

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - MARCH 22, 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

Nicole Ayers, FSA
Matt Havens, NRCS

I. Call to Order: 5:00pm

II. Soil Survey Team Report:

Matt Havens reported on the current status of the Soil Survey Team in Allegany County. At the present time there are three (3) Scientist located in Belmont. The Belmont Office has been designated as a Regional Office for the State, which means that the team stationed here also has to work on other projects within the State. They are also the MLRA Center for 30 counties in NY and PA, and have national mandated projects which they are responsible for. This year they will be working on the Rapid Carbon project in NY and PA.

Matt showed the Board a map of Allegany County showing the area that has been completed. To date, 85% of the County is completed. It is estimated that all field work in Allegany County will be completed by 2013. A soils book will not be published upon completion, the soils are now published on the NRCS website. A demonstration of Web Soil Survey was given by Matt.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was discussed. The original MOU had a 1998 completion date, an amendment was done setting the completion date to 2010. Another amendment is needed to move the completion date to 2013.

III. Minutes of February 15, 2011: Approved (May-Rung)

IV. Financial Reports

- A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (May-Hopkins)**
- B. Abstracts: **Approved (May-Hopkins)**
- C. Audit Committee Report: **Approved (Rung-Burdick)**

V. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports

- A. NRCS Report: Matt Havens - Soil Scientist
 - 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. The 1-BCAP handbook for guidance for the Biomass Crop Assistance Program has been received. However, it does not include further guidance for woody biomass matching payments.
 - 2. There was no MILC payment for January, and Cornell is not forecasting a payment this year.
 - 3. Interest rates are extremely low for loans administered by FSA Farm Programs. March rates are: Commodity Loans (9mths) 1.250%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 & 12yrs) 2.87%, 3.50% and 3.875%. FSFL rate continue to increase slightly.
 - 4. Still operating under a Continued Resolution until April 8th.
 - 5. Another General Signup for CRP runs between March 14th and April 15th. Expiring CRP contracts are eligible for re-enrollment. There are 4 contracts that will be eligible to enroll.
 - 6. Signups for 2011 DCP are being taken. Approximately 115 contracts have been enrolled or approved, to date. Last year 483 contracts were approved. Deadline is June 1st. Producers are being called to have them come in and complete their contracts.

- C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey
 - 1. Program Updates
 - a. Round XIII - Work on remaining projects will begin as soon as the weather breaks.
 - b. Round XVII - We were not awarded any grant funds under Round XVII. Terry Hodnett was approved under Wyoming County. The Rushford application was only 9 points below the last approval.
 - c. AEM Year 6 - We have completed approximately 69% of our needed hours. Our first CNMP has been submitted for review. All AEM folders have been reviewed and we are now starting to prioritize farms and begin updates. This year we will be focusing on the following: 1) Chesapeake Bay; 2) Genesee River south of Wellsville; 3) Cold Creek (Hume to Centerville); 4) any new farms.

- d. FL-LOWPA - We are still waiting on funds for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 program.
- e. Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control - Funding up to \$30,000 is available for erosion control practices and education under this program. Looking at applying for funds to purchase a no till drill.
- 2. Annual Reports - All annual reports have been completed and submitted. A copy of the County Report attached.
- 3. Ag Assessments - We have completed Soil Group Worksheets on 145 parcels covering 12,169 acres.

VI. New Business

- A. Ted Hopkins discussed the hiring of an engineer to work on stream projects in the County. This is being looked at by the County Highway Supervisors as a shared services program with each township paying a portion of the cost. The District has been approached to either hire or at least house this person. It was suggested that a Shared Service Grant be looked at for a study of the project and the interest of the towns.

VII. Old Business

- A. Employee Handbook - A revision of the Employee Handbook was reviewed. **Approved (Hopkins-Rung)**

VIII. Announcements

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

IX. Communications

No action required.

X. Adjournment: 6:30pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman