

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - FEBRUARY 15, 2011
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

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

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: 5:05pm**
- II. Minutes of January 18, 2011: Approved (Hopkins-May)**
- III. Financial Reports**
- A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (Hopkins-May)**
 - B. Abstracts: **Approved (Hopkins-May)**
- IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
- A. NRCS Report: Liz Wesche, Soil Conservationist
 - 1. Sign-up period is over for EQIP, AMA and WHIP. A total of 39 applications were taken. Of these, 30 were high priority EQIP applications.
 - 2. HEL determinations are completed.
 - 3. USDA is operating under a Continuing Resolution.
 - B. FSA Report: Nicole Ayers, County Executive Director
 - 1. No further guidance for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program has been received.
 - 2. The last month was spent updating producer farm records, completing payment limitation paperwork in anticipation of a January MILC payment and signing producers up for DCP.
 - 3. Interest rates are as follows: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.250%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 & 12yrs) - 2.750%, 3.375% and 3.625%. FSFL rates have continued to increase slightly.
 - 4. Still operating on a Continued Resolution.
 - 5. Another General Signup for CRP will begin March 14th thru April 15th. A new practice for pollinator plots for bees has been added and mowing regulations have changed to 5 years.

- C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey
1. Round XIII - Time Extension contract has been received and will be signed this week.
 2. Round XVII - The State Committee was to approve the list of Round 17 recipients yesterday.
 3. AEM Year 6 - We have completed approximately 625 hours, another 551 hours will be needed. The first CNMP is expected to be submitted for State review by the end of February. We have received a couple of requests for nutrient management help. We are working on updating the AEM database. Very few updates have occurred in the past 3-4 years. We are compiling a list of farms in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed.
 4. FL-LOWPA - FY2011-201s proposal has been submitted. We are starting to visit farms to review practices that need completion.
 5. Annual Reports - The State Annual Reports have been submitted. The County report is due February 28th.
 6. Ag Assessments - To date we have completed 85 parcels, totaling 6,479 acres.

V. New Business

- A. RC&D Appointment - Scott Torrey was appointed as the District Representative to the RC&D Council. **Approved (Bennett-Rung)**
- B. Genesee River/Back River Road Project - Discussion was held regarding assistance to the Town of Amity on a project to protect the Back River Road from erosion by the Genesee River. The Town of Amity is going to apply for FEMA funding to correct this problem, but a design is needed. FL-LOWPA funds could be used for a design. It was the consensus of the Board that we get estimates of design costs before committing funds.
- C. Village of Bolivar - Discussion was held regarding a 300 foot section of water line, which services 30 homes in the Village of Bolivar, which has been exposed.
- D. NYS Retirement - Resolution 2011-01 - "Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution RS2417-A". **Approved (Hopkins-Rung)**

VI. Old Business

- A. Annual Reports - Covered in Executive Directors Report.
- B. Health Insurance Stipend - Discussion was held on a stipend for employees who do not take the health insurance or receive a co-pay payment. A \$1,000.000 stipend will be paid in quarterly payments, after receipt of proof of insurance coverage. **Approved (Hopkins-Rung)**. The Employees Handbook will be revised to show this action.

- C. Marcellus Shale - Ted Hopkins informed the Board that a Marcellus Shale Committee is being formed in the County and suggested that the District send a representative to these meetings. Scott Torrey will attend these meetings at this time. Water testing will need to be done prior to any drilling.

VII. Announcements

- A. Discussion was held regarding date and time for next Board Meeting, as employees will be at Water Quality Symposium on March 15th. The next meeting will be held March 22, 2011, at the District Facility at 5:00pm.

VIII. Adjournment: 6:29pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman