



Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Director's Meeting

April 28th, 2022

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

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

Agency Staff Present:

Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD
Austin LaForce	CCSWCD
Ken Smith	CCE Chenango

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: February minutes were approved as presented.

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: The February-April bills were approved as presented.

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

No one present, no report provided.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Ken reported that CCE is continuing to work on the Ag-In-The-Class programing in Chenango County. Ken has been in contact with Sentry Security System to get contracts signed so the new building security system can be installed.

Sue joined during the discussion on the building security update.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

No one present, no report provided.

Farm Service Agency

No one present, no report provided.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District

Jen read the SWCD report, see Attachment A.

There was discussion on the Part B (Ash Tree Project) about privately owned trees, liability for private landowners, this year's treatments, the purchase of an injection gun for a licensed employee to potentially do treatments in the future.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Jen read the USC report, see Attachment B.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Nothing to report.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution 1-22- Sue moved to accept the presented Resolution 1-22. Seconded by Jim.
5-aye, 0-nay, 0-absent. Resolution has been passed.

Correspondence: None

Adjourn: 2:41 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer

Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Director's Report
April 27, 2022



CURRENT PROJECTS & STATUS

- Bids were received for the stream restoration project at the Anderson Farm along Wylie Brook in the Town of Coventry. The USC stream team submitted the lowest bid and will be working on the rip rap, channel realignment and the removal of the bridge abutment this summer. The project is funded through the Climate Resilient Farming Program, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Chenango County SWCD.
- Bids were received for the construction of an earthen waste storage for Riverside Dairy in the Town of Pitcher. The project was awarded to Payne Construction from Earlville, and we expect to get started with the project early this summer. The project is funded through the CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer Program (NY Ag & Markets). A private engineer, Jessica Skinner with Jess Engineering was hired to design and provide certification for the project.
- The District sent bids out for tree planting to begin this fall on two new riparian forest buffer CREP sites. The bids came back too expensive. We'll re-bid for a fall planting.
- The District continues to work with Quarry Brook Farm on a new CREP project with pasture management practices. The District has been under discussion with the farm owner/managers to determine which federal program might be the best to work with.
- District staff surveyed an existing ditch at Bob and John Hofmann's as part of an AEM implementation project. The ditch cleanout was slated to occur during the last round of AEM funding, however, the landowners were not able to get the work completed in the time frame.
- District staff presented the Ash Treatment proposal to the City of Norwich Alderman for approval. The City accepted the proposal and contracts with the City are in place. The signed contract with Onondaga County Soil and Water is still under review with their office. We did increase our insurance coverage with Trident to add a Pollution Endorsement to our Policy in the event any property damage occurs because of the injection. (Very improbable).
- The District received and delivered our Trees 4 Tributaries planting stock and supplies to the participating landowner's for planting. Approximately 650 trees were planted utilizing this program.
- The District sent out a RFP for our Part C funding to all the non-profits, County Planning, Towns and Villages for submittal. The deadline for potential projects to be submitted is May 13, 2022. We haven't received any applications yet.
- The District is working with the County to move forward with constructing a new bathhouse at Cook Park this fall. We've met twice with the engineering company that the County retained for a design proposal. The project is moving forward nicely. The District also assisted with submitting a proposal for additional funding through AARP's Community Challenge program.

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT

- The District conducted several field visits in both the agricultural and rural landowner sector.
 - Kevin Liddle- Town of Pitcher, tree planting
 - Steve Clark – Town of Butternuts, barnyard water management issues
 - Joseph Licatta- Town of Greene, grazing/water management issues
 - Audrey Keller – Town of Sherburne, barnyard water management issues/grazing
 - Brittany Pritchard-Town of Greene, grazing/water management issues.
 - Nancy Cody- Town of Preston, water management around her house.
- The District conducted field visits to assist landowners with stream permits.
 - Peter Townsend- Town of Greene
 - Penny Haddad – Town of Guilford
 - Julie Grover – Town of Afton

DISTRICT FUNDING & OPERATIONS

- District staff participated in the virtual Water Quality Symposium training for two weeks in March. The training sessions that were offered this year, while virtual, covered a wide array of topics and was time well spent for staff.
- Year 17 Agricultural Environmental Management implementation track budget packages are due to NYS Ag and Markets May 1.
- The District applied for funding through the USC for a buffer steward and was awarded funding this year. We participated in a SUNY Morrisville job fair to find an applicant and hired Austin LaForce and Jenae Evans as our Buffer Stewards for the summer. Austin's first day was Monday, April 25. Jenae will start in mid-May.
- USC Most-Effective Basins Funding- Chenango County can gain an extra \$25,000 in implementation funds as the Chenango River watershed has been designated as a "most effective basin" within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. A plan of work for this additional funding is due to the USC by May 6th. The District can utilize funds in any way as long as it is for reportable BMPs into the database.

CNY REGIONAL ENVIROTHON

- The CNY Envirothon was scheduled for April 20 at Rogers Environmental Education Center in Sherburne. The event was cancelled because of the travel restrictions and state of emergency issued for the County after the snowstorm the area received. After heavy considerations, the event was re-scheduled for May 11. Let's hope for better weather!

DISTRICT SALES

- Pick up is set for tomorrow and Saturday. Nice weather ahead for customers to plant trees! 115 total orders and over 11,000 trees.

AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- Valerie Mills- Plymouth, Harvey Fletcher- Bainbridge, James Parkinson- Afton, Jonathon Rees- Plymouth, Seth Heller- Bainbridge.

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UPPER SUSQUEHANNA COALITION

Report to Chenango Co. SWCD Board of Directors

April 28, 2022

Presented by Jennifer Kelly

USC General

- The District signed a letter of support for the USC to request money through a Community Project Proposal. Funding is available through the State and Tribal Assistance Grant. The application would provide funding for (NYS Counties only):
 - Riparian Forest Buffer implementation
 - Wetland restoration
 - Stream corridor restoration
 - Permanent conservation easements.
- The District signed a letter of support to participate in the Climate Smart Commodity Grant Application with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. This program has the potential to direct nearly \$8 million to the USC for the implementation of Climate Smart agricultural practices.
- The District will submit a work plan for the Most Effective Basins funding, an additional \$25,000 from DEC.

USC Ag-Team

- BMP Verification
 - The District signed a contract to update and perform quality control to the BMP database.
 - 21 total farms plus 5 medium CAFOs need to undergo the verification process by June 30, 2022.
- Cover Crops
 - The District requested funding for 400 continued acres of cover crops and 80 “new” cover crop acres for 2022.

Buffer Updates

- Trees for Tributaries
 - The USC is looking for Fall Trees for Tribs planting areas, applications for planting stock and supplies are due May 16, 2021.
 - The District delivered trees to 4 trees for tribs sites this spring for planting.
- Buffer Steward
 - Funding through the USC Buffer Steward program was awarded to the District and we’ve hired 2 buffer stewards for summer 2022.

Wetland Team

- In collaboration with the Greenway Conservancy, the USC Wetland Team submitted a grant application for wetland restoration and a streambank stabilization project in Norwich. The grant was selected for funding and planning should begin in June.