

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - AUGUST 21, 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

Nicole Ayers, FSA
Liz Wesche, NRCS

- I. **Call to Order:** 6:05pm
- II. **Minutes of July 17, 2012 Approved (Rung-May)** with the word "protect" in item VI-D being changed to "protest".
- III. **Financial Reports**
- A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (May-Hopkins)**
 - B. Abstracts: **Approved (May-Hopkins)**
- IV. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
- A. NRCS: Liz Wesche, Soil Conservationist
 1. There are 66 active contracts, totaling \$1,9000,000 on 5,355 acres. Three are newly funded through GLRIA, 2 for diversion rebuilds/grassed waterways and a grazing system.
 2. Seneca Trail RC&D needs names of landowners needing grazing plans to justify funding for next FY. Send any names to Kathy Kos by Friday AM. They also have funding for 3 education programs for pasture walks to be completed by December, is there any interest in Allegany County. Funding may come available through GLCI to install BMPs on older plans, details to be worked out.
 3. House Disaster Bill will reauthorize the livestock disaster assistance that expired a year ago. Funding for the Bill is coming out of EQIP and CSP.
 4. New CIG grant opportunity information was handed out, as well as a KEP handout on drought conditions.
 - B. FSA: Nicole Ayers, County Executive Director
 1. Interest rates are still extremely low for loans. August rates are: Commodity Loans (9Mths) - 1.250%; Farm Storage Facility Loans (7,10 & 12yrs) - 1.000%, 1.625% and 1.875%.

2. MILC payments being projected by NMPF.org for February until August rates are as follows: February -.03895; March-0.8262; April-1.2110; May-1.2164; June-1.3677; July-1.7441 and August-1.4774. The County office has sent out a total of \$464,336 since February's MILC payment.
3. DCP sign-up has concluded. There are currently 431 active contracts.
4. There was an Emergency Haying and Grazing option offered to CRP contract holders that were located in an area with a D0 and greater ratings on the Drought Monitor, which included Allegany County. The payment reduction was reduced to 10% of the annual rental on the affected acres and a streamline process was created for a modified conservation plan. Haying needed to be completed in the month of August, grazing by the end of September.
5. There was a Farm Bill listening session in Chautauqua County on August 14th that Nicole attended. Still a lot of scenarios that could play out.
6. Stacy Alsworth started with FSA on July 30th. She has been at the State Office for training twice and is catching on quickly.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey

1. Program Updates

- a. Round 18 - Award Announcement has been released by Governor's office. Plans of Work have been submitted to Jeff Teneyck for his approval and then be sent to Albany. Once approved by Albany contracts will be issued. Contract date for the start of Round 18 will be July 23, 2012. Bainbridge manure storage is being constructed and should be finished in 1-2 weeks.
- b. Round 19 - No word yet when this will open up.
- c. AEM Year 8 - Beginning to gather projects for Round 19.
- d. FL-LOWPA - Cockle's have a contractor lined up for their job and will be starting shortly. Randy Miller starting fence today. Matt & Joni Clark will not be completing their project due to financial reasons. Bruce Vosburg plans on starting in August. Kim Shaklee is lining up fencing contractor, will complete project this fall. Survey work has been completed for Saunders and Reinbold. Waiting for the final designs from Sergels.
- e. Performance Measures - Babcock not sure if his project will get done this year, NRCS portion

does not have to be done until 2013. We are exploring other options for the use of this money. MacCrae is in the process of constructing their fence.

2. Technical Assistance
 - a. Permits Approved: Town of Genesee culvert replacement; Ron Wampole stream stabilization project; Mark Bainbridge stream stabilization project; Robert Shook stream stabilization project.
3. County Forest
 - a. Snyder Lot high bid went to Michael Kaminski Logging at \$20,600.
4. County Budget
 - a. Planning & Economic Development and Ways & Means have both approved our 3 year contract request. Working with the County Attorney to iron out contract details.

V. New Business

- A. State Reimbursement - The State Reimbursement has been raised from \$30,000 to \$60,000, starting in 2012. The Performance Measure funding may be gone in future years. At present we are short eligible expenses to cover the increase and are looking to purchase needed equipment to cover this shortfall.
- B. Amity River Project Repair - The District is responsible for the O&M on the River projects. The Amity project is not holding up to the design, as the by-pass channel has reopened. It will take 2-3 days to move rock to close this back up. We have FL-LOWPA funding to cover the cost.
APPROVED (May-Rung)

VI. Old Business

- A. FL-LOWPA Contract Changes - Since Clarks will not be doing their project, it was requested that the following changes be made: Chris Reinbold to be moved to 2009 and James Latham moved to 2008. Cockle and Saunders to be increased to \$10,000 each in 2009 and Vosburg raised to \$10,000 in 2008. **Approved (Hopkins-May)**
- B. County Forest Sale - Covered in Executive Director's Report.
- C. County Contract Update - Covered in Executive Director's Report.
- D. Watershed Technician - Civil Service is fine tuning the duties statement. We need to hire by the end of the year.

VII. Communications

No communications were received that required action.

VIII. Executive Session

Motion to go into Executive Session for personnel matters at 7:09pm. **Approved (Rung-May)**

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:00pm. **Approved (Hopkins-May)**

IX. Announcements

Next meeting September 18, 2012, 6:00pm at the District Facility.

X. Adjournment: 8:00pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman