

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - DECEMBER 20, 2011
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

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

Staff

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

Cooperating Agencies

Nicole Ayers, FSA
Liz Wesche, NRCS

- I. **Call to Order: 5:00 pm**
- II. **Minutes of November 15,2011: Approved (May-Hopkins)**
- III. **Financial Reports**
- A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (Hopkins-May)**
 - B. Abstracts: **Approved (Hopkins-May)**
 - C. Resolution 2011-03, "Transfer of Funds": **Approved (Rung-May)**
- IV. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
- A. NRCS - Liz Wesche, Soil Conservationist (Attached)
 - 1. Kathy Kos is acting Assistant State Conservations-Field Operations and acting DC for Erie and Wyoming County this week.
 - 2. Kathy Kos was selected to be the Food Security Act Off-Site Procedures Area Representative. Developing HEL and Wetland reviews and revisions for procedures.
 - 3. Field Office spot checks for engineering, agronomic and wildlife practices were completed.
 - 4. Liz Wesche completed on-site and off-site reviews on 26 WRP contracts in Allegany County and 8 on-site reviews in Cattaraugus County.
 - 5. Kathy and Liz attended All-Employee meeting in Auburn.
 - 6. Astor Boozer is now Regional Director for the Western Regional Office.
 - 7. A soils layer for conversion of PHEL soils to either NHEL or HEL soils has been developed for Allegany County. Layer only available for CST use.
 - 8. Still waiting for appropriations from NHQ to be made available to State Offices so we will know what programs will be funded in FY2012. We have 9 new forestry applications.

9. A new engineer, Joshua Mason, has been hired to cover Chautauqua, Cattaraugus and Allegany Counties. He will be available to work on joint funded projects.

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

1. Interest rates are still extremely low; December rates are: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.125%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 and 12yrs) - 1.500%, 2.125% and 2.375%.
2. In Fiscal Year 2011 Allegany County FSA paid out \$583,106.10 in program payments. This is money gets re-invested into the local economy by area producers
3. Budgeted allowances have been received and Allegany County fared better than some others. Still operating on a bare bones budget. They claim 2013 will be much better.
4. The 3rd party website is no longer projecting a potential MILC payment for the month of February. It is now projecting a payment in May. MILC producers will need to complete a new FY2012 Adjusted Gross Income Statement before payments can be issued. They have changed the Payment Limitation rules so if those producers also participate in DCP a new version of the AGI form will need to be collected.
5. County Committee elections were held on December 8th and the newly elected committee member is John Francisco. John replaces Harvey Lacy who served 9 years on the committee.
6. On November 30th Gary Olcott, District Director, retired after 34 years of service with FSA. Doug Donner, Farm Loan Manager, will replace him and will be permanently be stationed in the Belmont office.
7. Nicole plans to be out of the office from January 20th thru March 19th for maternity leave.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey (Attached)

1. Program Updates
 - a. Round XIII - Still waiting for Jeff's approval.
 - b. Round 18 - We are planning to submit 3-4 applications: 1) Cold Creek (Owens, Vosburg, Clark & Cockle); 2) Wellsville Water Supply (Barney, Reinbold & Saunders); 3) Black Creek (Shaklee & Bainbridge; 4) Susquehanna (Babcock). The first 3 are ready for submission and it will depend on if we can meet with the landowner and get the 4th one ready for submission.

- c. AEM Year 7 - We need 480 hours out of 1176 by May to complete the contract. Working on CNMP's for Andy Peet, Bruce Vosburg, and Brian Babcock. Soil samples, slopes and manure setback field work is completed. CNMP #3 has been submitted and we are awaiting approval.
 - d. FL-LOWPA - Angelica project is completed, and we need to do the as-built.
2. Technical Assistance
- a. County is finishing stream project in Fillmore.
 - b. Field work completed on 3 stream projects in the last month.
 - c. Currently have 17 requests for stream permits and stabilization help. We are getting the field work done now and will do the drawings and permit applications this winter.

C. AEM Planner: Scott Alsworth

- 1. We are currently facilitating the bidding process of softwoods in Management Area 3, the Dixon Lot, in Birdsall. The bid openings will be January 9th at 10:00am, at the Court House. The sale has been split into 4 lots. #1) Pine clear cut on 19 acres, approximately 1140 tons; #2) Spruce/Pine timber harvest thinning, approximately 226,000BF; #3) Larch timber harvest thinning, approximately 72,400BF; #4) White Pine thinning harvest of approximately 37,000BF. Sales notices have been mailed and bid packets are ready for dispersal.
- 2. The 2011 Management Plan is winding down. Met with Paul on a couple occasions to discuss format and strategy. Allowing for numerous harvests over the next ten years. Timber maturity and management strategy being the deciding factors of harvest dates. At this point Paul is half way done with his report and Gloria has begun typing it up.

V. New Business

- A. Round 18 - Resolution 2011-04 "Authorizing Participation": **APPROVED (Rung-May)**
- B. FL-LOWPA - Resolution 2011-05 "Authorizing Signing of Agreement": **Approved (Rung-May)**
- C. Insurance - Acceptance of Richardson & Stout Proposal: **Approved (Rung-May)**

VI. Old Business

- A. Unemployment Dispute - We have received notice that the Department of Labor is appealing the judges ruling.

- B. Vehicle Purchase - Two 2012 Dodge Ram 1500 trucks have been ordered at a cost of \$39,312.03 and will be delivered the first or second week of January. Discussion was held on disposal of our present vehicle. It was decided that we bid the old truck, if an acceptable bid is not received we place it in the County's auction in April. **Approved (Burdick-Hopkins)**

VII. Announcements

- A. The next meeting will be held January 17, 2012 at 5:00pm at the District Facility, Belmont, NY.

VIII. Communications

No communications required action.

IX. Adjournment: 7:15pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman