

FRANKLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT DIRECTORS' MEETING

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, September 12, 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 12:00 p.m. - Quorum present. Meeting called to order by Bill Wood, Chair
2. April 18, 2023 Board meeting minutes – Discussed and approved
Motion: P. Lauzon, 2nd T. Derouchie, all in favor, carried.
August 8, 2023 Board meeting minutes – Discussed and approved
Motion: 1st D. Egan, 2nd J. Martin, all in favor, carried.
3. **Financial Reports (Donna):**
Financial Reports were reviewed and approved:
Motion: 1st J. Martin, 2nd S. Gokey; 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:
 - \$ 356.85 from Reg Checking to T/A account for monthly employee retirement (June 2023)
 - \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (August 2023)
 - \$ 2,000.00 from Reg Checking to Retirement savings (September 2023)
 - \$ 8,023.00 from Reg Checking to Equipment/HydroseederMotion: D. Egan, 2nd P. Lauzon; all in favor, carried.
4. **Reports (Chastity):**
NRCS – None provided this month
FSA – None provided this month

NYS Ag and Markets (Ryan)
NYS SWCC News
 - SWCC September Meeting – Tuesday, September 19th at 10AM via video conference
 - AEM Base Program Rd 18 Announced – Action plan due 11/1, runs from 1/1/2024 through 12/31/2025
 - 2024 Annual Plan of Work – Time to update. Deadline to submit to AEA is 11/1
 - State Aid to Districts – Part B proposals due 11/1, check to make sure your District is fulfilling their obligations to earn all funds available Part C Performance Measures
 - SWCC Operations Sub-Committee – SWCC is preparing to re-establish the Operations Sub-Committee with anticipation of the first meeting to occur in the Winter of 2023
 - CDEA 4-HR Funds – NYS CDEA is pleased to announce the release of application form for use of funds generated from NYS DEC Endorsed 4-Hr Erosion & Sediment Control Online Training. Funds available for SWCD's to host/attend training that will benefit SWCDs state-wide. Info on SharePoint (CDEA Materials-Applications for Use of 4-Hr Funds). Questions/submissions: caitlin@hamcoswcd.orgOther Events
 - Silvopasture Training for Professionals – 3-day training centered around Cornell's Arnot Teaching and Research Forest 9/25 at 1:00 pm concluding Wednesday, 9/27 at noon. Cost \$60/limited to 30 participants/register before 9/21
 - 2023 CDEA Administrative Conference – 11/6 & 11/7 at the Double Tree by Hilton, Syracuse. Registration to follow
 - 2022 CREP Annual Report – now available on SharePoint.
<https://nysemail.sharepoint.com/sites/Agriculture/SWCC/SitePages/CREP.aspx>Other Funding Options

- Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants - ≈175M available. Proposals must be received by 10/16 <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 11/1. 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 11/1/23. Info/apply: <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; met w/another on 5/5
- AEM 17 Impl Projects - working w/producers to complete; 2 complete, 1 closing out, 2 in progress, 1 waiting on update

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 (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 and seeds have been ordered; just need to order berry plants

First Aid, CPR, Logger Rescue Training – 8/20, 8/22 and 8/23

Fair- participated in Kids Day Activities and assisted at the Dairy Booth

CWICNY – working on Coordinator position, things moving forward

WQS, ConSkills, Stormwater Tradeshow - planning

Devin (District Technician)

AEM

- Soil Sampling – 190 acres
- Tier 3a:
 - 1 Silvopasture Plan – Met with farmers; Implementation AEM Rd 18 and possible EQIP

- Tier 4: 4 Projects left to close out

Meeting with interested landowners

CWICNY – Cover Crop Program – Site visit to locate fields

Fair – participated in Kids Day Activities and assisted at the Dairy Booth

Other – Assisted in our office relocation and various projects

Donna (Secretary to the Board)

- Perform office administrative duties as requested/required; will keep operations progressing.
- Assisted at the Franklin Cty Fair
- Assisted with a Hydroseeding project
- Attended First Aid, CPR, Logger Rescue Training 8/21
- Updating all business accounts, along with setting up some new accts (Ntl Grid, Energy Bros, etc.)

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

Agricultural Non-Point Source Grants

- Round 24, 16-1– asking for an extension again.
- Round 25, 16-3 – Project under construction! Looking good!
- Round 25, 16-1 – Closed out! Payment received!

- Round 26 – Year 2 complete, year 3 is here.
 - Round 27 – Got contract! LO contract done, he is working on bids for the 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 an extension on this one
- AgNPS Rd 29 – 6 applications submitted; hoping for a ranked list next week.
- CRF Rd 7 Applications – completed 1
- AEM Yr 17 - Third project complete; working on receipts. Checking on the last 3
- WQIP Grants – awarded 2 for the Non-Ag money from NYSDEC (1-Hydroseeding in County; 1 for planning of more culvert assessments). Contract in place for culverts; working on hydroseeding.
- Rec Park – working w/Rec Park for Parking lot NYSDOS grant. Will work on extension; still don't have engineer
- Rec Park – permits for the rec parks eastern shore and plants. Had someone look at western side; looking for engineering drawings.
- Grants/Educational Opportunities – working on finding some for district and schools.
- Truck purchase – still investigating the purchase; it is expensive
- Relocated – We have moved into our new space and working on getting it all together. Still working on phones and internet
- Permit for Bannon's – NEED it.

6. **Correspondences:** FC Farm Bureau 2024 Policy Development Discussion Mtg 9/19: Annual Mtg 10/17
7. **New Business:**
- **Need Board approval to pay Frk Cty Annual Worker's Comp, not to exceed \$3,000:**
Motion: 1st D. Egan; 2nd S. Gokey, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved **to attend Administrative Conference Nov 6-7th, not to exceed \$300:**
Motion: 1st S. Gokey; 2nd P. Lauzon, all in favor, carried.
 - Board approved **to purchase 50 Bacteria/25 Iron Hardness Home Water Kits from American Water Services, not to exceed \$700:**
Motion: 1st D. Egan; 2nd J. Martin, all in favor, carried.
Board discussed that CCE of Franklin County was not going to support the northeast ag team. The Franklin County Soil and Water Board of Directors is very concerned about this, and Justus was going to take this concern back to CCE and Donna to discuss. Bill is also going to give Donna a call and discuss his concerns.
8. **Old Business:** T. Derouchie, Board Member may attend NYACD Conference w/Chastity & Donna in October. He will let us know and if he cannot another will step up.
9. **Next meeting will be on Tues, October 18, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. (noon) in our New location**
10. Meeting Adjourned at 1:12 p.m.
1st P. Lauzon, 2nd R. Child, all in favor, **carried**

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Wright / Chastity Miller
Secretary / District Manager