

MINUTES  
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - APRIL 19, 2011  
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48  
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair  
Ted Hopkins, Legislator  
Philip May, Farm Bureau  
Curtis Rung, Grange  
Douglas Burdick, Legislator

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec. Dir  
Gloria Miess, Admin Sec-Treas.

Cooperating Agencies

Nicole Ayers, FSA  
Les Travis, SWCC

**I. Call to Order: 6:00pm**

**II. Minutes of March 22, 2011: Approved (Rung-May)**

**III. Financial Reports**

- A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (Rung-May)**
- B. Abstracts: **Approved (Rung-May)**

**IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**

A. NRCS Report: No Report

B. FSA Report: Nicole Ayers, County Executive Director  
(Attached)

1. No BCAP activity so far and still no guidance on woody biomass matching payments.
2. Interest rates remain extremely low for loans administered by FSA Farm Programs. April rates are: Commodity Loans (9mths) 1.250%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 & 12yrs) 2.750%, 3.375% and 3.625%. FSFL rates have decreased slightly.
3. USDA was very close to a furlough, but a plan was put into place and the budget was passed. No word on how tight funding is.
4. General CRP sign-up 41 was closed on April 15<sup>th</sup>, one bid offered. Waiting to see if the bid will be accepted.
5. Landowner research on all DCP farms is being completed. Over 500 FSNs have been researched and in the process of wrapping up the record changes.
6. Signs-up for 2011 DCP is being taken. Approximately 214 contracts have enrolled or approved. This is about 45% of what was done last year. There are 113 contracts awaiting landowner signatures (due

9/30/11); once these are signed could potentially be over 60% done. The deadline is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Producers are being called to have them come in and complete their contracts.

7. County Office Reviewer (COR) has been in the office reviewing CRP, MILC and receipts and deposits. Because of the lack of travel funds the COR is keeping busy in WNY, and it's very possible that they will be back for another visit.

C. State Committee Staff: Les Travis (Attached)

1. Commissioner of Agriculture, Darrel Aubertine, has been confirmed. Commissioner Aubertine comes from Jefferson County and has a farming background.
2. Environmental Protection Fund status: The S&WCDs stayed at the same level in the 2011-12 Budget, as did the EPF funding. No word as to when the award letters for Round 17 will be sent out. Any district with agricultural grants are being urged to complete and closeout on time. Very limited opportunity to request time extensions.
3. Proposed Legislation: S&WCDs are able to apply directly for Waterfront Revitalization grants. Dept Bill 15, needs sponsors, has several pieces. 1) Farmland Protection Board modifications which would allow retired farmers to be appointed and District employees may serve in lieu of the S&WCD chair; 2) S&WCDs may hold conservation easements; 3) Ag NPS line item would allow up to 25% to be set aside for targeted special use.
4. Agricultural Environmental Management Base Program: AEM Year 6 end May 6<sup>th</sup>. Annual Action Plan for AEM Year 7 is due May 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. District Strategic Business Plan and Annual Plan of Work director training module will be out soon.
6. Les is retiring as of July 6, 2011. This will leave 2 Associate Environmental Analyst in the State. A meeting is planned for early May to decide how to cover the State. Western NY will be the 1<sup>st</sup> priority for filling the positions when the hiring freeze is lifted.
7. A training session on Strategic Planning was conducted by Les.

D. Executive Director: Scott Torrey (Attached)

1. Program Updates
  - a. Round XIII - Dana Chapman has signed off on all projects that needed approval.

- b. AEM Year 6 - We have completed 1027 hours as of 04/15/11, we need 149 more hours by May 6<sup>th</sup>. We are working on the closeout for Year 6. Scott A. is working up costs for a barnyard project on Sixtown Creek Farm, which will be done with FL-LOWPA or Part C funding. We have completed 2 more Tier 1 and 2's. We have not heard anything on the CNMP which was submitted for review. We have completed 2 Nutrient Management Plans for non-CAFO farms. The evaluations of the Vegetative Treatment Areas and Waste Water Transfers have been more complicated than anticipated, but Dana Chapman should have them completed in the next couple of weeks. The District's involvement will reduce the farms cost by about 50%.
  - c. AEM Year 7 - The Annual Action Plan is due May 1<sup>st</sup>, we will be requesting \$40,000.00 for Year 7. Several CAFO and non-CAFO farms have expressed interest in working with us once the CNMP certification is received. Farms in the Cold Creek and Upper Genesee River Watersheds have been targeted for AEM updates this summer for possible inclusion in Round 18 Ag NPS grant application.
  - d. FL-LOWPA - Funding dates are always changing, we are now told that we should receive \$45,000 for 08-09 in the next couple of weeks.
  - e. Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Program has been canceled. We will not be able to apply for a no-till drill.
2. Ag District Public Hearing is scheduled for May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We are working on the report at this time.
  3. Annual Report to be reviewed with the County Legislators on May 9<sup>th</sup>.
  4. Engineer - A meeting will be held Thursday, April 21, 2011, to discuss an engineer position to be shared with towns.
  5. Have 2 stream permits to complete this summer for stream bank protection projects.
  6. Equipment - We have repaired the deck on the trailer. The concrete saw is now working and out on a job. The mulcher is back in the District shop. The motor on the mulcher is running rough. Work will be done on cleaning up the area behind the building in May. There are concrete forms, pipes and the tree planter which will be brought inside.

**V. New Business**

- A. Rain Garden/Barrels - Diane Fiorentino from Chemung County will be here May 6<sup>th</sup> to assess the area in order to locate a demonstration Rain Garden location. We are also working to find a source for barrels to make into Rain Barrels for sale. We are hoping to hold a workshop on Rain Gardens and Rain Barrels this spring or early summer.

**VI. Old Business**

- A. District Brochure - We have completed our District Brochure and a copy was distributed to all present. We have made up 50 copies at the present time and can print more whenever needed.

**VII. Announcements**

- A. 2011 NYACD Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 16-18, 2011, in Utica, NY.
- B. The next meeting is scheduled for May 17, 2011, at the District Facility at 6:00pm.

**VIII. Communications**

No action required.

**IX. Adjournment: 7:30pm**

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Gloria D. Miess  
Secretary

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Rodney Bennett  
Chairman