



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

12:15 PM THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16th, 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.

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

Old Business.

- Health Insurance Discussion
- Sick Leave Discussion
- Fish & Wildlife Management Board – Landowner Rep

New Business.

- Jerry Boyd, Madison County Retired Technician
- 2023 Part C Funding
- Reschedule March 2023 Meeting

Adjourn.



Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Director's Meeting
January 19th, 2022
1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chairman
Josh Lathrop	Member
James Jenne	Member
Sue McIntyre	Member

Agency Staff Present:

Katy Kemmeren	CCSWCD
Jennifer Kelly	CCSWCD
Riley Krupitza	CCSWCD
Jacob Welsh	CCSWCD
Brian Sheridan	USDA-FSA
Alana Covington	USDA-NRCS

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

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

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC)

No one present, no report provided.

Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE-Chenango)

No one present, no report provided.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS)

Alana reported that there were 60 applicants for EQIP in Chenango County. There is a "Act Now" option for conservation plans and high tunnel funding. This option allows the projects to be funded sooner than other applications. April 1st, 2023, is when application approvals will be announced.

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

Brian reported that the Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) deadline is soon, and most Chenango County dairy farms have signed up.

Another pandemic program that the sign up will be starting mid-February. Pandemic Assistance Revenue Program (PARP) will be based on gross revenue made in 2020 and will be compared to 2018/2019.

Emergency Relief Program (ERP) is a program that will help cover a loss from a natural disaster from 2020 that was not covered by insurance. The training for this program is soon and staff will be able to sign up producers shortly.

Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) payments to the historically socially disadvantaged will be issued soon. There will be no need for sign up for this program as the information for this additional payment was collected during the original sign up.

Finally, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a program that is continually being worked on by the District and FSA.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jen read the SWCD report. Attachment A.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Jen read the USC report.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Jacob read the FWMB report and provided pictures. Attachment B.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Chenango County FWMB Landowner Rep- Katy will be in contact with Lance Lockwood about being the Chenango County Representative.

Correspondence: None

Adjourn: 3:14pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer

Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Director's Report
January 19, 2023



CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

- Harold Anderson, Town of Coventry – Stream work and riparian forest buffer planting is complete. We are working on final payment and project certification. *Funded through NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program & the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.*
- Perrin CREP project – The well driller completed their portion of the project with the installation of the well, pressure tank and the water lines to the hydrant. The farmer is still working toward hooking up the lines and backfilling the trenches. A water test is also still needed for the engineer to sign off on the practice. *Funded by CREP and NYS AEM Round 17 Implementation.*
- The District conducted field visits to 5 farms to continue through Agricultural Environmental Management program planning process ahead of the next CRF and AgNPSPA&CP RFPs.

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT

- Village of Bainbridge – at the request of DEC, the District looked at a site where the Village DPW is concerned stormwater will cause excessive erosion around Village water infrastructure.

DISTRICT FUNDING & OPERATIONS

- The District successfully closed out CAFO WSTSP Round 3 – Riverside Dairy. The District did not utilize all the funds allocated to the this project and the remainder was returned to Ag and Markets.
- The District submitted a partial closeout package for the AEM Implementation funding, Round 17. This includes the Hofmann Project, Wolford Buffer Project and the Davidson Buffer and Upland Tree Planting Project.
- The District closed out a Round 13 WQIP contract for purchasing the hydro seeder and time spent hydroseeding. Final payment for that project was received.
- Staff has been working to compile information for the 7 annual reports due to Ag and Markets by February 15. Annual auditor visit will be the week of January 30, 2023.
- 2023 Part C Project ideas and funding – Cover Crops, Buffers, special project focus.

- Statewide Manager's Meeting, organized by Ag and Markets and CDEA.
A two-day statewide manager's meeting was held on December 13 and 14th, 2022. This was the first manager's meeting held in person since COVID. A few topics to note from Ag and Markets:
 - Staff from the Farmland Protection Unit at Ag and Markets gave an in-depth presentation to re-familiarize SWCDs with the Agricultural Protection Unit. District Managers had the ability to clarify some of the Right to Farm laws and other agricultural protection laws. Additionally, the unit gave a brief presentation on the programs they offer for farmland protection and the goal of these programs statewide.
 - NYS Legislation – Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act, Environmental Bond Act, CLCPA Scoping Plan, and the Climate Smart Commodities Grant.
 - Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act – this act has charged the Soil and Water Conservation Committee (Ag and Markets) with encouraging more soil health practices on urban, suburban, and rural communities and to reduce the effects of farming on climate change. This means additional implementation money could be coming towards the programs already offered and fund more research as it relates to soil health practices.
 - Environmental Bond Act – passed by voters in November 2022. Provides funding in the following subcategories:
 - Climate Change Mitigation- \$1.5 billion
 - Restoration and Flood Risk Reduction- \$1.1 billion
 - Open Space Land Conservation & Recreation - \$650 million
 - Water Quality Improvement and Resilient Infrastructure - \$650 million.
- Ag and Markets developed program ideas for the Bond Act and sent them to leadership to be selected based on funding available. All the proposals sent include District participation. Funding may be allocated with a particular emphasis on flood mitigation and community resiliency.
- Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)-the goal off this act is to reduce economy-wide greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 and no less than 85% by 2050 from 1990 emission levels.
 - The draft scoping plan was submitted and approved 12/19 for the Agriculture/Forestry land Use sector.
 - The Scoping Plan includes the following:
 - Sustainable Forest Management Practices
 - Reforestation/Afforestation
 - Avoided Land conversions
 - Livestock Management

- Soil health, nutrient management and agroforestry
 - Climate-Focused Bioeconomy
- This will surely mean an expansion of the current programming and the scoping plan indicates the need for additional SWCD capacity. Also, this will expand the reach of the AEM program (to include additional landowners).

DISTRICT SALES

- To date we have received 22 tree and shrub orders, most of which are large. So far this year the most popular item is the Raspberry. Sale orders are due April 5th and pickup will be April 28 & 29 at the fairgrounds.
- Katy will be in contact with Hickling's Fish Farm for a spring fish sale.

AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- Christofer Davis- Town of Lincklaen
- Indian Camp Farm- Town of North Norwich
- Elva Svendsen- Town of McDonough
- John Myers- Town of Plymouth
- Mark LaFever- Town of Sherburne
- Hanehan Family Farm- Town of Guilford
- Valorie Gunther- Town of Smyrna
- Richard Davis- Town of Greene
- Evan Stone- Town of Guilford
- Herbert Farms- Town of Greene
- Robyn Young- Town of Greene
- White Eagle Dairy LLC- Town of Smyrna

ENVIROTHON

- The regional event is scheduled for April 19, 2023, at Rogers Center in Sherburne.
- Currently we have 18 schools across the 3-county region that submitted their interest to attend. Some new, some that participated in the past.
- The Regional Committee purchased 3 TV's to be used during oral presentations that will allow teams to utilize PowerPoint.
- The state event is scheduled for May 24 & 25, 2023 at Hobart & William Smith Colleges.
- The national Envirothon event in July 27-August 4, 2024, is scheduled to be hosted by New York and will be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges.

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

Meeting held January 18, 2023

Fisheries:

- Regional Biologist absent.
- Not much data due to hunting season, and lack of ice.

Forestry:

- No Report

Natural Resources:

- Multiple new hires within the region – more vacancies to be filled.

Wildlife:

- **Hochul Vetoes Bill to Allow Counties To opt Out of The Holiday Hunt**
 - FWMB resolution states concerns that bill would allow counties to opt out of “any hunting” including small game and waterfowl.
 - CFAB resolution states that they would oppose any legislation that takes away or hinders the authority of NYSDEC to manage wildlife.
 - Many within the group expect a new bill from state legislature.
- **Harvest Reports (excluding late-season)**
 - Deer take in southern zone up while bear take is down
 - Preliminary data – calculated statistics will be available in the spring to gauge a more specific number.

Law Enforcement

- Region 7 gained a new forest ranger (Oswego County)
- Several law enforcement officials are prepared to retire so a new academy will hopefully be offered soon for ECO and Forest Ranger if there is sufficient funding.

Other

- Chenango County at risk of dropping out of the NYS Conservation Council due to the lack of representation from sportsman clubs.
 - If interest comes at a later date, they may rejoin.
- Many counties struggling with overcrowding at butcher shops.
- Still working out the kinks of combined meetings with Conservation League

ATTACHMENT C

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA COALITION

Report to Chenango Co. SWCD Board of Directors

January 19, 2023

Presented by Jennifer Kelly

USC General

- The Most Effective Basin Funding will be wrapped into the new State Buffer Agreement instead of awarded to each County within the mapped areas. The New State Buffer Agreement is now going to be negotiated with DEC instead of Ag and Markets.
- USC Retreat is scheduled for January 31 and February 1.

USC Ag-Team

- USC Cover Crop Funding – UCS contracts with DEC to implement cover crops on farms within the watershed. Totals for 2022: 12 Counties, 113 Farms, 3,155 new acres of cover crops and 10,383 continued acres.
- RCPP- This is a contract with NRCS to implement projects, mimics EQIP with USC decided priority practices. The end date for this contract is 12/19/2026 with a total award of approximately 2.4 million in project funding. The USC is still developing the program with the NRCS state office.
- BMP Database and Verification – the Ag-team submitted all the practices to the CB for the 2021 progress year.

Buffer Team Updates

- The contract with Ag and Markets ended on 10/31/2022 for the State Buffer Program. The funds in this contract covered staff time in developing riparian forest buffer plans and funded the State Practice Incentive Payment for CREP participants. (20x Soil Rental Rate, 1 – time incentive payment).
- The USC spearheaded an effort to get NRCS to extend Job Approval Authority for Tree and Shrub establishment, Riparian Forest Buffers, Brush Management, and other practices. NRCS is still working on finalizing the JAA request and how it integrates with the USC's contribution agreement to implement CREP.
- Buffer Steward funding requests were due January 11. Chenango submitted for funding to hire one buffer steward and to fund brush management on the larger buffers we have.
- Arbor Day Funds – The USC secured funding from the Arbor Day Foundation to offset the cost of trees. This funding may allow Districts to fund tree plantings in urban settings (larger tree stock).

Stream & Wetland Team Updates

- The Team is working on the design and permitting for the Chenango Greenway Project in the Town of Norwich and completed the willow planting at the Wylie Brook/Anderson Project site in the Town of Coventry.