

MINUTES
ALLEGANY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – September 23, 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:** 6:01 pm
- 2. Minutes of August 19, 2025 Approved (Demick - Lewis)**
- 3. Financial Reports – Approved (Hanchett - Lewis)**
 - 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](#)
 - d. Executive Director –
 1. Program Updates:
 - a. Round 25
 - i. Cryder Creek Grazing System
 1. Closeout has been approved. We have submitted the final claim for payment.
 - ii. Rushford Lake Protection Phase 2
 1. Working on closeout.
 - iii. Wellsville Water Supply Protection
 1. Need 1 landowner signature.
 - b. Round 26
 - i. Working on the closeout.
 - c. Round 28
 - i. Barney Farm – the concrete pad is complete. Farm still needs to install leachate system. Farm is planting their final year of cover crops for the grant.
 - 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's project is being worked on.

- ii. Allan Hanks has completed his fence project.
- g. AEM
 - i. Continuing to work on CNMPs and farm planning.
 - ii. Dan Nickerson was unable to get a contractor lined up for his project. We were approved to move the funds to Jermey Hatch's project.
 - iii. John Gilbert is planning to complete his feed pad this year.
- 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. We have received 3 signed contracts back from the state. Farms plan on starting implementation this fall.
 - iv. Round 9
 - 1. Applications are being accepted until November 17, 2025. There is \$24 million in funding available.
- i. FEMA
 - i. Genesee River Stabilization at Belfast Phase 2 – FEMA has requested more information to review the Benefit Cost Analysis that was submitted with the original application.
 - ii. County Road 48 Stabilization – The DEC is going to do a wetland determination and site visit.
- j. CAFO Waste Storage Grant
 - i. Working on closeout.
- k. Part B
 - i. No changes in the last month.
- l. Part C
 - i. Funding was used to cover part of the costs for the Whitney Road stabilization project.
- m. Stream Corridor Management Pilot Program
 - i. This is a new grant program from the state, applications are due December 8, 2025. We are still reviewing this grant to see what opportunities are available.
- n. WQIP
 - i. The Town of Willing has completed their salt storage project.

2. Stream Program

- a. May 5th storm update –
 - i. Town of Wellsville – Emergency permit has been approved.
 - ii. Old Whitney Road (Almond) –Project was completed the week of September 15.
- b. June 6th Storm
 - i. Friendship School – working on design and trying to figure out the logistics of the project.

- c. Village of Cuba – waiting on permit approval.
 - i. Terrance McCormick Stream Stabilization – Army Corp has approved the permit
- d. Town of Andover – Army Corp is looking into the possibility of bats being located at the site of the project.
- e. Friendship School – project is complete
- f. Town of Independence – continuing to assist the Town with their FEMA paperwork. Town has received \$183,216 so far in FEMA money for work they have completed. They have not received any funding from the State so far.
- g. The Town of Almond has asked us to assist them with placing rip rap on an area that was damaged during the May storm. Will begin this the week of September 22.

5. Old Business

6. New Business

- a. 2026 Plan of Work – **Approved (Lewis – Hanchett)**
- b. Resolution 2025-15 – Savings Account for CRF Round 8 Southern Allegany Soil Health Initiative – **Approved (Demick – Lewis)**
- c. Resolution 2025-16 – Savings Account for CRF Round 8 Lost Valley Farm Soil Health – **Approved (Demick – Lewis)**
- d. Resolution 2025-17 – Savings Account for CRF Round 8 Bainbridge Farm, LLC Soil Health– **Approved (Demick – Lewis)**
- e. Resolution 2025-18 – Savings Account for CRF Round 8 Behen Farm Cover Crops – **Approved (Demick – Lewis)**
- f. Christain opened a discussion regarding Alfred State College and that they have established the first collegiate chapter of the Farm Bureau. They also have a Soil Judging Team. The team is going to the Northeast Regional Competition at the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown on October 10th and all of their funding has been cut. The trip cost is \$3,000.00 and they have raised \$300.00 currently. The team is wondering if that is something that the district could sponsor? The state has previously funded the team. Scott said he would ask Vic the laws regarding sponsoring something like that. The Board decided that if we can legally sponsor the team, they would approve the amount of \$2,500.00 to be given to the team for their trip. **Approved (Hanchett – Lewis)**

7. Announcements

- i. **Next Board Meeting: October 21, 2025 at 6:00pm**

8. Correspondence

9. Adjournment - 6:20pm Approved (Demick - Lewis)

Tiffany A. McCumiskey
Secretary to Board

Rodney Bennett
Chairman