

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – June 17, 2025
District Facility, 5390 County Route 48
Belmont, N.Y.

Directors

Rod Bennett, Chair
Christain Lewis, Farm Bureau
Kevin (Fred) Demick, Legislator
Gretchen Hanchett, Legislator - Absent
Josh Ormsby, Grange

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec Dir
Tiffany McCumiskey, Secretary

Cooperating Agencies

Ben Renner

1. **Call to Order:** 6:00 pm
2. **Minutes of May 20, 2025 Approved (Demick - Ormsby)**
3. **Financial Reports – Approved (Ormsby - Demick)**
 - a. Treasurer's Report
 - b. Abstracts
4. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
 - a. NRCS – Continuing to work through the 35 applications in Allegany County, 10 CSP and 25 EQIP Contracts. Kylie and Ben are the only two working in the office. The EWP program received a blanket waiver for approval. This is the program to assist in the flooding issues in Whitesville. The agreements are all being processed from Hurricane Debbie, which is the storm that affected Whitesville. Contracted Engineering employees are being brought back. The two in western New York have agreed to return to work, the engineer that was working in Ellicottville will now be in the Belmont office. A forest service employee will also be working out of the Belmont office, this person is a USDA employee.
 - b. FSA – No Report
 - c. Victor DiGiacomo - Division of Land and Water Resources – [See attached](#)
 - d. Executive Director –
 1. Program Updates:
 - a. Round 25
 - i. Cryder Creek Grazing System
 1. Working on closeout.
 - ii. Rushford Lake Protection Phase 2
 1. Working on closeout.
 - iii. Wellsville Water Supply Protection
 1. Working on closeout.
 - b. Round 26
 - i. Working on closeout.
 - c. Round 28
 - i. Barney Farm – No changes in the last month.
 - d. Round 29
 - i. No changes in the last month
 - e. Round 30

- i. No changes in the last month
 - f. FL-LOWPA
 - i. Jeff Heitman has started his project.
 - ii. Caleb and Katie Renno Beef Farm – Fencing project is complete.
 - g. AEM
 - i. Continuing to work on CNMPs and farm planning.
 - ii. Continuing to work on designs for Dan Nickerson’s pack barn.
 - iii. Year 19 - 3-year action plan is on the agenda for approval.
 - h. Climate Resilient Farming
 - i. Round 6
 - 1. No changes in the last month
 - ii. Round 7
 - 1. No changes in the last month
 - iii. Round 8
 - 1. No changes in the last month
 - i. FEMA
 - i. Genesee River Stabilization at Belfast Phase 2 – currently waiting on SHPO review.
 - ii. County Road 48 Stabilization – Submitted a request to the DEC to determine if there are freshwater wetlands in the project area. If there are we will need to do a wetland determination. This is a new regulation that started January 1, 2025.
 - j. CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - i. Bainbridge Farm – Liner is being installed the week of June 16.
 - k. WQIP Grants
 - i. We received closeout payment for the engineer design reports for Caneadea Creek and County Road 48 Stabilization projects. The total payment received was \$60,000.
 - ii. Round 21 is open for grant applications. We are reviewing projects to apply for. Applications are due July 31, 2025.
 - iii. The Cuba Lake District has asked up to research funding to make upgrades to the spillway.
 - l. Resilient Watershed Grant
 - i. Completed an application for a stabilization project on the Genesee River in the Town of Caneadea to protect Council House Road. Applied for \$700,000 in grant funding with a \$70,000 match.
 - m. Part B
 - i. No changes in the last month.
 - n. Part C
 - i. We are using funding to cover costs associated with the response to the May 5th storm.
- 2. Stream Program
 - a. May 5th storm update –

- i. Jamison Property (Birdsall) – removed brush and trees from a culvert that caused the flooding of their property. There is more work to do, but they were going to complete it themselves.
 - ii. Krywe Property (Almond) – removed gravel from 2 drainage ditches that the road culverts filled with gravel.
 - iii. Town of Wellsville – completing an emergency stream permit application to stabilize a stream along Duffy Hollow Road.
 - iv. Old Whitney Road (Almond) – working on an emergency stream permit application.
 - v. Witt Property (Burns) – Will be completing an emergency stream permit application to remove gravel that accumulated in a tributary to Canaseraga Creek and contributed to some of the flooding in Garwoods.
 - b. June 6th Storm
 - i. Town of Cuba supervisor asked for our assistance at the Abbott Creek Inlet to Cuba Lake. We are exploring what assistance we can provide.
 - ii. Friendship School has a large stretch of damage on the stream that flows between the school and Wellman Field. We are evaluating the damage and will be applying for an emergency permit. They would like us to do repair while we are there doing the other stream project. A portion of the repairs will be made using FL-LOWPA funding.
 - c. Village of Cuba – working on a stream permit for work on Griffith Creek.
 - d. Terrance McCormick Stream Stabilization – No changes in the last month
 - e. Town of Andover – working on a stream stabilization permit application for the Town of Andover on Dyke Creek to repair damage from last August's storm.
 - f. Friendship School – Scheduled to start this project once school is out.
 - g. Kailbourne Stream Stabilization – Planning to start the project the week of June 16th or 23rd depending on the weather.
 - h. Town of Independence – continuing to assist the Town with their FEMA paperwork
- 3. Education
 - a. One of the teams from Cuba Rushford School won the local Envirothon Competition held at Letchworth Park
 - b. Both Emily's helped with the State Envirothon competition held in Cortland.
 - c. We held a chainsaw safety and forest BMP training with Cornell Cooperative Extension and NRCS on June 13, 2025.

5. Old Business

- a. Update to Air Conditioning System – We received a proposal for putting in air conditioning into parts of the office and backrooms. Two minisplits were suggested and the proposal was for \$24,328.00. We will not be doing anything to the current system that was put in in 1997, as it is working fine at this time. Scott will be looking into whether a procurement is needed. Approved (Lewis – Demick)

6. New Business

- a. FL-LOWPA – Zeb Beardsley Fencing Project - Request to expand their current grazing system for his beef herd. Grant request is \$15,000. Approved (Demick – Ormsby)
- b. Resolution 2025-13 – AEM Year 19 – Requesting approval to apply for the full amount of AEM Year 19 Contract funding. Approved (Lewis – Demick)
- c. Old Whitney Road Town of Almond – Looking for assistance in paying for rock (we do not know an amount at this time) to help stabilize the creek from recent storm damage. The board would like a more detailed plan before they approve any funding assistance.
- d. Cuba Lake Storm Damage – Looking for assistance in the amount of \$1000 of Part C money to remove a tree from the Abbott Creek inlet that was caused by recent storm damage. Approved (Lewis – Demick)

7. Announcements

- i. **Next Board Meeting: July 15, 2025 at 6:00pm**

8. Correspondence

- a. **NYACD Newsletter**

9. Adjournment - 6:40pm Approved (Ormsby – Lewis)

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman