

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - JANUARY 18, 2011
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
Ted Hopkins, Legislator
Philip May, Farm Bureau
Douglas Burdick, Legislator

Staff

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

Cooperating Agencies

Nicole Ayers, FSA
Kathy Kos, NRCS
JoAnn Kurtis, NRCS
Liz Wesche, NRCS

I. Call to Order: 5:06pm

II. Election of Officers

Scott Torrey acted as Chairman for Elections
Chairman - Rodney Bennett (**Hopkins-Burdick**)
Close Nominations (**May-Hopkins**)
Vice Chairman - Curtis Rung (**Hopkins-Bennett**)
Close Nominations (**Hopkins-Bennett**)

III. Minutes of December 21, 2010: Approved (May-Burdick)

IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports

- A. NRCS Report: Kathy Kos, District Conservationist
1. Sign-up period is over for EQIP, AMA and WHIP. A total of 29 EQIP, 2 AMA and 5 WHIP applications were taken. Ranking and cost-estimates will be developed through February. Selections for funding should be made by May.
 2. Applications for On-Farm Energy Audits and SPCC end on January 28th. Spill Prevention & Counter Control (SPCC) is a pilot program. Other CAPS are available for CNMP's, Grazing plans, NMP, IPM, etc. Preapprovals will occur bi-weekly March 18th - June 3rd.
 3. Quarterly audit will run January 20th - February 18th.
 4. Completing contract reviews on 52 active contracts.
 5. PMC Newsletter and new releases on SPCC, AgEMP and Organic, and Allegany Soil Survey Landowner Brochure were handed out.

B. JoAnn Kurtis, RC&D Coordinator

1. JoAnn presented a Power Point on the RC&D By-Laws changes. There will no longer be an alternate to the County representatives. County Committee meetings are under Open Meeting Law and open to anybody. Anybody present has the right to vote. Allegany County has not held a County Committee meeting in some time. The District does not have a representative on the Council at this time. It will be necessary for the Board to send a name for their representative to the Council.

C. FSA Report: Nicole Ayers, County Executive Director

1. Allegany County paid out a total of \$1,080,848.25 to producers in Fiscal Year 2010.
2. Direct and Counter Cyclical Program (DCP) signup is starting to get busier, the deadline is June 1st.
3. More guidance has been received on Eligible Material Owners (EMO) for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP). At present applications for EMOs that will be delivering non-woody material to Qualified Biomass Conversion Facilities (QBCF); however we have no QBCFs in NYS at this time. Guidance on application for woody material EMOs is forthcoming. A few inquiries into becoming a QBCF have been received.
4. January interest rates are as follows: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.250%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7,10 & 12yrs) - 2.500%, 3.125% and 3.375%. FSFL rates have continued to increase slightly.
5. Still operating on a Continued Resolution. To be budget conscious we have had to cut back on the number of mailings that we are sending out and instead will be calling people to make appointments for DCP and crop reporting.
6. We have been busy the past few weeks with Eligibility paperwork for NRCS customers who are signing up for EQIP.
7. 2009 Supplemental Revenue Assistance (SURE) signup started on January 10th and runs through the end of July. Allegany County was a disaster declared county and producers who meet all eligibility requirements could be eligible to earn disaster payments.

D. Executive Director: Scott Torrey

1. Round XIII - Time Extension has been approved by the State Committee. Don Wild has signed off on the fencing for Behen and Bainbridge, and we are waiting

- for Dana's signature on projects.
2. Round XVII - The list of approved grants is expected to be available in February.
 3. AEM Year 6 - We have completed approximately 520 hours, another 656 hours will be needed by May 5th to collect the full grant funding. Working on the CNMP's CNMP Review Committee will allow us to submit plans before March training. The VTA/Waste Transfer Line evaluations should be finished in January.
 4. Part B Funds - We have the signed contract with Paul Kretser for the Forestry Plan update. We will be doing the final report.
 5. FL-LOWPA - The 2008-09 and 2009-2010 funds should be received by March 31, 2011. We will be starting to line up projects over the upcoming months. Our proposal for 2011-12 is due January 28th.
 6. Annual Reports - We are working on completing the State and County Annual Reports. The State reports are due February 15th and the County reports are due February 28th.
 7. Ag Assessments - To date we have completed 11 parcels, totaling 578 acres. We are starting to receive a number of requests.

V. New Business

- A. Designation of Depositories: Steuben Trust. **Approved (Burdick-May)**
- B. Appointment of Audit Committee: Philip May & Rodney Bennett
- C. Official Newspapers: Wellsville Daily Report and Cuba Patriot. **Approved (Burdick-May)**
- D. Board Meeting Schedule for 2011: 3rd Tuesday at 5:00pm November thru March, 3rd Tuesday at 6:00pm April thru October. **Approved (May-Burdick)**

VI. Old Business

- A. AEM Coordinator - Scott Alsworth has been offered the position as AEM Coordinator and agreed to accept the position. We are hopeful for a started date of around February 1st. **Approved (Burdick-May)**
- B. Ag District #3 Review - Approximately 1150 letters were mailed out to landowners in the Towns of Burns, Grove, Almond and Birdsall. We had two Job Track people in to assist with mailings. They were both very good workers and finished the project ahead of schedule.

VII. Financial Reports

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

VIII. Announcements

- A. Next meeting will be February 15, 2011 at the District Facility at 5:00pm.

IX. Correspondence

- A. NYSCDEA - RE: 2011 Water Quality Symposium - March 15-18, 2011. **Approved (Hopkins-May)**

X. Executive Session to Discuss AEM Coordinator Position

Motion to go into Executive Session at 6:20pm. **Approved (May-Burdick)**

Motion to come out of Executive Session at 6:55pm. **Approved (Hopkins-Burdick)**

No action taken. County Attorney will be contacted in regards to health insurance question.

XI. Adjournment: 7:00pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman