

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – July 20,2021
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
Joe Cygan, Farm Bureau – Mt. Morris, NY
Karl Graves, Legislator - Absent
Josh Ormsby, Grange
Judy Hopkins, Legislator - Absent

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec Dir
Tiffany McCumiskey, Secretary Penfield, NY

Cooperating Agencies

Ben Renner – NRCS
Nicole Ayers – FSA
Victor DiGiacomo – Division of Land and
Water Resources

County Citizens

Joni and Matt Clark

1. **Call to Order:** 5:39 pm
2. **Minutes of June 15, 2021 Approved (Cygan - Ormsby)**
3. **Financial Reports – Approved (Cygan - Ormsby)**
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Abstracts
4. **Citizen Concerns:**
 - a. Joni and Matt Clark, who own a farm in Fillmore, attended the meeting to voice their concerns and displeasure with Soil & Water. They voiced that on there has been no action to help their farm with projects over a number of years. They voiced that on a number of occasions, Soil & Water’s Technician has visited the farm, but no planning for projects has come out of those visits and that no one is communicating with them. Joni presented Scott Torrey with a proposal regarding their farms needs and asked for funding in the amount of \$126,000.00, with a split of 75/25% cost share. Scott has agreed to look at available funding to help with their needs and will get back to them no later than Monday with what might be available.
5. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
 - a. NRCS - COVID-19 office update: USDA Service Centers are able to have customers in the office with scheduled appointments only (one appointment/customer at a time).

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) – Including GLRI

- 16 applications approved for contracts (~\$790,000)

RCPP-EQIP (Genesee River)

- Three applications approved for contracts (~\$1,075,000)

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- Four applications approved for contracts (forestry/wildlife focus, ~\$80,000)
 - b. FSA – See Attached
 - c. Victor DiGiacomo - Division of Land and Water Resources – Funding was flipped on it’s head during the pandemic, now that the government has bailed out the States, it has allowed NYS to move forward with their proposed budget they approved in April, and things are slowly getting back on track. The blackout period has been lifted, so any outstanding payments we may have, we can send in for payment. They have recently received approval to have AGNPS Round 28 monies awarded to the agency

and Vic is hopeful Round 28 will be released in the fall timeframe. They are also hopeful decisions will be made regarding Round 27 before round 28 is released. Climate Resilient Farming Program is also slated to roll out this fall, which will be a double round, which means 2 rounds of funding will be assigned to this round. There will be opportunities for Non- Ag projects funded through the WQIP Program, deadline for that is July 30. The Dairy Celebration Program will be available to small Dairy Farms to assist with small scale engineering needs and business plan development. In regards to the AEM Program, some changes were approved this morning at the State Committee Meeting, where districts will be given the opportunity to add \$10,000.00 to their biannual AEM appropriation. Starting in Round 17, you can add \$10,000.00 for a sampling program which can include soil sampling, things related to CMP Developments, it's money to support the actual tests itself. The money for technical assistance will pay for the employee to go and get the samples, and this money will be paid to the establishment doing the testing. Another change involves how the project implementation dollars are utilized. In round 17, board members and staff with farms will be eligible for apply for money, but there will be a conflict of interest plan in place, to assure that board member or staff member was separated from decision making process regarding that money allocation. This decision is totally at the discretion of the district, to allow board members and staff to be eligible.

d. Executive Director –

- Program Updates:
 - Round 21
 - Rushford Lake – I have sent another set of closeout documents addressing deficiencies that were noted by Vic.
 - Round 24
 - Cody Pomeroy has started the earthwork for his project.
 - Round 25
 - Black Creek Manure Storages
 - No changes in the last month.
 - Cryder Creek Grazing System
 - Looking to start in the fall.
 - Rushford Lake Protection Phase 2
 - D&R Farm has had some setbacks and doesn't think they will complete their project this summer.
 - Wellsville Water Supply Protection
 - D&R Saunders is hoping to have their project figured out in the next month or so.
 - Round 26
 - We have received our contract from the State to sign.
 - Round 27
 - We submitted the following grants:

Project	State Amount	Landowner Amount	SWCD Amount From Grant	Match	Total
Scio Water Supply Protection	\$185,900.00	\$80,330.00	\$13,225.00	\$1,000.00	\$280,455.00
Mayline Farm Grazing System	\$117,700.00	\$51,700.00	\$12,340.00	\$1,000.00	\$182,740.00

VanCampen Creek BMPs	\$333,300.00	\$144,100.00	\$18,650.00	\$1,500.00	\$497,550.00
Sixtown Creek Manure Storage	\$70,147.00	\$30,063.00	\$9,460.00	\$725.00	\$110,395.00
Chenunda Creek BMPs	\$179,410.00	\$76,890.00	\$15,250.00	\$1,250.00	\$272,800.00
Hiz-Bos Hoslsteins Manure Storage	\$220,605.00	\$94,545.00	\$9,460.00	\$725.00	\$325,335.00
	\$1,107,062.00	\$477,628.00	\$78,385.00	\$6,200.00	\$1,669,275.00

- FL-LOWPA
 - 18-19 FL-LOWPA grant closeout has been approved.
 - We have received our 20-21 advance payment.
- AEM
 - Gerry Snyder has completed the water system for his pasture system and is working on installing the fence.
 - James Brothers Farm is getting prices for their project.
 - Kim Shaklee and Joe McMahan are waiting for their fence contractors to show up.
- Southern Tier Program
 - Tiffany is working on putting closeouts together.
- FEMA
 - Van Campen Creek – we are currently working on designs.
 - Belfast River Stabilization
 - The county has brought back former County Attorney Tom Miner. Hopefully, he will be able to review needs for this grant and so we can get this moving.
 - We are waiting to hear back from FEMA to see if our grant extension has been approved.
- CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - Barney Farms has started their bedded pack barn.
 - RAW Farm (Will Hall) animal numbers have dropped below CAFO thresholds. Therefore, he has withdrawn from the CAFO program and is no longer eligible for the grant funding.
 - Val Dale Farm’s contract extension has been approved until March 1, 2023.
- WQIP Grants
 - We are continuing to work on the planning grants for Van Campen Creek, Philips Creek and Black Creek.
 - We are working on applications for Round 11 of the WQIP grant program. The grants we are working on so far are:
 - Salt storages: Town of Amity and Centerville,
 - Stream planning grants for Caneadea Creek, Van Campen Creek
- EPA-GLRI Grant
 - No changes in the last month.
- Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program:
 - Planning on doing the Van Campen Creek – Accord project later this summer.
- Erosion and Sediment Control in the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watershed Grant
 - Waiting on a DEC stream permit.

- Technical Assistance
 - The bid opening for the Rattlesnake Hill timber sale will be July 21, 2021.
 - Scott Alsworth is continuing to mark trees on the Dixon and C. Horner Lots.
 - The no till drill has been used to plant 121 acres so far this year.
 - Kyle and Leonard worked with the Town of Almond on a stream stabilization project.
 - We continue to assist multiple landowners throughout the county with stream related issues.
- 1.
 6. **Old Business**
 - a. **County Contract**– Last week at the Legislator meeting we got unanimous approval for the 3 Year Contract of \$146,000.00 which puts us at pre-Covid numbers.
 - b. **Truck Purchase** – Requesting permission to Purchase cheapest bid for a truck. The money will be coming out of the designated savings account. The cheapest bid is for a 2022 Ford F-250XL Super Crew for \$31,842.45. **Approved (Ormsby – Cygan)**
 7. **New Business**
 - a. **Website** – After receiving quotes from a couple of companies, we have decided to go with Aaron Duell for building the website. Aaron has mentioned he can get the website done in a months time, compared to another company telling us it could take up to 3 months. We can no longer update the website, so the sooner we can get this done, the better.
 - b. **Philips Creek Stabilization Project** – We are asking to use \$25,000.00 to help the project to purchase the rock for the stabilization. The Town of Amity will do the work if we can supply the rock. Requesting a motion to allocate the funding. **Approved (Ormsby – Cygan)**
 - c. **Creation of Savings Account for –**
 1. **AGNPS Round 26 Cryder Creek – Resolution 2021-10 Approved (Ormsby – Cygan)**
 2. **Part C Funding – Resolution 2021-11 Approved (Ormsby – Cygan)**
 - d. **Part C Funding Discussion** – We have allocated \$50,000 to help Joni and Matt fund the Manure Storage Project they are needing out of the Part C Funding.
 8. **Announcements**
 - i. **Next Board Meeting, August 17, at 5:30pm.**
 9. **Correspondence**
 10. **Adjournment - 7:21 pm Approved (Cygan - Ormsby)**

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman