

MINUTES  
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - FEBRUARY 19, 2013  
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  
Nicole Ayers, FSA

**I. Call to Order: 5:10pm**

**II. Minutes of January 15, 2013: Approved (Rung-May)**

**III. Financial Reports**

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

**IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**

- A. NRCS - Liz Wesche, Soil Conservationist
  - 1. EQIP - The Area had 58 applications for funding in livestock waste, cropland, and grazing, and 4 have been preapproved. None of these were in Allegany County. Forestry applications have not been funded yet. Beginning farmer funding has not, as yet, come through. Allegany County may have some applications funded under this category.
  - 2. They are hoping to see a few more applications funded under the GLRI in the future.
  - 3. NRCS is currently celebrating Black History Month. Liz gave us a poster to hang up in the office.
- B. FSA Report: Nicole Ayers, County Executive Director
  - 1. Interest rates are extremely low for loans administered by FSA Farm Programs, but are rising; February rates are: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.125%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7,10 & 12yrs) - 1.250%, 1.875% and 2.125%.
  - 2. If a budget isn't passed by March 1<sup>st</sup> sequestration will take place and could potentially require employees to be furloughed. In an effort to ensure that the meat inspectors are able to continue working the DCP program may potentially be cut.
  - 3. The MILC program was extended and is retroactive back to September and October. There are payments for September and October, but no payments for November-January. Producers who come close to producing the

limit have until February 28<sup>th</sup> to designate their start month. The September payment went out on February 5<sup>th</sup> and the October payment is scheduled for March 5<sup>th</sup>.

4. DCP sign-up started today.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey

1. Program Updates

- a. Round 18 - Still waiting on the State.
- b. Round 19 - Cryder Creek Grant was #37 and will be on the border for getting funded.
- c. AEM Year 8 - Continuing to work on several different farms at different levels of planning. We have completed 63% of our time for Year 8, the grant cycle ends May 6, 2013.
- d. FL-LOWPA - Working on the 2008-09 Closeout. Should be receiving funds for 2010-11 in 2013, and will be eligible for 2011-12 when 2008-09 is closed. The deadline for 2009-10 has been extended until March 31, 2014.

2. Technical Assistance

- a. Completed surveys for the following: 1) County/Joe Lates stream project; 2) Theo Bullock stream permit in the Town of Friendship; (3) David Davies erosion threatening house in the Town of Caneadea.
- b. We will be doing the engineering work for the Town of Friendship for their FEMA project to protect the sewer line crossing VanCampen Creek. We will be paid the \$7,500 that FEMA is providing for the engineering work.
- c. Completed mining permit application for Mark Bainbridge.
- d. Working on a gravel permit for JoPo Farm Gravel.
- e. The stream crossing permit for Bainbridge Farm has been approved by both the DEC and Army Corp.
- f. We have a student from Alfred State assisting us 1 day a week for class credit.

3. County Forest

- a. Will be presenting the Weir Lot proposed timber harvest to the Planning & Economic Development Committee on February 20<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Working on marking boundaries.

4. Annual Reports

- a. All reports were submitted by February 15<sup>th</sup>.

**V. Old Business**

- A. Annual Reports - A copy of the Annual Report and the Treasurer's Annual Report was given to the Directors.

**VI. New Business**

- A. Weir Lot Timber Sale - Covered in Executive Director's Report.

**VII. Announcements**

- A. Next meeting will be March 19, 2013, at the District Facility at 5:00pm.

**VIII. Correspondence**

- A. J. TenEyck: RE: February Region 3 Division of Land & Water Resources Report:
  - 1. Annual Reports where due February 15<sup>th</sup>.
  - 2. District Annual Plans of Work are due by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Email a copy to Jeff for review and approval prior to that date, he will send to State Committee.
  - 3. An overview and discussion of the revised NRCS 590 Nutrient Management Standard will be held via teleconference on February 6<sup>th</sup>. Directors are welcome.
  - 4. Ag NPS Grant
    - a. Fully executed Round 18 contracts are starting to come out. If you haven't gotten yours signed and in do so asap as they are expecting the State to stop making payments in mid February.
    - b. When requesting a 65% advance on BMPs make sure that construction is imminent to the best of your knowledge.
    - c. Each AG NPS Grant must be in a separate interest bearing account.
    - d. All open grants should be covered in the financial report reviewed and approved at Director Meetings each month. Progress reports of "on the ground" progress should be reported at least periodically.
    - e. Round 19 ranking list is expected to be approved at the February State Committee meeting.
  - 5. In addition to sending Board minutes to Jeff, he now needs a copy of monthly Treasurer's Reports.
  - 6. 1099's
    - a. Districts have reported receiving 1099's for AEM funds received in 2012 from the Comptroller's Office. At this point it is not known why this has happened, but it is being looked into. Hold on to them for now.
    - b. Districts should be issuing 1099's to landowners who received funding through the District. It is not clear whether it should be the 1099M or 1099G, so go with what you have done in the past, or what your financial consultant advises.

7. Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM)
  - a. The memo and associated forms to close out AEM Base 8 has been emailed to each District. The program ends on May 6, and you have until July 6, to report, but two Districts have already closed out. Be sure the information gets to the person responsible for AEM, and be sure to read the attached memo and not just the email message.
  - b. You have also been emailed the AEM Base 8 Program Manual. It is more than a little late as it generally arrives in April or May, but you may still want to refer to it as you close out.
8. I am available to conduct Director training, grant close outs, and come to your office for whatever reason. Don't hesitate to contact me, even for further discussion of this report.

**IX. Adjournment:** 5:45pm

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Gloria D. Miess  
Secretary

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Rodney Bennett  
Chairman