

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – December 16, 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 - Absent

Staff

Scott Torrey, Exec Dir
Tiffany McCumiskey, Secretary

Cooperating Agencies

Ben Renner - NRCS

1. **Call to Order:** 5:00 pm
2. **Minutes of November 11, 2025 Approved (Hanchett - Lewis)**
3. **Financial Reports – Approved (Demick - Lewis)**
 - a. Treasurer’s Report
 - b. Abstracts
 - c. 2024 Audit Report - Audit committee found the financial documents to be in good order.
4. **Cooperating Agency & Staff Reports**
 - a. NRCS – [See attached](#)
 - 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. Rushford Lake Protection Phase 2
 1. Working on closeout.
 - ii. Wellsville Water Supply Protection
 1. Closeout was submitted and approved.
 - b. Round 26
 - i. Working on the closeout.
 - c. Round 28
 - i. No changes in the last month.
 - d. Round 29
 - i. Joe McMahon’s pack barn designs are almost complete.
 - e. Round 30
 - i. No changes in the last month.
 - f. FL-LOWPA
 - i. Working on the closeout of fiscal year 23-24 grant.
 - g. AEM
 - i. Continuing to work on CNMPs and farm planning.
 - ii. Jeremy Hatch’s pack barn is complete.

- iii. John Gilbert's roofed feed pad is 75% complete.
- h. Climate Resilient Farming
 - i. Round 6
 - 1. Working on closeout.
 - ii. Round 7
 - 1. No changes in the last month
 - iii. Round 8
 - 1. 2,654 acres of cover crops were planted this fall. 3,075 acres of no till planting were completed in 2025.
 - 2. Round 9 - submitted applications for the following projects:

Project	State Funding	District Funding	Landowner Match	District Match	Total
Robinson Cattle, LLC Prescribed Rotational Grazing System	\$220,220.00	\$16,185.00	\$87,555.00	\$3,600.00	\$327,560.00
Heath Brown Farm Grazing System	\$57,450.00	\$13,595.00	\$24,150.00	\$3,075.00	\$98,270.00
Marcus Farms Irrigation System	\$117,500.00	\$11,230.00	\$49,500.00	\$2,475.00	\$180,705.00
Mayline Farms Prescribed Rotational Grazing System	\$80,212.00	\$10,135.00	\$31,928.00	\$2,325.00	\$124,600.00
Dobson Farms Prescribed Rotational Grazing System	\$92,194.00	\$12,485.00	\$35,233.00	\$2,850.00	\$142,762.00
Rauber Farm Soil Health	\$180,660.00	\$10,035.00	\$44,700.00	\$2,475.00	\$237,870.00
Barney Farm Soil Health	\$73,380.00	\$9,485.00	\$17,880.00	\$2,850.00	\$103,595.00
Gelser Farms, LLC Soil Health	\$67,708.00	\$11,885.00	\$16,617.00	\$2,850.00	\$99,060.00
Totals	\$889,324.00	\$95,035.00	\$307,563.00	\$22,500.00	\$1,314,422.00

- i. FEMA
 - i. Genesee River Stabilization at Belfast Phase 2 – Still waiting for FEMA's approval of Phase 2. On 11/26/25 they requested more information for the project. We will be requesting an extension. Contract expires 4/6/2026.
 - ii. County Road 48 Stabilization – Waiting for the wetland determination. We will be requesting an extension. Contract expires 4/6/2026.
- j. CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - i. Working on closeout.
- k. Part B
 - i. We received the 2026 project payment.
- l. Part C
 - i. No changes in the last month.
- m. Stream Corridor Management Pilot Program
 - i. We did not submit a grant application.
- n. WQIP

- i. No changes in the last month.

2. Stream Program

- a. Village of Cuba – We have a meeting on December 17, 2025, with the Army Corp of Engineers to discuss the muscles that are found near this project.
- b. Town of Andover – Town has completed this project.
- c. Michael McCormick – This project has been completed.
- d. Town of Independence – continuing to assist the Town with their FEMA paperwork. We maybe assisting them with setting rip rap next summer.
- e. Town of Willing – Completing the design for a box culvert for FEMA funding on Christian Hollow Road.
- f. Sun Valley Campground – Working on a permit to stabilize the stream that flows through the campground. Damage is from the May storm.
- g. Jimenez Stabilization – Permit application has been completed; we are waiting for the landowner to sign the permit application.
- h. Erdman Gravel Removal – Waiting for approval from the DEC and Army Corps.
- i. Town of Burns – Permit application is complete we are waiting for landowner signature for stabilization work on Tildon Hill Road.
- j. Town of Alfred – Working on a permit for stabilization work on East Valley Road.

3. County Forest

- a. The company that had harvested logs on the Rattlesnake Hill properties had until the first week of December to clean up from the timber harvest. They waited until the last week of November to do this. We are not comfortable with saying the cleanup is complete at this point. We are waiting to hear back from the county on how they want to proceed with this since the contract has expired.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

- a. Chris Geoppner Pond Issue – Scott informed the board of an issue regarding a resident of Angelica. Chris Geoppner has submitted a FOIL Request from our office in regards to a pond that he built on his property. We have no records, communications, documents, photographs, reports, notes, emails, data, maps, field notes, or correspondence related to the pond the Geoppners have built. Scott has met with the county attorney regarding the FOIL Request and she is responding on our behalf.
- b. Budget Transfers – Scott is requesting the following budget changes:
 - 1. Transfers from Dedicated Account to District Savings:

2. Employee Benefits - \$23,520 to cover cost of employee leave buyback
3. Building - \$11,928.50 – to cover the difference between the \$5,000 budget amount for building maintenance and the final HVAC upgrade total of \$16,900.
4. Need to transfer line items to balance out budget categories.

Approved (Demick – Hanchett)

- c. Resolution 2022-30 – 2025-26 FL-LOWPA – Requesting permission to sign the 2025-26 FL-LOWPA contract. **Approved (Lewis – Demick)**

7. Correspondence

8. Announcements

- i. **Next Board Meeting: January 13, 2025 at 5:00pm – We are changing the meeting to the 13th due to attendance conflicts on the regularly scheduled day, which is the 20th.**

9. Adjournment - 5:32pm Approved (Lewis - Demick)

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman