



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Director's Meeting

April 18th, 2024

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chairman
Sue McIntyre	Member
Jim Jenne	Member
Joe Henninge	Member
Josh Lathrop	Member

Agency Staff Present:

Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD
Kareem Adeleke	USDA-NRCS

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES Sue made a motion to approve the February & March minutes. The reorganization table from the February Meeting was erroneously omitted from the minutes. Jim seconds the motion. No discussion. 3-aye, 0-nay, 2-absent. Motion passes.

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

Sue reviewed the March bank statements and reconciliation reports.

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

No report provided, no one present.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE-Chenango)

No report provided, no one present.

Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC)

Scott was not in attendance. The April SWCC update was available for review.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Kareem joined the meeting at 1:10pm

Kareem reported that the team is finishing up the EQIP ranking and are awaiting pre-approvals. The District Conservationist position is still vacant, and the position will be

advertised and will be housed in the Broome County office. Tony Caparo (NRCS Assistant State Conservationist) is acting as the District Conservationist until filled.

Kareem left the meeting at 1:13pm.

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)

Nothing to report.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Jacob provided a written report. Attachment B.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Josh Lathrop left the meeting during the discussion on the AEM ranking as his operation has an application. 2:11pm

AEM Round 18: There was discussion on the ranking sheets that were made to prioritize the projects. Sue moves to approve the AEM applications as presented. Joe seconds the motion. No discussion. Motion passes. 4-aye, 0-nay, 1-abstained (Lathrop).

Josh returned to the meeting at 2:30pm

There was discussion on the personnel policy regarding paid family leave updates and other general updates. There was no action taken at this time.

Jennifer reported that she heard back from the County Attorney on the MOU that she had sent him for review regarding Cook Park. John Lawrence will bring the MOU to the Ag Buildings & Grounds Committee for the counties review and signature.

Jennifer reported that the Department of Environmental Conservation office in Syracuse called her regarding Hattie Clark Road wetland in Greene regarding a dam that had been damaged. Pictures from the District site visit was shown, and Jennifer will call DEC back and inform them of what is happening in that location, that the highway department did not break or damage the dam and only installed a pipe that will ease the pressure of the water level along the roads edge.

Jennifer passed out the 2024 Community Grant Program Information to the Directors for review. Applications will be due to Jennifer by June 14th and will be ranked at the June meeting for funding.

Correspondence: The Plymouth Reservoir Lot Owners Association sent along a thank you letter as well as their annual newsletter for the continued support with their dam improvements over the past 2 years.

The NYACD letter from Blanche Hurlbutt was available for review. The letter covered events coming up that include Legislative Days Follow-Up, Washington DC Fly In, and the annual NYACD Meeting.

Meeting ended at 3:23 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S REPORT

April 18, 2024

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- ❖ District staff met with the DEC to review the permit package for 3 headwall replacement projects in the Town of Smyrna. We are hopeful that the permit package will be approved soon so work can begin this season.
- ❖ District staff met with a beef farmer in the Town of Sherburne to look at an eroded pasture and laneway.
- ❖ District staff met with a landowner in the Town of Greene to look at drainage tile and potential pond site.
- ❖ District staff met with a landowner interested in an upland planting project in the Town of Smyrna.
- ❖ District staff met with a landowner in the Town of Afton to look at some hydroseeding work after the landowner had removed several trees and stumps.
- ❖ District staff assisted a landowner with taking several soil samples in the Town of Greene, NY.
- ❖ District staff met with a landowner in South New Berlin to look at the possibility of installing drainage tile.
- ❖ Met with a farmer, Town of Oxford, to look at a fencing project that the farmer wants to implement using the Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District's post pounder. The Madison SWCD created a new policy for farmer's use of their pounder outside of Madison County. The policy requires the "blessing" of the local SWCD office for the project.
- ❖ In partnership with FSA, the district finalized CREP contract paperwork for Patricia Peck, Town of Sherburne.
- ❖ Site work for two of our tree plantings this spring is underway, Town of New Berlin and Town of Sherburne.
- ❖ District staff met with Afton Town Highway DPW to look at 3 sites, 2 erosion sites and 1 culvert replacement site.

- ❖ District staff met with a farmer to look at a design for an at-grade crossing, Town of Sherburne.
- ❖ Staff surveyed 3 erosion sites in Smyrna

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

- ❖ District staff attended the webinar, "Streambank Soil Bioengineering Training."

DISTRICT FUNDING AND OPERATIONS

- ❖ After conducting several interviews, we are still searching for a buffer steward for this summer.
- ❖ AEM Round 18 Tier 4 Implementation Funding- the SWCC requires the District to send in a budget, and letters of commitment from farmers who wish to participate in AEM Tier 4 funding by May 1. District staff have completed the ranking sheets for each project with a proposed budget for the Board to review.
- ❖ A draft Request for Proposals for SWCD Community Grant projects is complete and ready for final review by the District Board.

TREE & SHRUB SALE

- ❖ Last week the District held its annual tree sale pick-up at the fairgrounds. We had over 90 preorders and had many overstock trees & shrubs available for sale at the pickup.
- ❖ There were people who had never purchased from the District before showing up and purchased trees for their property. It's nice to see new enthusiasm.

CNY REGIONAL ENVIROTHON

- ❖ May 1st is the big day for the CNY Envirothon. We are looking forward to hosting the event at Rogers Center and welcoming 10 schools / 18 teams to the event.
- ❖ NYS Envirothon is slated to happen May 22 & 23 at SUNY Cortland.

POND STOCKING PROGRAM

- ❖ Orders were due yesterday but will be taking orders until the end of the day tomorrow (April 19th)
- ❖ Order pick-up is May 3rd at 11am, here at the office

N.Y.S. Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

April 18, 2024

ENCON:

- Gearing up for walleye, and turkey seasons
- Sending 45 recruits to 2024 academy

Natural Resources:

- Hired 2 new habitat biologists (previously Aaron Bliss)
 - Still busy with Clay Micron factory, the re-routing of Rt. 81 is also picking up
- Yet to finish Trestle Pool Project due to high flows.
 - Will also be doing some survey work to plan on Summer 2025 projects.
- R7 Open Space Committee has made significant progress:
 - Waiting on other regions to catch up to plan multi-Region projects.

Fisheries:

- **Attachment:** Proposed regulations of the Bass Fishing Tournament Permit.
 - DEC is currently seeking public comment.
- Have successfully hired 2 fisher biologists, awaiting the approval of a 3rd selected candidate.

Wildlife:

- Two R7 projects were selected for funding through Habitat Conservation & Access Account
 - One wildlife and 1 fisheries project.
 - Wildlife: ADA compliant observation tower at Stanley J. Hamlin March WMA (Clay)
- **Attachment:** 2023 Bear Harvest Report
 - Heaviest dressed weight = 550 lbs. - Town of Windsor. (21% of bears were weighed)
 - One bear harvested in WMU 7A (Oswego County) – 1st ever reported harvest since DEC began tracking harvest in 1970.

Lands and Forests:

- Hiring seasonal positions for Aquatic and Terrestrial Invasive Species & Forest Health Programs.
- Working with the Forest Health program in Albany on establishing a small study area in Chenango County to track beech leaf disease spread. **Attachment.**
 - Over the next 5-10 years, expect to see widespread, landscape level loss of beech trees throughout the native range of American beech. Who already battle Beech Bark Disease.
 - This will be a tremendous loss to the forest and wildlife because beech is a foundational species of the Northern Hardwood Forest type and a reliable producer of hard mast.

Other Comments:

- Commissioner Basil Seggos has resigned as planned and Sean Mahar has been appointed as Interim Commissioner.

N.Y.S. Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

April 18, 2024

Attachment A: Summary of Proposed Bass Fishing Tournament Regulations

Proposed Regulation Public Comment Opportunity

DEC is seeking public comment regarding proposed black bass (largemouth bass and smallmouth bass) fishing tournament permitting regulations. **These regulations would go into effect September 1, 2024 for tournaments conducted on or after January 1, 2025.** Details highlighting the regulatory purpose, as well as information on the proposed regulation and how to submit comments are available below.

Need for a Bass Tournament Permit System in NYS

New York has some of the most popular black bass fishing tournament destinations in the country. Information suggests that the number of these events has steadily increased over the last several decades, but the overall scope and scale of tournament activity in New York is currently unknown. This lack of knowledge limits the ability of DEC fisheries biologists to appropriately understand and manage these important fisheries for the benefit of both tournament and recreational anglers.

Tournament Permit System Benefits

A black bass tournament permitting and reporting system will:

- Identify the distribution and occurrence of black bass tournaments across the state.
- Help DEC respond to issues such as user conflicts, overuse of the resource, and concerns about fish populations.
- Provide information needed to improve management and understanding of black bass fisheries.
- Assist tournament organizers with scheduling and inform recreational anglers about when and where tournaments are being held.

Proposed Regulation Details

The following information summarizes what is included in the proposed regulation:

- For the purposes of this proposed rulemaking:
 - A fishing tournament is defined as:
 - an organized competition among anglers or teams of anglers that is based on a measure of fishing success, such as the cumulative weight or length of targeted fish species,
 - is operated on one day or a set of contiguous days, and
 - has a minimum of 10 competitors.
 - A fishing tournament director is defined as: any person responsible for organizing or operating a fishing tournament.
- A fishing tournament permit will only be required for tournaments targeting black bass (largemouth bass and smallmouth bass). Tournaments targeting other species will not require a permit. **There is no cost to apply for this permit.**
- Only fishing tournament directors organizing black bass fishing tournaments will have to apply for and receive a permit.
 - Permit applications will have to be received no sooner than 365 days and no later than 45 days prior to the tournament.
 - The permit will not be a reservation of the launch and will not guarantee access to the launch.
 - Permit applications will be available to fill out online through a link on the DEC website.
- Tournament directors will need to supply a report of tournament results within 45 days after the event. Reports will need to be submitted online through a link on the DEC website.
- DEC will have 30 days to either issue a fishing tournament permit or, if applicable, a statement that the permit has been denied with an explanation for the denial after receipt of a completed application.
- A map and list of permitted tournaments will be available on the DEC website.

N.Y.S. Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

April 18, 2024

Attachment B: Summary of 2023 NYS Bear Harvest Reports

Bear Harvest 2023

	2023	2022	5-Year Average (2019 - 2023)	10-Year Average (2014-2023)
Northern Zone	485	458	448	474
Early	NA*	NA*	72	142
Bow	15	15	22	32
Muzzleloader	12	8	25	40
Regular	458	434	328	259
Youth	0	1	1	1
% Female : % Male	39% : 61%	41% : 59%	43% : 57%	41% : 59%
Southern Zone	871	860	1,002	1,012
Early	104	234	198	207
Bow	303	348	348	338
Muzzleloader	17	4	13	14
Regular	444	274	437	447
Youth	3	0	6	6
% Female : % Male	38% : 62%	43% : 57%	41% : 59%	41% : 59%
New York State	1,356	1,318	1,450	1,484
Early	104	234	150	349
Bow	318	363	370	369
Muzzleloader	29	12	38	54
Regular	902	708	765	706
Youth	3	1	7	6
% Female : % Male	39% : 61%	42% : 58%	41% : 59%	41% : 59%

- Harvest numbers: Statewide 1,356; Northern Zone 485; Southern Zone 871
- DEC collected teeth from 648 hunter-harvested bears to determine the bear's age.
- The heaviest dressed-weight bear reported to DEC was 550lbs, taken in the town of Windsor, Broome County, WMU 7S. Scaled weights of dressed bears were submitted for 21 percent of bears taken in 2023.
- One bear (male) was harvested in WMU 7A (Town of Minetto, Oswego Co.) during bow 2023 season. This was the first bear ever reported as harvested in the unit since DEC began tracking bear harvest information in 1970.

N.Y.S. Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board

April 18, 2024

Attachment C: Map Showing the Spread of BLD

More info on beech leaf disease can be found here:

<https://dec.ny.gov/nature/forests-trees/forest-health/forest-health-beech-leaf-disease>

And here is the latest distribution map I could find. It is likely more widespread than indicated here.

