

MINUTES  
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - APRIL 17, 2012  
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48  
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

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

Staff

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

Cooperating Agencies

Liz Wesche, NRCS  
Nicole Ayers, FSA

**I. Call to Order: 6:10pm**

**II. Minutes of March 20, 2012 Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**

**III. Financial Reports**

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

**IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**

- A. NRCS Report: Liz Wesche, Soil Conservationist
  - 1. Don Petit has been selected as the new State Conservationist.
  - 2. The County has 48 active contracts for \$1,760,000. There are 4 new High Tunnel applications are at contract status, and 2 new applications. Last round of funding for High Tunnels closed June 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - 3. EQIP sign up has closed except, for CAP's which can be accepted on an ongoing basis through May 29<sup>th</sup>. There are 32 eligible applications in the system: 6 livestock waste, 6 grazing, 16 forestry, 3 high tunnels and 2 forestry CAP. Also have 1 GRP sign-up. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, to be announced later this year, will provide for a sign-up period for additional work comparable to EQIP. Applications not funded under the regular EQIP may be eligible for this but no final guidance has been received.
  - 4. A new financial system will be put in place and will close down payments from April 24<sup>th</sup> to May 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - 5. May 15<sup>th</sup> is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of USDA.
  - 6. Weather has got farmers stated on completion of practices.

- B. FSA Report: Nicole Ayers, County Executive Director
1. Interest rates still extremely low. April rates are: Commodity Loans (9mth)-1.125%; Farm Storage Loans (7, 10 and 12yrs)-1.500%, 2.125% and 2.375%.
  2. Funding and staffing issues are still a struggle across the state. Staff is being shared and work being shuffled to other offices when possible.
  3. MILC payments are being projected from March thru August. In order to be eligible farmers will have to complete a New FY 2012 Adjusted Gross Income Statement. A total of \$31,263.68 in MILC payments were sent out for the month of February.
  4. DCP sign-up began on January 23<sup>rd</sup> with a June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. All payments will be made in October.
  5. A General CRP sign-up ended April 13<sup>th</sup>; a total of 8 bids were submitted with a combined acreage of 91.3 acres. Accepted bids will be notified once all bids are in and ranked nationally.
  6. Crop reporting has begun. Small grains deadline is June 15<sup>th</sup> and all other crops July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- D. Executive Director: Scott Torrey
1. Program Updates
    - a. Round 18 unapproved list is available, State Committee will be approving the list April 17<sup>th</sup>.
    - b. AEM Year 8 - Request is due May 1<sup>st</sup>. The pay rate for Year 8 has been increased to \$37/hr. We are eligible to apply for up to \$75,000 or a total of 2027 hours.
    - c. FL-LOWPA - If we close out 08/09 and 09/10 by March 31, 2013, we will be able to receive 10/11 and 11/12 funds next year. We are working to get the projects scheduled and completed this year for the approximate \$95,000 grant balance. We have 3 contracts ready for approval. Plans of Work for 10/11 and 11/12 funds are due June 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - d. Performance Measures - We have 2 contracts ready for approval. A change needs to be made in the Part B request.
  2. Technical Assistance
    - a. Stream Permits - Completed and sent in 4 permits, and 1 awaiting applicants signatures. Town of Genesee permit has been completed and we have finished Karl Kruger's response to the Army Corp.

3. County Forest
  - a. The Management Plan is being reviewed by Economic Development Committee. We will be at the April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to answer any questions.
  - b. Planning & Economic Development Committee has approved moving forward on preparation of the Snyder Lot for a timber sale. Scott A. is working on the marking.
4. Great Lakes Basin Erosion & Sediment Control Grant due June 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Envirothon - The regional Envirothon competition will be May 25<sup>th</sup>.
6. New Computers have arrived and a database has been developed to assist in keeping track of time spent on different projects and programs.
7. A FOIL request has been received for Mallards Dairy and Willow Bay Farm. A list of documents will be formulated and sent to the lawyer by May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**V. New Business**

- A. Part B - Change in program - A change from the Reinbold Milkhouse Waste System to fencing at the MacCrea farm was requested. **Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**
- B. MacCrea - Part B Fencing & Water Supply Contract **Approved (May-Rung)**
- C. AEM Year 8 Request - \$75,000.00 **Approved (Rung-May)**
- D. Kim Shaklee - FL-LOWPA Fencing Contract **Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**
- E. Brian Babcock - Part C Roofed Feeding Area Contract **Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**
- F. Randy Miller - FL-LOWPA Fencing Contract - **Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**

**VI. Old Business**

- A. Bruce Vosburg FL-LOWPA - Increase in funding - \$5,000 to \$7,500 **Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**

**VII. Announcements**

- A. Next meeting - May 22, 2012 at the District Facility at 6:00pm.

**VIII. Correspondence**

No correspondence required action.

**IX. Adjournment: 7:15pm**