

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - NOVEMBER 15, 2011
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
Curtis Rung, Grange
Doug Burdick, Legislator
Philip May, Farm Bureau

Staff

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

Cooperating Agencies

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

- I. **Call to Order:** 5:00 pm
- II. **Minutes of October 25,2011: Approved (Rung-May)**
- III. **Financial Reports**
A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (Rung-Burdick)**
B. Abstracts: **Approved (Rung-Burdick)**
- IV. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
A. NRCS - Kathy Koss, District Conservationist (Attached)
1. There are 44 active contracts in the County totaling \$1,749,135.00.
2. Many changes are expected for program sign-ups under the new Farm Bill. Conservation Activity Plans (CAPs) are to offer financial assistance to producers to develop conservation plans on their operations. Qualified TSP's will be hired to complete these plans, must be registered on the TechReg site. Payment for CAPs will be asset at the national level not state. The District could be certified to provide CAP's.
3. Fourteen Service Agency Compliance reviews have been completed with no violations found.
4. National Resource Inventory data collection has started with 21 points needing checking and data entry.
B. FSA: Nicole Ayers, County Executive Director (Attached)
1. Interest rates are still extremely low; October rates are: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.125%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 and 12yrs) - 1.500%, 2.000% and 2.250%.

2. The 2012 Farm Bill is projecting a \$23 million cut in funding. Only 7% of the Farm Bill money goes to farmers/landowners. At present closed door negotiations are going on with the "Super Committee" to determine what the Farm Bill will look like, the Congressional Ag Committees are not having much say with the exception of the ranking member on the committees.
3. A 3rd party website is still projecting a potential MILC payment for the month of February. MILC producers will need to come in and complete a FY2012 Adjusted Gross Income Statement before payments can be issued to them.
4. District Director Gary Olcott will be retiring November 30, 2011. It has been indicated by the State Executive Director that this would be one of the first positions filled.
5. There will be no advanced DCP payments authorized this fiscal year, all payments will be made in October.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey (Attached)

1. Program Updates
 - a. Round XIII - Have received comments from Jeff and making the changes.
 - b. AEM Year 7 - Reviewing farms for Round 18. Starting CNMPs for Andy Peet and Bruce Vosburg. CNMP Plan #2 has been approved, plan to have #3 completed next week.
 - c. FL-LOWPA - Angelica is nearing completion. We will receive our \$33,132 advance for 09/10 once our updated narrative is approved. Attended the FL-LOWPA Full Board Meeting. Goal is to have the 08/09 projects finished next summer.
 - d. Performance Measures - Kim Shaklee barnyard is complete.
2. Technical Assistance
 - a. Town of Andover - Permit approved by DEC and Army Corp.
 - b. Currently have requests for 13 stream permits and stabilization help. We are getting the field work done and working on drawings and permit applications this winter.
3. County Forest
 - a. Scott A. is finishing cruising of the Dixon Lot, in order to prepare for timber sales.

V. New Business

- A. 2012 Budget - The 2012 Budget and wage rates were reviewed. **Approved (May-Rung)**
- B. Vehicle Purchase - Discussion was held regarding the 2002 Dodge, which is starting to require high cost repairs. Discussion was held on the purchase of 2 new vehicles on State Bid. It was suggested that we contact DPW to discuss purchase options. The Motion was made to purchase 2 vehicles, if we can get them for under \$40,000.00.
Approved (Rung-May)

VI. Old Business

- A. Unemployment Dispute - We had a telephone hearing regarding this dispute on November 2, 2011. The Judge for this hearing has ruled in favor of the District, and has determined that Pat Carlin is a contract agent and not an employee.
- B. Hazard Mitigation Program - The District is no longer being requested to take over the Hazard Mitigation Program, but instead to head up the Committee responsible for the Program. It was felt that Jeff Luckey, Director of Emergency Services, should head up the Committee and that the District should assist with the technical aspects of the Program.
- C. NRCS FL-LOWPA Requests - Discussion was held regarding the request by NRCS for the use of FL-LOWPA funding on projects at the McCaa and Brubaker farms. We have spoken with Doug McCaa and he feels he will have funds left over from his NRCS funding and will not need any further assistance. The Brubaker project is not scheduled until 2013 and we will see how this project works out at that time.

VII. Announcements

- A. The next meeting will be held December 20, 2011 at 5:00pm at the Angelica Hotel, Angelica, NY.

VIII. Communications

No communications required action.

IX. Adjournment: 6:25pm