

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - DECEMBER 18, 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

I. Call to Order: 5:10pm

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

III. Financial Reports

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

IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports

- A. NRCS: Liz Wesche, Soil Conservationist
 1. Liz Wesche is acting DC for Chautauqua County until December 31st.
 2. Kathy Kos is acting DC for Wyoming & Cattaraugus Counties.
 3. Preparing applications for upcoming review
 4. Kathy was glad to have Leonard Preston sit in on an Engineering Nonconference with NRCS today.
 5. New York ranks 3rd in the number of certified organic farmers.
- B. FSA: Report Submitted, nobody in attendance.
 1. Interest rates are extremely low for FSA loans. December rates are: Commodity Loans (9Mths) - 1.125%; Farm Storage Facility Loans (7,10 & 12yrs) - 1.125%, 1.750% and 1.875%.
 2. Still no Farm Bill. Currently working on reporting established hay and fall seeded grains, which were due to be reported by November 15th, no late file fees for this year.
 3. Nationally they have reduced staffing ceiling a little over 2% "temporarily" until we finally get a budget. These reductions are being satisfied through natural attrition. The hope is that this will up money for supplies and operating money if need be.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey

1. Program Updates

- a. Round 18 - Contracts are starting to be sent back from Albany.
- b. Round 19 - Grant application received by State December 10th. Applied for the following watershed funding:
 1. Cryder Creek, Town Independence, \$256,675 on 2 farms.
 2. Canacadea Creek, Towns of Almond & Alfred, \$107,025 on 2 farms.
 3. Cold Creek, Towns of Centerville & Hume, \$153,900 on 3 farms.
- c. AEM Year 8 - Working on CNMPs for the following farms that are applying for manure storage in Round 19
 1. RAW Farm
 2. Duane Brubaker Farm
 3. Claybed Farm
 4. Locustbrae FarmScott A. has been working on several Tier 2s for Farms that Helen Terry is doing grazing plans on.
- d. FL-LOWPA - Bruce Vosburg - complete; Dave Saunders - complete except for collection; Chris Reinbold - getting tank lined up; Jim Latham - complete.

2. Technical Assistance

- a. Total Station system has been delivered.
- b. Leonard has been heading up getting survey work done for projects: 1) JoPo Farms gravel pit; 2) Alma Pond spillway repair; 3) Farmstead layouts of RAW Farm and Brubaker Farm; 4) Bainbridge Farm gravel pit and stream crossing to gravel pit; 5) Bainbridge Farm transfer manure storage for Round 18.
- c. Sharon Thornton - working with Sergels on coming up with a solution
- d. Town of Friendship - gravel removal permit

3. County Forest

- a. Dixon Lot - Scott A meeting with the logger on Wednesday to go over final cleanup.

4. Farmland Protection Plan

- a. Looking to have a meeting of the Board after the first of the year.

V. Communications

A. Jeff TenEyck - Update report

1. Ag NPS

- a. There were 76 proposals totaling \$20 million for Round 19, with 35 individual SWCDs applying for funds. The Technical Advisory Committee will be reviewing & scoring the proposals. The ranked list will be available at the State Committee meeting in February 2013. Within our region 16 of 19 Districts submitted proposals for a total of 27 projects.
- b. Round 18 Plans of Work are all completed within our region and are making their way through the contract process in Albany. The State Committee has received 2 executed contracts, contracts will be making their way out in the near future.

2. State Aid to Districts

- a. The State Committee is working on completing the required Annual Report, Treasurer's Report, and eligible expenditure report forms in an effort to get them out earlier this year. The State Committee Staff is working with the Department of Ag & Markets Counsel to seek clarification on a number of eligible expenditures for State Aid consideration. If Districts need clarification on eligible items for State Aid, contact the Regional Coordinator.
- b. Three new Director Training Modules are currently out to the CDEA and NYACD for their review. Once reviewed and finalized, the modules will be posted on the State Committee website and will be available for Director training. The topics being worked on are: 1) State Aid to Districts Primer; 2) Freedom of Information Law (FOIL); and 3) Effective Board Meetings.
- c. CAFO - An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been drafted pertaining to the proposed revisions to the definition of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) within the State Pollution Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit requirements (6 NYCRR Part 740 regulation). The proposed rulemaking will also modify 6 NYCRR Part 360 to address new solid waste management technologies to avoid duplication with the CAFO permit. For background, the EIS can be downloaded at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/eiscafo_dec.pdf

- d. NRCS 590 (Nutrient Management Standard) - The 590 standard is currently being developed by an interagency team of NRCS, SWCC, Districts, DEC, CCE, and CALS. The 590 Standard pertains to managing the amount (rate), source, placement (method of application), and timing of plant nutrients and soil amendments. The State Committee is actively working on the draft language and is seeking clarification on a number of items including the impact on the deadline for executing the new standard. The final 590 Standard should be released in January 2013.
 - e. Communications - The Department and State Committee's Agricultural & Community Recovery Fund (ACRF) report was officially released and posted on the SWCC website. The 2011 District Annual Report was also officially released and posted.
 - f. AEM - The AEM training held in November at the Auburn Holiday Inn was a great success. Currently the State Committee staff is syncing the audio recording with the trainer's PowerPoint and will be posted once the last two are received from the instructors. I am still missing some AEM Base Interim Reports which were due on November 30th.
- B. NYSCDEA Award Nominations for 2013 - The Board requested the Executive Director to submit a nomination for the Administrative Secretary-Treasurer for the Willard F. Croney Distinguished Service Award.

VI. Announcements

Next meeting January 22, 2013, at 5:00pm at the District Facility.

VII. Adjournment: 5:46pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman