

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - JUNE 21, 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

Kathy Kos, NRCS
Sheldon Hightower, NRCS

I. Call to Order: 5:58pm

II. Minutes of May 17, 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: Kathy Kos, District Conservationist (Attached)
 - 1. There are 3 EQIP contracts for a total of \$296,171 on 568 acres.
 - 2. GLRI-EQIP sign-up until 7/1/11. Taking applications for livestock waste and cropland issues. (Handout)
 - 3. On going construction of 2 manure storages, 1 barnyard, 1 milk house waste system, 3 spring developments, 10 Grazing and 6 diversion rebuilds.
 - 4. Field checks have been done on CRP and WHIP plantings.
 - 5. HEL determinations for FSA are on-going.
 - 6. National review of the Soil Survey office was held June 14th.
 - 7. Perennial Biofeedstock Tour and speakers August 3rd at Big Flats. (Handout)
 - 8. Prescribed Grazing training to be held June 29th in Warsaw with NRCS Grazing Specialist, Karen Sullivan. Limited to 10 people. Another session may be schedule for non-agency people.
 - 9. GeoArgro-GIS planning for farmers and TSP providers. Requires Level 2 authorization and request specific permissions from producer using NRCS CPA-70 form. TSP/farmer will interface with GEOAGRO and not NRCS. Subscription fee is \$240/year with first year free. (Handout)

10. U-NY-Q (Unique) is being started by local producer, Tim Koegel, to facilitate shipping of WNY products to NY City markets. First truckload expected the first week in July. Open to all producers with quality finished products to ship. (Handout)

Sheldon Hightower, Assistant State Conservationist-Field Operations reported that they are working on the Farm Bill applications, GLI development and personnel changes. They will be hiring technical positions.

B. FSA Report: Not in attendance - Report attached.

1. Received notice that there are BCAP project areas set up in parts of Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Arkansas. No word on whether project areas were set up for NY that have yet to be approved.
2. Interest rates are still extremely low; June rates are: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.250%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 and 12yrs) - 2.625%, 3.250% and 3.500%. FSFL rates have decreased slightly since last month.
3. No money available. Postage has been cut and some producers are voicing frustration over not sending DCP contracts or Crop Reports through the mail. Considerable amount of time is being spent on the phone calling producers to be sure all are aware of program deadlines.
4. The one General CRP signup bid was rejected. 10 million acres nationwide were rejected. One reason cited was due to the rising costs of grain and more land being needed to keep up with the demand and to lower prices.
5. Still clearing up the DCP signup stragglers. Late file provisions were given, but approving contracts is not as easy as prior to June 1st.
6. The crop reporting deadline for all crops except small grains is July 15th. Producers who miss the deadlines will be required to pay late file fees.
7. COC nominations are going on at the present time for eligible producers who reside in Alfred, Allen, Almond, Amity, Angelica, Birdsall, Burns, Grove, Ward and West Almond. Nominations must be received by August 1st.

- D. Executive Director: Scott Torrey (Attached)
1. Program Updates
 - a. Round XIII - Working on Closeout.
 - b. AEM Year 7 - \$40,000.00 was requested. CAFO vegetative treatment areas and waste transfer evaluations have been completed. All 3 farms we worked on need to correct vegetative treatment areas. First CNMP has been reviewed and we are making the required changes. These will be resubmitted this week.
 - c. FL-LOWPA - Rob Chamberlain is working on finishing drainage project. Weather has hampered projects being started.
 2. Ag District Review
 - a. Second Public Hearing is schedule for June 27th.
 - b. First Public Hearing and SEQR review are completed.
 - c. Report complete - 6,468 acres added.
 3. Streambank Assistance
 - a. Town of Centerville - permit for sluice pipe in wetland.
 - b. Town of Amity - assistance with gravel in Philips Creek
 - c. Sharon Thornton - working on permit with county.
 - d. Dan Howe - stream encroaching on house.
 - e. Dale Coleman - field flooding from gravel bar in stream.
 - d. Mark Bainbridge - stream eroding field bank and stream crossing.
 - e. Beverly Trimble - permit to move gravel bar and reduce erosion towards house.

V. New Business

- A. FL-LOWPA - Discussion was held on changing the terms of our FL-LOWPA agreements with landowners to a 75-25% split. It was the consensus of the Board that we prepare a resolution for action in July.

VI. Old Business

- A. Envirothon - It was reported that Cuba-Rushford #1 represented the County at the State Envirothon and came in 4th out of 47 teams.
- B. Engineering Project - We have checked with Civil Service and we can hire an engineer. However, we are not sure if the towns are behind the project or what type of work is expected of the engineer. Discussion was held at the meeting with the Highway Association and County about

having each town pay an amount and be given so many hours for that payment, anything after that would be charged at an hourly rate.

- C. Cleaning Contract - We have received notice that our account is being charged \$110.00 per week for unemployment for Pat Carlin. We forwarded this notice to the County Attorney's office. They have already requested a hearing on the matter, but no word has been received back from the State.

VII. Announcements

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for July 19, 2011, at the District Facility at 6:00pm.

VIII. Communications

- A. A Retirement Card was signed by the members of the Board and staff to be sent to Les Travis.

No other action was required.

IX. Adjournment: 7:58pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman