



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING **1:00 PM THURSDAY, APRIL 18th, 2024** USDA Conference Room, 99 North Broad St, Norwich AGENDA

Call to Order.

Approval of Minutes.

Payment and Approval of Bills.

Report on Cooperating Agencies.

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| • Cornell Cooperative Extension | Craig Brown |
| • Farm Service Agency | Brian Sheridan |
| • Natural Resources Conservation Service | Kareem Adeleke |
| • Soil and Water Conservation Committee | Scott Fickbohm |
| • Soil and Water Conservation District | Jennifer Kelly |
| • Upper Susquehanna Coalition | Jennifer Kelly |
| • Fish & Wildlife Management Board | Jacob Welsh |
| • Department of Environmental Conservation | Paul Romanenko |
| • Water Quality Coordinating Committee | |

Old Business.

New Business.

- Personnel Policy Review

Correspondence.

- Plymouth Reservoir Lot Owners Association

Adjourn.



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Director's Meeting

March 21st, 2024

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chairman
Sue McIntyre	Member
Jim Jenne	Member

Agency Staff Present:

Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD
Rich Taber	CCE-Chenango
Scott Fickbohm	NYS SWCC
Bethany Bzduch	NYS Ag & Mkts

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES Sue made a motion to approve the February minutes. Jim seconds the motion. No discussion. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passes.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS Sue made a motion to pay the bills for February-March. Jim seconds the motion. No discussion. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passes.

Sue reviewed the January & February bank statements and reconciliation reports.

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

No report provided, no one present.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE-Chenango)

Rich reported that there are currently 12-13 employees at Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chenango County and Craig is currently doing interviews for a SNAP-ED position today. 4-H is the most well-known and there are currently 4 employees in that department covering Ag-In-The-Classroom. Lastly, Rich reported that the ADC (agriculture development council) is a subgroup that receives funds to promote agriculture within the County.

Rich left after his report at 1:21pm.

Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC)

Scott reviewed his monthly report with the board. Bethany reported that the AgNPS Rd 29 contracts are starting to move towards contract signing and the Chenango County contract should arrive soon. There were some hold-ups within New York State in terms of contract reviews.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

No report provided, no one present.

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

No report provided, no one present.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jennifer read her provided report. Attachment A.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Jennifer reported that the USC retreat was February 27 & 28. It was well attended, and our staff was asked to put together a presentation on how Chenango County manages the buffers with the help of the Summer Buffer Steward Program.

Also, the Chesapeake Bay Coalition is still working toward meeting the goals and imputing data into the model will assist in meeting those goals across the watershed.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Nothing to report.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:**NEW BUSINESS:**

Correspondence: None

Meeting ended at 3:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MARCH 21, 2024

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- Met with a beef farmer, Town of Coventry, to assess potential buffer and grazing system opportunities.
- The District continues to assist the Town of Guilford with a cold storage pole barn design.
- Met with a landowner, Town of Greene, to assess potential buffer and grazing system opportunities.
- The District has been facilitating and assisting NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) with an EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) Barnyard and Waste Storage project on a farm in the Town of Oxford.
- Contracts have been sent out to our projects lined up for the spring. Early in the construction season, we have 4 planting projects lined up, one of which includes fencing for access control.
- The District met with a potential CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) participants from the Town of Sherburne

Education and Outreach

- The District presented at the USC (Upper Susquehanna Coalition) Annual Retreat about our Riparian Forest Buffer and Upland Tree planting efforts. The focus of the presentation was to show how we have connected riparian planting projects and upland planting opportunities and package it into a single project.
- The District participated and presented at the monthly Farm Bureau meeting to explain upcoming funding opportunities and local watershed priorities.
- The District participated in a call with The Nature Conservancy and a private social science company to provide feedback and perspective on how NYS (New York State) can ramp up tree plantings and how to create systems to improve the practices and how it is paid for.

RND 29 PARTICIPANTS & CRF Participants

- We are still waiting for a contract for Round 29 projects. Construction will be on hold until we get a contract. One project has a design ready for bid and two projects have designs currently under NRCS functional review.
- The District is still discussing the remaining CRF Round 5 participant to decide if we should seek a contract extension.

DISTRICT FUNDING AND OPERATIONS

- The final closeout paperwork was sent to the SWCC for final review and approval.
- A draft MOU was submitted to the County Attorney for review to proceed with the Cook Park bid process.
- The District continues to participate in the SWCC State Program Advisory Committee Meetings to communicate directly with the SWCC questions and concerns with program development.
- The District received the AEM (Agricultural Environmental Management) Round 18 contract and will be submitting a voucher for advance funds.
- All District staff attended the NYSCDEA (New York State Conservation District Employees Association) Water Quality Symposium in Syracuse. This is an important training event that educates and provides networking opportunities for District Staff.
- The tree orders have closed as of March 8th. Order numbers are down but we will have overstock available at pickup, which is April 12 & 13 at the County Fairgrounds.
- Fish orders have been coming in steadily. Fish Haven Hatchery will be our vendor this year. They were our vendor last year and all the customers had positive reviews of the pre-boxed service they offer. The fish order deadline is April 17th and pickup will be Friday May 3rd at 11am, here at the office.
- CNY Regional Envirothon is set to take place May 1st at Friends of Rogers in Sherburne. Currently there are 5 teams registered throughout the 3 County Region. There was effort to contact more schools within Chenango County to participate but commitment of students is difficult.
- The New York State Envirothon will be held May 22nd & 23rd at SUNY Cortland.
- The NCF (National Conservation Foundation) Envirothon will be held July 27th until August 4th at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva NY.
- Volunteers for the Regional, State and NCF Envirothon's are needed, Katy can connect you with the correct person depending on the event, if you are interested.
- Year-to-date, we have completed 100 Agriculture Assessment Worksheets for landowners in Chenango County.