

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - July 19, 2011
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

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

Staff

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

Cooperating Agencies

Liz Wesche, NRCS
Nicole Ayers, FSA

- I. Call to Order: 6:06pm**
- II. Minutes of June 21, 2011: Approved (Rung-May)**
- III. Financial Reports**
- A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (May-Hopkins)**
 - B. Abstracts: **Approved (May-Hopkins)**
- IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
- A. NRCS Report: Liz Wesche, Soil Conservationist (Attached)
 - 1. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)- 1st round for funding is closed. Applications will continue to be accepted in case there is a 2nd round of funding. No funds have been obligated so no dollar amounts for NYS known.
 - 2. Have received 4 applications for grazing = \$300,000.
 - 3. Forty-four (44) applications have been taken for FY2011 (not including GLRI) for \$1,275,968 on 4,572 acres. Working with landowners to complete back-logged contracts and get new ones started on time.
 - 4. Field checks on seeding establishment of 61 acres of CRP and 23 acres of WHIP.
 - 5. Liz went to 3 days of RUSLE training and engineering training and has been working on backlog of HEL determinations for both Allegany & Cattaraugus Counties.
 - 6. Kathy has been acting DC for Wyoming County and acting Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations. Also doing construction inspections, stake outs and certifying practices.
 - 7. Quarterly audit starts July 25th.
 - 8. FSA Compliance Field Checks will be starting in August.

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

Rodney announced that Nicole has received a promotion to Grade 11.

1. Interest rates are still extremely low; July rates are: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.125%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 and 12yrs) - 2.375%, 3.000% and 3.250%. All rates have decreased slightly since last month.
2. FSA's budget has been cut an additional 15%. Early Outs and Buy Outs have been offered in an effort to make up the shortfall. Many of these positions will not be refilled.
3. The crop reporting deadline for all crops, except small grains, was July 15th. Only a few producers who are required to report have failed to do so. Any late filed reports will be charged a late file fee.
4. COC nominations are still going on. Eligible producers who reside in Alfred, Allen, Almond, Amity, Angelica, Birdsall, Burns, Grove, Ward and West Almond are able to be nominated. Nominations must be received by August 1st. Three (3) nominations have been received.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey (Attached)

1. Program Updates

- a. Round XIII - Working on Closeout.
- b. AEM Year 7 - First CNMP plan has been approved. Second one should be submitted next week. Meetings are being set up with farmers to update their AEM and discuss possible projects. Scott Alsworth has attended several trainings to get up to speed on the AEM process.
- c. FL-LOWPA - Rob Chamberlain is working on finishing drainage project. Working with Chris Reinbold to come up with estimates and a decision as to whether he will be doing work on his barnyard or a milkhouse waste system. Kim Shaklee will be doing a small manure storage either using FL-LOWPA or Part C money. Also working with Zane Covert on possible pasture laneway work.

2. Ag District Review

- a. Ag District 3 has been approved and we are waiting for the SEQOR paperwork from the County Attorney before submitting it to the State.

3. Technical Assistance

- a. Town of Amity - gravel in Philips Creek
- b. Town of Scio - permits on Snowball Hollow, Pixley Hill bridge, River behind Town Barns, Gordon Brook bridge maintenance and Vandermark Road.
- c. Town of Granger - bank slippage
- d. Sharon Thornton - submitted permit
- e. Dennis Butts - completed permit, awaiting signed paperwork from landowner.
- f. Karl Kruger - submitted permit application for work that has been completed.
- g. Beverly Trimble - stream work complete
- h. Gerald Amman, Bill Livergood - erosion problems
- i. Scarlett Skye - sinkholes in basement

V. New Business

- A. Permits - Discussion was held on the filing of permits for local municipalities and landowners. Question was raised as to whether we should set a fee for this work. It was the consensus that we not do this at the present time.
- B. County Forest Cutting - Question has been raised by a County Legislator as to whether there was any salable timber on County Forests. Further research will be done.

VI. Old Business

- A. FL-LOWPA - Resolution 2011-02 "Resolution Setting Cost-Share Rates for FL-LOWPA Contracts" **Approved (Rung - May)**

VII. Announcements

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for August 16, 2011, at the District Facility at 6:00pm.

VIII. Communications

- A. NYACD - RE: 2011 NYACD Annual Meeting. Discussion was held regarding attendance. Curtis was nominated to go to the Annual Meeting. **APPROVED (Hopkins - Burdick)**
No other action was taken.

IX. Adjournment: 6:54pm