



CHENANGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING

1:00 PM THURSDAY, APRIL 20TH, 2023
USDA Conference Room, 99 North Broad St, Norwich NY

AGENDA

Call to Order.

Approval of Minutes.

Payment and Approval of Bills.

Report of Cooperating Agencies.

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

Old Business.

New Business.

- Resolution 1-23- Authorizing funding through the Agriculture Environmental Management Program Round 17 Tier 4 Implementation Task by the Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District for the following project: Suadade Farms Grazing and Tree Planting Project.

Adjourn.



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

February 16th, 2023

12:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chairman
Joe Henninge	Member
James Jenne	Member
Sue McIntyre	Member

Agency Staff Present:

Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD

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

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

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.

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 the written report. Attachment A

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Jennifer read the written report. Attachment B

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Jacob provided a written report from last night's meeting. Attachment C

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Chenango County FWMB Landowner Rep- Jacob will be in touch with a landowner that may be interested in the position.

Jerry Boyd- Jennifer will set up an interview with Jerry Boyd (retired Madison SWCD tech). He reached out to our office about part time employment with the district. Directors will be notified of the interview and invited to attend.

Part C Community Grants- Jennifer provided a sample grant application to the board. John Lawrence suggested sending to Town Supervisors.

March Board Meeting- Due to Water Quality Symposium being the same time as the next board meeting. The next meeting will be March 23rd at 1pm.

Sue left the meeting.

2023 District Reorganization

Chairperson	John Lawrence
Vice Chair	Josh Lathrop
Secretary/Treasurer	Katy Kemmeren
Fish, Wildlife, and Management Board Rep	Jacob Welsh
Upper Susquehanna Coalition Rep.	Jennifer Kelly
Upper Susquehanna Coalition Alt	Riley Krupitza
Official Newspaper	Evening Sun
Month Board Meeting	3 rd Thursday of the Month

Health Insurance- Jennifer mentioned that she would like to go over the company health insurance policy. It was discussed to table to the next meeting.

Correspondence: None

Adjourn: 2:38pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer

Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Director's Report
February 16, 2023



CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

- Anderson CREP and stream stabilization project – The engineer will be out this week to review the as-builts and certify the practice.
- Perrin CREP project – The well and hydrant practice is nearly complete. The farmer was able to submit a water test and we are now waiting for the heated room to be installed in the barn. *Funded by CREP and NYS AEM Round 17 Implementation.*
- The District went to 4 farms with Jeremy Waddell and Mike Jura from the USC Stream Team to look at a few eroding stream sites in the County. Two of the four sites appear to be good candidates for potential remediation and riparian forest buffer planting.
- The District has been working on a AEM Tier 3a Conservation Plans for several farms and working on new CREP plans for the upcoming year.
- Relayed information from Mike Jura Chenango Greenway Board members about the river stabilization project. The stabilization portion of the project is currently out to bid with a due date of 2/24/2023.
- The Cook Park bathhouse project is underway. We are hoping to have the engineering company, Principle Design, rebid the project out with an updated septic that reflects the actual water usage numbers.

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT

- Drainage technical assistance provided to Gavin Winn, Town of Bainbridge.
- Stream Visits:
 - Dan Biggs – Town of Smyrna
 - William Bubenik – Town of Plymouth
 - Bailey Hartman – Town of Pitcher

DISTRICT FUNDING & OPERATIONS

- District staff spent a morning training for: Workplace Sexual Harassment, Discrimination, Managing Team Conflict along with a review of the CCSWCD personnel policy.
- All the 2023 Annual Reports have been submitted to Ag and Markets. A copy of the reports can be found on the Administrative SharePoint page.
- 2023 Part C Project ideas and funding – Cover Crops, Buffers, special project focus.

- Interviews are underway for the District Buffer Technician Hire for the summer of 2023.
- We are still waiting for final approval on the partial closeout package submitted last month to Ag and Markets. This partial closeout is for AEM Round 17 implementation.

ENVIROTHON

- Planning and preparation is underway for the CNY Regional Envirothon, the event is scheduled for April 19 at Rogers Center in Sherburne. Looking for volunteers to help on the day of the event.

DISTRICT SALES

- The District has received 68 tree orders to date. We have sold out of all three varieties of apple trees and raspberries.

AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- **Town of Bainbridge:** A & G Associates; Sean Noxon
- **Town of Greene:** Frog Moon LLC; Mark Erickson; Harrington Properties 607; Timothy Harrington; Gardner Rd Land LLC
- **Town of Guilford:** Rodney Schultes; Jo Ann Bazelow; Luke Seneck; Robert Flemming; Robert Duncan; Samuel Miller
- **Town of McDonough:** Peter Faber; Nate Curto
- **Town of New Berlin:** Korey Brown
- **Town of Norwich:** Corey Shaw
- **Town of Pharsalia:** Jason Storrs
- **Town of Pitcher:** Nancy Siles; Laura Davis; Carl Schwartz
- **Town of Plymouth:** John Roberts; John Kolb
- **Town of Smithville:** Lewis Ward

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA COALITION

Report to Chenango Co. SWCD Board of Directors

February 16, 2023

Presented by Jennifer Kelly

USC General

- The USC held a 2-day retreat on January 31 and February 1 at Tioga Downs Casino. The first day of the retreat hosted SWCD partnering agency staff; NRCS, FSA, NYS Ag and Markets, DEC, and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay.
 - The DEC and the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay gave a presentations
 - DEC – Monitoring Trends on Loads delivered to the Bay. These trends are calculated on actual water quality data and would encompass nitrogen and phosphorus loading for all source, not just from the agricultural sector.
 - Towanda, PA – encompasses the entire NY portion of the watershed- has a monitoring station. This station shows that the 35- year nitrogen trend has decreased by 42.4%. The station has seen a slight increase of nitrogen loading in the last 10 years of 4.05%. On the other hand, the station has not seen a similar decrease in phosphorus loading. The 35-year trend has similar numbers, with a slight 3.26% increase.
 - More locally, the 10-year nitrogen loading trend at the Unadilla River at Rockdale has seen a slight 1% increase. While the phosphorus trend show a significant decrease of 25%.
 - Climate Change conditions are expected to increase our targets for reductions in nitrogen, sediment, and phosphorus. Additionally, the Conowingo Dam, a large hydroelectric dam in Maryland, used to act as a sediment and pollution trap. The reservoirs, however, are at capacity and no longer traps sediment as it previously did. This also increases our reduction targets as we are upstream from the dam.
 - The practices the USC is looking to increase to meet these reductions are still basically the same. Nutrient Management Plans, Conservation tillage, cover crops, riparian forest buffers, and prescribed grazing. We have hit our initial reduction targets for livestock waste management systems (storage) and precision feed management, however we have a way to go to hit the Climate change and Conowingo WIP target.
 - The DEC summarized their funding:
 - Chesapeake Bay Implementation Grant (CBIG) fund a USC capacity contract (10/1/21-8/31/25) for the following activities that the District implements.
 - BMP QA/QC, Outreach/Education, project planning assistance, Reporting system, cover crops
 - USC Capacity Grant in the EPF – \$1M. Tasks are TBD. Similar funding as FLOWPA.
 - Chesapeake Bay Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act – \$1.3 M – Implementation funding to support Conowingo WIP implementation and to support the USC Buffer Program.
 - Conowingo WIP implementation to fund buffers, grazing and nutrient management.

- USC Buffer Program is how they fund the Chesapeake Bay incentive payments for CREP, CREP re-enrollments, CREP assessments, planning, implementation, and evaluation of existing buffers.
 - Environmental Bond Act – TBD, there is \$650 Million earmarked for water quality and resilient infrastructure.
- The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay is a group that has a presence in the southern portions of the Bay and they partner with companies to help fund best management practices on farms that provide the agricultural products. Example, Turkey Hill Ice Cream, Land O' Lakes, and Hershey have all made investments on farms to increase environmental and economic sustainability.
 - The Alliance came to the USC because Organic Valley is launching a program that is similar. NY has about 125 dairy farms that ship to Organic Valley. Organic Valley has committed to a 30% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2035.
 - Insetting and Offsetting
 - Insetting – reducing/removals of emissions within the supply chain. (eg. planting trees on member farms). Results in resiliency and profitability INSIDE the supply chain.
 - Offsetting – reducing emissions outside of the supply chain (paying to plant trees in the rainforests of South America).
 - Practices include:
 - Manure management and composting, alternative energy, agroforestry, rotational grazing, cover crops/reduced tillage, feed management.

***LOTS OF OVERLAP WITH OUR TRADITIONAL PROGRAMS!**

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

Chenango County SWCD Board Meeting - February 16, 2023

Feb 15, 23

Reporting from the ~~January 18th, 2023~~, meeting

Fisheries:

- NYS Hunt and Fish app: *Tacklebox*
 - Interactive map locating waterbodies, access, regulations, and stocking rates.
 - Working on contacting landowners about public access for trout fishing streams
 - 3-5 plan will be developed to have more targeted stocking locations.

Forestry:

- "Buffer in a Bag" Program
 - Qualifying private and public landowners may apply for a free bag of 25 tree and shrub seedlings.
 - For planting near streams, rivers, or lakes to help stabilize banks, protect water quality, combat climate change, and improve wildlife habitat.
- 2023 Spring Seedling sale is open until 5/12/2023.
 - Teachers can apply online for the School Seedling Program until March 31, 2023 for free trees or shrubs to plant with their class.

Natural Resources:

- Open Space Plan
 - Members of Regional Committee approved by Albany to participate in the plan update.
 - Meetings are projected to begin in March.
- Staffing
 - Need to hire a new Ecology Biologist 1
 - Predominately permit reviews for Freshwater Wetlands and protection of waters

Wildlife:

- Habitat Management
 - New Habitat and Access Coordinator: Kate Yard
 - Region 7 has completed all habitat management plans.