

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - SEPTEMBER 20, 2011
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
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: 6:45pm**
- II. Minutes of August 16, 2011: Approved (Burdick-Rung)**
- III. Financial Reports**
- A. Treasurer's Report: **Approved (Rung-Burdick)**
 - B. Abstracts: **Approved (Rung-Burdick)**
- IV. Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
- A. NRCS: Liz Wesche, Soil Conservationist
 1. Handouts regarding the EWP Program were distributed, including an example letter for EWP Application Assistance.
 2. A total of 48 application were received during the last sign-up period. Four applications were funded: one WHIP and three EQIP. Seven Forestry Contracts have been approved. Now have a total of 48 active contracts.
 3. Liz has been assisting Cattaraugus County with layout at the Strzelec Farm.
 4. All payments have to be completed before September 28th, as the computers will be shut down from September 28 - October 5, 2011.
 5. Still operating under a Continuing Resolution.
 6. A request was made for \$5,000.00 in FL-LOWPA funding for D&R Farms manure storage and another \$5,000.00 for a Watering System for Duane Brubaker. More information was requested on both of these projects before allocating any funds.
 7. Question was raised as to whether any of the Directors would be attending the NYACD Annual Meeting.

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

1. Interest rates are still extremely low; August rates are: Commodity Loans (9mth) - 1.125%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (7, 10 and 12yrs) - 1.875%, 2.500% and 2.875%.
2. Been busy ironing out 'wrinkles' so annual rental payments are processed smoothly starting in October.
3. Crop insurance loss adjusters have made many inquiries for producer data. Allegany County producers have been much more fortunate than the Hudson Valley and the Susquehanna area farmers.
4. The new fiscal year will begin October 1st. The outlook is not so favorable budget wise. Newsletters have been cut back to 4 in 2012, County Committee meetings are to be held on an 'as needed' basis and encouraged to be held as teleconferences.
5. It is projected that a potential \$0.0790 MILC payment will be made for the month of November. This is 3rd party website projections, not USDA data.
6. Four county office employees and 4 state office employees are expected to be accepted into the 'buy out' and gone by the end of November. No notice has been released as to the priority of what offices the applicants will be accepted out of.

C. Executive Director: Scott Torrey (Attached)

1. Program Updates
 - a. Round XIII - Report is complete and will be sent to Jeff Ten Eyck for his review before being sent to the State Office. A total of \$154,660.10 of the grant was unexpended, of which, \$23,128.75 was for Personnel and Engineering.
 - b. AEM Year 7 - Second CNMP plan was reviewed and corrections made. Review process is on hold due to reviewers working on the Hurricane Irene issues. Scott A. is doing updates on several farms. An as-built survey of VTA changes at Bainbridge's will be done.
 - c. FL-LOWPA - Rob Chamberlain's drainage project is complete. Chris Reinbold is planning to do a milkhouse waste collection.
 - d. Performance Measures - Part C funds will be used for a small manure storage at the Kim Shaklee farm and to correct barnyard problems.
2. Technical Assistance
 - a. Town of Andover - permit submitted for bridge maintenance on Main Street.

- b. Town of Birdsall - waiting for DEC Wetland Specialist.
- c. Town of Amity - permit submitted for Philips Creek.
- d. Town of Scio - permits for Snowball Hollow, and Pixley Hill have been submitted.
- e. Sharon Thornton - permits approved by DEC and COE, working with County to get project started.
- f. Dennis Butts - permit approved by DEC, waiting for COE.
- g. Karl Kruger - working with Karl to correct problems.

V. New Business

- A. Conservation Project Approval - Shaklee project - **APPROVED (Burdick-Rung)**

VI. Old Business

- A. County Forests - Scott A. has been checking the County Forests for timber. Any action was tabled until October.
- B. Hazard Mitigation - Discussion was held regarding the District handling the Hazard Mitigation program. Legislator Sinclair feels the District should take the lead on this, and the remainder of the Planning & Economic Development Committee agreed. No funding is available and no guidance on how to handle the program. Contract was discussed, but no action taken by Committee. Discussion was held on meetings yearly with highway departments to keep track of what has been done and what is needed up to date so that when the update is due we would have the information to plug into the report.
- C. CNMP Pricing for CAFO's - Tabled to October.

VII. Announcements

- A. The next meeting will be moved to October 25, 2011, at the District Facility at 6:00pm.

VIII. Communications

No communications required action.

IX. Adjournment: 7:45pm

Gloria D. Miess
Secretary

Rodney Bennett
Chairman