

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - NOVEMBER 20, 2012
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

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

Staff

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

Cooperating Agencies

Nicole Ayers, FSA
Kathy Kos, NRCS
Sheldon Hightower, NRCS

I. Call to Order: 5:16pm

II. Minutes of October 16, 2012 Approved (Rung-Hopkins)

III. Financial Reports

- A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (May-Rung)**
- B. Abstracts: **Approved (May-Rung)**

IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports

- A. NRCS: Kathy Kos, District Conservationist
 1. A handout was distributed regarding November being Native American Month.
 2. Still operating under a Continuing Resolution with no new Farm Bill in place. Applications have been taken for several mandated programs. GRP and WRP are not funded at this time. A timeline has been set to get all contract funding obligated by April 19th. GLRI funds will be announced at a later date. AGI expired with the 2008 Farm Bill and will not be considered in FY 2013 sign-ups.
 3. Twenty-nine (29) applications were received for 2012 program funding. Sixteen (16) in Forestry, 5 grazing, 5 cropland and 3 high tunnels. Diversion rebuilds are a big item this year. Grazing applications with fencing needs will be restricted to perimeter fencing around active cropland or stream bank fencing.
 4. In FY2012 65 individual practices were completed for a total payout of \$395,000.00 with grazing, wildlife habitat/forestry as the predominate practices.
 5. We have (46) active contracts for \$1,800,000 on 5,036 acres.
 6. Completed 10 Food Security Act required compliance reviews, HEL requests are up to date.

Sheldon Hightower, Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations

1. Jason Weller is Acting Chief.
2. Civil Rights reviews have been completed in 10 offices.
3. A budget is expected to be in place this week or next. Operating on a Continuing Resolution until March 18, 2013.

B. FSA: Nicole Ayers, County Executive Director

1. Interest rates are extremely low for FSA loans. November rates are: Commodity Loans (9Mths) - 1.125%; Farm Storage Facility Loans (7,10 & 12yrs) - 1.125%, 1.750% and 2.000%.
2. At the present time we are still only able to approve program applications for Commodity Loans and Farm Storage Facility Loans. Until a new Farm Bill is in place it is unknown what programs will be available or how much money for each program. We are operating under a Continuing Resolution.
3. Reports from the Legislative Committee from the employee association suggests that the House version of the Farm Bill will probably be taken up during the lame duck session, however, the SNAP and Dairy portions are hot button topics so that does not mean their version will pass without revisions. Once passed by the House the House and Senate Ag Committees will need to get together to work out the final Farm Bill.
4. We were able to send out physical newsletters in October, this was the first newsletter we were able to send in over a year and the response from producers was encouraging. There were a number of inquiries about commodity and FSFL. After the Farm Bill is passed then it will take to write the regulations and get the training developed to roll out these programs to the county offices.
5. In January new efficiency software called the MIDAS program will be rolled out in an effort to streamline the way we deliver our programs. The goal is to have all software interactive so redundancy is eliminated when processing applications for different programs or automatic updates when changes occur that affect other system areas.
6. Nicole is taking on Farm Loan responsibilities and is working towards Chattel appraisal authority and has 2 of 10 appraisals completed to get that permission.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey

1. Program Updates

- a. Round 18 - No changes
- b. Round 19 - Grant application due December 10th. Applying for the following watersheds: Cryder Creek (Town of Independence); Canacadea Creek (Towns of Almond & Alfred); and Cold Creek (Towns of Centerville & Hume)
- c. AEM Year 8 - Scott A. is working on documenting Upper Susquehanna farm changes for USC for EPA requirements. Year 8 Interim Report is due November 28th, we will be submitting for approximately \$10,000.00 of additional funding that is available.
- d. FL-LOWPA - Bruce Vosburg poured walls today, flat work all done; Dave Saunder's flat work finished today, need to finish curbing and collection; Chris Reinbold getting tank lined up. Submitting 2012-13 Plan of Work today for \$38,250.00, funds will be available after January 1st.

2. Technical Assistance

- a. Assisting Jack Potter with gravel mining permit. Should we be charging for these services? Wyoming County's charges were reviewed by the Board and Motion was made to us these same rates. **Approved (Rung-Hopkins)**
- b. Sharon Thornton's house flooded during Hurricane Sandy, we are exploring options to correct this problem.
- c. Town of Friendship gravel removal permit being worked on.

3. County Forest

- a. Dixon Lot - Jim Ball's survey showed a driveway had been built across County property and the matter has been turned over to the County Attorney.
- b. Snyder Lot - Cutting and cleanup is complete.
- c. Weir Lot - Looking at getting this lot ready for cutting in 2013. This will be a hardwood and softwood cut.
- d. Once hunting season wraps up, we will begin painting boundary lines, weather dependent.

4. Watershed Technician

- a. Leonard Preston, PE, has accepted the job and started November 19th.

V. New Business

- A. 2013 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistant request. **Approved (Hopkins-May)**
- B. FL-LOWPA contracts for 2010/11 & 2011/12 Resolutions - **Approved (May-Rung)**
- C. Round 19 Approvals & Resolutions - Resolution 2012-03, Canacadea Creek Beef BMPs - **Approved (Hopkins-Burdick)**; Resolution 2012-04, Cryder Creek BMPs - **Approved (Hopkins-Burdick)**; Resolution 2012-05, Cold Creek BMPs - **Approved (Hopkins-Burdick)**

VI. Old Business

- A. 2013 Budget - Reviewed Budget and Wages for 2013 - **Approved (Rung-Burdick)**

VII. Communications

No communications required action.

VIII. Announcements

Next meeting December 18, 2012, at 5:00pm at the District Facility.

IX. Adjournment: 6:15pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman