

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – June 21, 2022
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
Samuel Mietlowski, Farm Bureau
Kevin (Fred) Demick, Legislator
Adam Cyr, Legislator
Josh Ormsby, Grange - Virtual

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec Dir
Tiffany McCumiskey, Secretary

Cooperating Agencies

Nicole Ayers, FSA
Ben Renner, NRCS

1. **Call to Order: 5:32 pm**
2. **Minutes of May 17, 2022 Approved (Demick - Cyr)**
3. **Financial Reports – Approved (Cyr - Demick)**
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Abstracts
4. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
 - a. NRCS –
 - *COVID-19 Allegany Co. office update: We receive weekly updates and masking requirements based on community level and risk. Allegany is low risk this week with no masking requirements.
 - *Allegany Co. selected for National Civil Rights Review – July 25-29, 2022
 - 1 district board member will be interviewed (via phone, 30 minutes) as part of this Civil Rights Compliance Review
 - Civil Rights Responsibilities for partners Checklist

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) – Including GLRI

 - Currently completing contracts for 11 preapproved applications (grazing, planning, forestry)

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

 - 4 applications preapproved so far (3 ag, 1 forestry)
 - b. FSA –

Interest rates are still extremely low for loans administered by FSA Farm Programs; June rates are: Commodity Loans (9 month) – 3.000%, Farm Storage Facility Loans (3, 5, 7, 10 and 12 years) – 2.875%, 2.875%, 3.000%, 2.875% and 3.000%.

Although commodity prices have been up the 2022 Dairy Margin Coverage Program (DMC) has not been paying producers for low margins in all the months of the year so far.

The Conservation Reserve Program – General Sign Up 58 was held this spring, of the three contracts submitted from Allegany County, all three were accepted. One producer chose not to continue. We are currently awaiting the rankings of our three CRP-Grasslands submissions.

We are currently looking for eligible candidates to run for COC from the towns of *Alma, Andover, Bolivar, Clarksville, Genesee, Independence, Scio, Wellsville, Willing and Wirt* to represent LAA#3. Nominations are due by August 1st.

- a. We currently are accepting Phase I applications for the Emergency Relief Program – ERP. Producers who received crop insurance or NAP indemnities for 2020 and 2021 were automatically sent applications for the associated losses. Not all losses are eligible, producers need to certify to the eligibility of the loss and agree to purchase the minimum of 60/100 crop insurance coverage for the next 2 years.
- c. Victor DiGiacomo - Division of Land and Water Resources – See attached
- d. Executive Director –
 - 1. Program Updates:
 - a. Round 24
 - i. No changes in the last month.
 - b. Round 25
 - i. Black Creek Manure Storages
 - 1. Jeff Heitman is getting quotes for his project.
 - ii. Cryder Creek Grazing System
 - 1. Waiting for well installer.
 - iii. Rushford Lake Protection Phase 2
 - 1. D&R Farm is looking to changes their project from a bedded pack barn to a liquid manure storage. We are working on a proposal for this change.
 - iv. Wellsville Water Supply Protection
 - 1. Daniel Fanton is wrapping up his project.
 - c. Round 26
 - i. Met with Hamilton Beef Farm to start planning their bedded pack barn. They would like to complete this summer if possible.
 - d. Round 27
 - i. No changes in the last month.
 - e. Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program –
 - i. The following grant was submitted.

Project	FEMA Amount	Match	Total
Hurlbut Farm Soil Health Project	\$32,062.50	\$ 9,737.50	\$43,800.00

- f. FL-LOWPA
 - i. Nathan Hanes is waiting for fence contractor to install his fence.
- g. AEM
 - i. Working with multiple different farms to plan for their next farm projects.
- h. Southern Tier Program
 - i. We are working on closeouts again.
- i. FEMA
 - i. Van Campen Creek –
 - 1. Finalizing plan for project
 - ii. We submitted the following applications for three different FEMA Hazard Mitigation Funding grants:

Project	FEMA Amount	Match	Total
County Road 48 Genesee River Stabilization	\$1,440,000.00	\$160,000.00	\$1,600,000.00
Genesee River Stabilization at Belfast	\$720,000.00	\$80,000.00	\$800,000.00
Totals	\$2,160,000.00	\$240,000.00	\$2,400,000.00

- j. CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - i. Barney Farm has started their manure storage project.
 - ii. Val Dale Farm has started their manure storage project.
 - iii. Lismore Dairy is planning to start their manure storage in July.
- k. WQIP Grants
 - i. The Town of Independence salt storage is partially complete.
 - ii. We are working on contract documents for 3 grants approved last December.
- l. Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program:
 - i. Van Campen Creek at Val Dale – met with contractor to get quote on project.
- m. Erosion and Sediment Control in the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watershed Grant
 - i. Permitting has been complete for the project at Bainbridge Farm. Leonard has met with the farm to go over the project and they will start shortly.
- n. Part B
 - i. No changes in the last month.
- o. Part C
 - i. Updated survey equipment has been purchased and delivered.
- 2. Technical Assistance
 - a. Leonard assisted the County DPW with a stream permit for work on stream along County Road 19 in the Town of Independence.
 - b. Emily is working on updating the County Forest Management Plan.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

- 1. **Changing August Board Meeting – We will be having the August Board meeting on August 23, 2022 at 5:30pm.**
- 2. **Catalytic Converter Theft – On 6/13 it was realized the the catalytic converter was cut out of the new Ford truck. It appeared that someone used a Sawzall to cut out the converter. The truck has been fixed already for \$3000.00. A police report was filed and we are making a claim through the insurance company.**

7. Announcements

- i. **Next Board Meeting, July 19, 2022 at 5:30pm.**

8. Correspondence

9. Adjournment – 6:20 pm Approved (Mietlowski - Cyr)

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman