

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - MAY 17, 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
Liz Wesche, NRCS

I. Call to Order: 6:03pm

II. Minutes of April 19, 2011: Approved (Rung-Hopkins)

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. Liz is back from training and is assisting with the workload in Cattaraugus County. She assisted at the Cattaraugus County Envirothon. JoAnn Kurtis demonstrated the RC&D "Water Table" at the Envirothon. This is available to S&WCDs for use.
 - 2. Kathy is on the Food Security Act Committee-interagency team to streamline HEL and Wetland determinations and procedures between FSA and NRCS.
 - 3. There will be a Soil Field Review on June 14th.
 - 4. Eighteen (18), high eligibility applications were received totaling \$556,260. Still waiting for funding to be released and to find out who has been approved.
 - 5. Completed the quarterly ROOT audit on 9 contracts.
 - 6. Currently have 47 active contracts totaling \$991,812, with at least one (1) practice scheduled for each this year.
 - 7. RC&D employees are now working under NRCS and will be assisting FO's with workload issues.
 - 8. We have two AMA High Tunnel projects in the County which have been very successful. One current application this year.
 - 9. May is Asian Pacific Islander History Month.

10. GSA is auctioning off vehicles and other items.

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

1. Received directives for facilities and groups who would like to be project sponsors. Application deadline is May 27th. However, it doesn't look like there will be any woody biomass matching payments.
2. Interest rates are extremely low. May rates are: Commodity Loans (9mts) - 1.250%, Farm Storage Loans (7, 10 and 12yrs) - 2.87%, 3.500% and 3.750%. FSFL rates have increased slightly since last month.
3. FSA's budget was cut 4.5%, states were not given their full 2010 level pay and benefits allotment. Travel has been all but eliminated, no more postage money or supplies for this year. County Committee meetings have been cut to 1 per quarter and conference calling is being encouraged. All temps have been released, with the exception of one in the state. Major changes are expected in the next farm bill.
4. The findings and suggestions to promote diversity in all USDA agencies have been very controversial.
5. Have not heard if our General CRP sign-up 41 application was accepted.
6. Any known Farm Record changes that affect DCP have been updated. Approximately 332 contracts have been enrolled or approved. Contract application deadline is June 1st.
7. Crop reporting has begun. The deadline for small grains is June 15th and July 15th for all other crops. An effort is being made to have hay producers or those done with planting to report when applying for DCP.

D. Executive Director: Scott Torrey (Attached)

1. Program Updates

- a. Round XIII - We still need some signatures and a couple of bid sheets. We have started the Closeout. The Interim Report was submitted on time.
- b. AEM Year 6 - We completed 1179 hours, to meet our goal we needed 1176. The Final Report and Voucher for \$30,000 have been submitted to the State.

- c. AEM Year 7 - \$40,000 was requested for Year 7. We have 2 barnyard projects scheduled under Tier 4. We have received the first CAFO evaluation and it is being reviewed for accuracy.
 - d. FL-LOWPA - We have received the balance of our 75% funding for FL-LOWPA 08-09. Plan to have 2-3 projects for approval in June.
2. Ag District Review
- a. Public Hearing is schedule for May 23rd. Possibly a 2nd Public Hearing will be required as there was some confusion at the County level regarding the Public Notices.
 - b. The Report has been completed.
3. Genesee River - The District is responsible for the inspection and maintenance for the life of the projects, which are estimated at 50 years.
4. Streambank Assistance requests
- a. Group of Canaseraga landowners on South Valley Creek.
 - b. Dennis Butts - Elm Valley Brook
 - c. Jody Hackett - Deer Creek
 - d. Sharon Thornton - Rush Creek
 - e. CD Tucker - Scio

V. New Business

- A. Pat Carlin Unemployment Issues - We have received notice from NYS Unemployment that Pat has applied for unemployment from another position. They are claiming that she is an employee of ours and want to recoup unpaid unemployment funds. We have met with the County Attorney's office regarding this and they are going to be dealing with NYS Unemployment office.
- B. Facility Issues - When checking with the County Attorney regarding the installation of a Demonstration Rain Garden it was reported that the building might be structurally unstable and we would have to move to another location. The Legislative Board members felt that the building that is being discussed is the CCE building. It was the consensus of the Board that we get the ownership of this building settled and something on paper. It had been suggested at the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting that the District be given title to the land and building.

VI. Old Business

- A. Rain Gardens/Barrels - We found a location to get barrels for Rain Barrels and have picked up twelve. We have installed two Rain Barrels outside the entrance door, which were filled during the recent storms that hit the area. The location and footprint for a Demonstration Rain Garden has been laid out.
- B. Engineering Program - A meeting was held with representatives of the Town Highway Superintendents Association and a representative of the County Public Works Department regarding the hiring of an engineer. This person would be employed by the District, with funding coming from the other agencies to help defray the cost. How the disbursement of the cost would be done has not been set. A meeting is scheduled with Civil Service on Friday to discuss the position.

VII. Announcements

- A. The next meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2011, at the District Facility at 6:00pm.
- B. An offer was made to FSA to place an FSA Page on our website to assist them in getting word out to the farmers on programs and sign-ups. They are only able to send out one more newsletter this year.

VIII. Communications

No communications were received that required action.

IX. Adjournment: 7:05pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman