

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – April 17, 2018
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
Marvin Covert, Farm Bureau
James Wilcox, Grange
Karl Graves, Legislator

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec Dir
Tiffany McCumiskey, Secretary

Cooperating Agencies

Stephanie Castle- Genesee River Coalition

1. **Call to Order:** 5:33pm
2. **Minutes of March 20, 2018 Approved (Graves - Wilcox)**
 - a. **Marv asked for Rod's response regarding improving emergency storm response to be added to the meeting minutes. It was decided to add to the March minutes that Marv appreciated Rod's response regarding the subject. Rod's response was taken from the digital recording of the March 20, 2018 minutes and added to those minutes for the 2018 Minute book.**
3. **Financial Reports – Approved (Graves – Covert)**
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Abstracts
4. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
 - a. NRCS – No Report
 - b. FSA – No Report
 - c. Division of Land and Water Resources – Report attached
 - d. Executive Director –
 - i. Program Updates:
 1. Round 20
 - a. Sent out letter to the farms that still have work to do on their contracts. Their projects need to be completed by December 31, 2018.
 2. Round 21
 - a. The bid opening for Aaron Brooks' project was April 5, 2018 and a contractor was selected. Construction will begin later this summer.
 3. Round 24 still has not been announced.
 4. FL_LOWPA
 - a. FL-LOWPA education funds were used to help sponsor a meeting with Cooperative Extension on April 10. The focus of the meeting was on soil health. 19 people attended the meeting.
 5. AEM
 - a. Year 13
 - i. In the last month we have been doing environmental planning on 16 different farms for future projects. Planning items include- grazing systems, manure handling systems, diversion ditches and barnyards.

- ii. Working on planning projects for Round 24 of the Ag Non-Point Source Grant fund which will be announced soon.
 - b. Year 14 request is due May 2, 2018. We can request up to \$110,000. Reimbursement rate will be \$44/hour.
- 6. Southern Tier Program
 - a. No changes in the last month.
- 7. Genesee River Erosion and Sediment Grant
 - a. No changes in the last month.
- 8. Belfast River Stabilization
 - a. We are moving forward with this project. Update later in the meeting.
- 9. CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - a. The bid opening for Aaron Brooks' project was April 5, 2018 and a contractor was selected. Construction will begin later this summer.
 - b. The contract for Val-Dale Farm has been signed and sent back to the State.
 - c. Round 2 will open May 1 and grants will need to be submitted by August 1. We currently have 3 farms interested in applying for additional manure storage.
- 10. West Almond Salt Storage Facility
 - a. Working with Town of location and final design. Waiting on contract before getting bids.
- ii. Technical Assistance
 - 1. Ryan and Leonard have been working with the Towns of Almond, Belfast and Granger with stream work. They have provided technical assistance and permitting help.
 - 2. Ryan and Leonard are assisting Mallards Dairy with a streambank stabilization project
 - 3. In the SFY 2018-2019 budget, state aid to conservation districts increased \$645,000. This will result in an approximate increase of \$11,000 per year to the Part C funding.

5. Old Business

- a. **Belfast River Project** – The County and Town of Belfast have both approved the Hazard Mitigation Plan and FEMA has approved the plan. This will allow us to proceed with the project.
 - i. Financial Breakdown
 - 1. FEMA Share - \$468,916.50
 - 2. SWCD Share - \$156,305.50
 - 3. Total Estimated Cost - \$625,222.00
 - ii. SWCD Share will come from : 2018 Part C - \$87,882.23
 2019 Part C - \$68,423.27 (estimated total 2019 Part C is \$90-97,000.00)
 - iii. We currently have a little more surveying to do. When that is complete we will move into the design and permitting phase.

6. New Business

- a. **Genesee River EPA/GLRI Agreement** – Stephanie Castle attended the meeting to discuss the Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Districts and the Agreement to be

approved and signed for the funding of \$100,000.00 for Allegany County to help with BMP's in the Watershed. The estimated work for Allegany County is 375 acres of Cover Crops, 3,470 feet of Diversions, and 500 acres of Residue/Tillage Management. **Approved – (Graves – Wilcox)**

- b. **Resolution 2018-03 Chairman Designation**– Resolution designating the Allegany County Soil & Water Conservation district as the Chairman of the Genesee River Watershed Coalition of Conservation Districts. **Approved (Covert – Graves)**
- c. **Discussion of AEM Year 14** – AEM year 14 we will be eligible for up to \$110,000.00. This rate is up from Year 13 total of \$85,000.00. This program reimburses us for our time spent doing environmental planning on farms. For Year 14, the state will reimburse us at a rate of \$44.00/hour. This will require us to perform 2,500 hours of AEM planning to receive the full amount. In Year 13 we will have worked 2,033 hours. Requesting approval to apply for the \$110,000. **Approved (Graves – Covert)**
 - i. Discussion regarding how to complete the extra 500 hours required. Whether we should hire a part time employee, who could also help out in the grant writing, or whether to pay the current employees overtime to complete the required hours.
- d. **Farmland Protection Board Members** – Board has some vacancies that need to be filled. It was proposed that Scott Torrey be appointed as representative for Soil and Water, which is currently Rod's position, and leaving Rod on as an Active Farmer. That would fill all the vacancies except a Legislator. Scott asked Karl to help find someone to fill that legislator position.
- e. **Audit Committee Report** – Karl and Jim did the audit for the books, Karl noted that the books were in excellent condition, that the accountant did an awesome job, and they found no errors or irregularities at all. Karl moved that the audit be accepted. **Approved (Graves – Wilcox)**

7. Announcements

- i. **Next Board Meeting: May 15, 2018 at 5:30pm.**

8. Correspondence

- i. NYACD Newsletter
- ii. Trees for Tribes Planting Event Email

9. Adjournment - 6:32pm Approved (Graves - Covert)

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman