



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Board of Directors Meeting

4/17/2025

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Legislative Rep - Chair
Sue McIntyre	Legislative Rep
Jim Jenne	Grange Rep
Joseph Henninge	Member at Large

Agency Staff Present:

Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
William Kelsey	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Brian Sheridan	USDA-FSA

District Board Members Absent:

Josh Lathrop	Farm Bureau Rep
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APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: The March minutes were approved with the correction of Joseph's name. The draft referred to James, which was incorrect. A correction was made. Sue moved to accept the minutes with the correction. Jim seconded the motion—four in favor, zero opposed, one absent. The motion passes.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: The bills were presented, and Joseph motioned to pay them as presented. Jim seconded the motion—four in favor, none opposed, and one absent. The motion passes.

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

Paul was not present, and no report was provided.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE-Chenango)

Craig was not present, and no report was provided.

Soil and Water Conservation Committee (SWCC)

Scott was not in attendance but sent his monthly report.

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

Brian Sheridan reported that around 50% of the county's dairy farms have enrolled in the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) program. The Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) deadlines passed on April 15th. All previously participating farms have signed up for this year. Brian mentioned a new program administered through the Farm Service Agency office, called the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP). Producers eligible for this would have had to complete the previous year's crop reporting. The program pays on a per-acre basis regardless of yield. The deadline for ECAP sign-ups is August 15th. Lastly, Brian gave an office/staffing update. Brian left after his report at 1:26 pm.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Eric could not attend the meeting but did share this update.

"Awaiting the completion of rankings in CART by the entire state. After all applications are ranked, the state office will review ranking scores and preapprove development contracts. At present, the team is focused on contract management. Shannon Bozeat (acting district conservationist) has returned to her team due to staff shortages in her territory. There has been no word on who will succeed Shannon."

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jennifer provided a written report. Attachment A. There was a discussion on completing Forest Management Plans (FMP) for county- and municipality-owned property for future projects and opportunities. There was discussion about a farm in the Town of Sherburne where the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) had been called for a discharge violation from a dairy farm. There has been an Intermunicipal agreement with the Town of Sherburne Highway Department to help remedy the situation. There is a possibility that AEM funds could be used to help solve the discharge. Jennifer showed pictures of the location to those who were in attendance.

Sue left at 3:25 pm after the CCSWCD report.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Jennifer shared a verbal report on the USC retreat.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Nothing to report

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Potential acquisitions of a new laptop, laser level, and drone—Joseph moved to approve the purchase of a new laptop, a laser level, and a drone, with a total not to exceed \$6,000. Jim seconded the motion. Three members approved, none opposed, and two were absent. The motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

The meeting concluded at 3:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Katy Kemmeren
Recording Secretary/Treasurer



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

April 17, 2025

Submitted by Jennifer Kelly

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

- The 2025 Community Grant Fund Application has been finalized and mailed to municipalities and County offices.
- Looked at a stream problem for a landowner, Town of Oxford.
- Looked at some drainage issues and a significant pond issue for a landowner in the Town of Oxford.
- Issued a funding agreement with a local community group in the Village of Oxford to help fund their Community Trash Cleanup event for April 26.
- Completed a Forest Management Plan for a landowner in Preston.
- The district will meet with a DEC Biologist to look at some sites along the Chenango River. A few landowners along the river would like to do some work in the river (remove beaver dams and debris), and the biologist must determine if a mussel survey is required to proceed with the work.
- Met with a member of the Genegantslet Lake Association to discuss a volunteer tree planting, an educational forest walk, and an aquatic vegetation survey this summer.
- Completed two stream permits for landowners in Sherburne and Oxford.

AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

- The district conducted a site showing for a circular-concrete manure storage project in the Town of Oxford. Bids were received, and a low bidder, Payne Construction, LLC, was selected. We hope to begin construction in early June. Funding comes from *NYS AgNPSA&CP and USDA EQIP*.
- Payne Construction was also awarded the bid for an earthen manure storage facility in the Town of Afton. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for April 28, and the contractor hopes to begin construction during the first week of May. *Funding from NYS AgNPSA&CP and USDA EQIP*.
- Utilizing district funding, the Friends of Rogers Environmental Center has just completed its first nutrient management plan, which Agricultural Consulting Services wrote. The plan is for the fields that the center operates and leases to surrounding farmers.
- Went on a site visit to a farm in Norwich with NRCS to review a barnyard project funded through EQIP.
- We have several CREP projects planned for 2025; however, due to the current freeze in federal funding, we have not been able to proceed with any of them.
- Riley and Will met with the USC to examine two tree planting projects proposed to the USC Water Quality Program.

DISTRICT FUNDING AND OPERATIONS

- Riley, Will, and Jennifer attended a North Atlantic Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative (NAACC) condition assessment training. This training allows us to conduct culvert condition assessments and report them in the NAACC database. These condition assessments will be critical to obtain funding from the Bond Act or other water quality-related funding sources.
- Riley completed his Drone Certification and is now a licensed pilot. Congratulations, Riley, on your achievement!

DISTRICT SALES & PROGRAMS

- “Tree Week” is next week. Pickup is on Friday and Saturday at the County Fairgrounds.
- The CNY Envirothon will occur on May 1st in Sherburne, with twenty-three teams from three counties participating.
- The NYS Envirothon will occur on May 28th and 29th in Cortland. There is an urgent need for volunteers to serve as Oral Presentation judges.

AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- Chris Cook – Town of Sherburne
- Walter Rojas – Town of Norwich