

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - AUGUST 16, 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

I. Call to Order: 6:00pm

II. Minutes of July 19, 2011: Approved (Hopkins-May)

III. Financial Reports

A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**

B. Abstracts: **Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**

IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports

A. NRCS: No one present - No Report

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

1. Interest rates are still extremely low; July rates are: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.125%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 and 12yrs) - 2.250%, 3.000% and 3.375%. All rates have decreased slightly since last month.
2. Four employees statewide were accepted into the Early Out Program. They will all retire by August 31st. The Buy Out program is expected to be announced by the end of the month with a list of priority areas and the number of applicants to be accepted.
3. CPR producers need to be working on their scheduled maintenance between August 1st and September 15th.
4. Five 5) nominations have been received for the County Committee positions: John Francisco, Vance Hark, Maria Mulligan, Kim Shaklee and Lester York.
5. A huge push to advertise the Love Garcia dispute, looking for female and Hispanic farmers who feel they were unfairly denied when applying for a Farm Loan between 1981 and 2000. If you know of anyone who potentially may qualify let us know.

6. Producers who produce more than 2.985 million lbs of milk/year are being encouraged to come in and select a starting month for their MILC contract to maximize their benefits if the price triggers are met. All other contract holders will NOT need to select months because they have been defaulted to an October starting month and will not exceed the eligible quantity.
7. A 2nd round of letters to producers, who have received benefits in 2009 and 2010 but have not filed an FSA-927 or 928 with the IRS, will be sent out giving them one more chance to file before the money will be requested back.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey (Attached)

1. Program Updates

- a. Round XIII - Brandes Farm will not finish project by September deadline. Closeouts will be done by August 31st, so that we can receive payment for the closeout time.
- b. AEM Year 7 - Second CNMP plan has been submitted for approval. Third one should be submitted next week. We have two (2) more farms interested in having CNMP's developed this fall. Scott A. has been meeting with farms to start updating AEM files.
- c. FL-LOWPA - We will not be receiving any more funds this fiscal year. Some projects and payment of what is owed to us for our time will be taken from the funds we have on hand. Rob Chamberlain is finishing up his drainage project. Working up cost estimates for Chris Reinbold on either a barnyard project or milkhouse waste system, and a small manure storage for Kim Shaklee. Shaklee's project will either come from FL-LOWPA or Part C monies.

2. Technical Assistance

- a. Town of Andover - permit for bridge maintenance on Main Street and assisting with bank stabilization and permit on Baker Road.
- b. Town of Birdsall - applying for 2 bridge maintenance permits for gravel removal under bridge on Hamilton and McMahan Roads.
- c. Town of Amily - Philips Creek gravel permit
- d. Town of Scio - Permits for Snowball Hollow, and Pixley Hill bridge waiting Town signatures.
- e. Sharon Thornton & Dennis Butts - Permits

approved by DEC, waiting for Army Corp responses.

- f. Karl Kruger - working with Karl to correct problem.
- g. Assisting Rod and Marlene Sergel with permits for Fillmore School, John Sausner and George Vorhauer.

V. New Business

- A. Hazard Mitigation - Fred Sinclair has approached us to take over the Hazard Mitigation Program. Questions of concern which were presented to him for clarification were distributed and reviewed. Responsibility and funding issues were brought up. County Planning & Economic Development to discuss at next meeting. Tabled to the September meeting.
- B. CNMP Pricing for CAFO's - Discussion was held on what, if anything, we charge for CNMP's for CAFO farms. All testing costs are to be charged back to the landowner. It was suggested that we check to see what other districts are charging. If AEM pays for the hours then no charge will be made for work.
- C. Permit Charges - Discussion was held on charges for assistance with permits. It was suggested we check with other districts about pricing.

VI. Old Business

- A. County Forests - It was reported that ash prices are high at the present time and that we need determine how much ash we have available. Oak population also needs to be determined. We are trying to get together with Paul Kretser on the update of the Forest Plan.

VII. Announcements

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2011, at the District Facility at 6:00pm.

VIII. Communications

- A. NYACD - RE: 2011 NYACD Annual Meeting. Approval was given for attendance. **APPROVED (Burdick - Hopkins)**

IX. Adjournment: 7:30pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman