey bee colonies & Maple taps – 1/2/24
 - Apples, grapes & peaches – 1/20/242023 Dairy Margin Coverage: Contracts in effect through 12/31
Milk Loss Program: Signup deadline is 10/30. Covers 2020, 2021 and 2022
Farm Bill: expired 9/30. Some on hold for 2024 enrollment until current bill is extended or new one is approved.
Price Support Interest Rates & Farm Loan Program Interest Rates for October 2023 were given
FSA office is open to assist producers by phone, electronically and in person, if you have questions.
NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)
NYS SWCC News
 - AgNPS Rd 29 Awards – Congrats to Districts who will be receiving funds. \$13.8M between 21 Districts
 - 2023 AEM Leopold Conservation Award – Congrats Dygert Farms of Palatine Bridge & Montgomery Cty SWCD for taking top honors
 - SWCC Meeting – 10/17 10 a.m.SWCC November 1st Reminders
 - 2024 Annual Plan of Work (APOW) – Deadline to submit to AEA is 11/1
 - AEM 18 Action Plan Submittal – Two-year AEM Action Plan is due 11/1
 - 2024 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance – Proposals due 11/1; submit to ben.luskin@agricultural.ny.gov
 - Interim Reporting – send to Maureen.Irish@agriculture.ny.gov and appropriate program mgr. by 11/1
 - SWCC Operations Sub-Committee –preparing to re-establish the Operations Sub-Committee 1st mtg soon

Other Events:

- Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum – 10/18
- 2023 Empire State Chapter of Soil & Water Conservation Society Annual Mtg – 11/9 9AM-4PM Cayuga Cty SWCD in person or virtual option
- 2023 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference – Double Tree, East Syracuse 11/28-11/29 followed by a virtual track 12/12-2/13, 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>

Other Funding Options

- Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants - ~175M available. Proposals were due by 10/16th <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants>
- DEC Invasive Species Grant Program Funding Available - \$3M available. Applications accepted through 11/1st. Info: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115742.html>
- 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>

Kristin (District Forester)

AEM

- Working on Forest Conservation Plans - working on plans over the coming months based on 2022
- Continuing implementation of plans with EQIP funding for 3 producers
- Assisting Clinton Cty SWCD w/ AEM Forestry-1 more to complete based on 2022; 2 scheduled for 2024
- AEM 17 Impl Projects - working w/producers to complete; 2 complete, 2 closing out, 1 in progress, 1 no engineer.

Part B - 2023 4 Forest Management Plans

Part C - 2023 projects - School Funding Program

- ADK Education - Maple sugaring equipment (complete/reimbursed)
- Brushton –Add'l grow towers for farm to school program (complete/reimbursed)
- Chateaugay - Expanding raised beds and growing capacity; (complete/reimbursed)
- Malone Central – Arbor Day seedling handout (funded through Cons in Comm); raised beds/materials to establish gardening club at St. Joe's Elem (complete/reimbursed)
- Saranac Lake - Outdoor learning, water quality monitoring, macro-invertebrate sampling/ID-. (complete/reimbursed)

2024 Tree Sale – All trees/seeds ordered and confirmed; berry plants ordered/will be confirmed in December.

Devin (District Technician)

AEM

- Soil Sampling – 2 acres
- Tier 1 – 1 completed
- Tier 2 – 2 completed
- Tier 3a:
 - Rotational Grazing Plan – meeting w/landowner
- Tier 4: 4 Projects left to close out

Part B – Forest Mgmt Plan – meeting w/landowner

Part C – Soil Samples and site visits for apple trees

CWICNY – 1 farmer participated this year/Total of 58.9 acres total

Conservation in the Community – Conservation Field Days 9/28

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Continue to perform office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Continuing to update business accounts with our new location and payment options
- Found used furniture at the County for us to utilize

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

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– just completed the last extension.
- Round 25, 16-3 – Done and starting the close out, received 65% of funds!
- Round 25, 16-1 – Closed out! Payment received!

- Round 26 – Working on paperwork for the last planting.
- 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.

CAFO Manure Storage Grants Round 3 – Need to figure this one out. Requesting extension on this one
AgNPS Rd 29 – We received 1 Soil Health (1 of 10 producers) \$387,655.00.

CRF Rd 7 Applications – completed 1; waiting on ranked listing, but were awarded it in RD29, so we will need it.

AEM Yr 17 - Third project complete; working on receipts. Checking on the last 3

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 – Will work on extension; still don't have engineer

Rec Park Permits – for eastern shore/plants. Had someone look at western side; need engineering drawings.

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

Phones – up and running

Conservation Field Days – 7 groups of kids from local schools participated at 4H Camp

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.

Plan of Work - We need to discuss and approve later in this meeting.

6. **Correspondences:** September/October Grassroots Edition, Thank you postcard from St. Lawrence Cty SWCD, NY Farm Bureau postcard for 2023 Annual Mtg-10/17 and I received an email from one our landowners stating “**I wonder if you might relay to whomever is necessary what a terrific job Devin Normandeau has done for us. He is personable, professional and incredibly knowledgeable. We have greatly enjoyed working with him. Franklin County is so fortunate to have him and your office.**”

7. **New Business:**

- **Need Board approval to accept FCSWCD Annual Plan of Work for 2024:**

Motion: 1st D. Egan; 2nd J. Martin, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved **to accept the 2024 Conservation Project Financial Ass't Request of \$6,000 – Part B:**

Motion: 1st J. Martin; 2nd D. Egan, all in favor, carried.

- Board approved to **reappoint to another three (3) yr term D. Egan & T. Derouchie to FCSWCD Bd of Directors, along w/S. Gokey, who needs Farm Bureau final approval:**

Motion: 1st P. Lauzon; 2nd J. Martin, all in favor, carried. (D. Egan, T. Derouchie and S. Gokey abstained)

- Board approved to **transfer \$107,250 from checking to RD 35 AgNPS account:**

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

8. **Old Business:** Thank you to Franklin County for all the used furniture that we were able to obtain! Acquiring snow plowing bids.

9. **Next meeting will be on Tues, November 14, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)**

10. **Meeting Adjourned** at 1:20 p.m.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller

Secretary / District Manager