

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – March 19, 2019
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
Joe Cygan, Farm Bureau
James Wilcox, Grange

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec Dir
Tiffany McCumiskey, Secretary

Cooperating Agencies

1. **Call to Order:** 5:39 pm
2. **Minutes of February 19, 2019 Approved (Wilcox – Cygan)**
3. **Financial Reports – Approved (Cygan - Wilcox)**
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Abstracts
4. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
 - a. NRCS – No Report
 - b. FSA – No Report
 - c. Victor DiGiacomo – Division of Land and Water Resources – Report Attached
 - d. Executive Director –
 - Program Updates:
 1. Round 20
 - a. No changes in the last month.
 2. Round 21
 - a. No changes in the last month.
 3. Round 24
 - a. Voucher was submitted for advance payment. The farms in the grant would like to start their projects when the weather breaks.
 4. FL_LOWPA
 - a. We will have projects for approval at our April meeting.
 5. AEM
 - a. Working on evaluating grant projects that were implemented in the past few years to make sure they are still working properly.
 - b. We are reviewing potential projects for Round 25 grant funding. This expected to be announced in April.
 6. Southern Tier Program
 - a. We are working on closeouts.
 - b. Belfast River Stabilization
 - c. We are meeting with the DEC and Army Corps on Thursday to look at the project and determine what is needed for permitting.
 7. CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - a. No changes in the last month.

- b. Round 3 applications are due April 16th. We had a couple farms interested but nothing has materialized at this point.
 - 8. West Almond Salt Storage Facility
 - a. No changes in the last month.
 - 9. NRCS RCPP Funding
 - a. Waiting on approval of our plans for Jones Beef Farm.
 - b. Working on plans for Bob and Diane Foster's project.
 - 10. EPA-GLRI Grant
 - a. No changes in the last month.
 - 11. Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program – grant applications are due March 29, 2019. We are once again applying for funding to complete a permanent fix on the Van Campen Creek erosion.
 - 12. Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Grants for the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watershed – we are still working on developing project for this grant. Applications are due April 8th. \$100,000 is available for erosion reduction practices in the Genesee River Watershed.
 - 13. FEMA Van Campen Creek Grant – FEMA has requested more information for the application that we submitted last August. This is due March 28th.
- Technical Assistance
- 1. Leonard and Kyle have been meeting with landowners who have stream erosion issues. We had 6 landowners call over the winter. Looking at more erosion on Van Campen creek.
 - 2. Travis Lot Timber cut- we are wrapping up the paperwork to put the timber sale out to bid. After property survey was completed, there were some more trees to add to the timber sale.

5. Old Business

- a. **Part C Award** – We received funding in the amount of \$99,595.20 for meeting all of the Performance Measures in 2018. Most of the funding is dedicated right now to the Belfast River Stabilization Project. Although, this money can be used for different projects as we see fit. Funds are not required to be spent within the calendar year, so we will not lose it if it isn't spent throughout the year.

6. New Business

- a. **Stream Program** – Last week Scott met with Steuben County Soil and Water and Chemung County Soil and Water, to discuss their very active stream program. Each County has worked with them to purchase an excavator and bulldozer to help complete stream projects themselves instead of hiring someone to do the stream projects. The county or towns help cost share the projects and the landowner is responsible for paying for fuel and materials. Steuben and Chemung county employees are willing to attend a board meeting to discuss the program, to see if it's something we want to do in Allegany County. ACSWCD keeps getting calls regarding stream issues and not a lot of streams are being fixed. If we didn't have the Alfred State program help with a couple projects so far, they wouldn't have been completed.
 - i. Rod mentioned that in the past we have had equipment but have run into issues with contractors and landowners, contractors feeling like they are losing jobs

because we are doing the projects and landowners complaining that we helped one person and not another. Cost of the equipment was brought up. These are some of the things that can be discussed with Steuben and Chemung county, and how they handle issues like that.

- ii. Rod said he is open to having a discussion to see if it would work out for ACSWCD.
- b. **Potential County Resolution** – Scott received a phone call last week from a legislator, who was voicing concern over farms who are receiving grant money for projects. His concern is that they are completing projects, and then selling their farms or going out of business and thinks that farms should have to pay the grant money back. He is suggesting a county resolution that farms should have to pay back grant money for projects if the farm is sold or they go out of business. Scott is just making everyone aware of the concern of the legislator.
 - i. Rod commented saying that a major project to a farm that struggles will put people out of business. Scott brought up that if someone has to pay a grant back, a lot less projects will be considered because farms will not want to be involved if that is the repercussion. Another question is, where would the money be sent back to?
- c. **2019-08 Resolution – CAFO Round 3 – Approved (Wilcox – Cygan)**
- d. **Approval for applying for Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Grants for the Genesee River and Fingerlakes Watershed – Approved (Cygan – Wilcox)**

7. Announcements

- i. **Next Board Meeting, April 16, 2019 at 5:30pm.**

8. Correspondence

- a. **NYACD Newsletter**

9. Adjournment - 6:05pm Approved (Wilcox - Cygan)

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman