

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – April 21, 2020
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
Joe Cygan, Farm Bureau

Karl Graves, Legislator
Judy Hopkins, Legislator

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec Dir
Tiffany McCumiskey, Secretary

Cooperating Agencies

Ben Renner, NRCS
Victory DiGiacomo, Division of Land and
Water Resources

1. **Call to Order:** 5:39 pm
2. **Minutes of March 17, 2020 Approved (Hopkins- Cygan)**
3. **Financial Reports – Approved (Cygan – Hopkins)**
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Abstracts
4. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
 - a. NRCS – COVID-19 office update: USDA Service Centers are open for business by email and phone appointment only. One NRCS employee is present in the office at a time with the other teleworking. Field work, including conservation planning assistance, is continuing with appropriate social distancing.
EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program)
 - Finished conducting annual contract reviews on existing contracts
 - Currently assessing and ranking 2020 applications**CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)**
 - Finished conducting annual contract reviews on existing contracts
 - Applications currently being accepted for 2020, cutoff for round 1 application is May 29, 2020
 - b. FSA – No Report
 - c. Victor DiGiacomo – Division of Land and Water Resources – Vic recommends that if we have issues locally regarding Corona Virus response or how it will impact the district and projects, to contact the most responsible party that can provide an answer which would be the Governor’s office, or the Empire State Development Corporation. Farms are deemed essential so business and construction for them should be continuing as business as usual, but he did mention there are Code Enforcement officers traveling around and checking in construction projects. He also recommended keeping the County attorney in the loop with any issues or problems the district may have as they can provide information and clarification. Deadlines for different grant programs have been extended to help the district and

farms get projects complete.

- d. Executive Director –
 - 1. Program Updates:
 - a. Round 20
 - i. Canacadea Creek – closeout documents will be finished by the end of the month
 - ii. Oil Creek – closeout documents will be finished by the end of the month
 - b. Round 21
 - i. Rushford Lake - we are working on the closeout documents.
 - ii. Wellsville Water Supply – Hamilton Beef Farm is working on finishing their fencing.
 - c. Round 24
 - i. Cody Pomeroy is planning on starting his bedded pack barn this spring.
 - d. Round 25
 - i. All signed contracts will be submitted week of April 20.
 - e. Round 26
 - i. Applications are due May 18th 2020 with another extension to the due date possible.
 - f. FL_LOWPA
 - i. 17-18 Grant
 - 1. We had to cancel 2 educational events. We received an amendment to our contract and moved the \$2,000 from the Public Education line to the BMP Implementation line.
 - 2. We will start working on the closeout
 - 3. Jones Beef Farm plans to start their barnyard project soon.
 - 4. We have a contract for approval tonight. Jessie Keiser plans to start his project as soon as it is approved.
 - g. AEM
 - i. Year 15 closeout has been approved by the State. We are waiting on our final payment of \$54,750.
 - ii. Round 16 contract has been signed and returned to the State.
 - h. Southern Tier Program
 - i. No changes in the last month.
 - i. FEMA
 - i. Van Campen Creek – we have received an approved contract from FEMA to perform the engineering for the project.
 - ii. Belfast River Stabilization
 - 1. We are working on the permitting and design documents.
 - j. CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - i. Lismore Dairy – we have been working on the plans for their storage.

- ii. Bainbridge Farm, Barney Farm and RAW Farm are all planning in working on their waste storages in 2020. This may change if milk prices continue to be low.
- k. WQIP Grants
 - i. Have met with Granger and West Almond to go over the designs of their buildings. Working on bid documents for Granger.
 - ii. Working on contract documents for the 5 grants we were awarded in 2019.
- l. EPA-GLRI Grant
 - i. Sam Clark is waiting on the contractor to complete his project
 - ii. 2 Projects for approval tonight
- m. Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program:
 - i. No changes in the last month.
- n. Erosion and Sediment Control in the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watershed Grant
 - i. No changes in the last month.
- o. DEC Aid to Localities Grant
 - i. Waiting on payment for last Cuba Lake dredging project
 - ii. Trim Rite Tree Service has said they will be able to clean Belmont Dam off this summer.
- 2. Technical Assistance
 - a. Assisting the Town of Belfast with a land slide issue along Van Allen Road.

Grant Approval Information

1. FL-LOWPA 2018-19 Contract Approvals

- a. Jesse Keiser – Town of Caneadea – This project is to install a concrete feed pad for the farm’s beef cows. This will eliminate an earthen barnyard where manure is not collected. FL-LOWPA cost share to be \$10,000 with the farm covering the remaining amount.

2. GLRI Grant

- b. Bennett Brothers Farm – Town of Granger – This project is to implement reduced tillage for the establishment of corn. This will be on 150 acres with a payment of \$25 per acre for a total of \$3,750.
- c. Hillcrest Homestead Farm – Town of Rushford - This project is to implement reduced tillage for the establishment of corn. This will be on 200 acres with a payment of \$25 per acre for a total of \$5,000.

5. Old Business

- a. **Coronavirus Update** – All employees are currently working from home, some are coming in to the office occasionally to use the printer and check mail and meet with bookkeeper. Lack of employees access to high speed internet has hindered some of the work from home, but everyone is making the best of it and moving forward. Things are moving along as best as we can be at this time. Projects are still moving forward at different farms.

6. New Business

- a. **Performance Measure Changes** – There have been some changes to requirements for Performance Measures due to the current health situation. We have been updated on those requirements and will adjust accordingly.
- b. **18-19 FL-LOWPA – Jesse Keiser - Town of Caneadea** – This project is to install a concrete feed pad for the farm’s beef cows. This will eliminate an earthen barnyard where manure is not collected. FL-LOWPA cost share to be \$10,000 with the farm covering the remaining amount. **Approved (Cygan – Hopkins)**
- c. **GLRI Contract Approvals -**
 - 1. **Bennett Brother Farm** - his project is to implement reduced tillage for the establishment of corn. This will be on 150 acres with a payment of \$25 per acre for a total of \$3,750. **Approved (Hopkins – Graves)**
 - 2. **Hillcrest Homestead Farm** - This project is to implement reduced tillage for the establishment of corn. This will be on 200 acres with a payment of \$25 per acre for a total of \$5,000. **Approved (Cygan – Hopkins)**
- d. **AGNPS Round 26 – Approval to Apply for:**
 - 1. **Resolution 2020-10 Mayline Farm Grazing System – Approved (Hopkins – Cygan)**
 - 2. **Resolution 2020-11 Angelica Water Supply Protection – Approved (Cygan – Hopkins)**
 - 3. **Resolution 2020-12 Van Campen Creek BMP’s – Approved (Graves – Hopkins)**
 - 4. **Resolution 2020-13 Scio Water Supply Protection – Approved (Hopkins – Cygan)**
 - 5. **Resolution 2020-14 Barney Farm Ag Bag Storage - Approved (Cygan – Graves)**
 - 6. **Resolution 2020-15 Cryder Creek Beef BMP's - Approved (Hopkins – Cygan)**
- e. **New Grange Board Member – Josh Ormsby** – Mr. Ormsby will be appointed effective April 27, 2020 for the opening for Grange member on the board. We are hopeful to meet him at the next board meeting.
- f. **2020 NYS Envirothon Option for District Refunds** – We have already paid our donation to the Envirothon for 2020. We were given a few options of what to do with the funds, one of which was to just leave it there for next year’s envirothon instead of being refunded the money. The board members agreed that would be fine.

7. Announcements

- i. **Next Board Meeting, May 19, at 5:30pm.**

8. Correspondence

9. Adjournment - 6:15 pm Approved (Hopkins - Cygan)

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman