

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – May 20, 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
Josh Ormsby, Grange

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec Dir
Tiffany McCumiskey, Secretary

Cooperating Agencies

Vic DiGiacomo
Ben Renner

1. **Call to Order:** 6:07 pm
2. **Minutes of April 15, 2025 Approved (Hanchett - Demick)**
3. **Financial Reports – Approved (Demick -Ormsby)**
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Abstracts
4. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
 - a. NRCS – [See Attached](#)
 - b. FSA – No Report
 - c. Victor DiGiacomo - Division of Land and Water Resources – [See attached](#)
 1. Vic shared information regarding an App landowners can download to your phone and document flooding and storm impacts through community science. Landowners can take photos of flooding and it gets uploaded to the app, and the app correlates the photos with weather data for that geolocation. Theoretically this dataset can be used to help local officials document disasters. Information for the app can be found at mycoast.org.
 - 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. No changes in the last month.
 - c. Round 28
 - i. Barney Farm – the silage storage pad is half complete.
 - d. Round 29

- i. Joe McMahon is looking to complete some of his projects this year.
- e. Round 30
 - Update included later in the meeting.
- f. FL-LOWPA
 - i. Jeff Heitman has started his project.
 - ii. Caleb and Katie Renno Beef Farm – Fencing project started the week of May 12.
- g. AEM
 - i. Continuing to work on CNMPs and farm planning.
 - ii. Working on designs for Dan Nickerson’s pack barn. Dan will be completing this project late summer.
 - iii. Year 19 - 3-year action plan is due July 1, 2025. More details are included later in the meeting.
- h. Climate Resilient Farming
 - i. Round 6
 - 1. Hurlbut Farm in completing their no till plantings
 - ii. Round 7
 - 1. We have received advanced payment for Jon Nickerson’s project.
 - iii. Round 8
 - 1. Email from the State concerning this funding is included after this report.
- i. FEMA
 - i. Genesee River Stabilization at Belfast Phase 2 – The archaeological study has been completed. No artifacts were found. It is currently being reviewed by SHPO and the Seneca Nation of Indians. SHPO has 30 days to review the report.
 - ii. County Road 48 Stabilization – preliminary designs have been completed. We will be contacting landowners about some access concerns.
- j. CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - i. Bainbridge Farm – Contractor plans on starting May 19.
- k. WQIP Grants
 - i. The closeout for the Town of Belfast’s salt storage project has been submitted.
 - ii. Town of Willing is starting their salt storage project.
 - iii. The engineer design reports for Caneadea Creek and County Road 48 Stabilization project have been completed and submitted to the State.
- l. Great Lakes Commission Grant

- i. Submitted a grant application to stabilize 6 sites on Caneadea Creek. Approximately 2,340' of streambank will be stabilized. Grant funding - \$300,000 with a match of - \$136,721
- m. Resilient Watershed Grant
 - i. We are completing an application for a stabilization project on the Genesee River in the Town of Caneadea. Erosion is threatening Council House Road. Applications are due June 6, 2025.
- n. Part B
 - i. No changes in the last month.
- o. Part C
 - i. We are using funding to cover costs associated with the response to the May 5th storm.

2. Stream Program

- a. Village of Cuba – working on a stream permit for work on Griffith Creek.
- b. Terrance McCormick Stream Stabilization – submitted a stream permit application for erosion on Dyke Creek in Andover.
- c. 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.
- d. Friendship School – will have estimate submitted to the school the week of May 19th.
- e. Kailbourne Stream Stabilization – We are ready to start this project. Timeframe is dependent on what assistance we will be providing to landowners from the May 5th storm and the weather.
- f. Todd Philips Stream Stabilization – Permit has been approved.
- g. Town of Independence – continuing to assist the Town with their FEMA paperwork. The NRCS EWP funding of \$1.5 million has been put on hold. Email is included after this report.
- h. Cuba-Rushford School – provided engineering assistance for flooding that was occurring at the at the school.

5. Old Business

- a. Round 30 Update – There is a lot of competition for Round 30 Grant Funding. Almost \$81 Million Dollars in funding was requested with only \$25 Million Dollars of funding available. The ranked list should be approved at the June State Committee meeting.

6. New Business

- a. Update to Air Conditioning System – The Board room and two of the office spaces in the building do not have air conditioning. We are looking to get a quote at

possibly putting in mini splits, or updating the current system. Scott will update everyone when he gets more information.

- b. State Budget Update – The 2025-2026 budget for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) has been approved. This year the budget was increased from \$400 million to \$425 Million.
- c. AEM Year 19 – They have changed the program from a 2 year program to a 3 year program. We will be applying for Option C, as Scott is a CNMP Certified Planner, Leonard is a state Licensed Professional Engineer and Emily J is Certified Forester. Option C is increasing from \$260K to \$420K. There is also another \$300 for projects over those 3 years. They have upped the hourly rates they are paying us based on certifications also.
- d. May 5th Storm Response – [See Attached](#)
- e. 2024-25 FL-LOWPA – Rob Chamberlain – Requesting funding in the amount of \$15,000 to correct erosion issues in 2 fields. Lewis recused himself from the vote. Approved (Ormsby – Demick)
- f. Regional Managers Meeting – Rod will be attending the meeting on June 3 at 10:00am.
- g. Resolution 2025-12 – Genesee River Watershed Coalition – Requesting permission to participate in the Coalition. Approved (Ormsby – Hanchett)

7. Announcements

- i. **Next Board Meeting: June 17, 2025 at 6:00pm – Gretchen will not be in attendance.**

8. Correspondence

9. Adjournment - 6:49pm Approved (Ormsby – Lewis)

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman