



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

1:00 PM THURSDAY, AUGUST 17TH, 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 | Kareem Adeleke |
| • 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.

- Health Insurance Renewal

Adjourn.



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

July 27th, 2023

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

John Lawrence	Chairman
Joe Henninge	Member
James Jenne	Member

Agency Staff Present:

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

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

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: The June-July 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)

Kareem was in attendance and provided a written report. Attachment A.

Kareem left after his report.

Farm Service Agency (USDA-FSA)

No report provided, no one present.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District (CCSWCD)

Jennifer provided a written report. Attachment B.

There was a discussion about the Perrin Farm Project. It was decided that a certified letter will be sent to LLC members from the Board Chairman outlining what was discussed at the project timeline and the ability to get the well project done and signed off on by the engineer.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC)

Jen reported that the Village of Bainbridge-Newton Brook project has, yet again, gained interest in stakeholders within the Village. Dan Fuller of Flood Management met with the Village Mayor. The expectation of the project is that the Village would have to provide a 25% match and the project cost estimates are right around \$500,000, plus the Village would have to operate and maintain the area.

There have been a couple Buffer Steward workdays around the area, one was in Chenango, and another was held in Otsego County. Destiny has attended those and is working on other sites around Chenango County.

Tree For Tribes sign-ups are coming up for landowners who would like to order trees who qualify for the fall planting season.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board (FWMB)

Jacob mentioned that the last meeting was cancelled but he wanted to share an article titled, "NY's pheasants hunting season will not be cancelled, stocking resumes at state game farm." Attachment C

Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC)

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

2023 Part C Community Grant: Dave Carson and Matt (a Friend of Rogers Research Fellow) were in attendance to speak about their Part C Community Grant and their plans for the project. Due to the Board not awarding the full amount that was requested Dave and Matt explained the importance of doing this project and many native pollinators have been spotted recently that were thought to be no longer in the area.

John moves to allow Friends of Rogers to use the grant funding as previously requested in their grant applications and to report the findings of the non-chemical weed control they achieved during the grant. Joe seconds. 3 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent. Motion passes.

John moves to reinstate the original asking amount to Friends of Rogers from \$5,000 to \$12,000. Joe seconds. 3 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent. Motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

4-H Fair Donation: *John moves to donate \$50 to Chenango County 4-H Fair for a youth award. Joe seconds. 3 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent. Motion passes.*

USC M.O.U: Jennifer was sent the updated memorandum of understanding with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition. The update includes two additional counties, Yates, and Schoharie. Joe moves to sign the MOU, Jim seconds. 3 aye, 0 nay, 2 absent. Motion passes. *John Lawrence signed, and Jennifer will send it back to Tioga County.*

Correspondence: None

Adjourn: 3:22pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer



Natural Resources Conservation Service
1163 Upper Front St.
Binghamton, NY 13905

Phone (607) 723-1384
Fax (855) 401-1955

DATE: July 27, 2023

SUBJECT: NRCS Report

FROM: Alana Covington, District Conservationist

TO: Chenango County Board Meeting

I. Farm Bill Programs

- EQIP- 5 new farmstead applications were selected for funding:
 - Barbland Dairy LLC- waste storage- Chenango
 - Henry Tumilowicz- barnyard- Chenango
 - Robert L Frank Sr Estate Ronnie A Frank Per Rep- waste storage- Chenango
 - Wander Creek Farm- pollinator habitat- Chenango
 - Tanner Farms LLC- CSP- Tioga
- Staff are also working on completing previously funded contracts as well.

II. Staffing

- Juliaana Fitts', summer intern in Binghamton F.O., last day is Aug. 4th.
- Natalie Shudt's, Soil Conservationist in Binghamton F.O., last day is July 28th. She took a position in Troy NY, which is home to her.
- Eric Fisher's, Soil Conservationist in Troy F.O., first day in the Norwich F.O. is July 28th.
- No word on the other 5 vacant positions on the team.

Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Director's Report
July 27, 2023



CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

- Hanehan Family Dairy, LLC – The contractor set the date back to begin construction in early August. The construction of this pit will conclude all the CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer Program projects in the county. The District did receive an extension for the project with a new end date of 12/01/2024. We hope to complete the project by the end of this year.
- Perrin CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program) project – The project is still on hold pending the finalization of the winterized room to house the pressure tank. There has been progress on the installation of the room. We have contractors identified to do the brush management, fence, and tree planting. Town of Sherburne, CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) and AEM (Agricultural Environmental Management) Tier 4 Implementation.
- Jim Staley – Riparian Forest Buffer, upland tree planting alternative watering system and fencing project is set to begin next month. A total of 11.9 acres will be planted.
- The district has slowly been working on buffer maintenance. We've experienced a delay with mowing as our mowers are in the shop. Chenango County hosted a Buffer Steward workday at Jim Blauvelt's buffer. About 12 people attended to help with mowing and tube maintenance. Destiny attended 2 workdays coordinated by the USC (Upper Susquehanna Coalition) in Madison and Otsego Counties.
- Cook Park Part C project- The bids for the revised plan were opened on July 25. The new plan included a downsized project to help bring the bid results down. The septic size was reduced, and changes to the siding, removal of the installation of bathhouse appurtenances and the removal of swapping the water system components. The results came back over budget.
- The Chenango Greenway River stabilization project is set to begin in Early August, as well. A pre-construction meeting was held with USC and the contractor to review the work and payment schedule. Town of Norwich.
- The contracts for the Part C Soil and Water Community Grant Program were sent out.
- District staff continue to work on a Nutrient Management Plan for a beef farm in Sidney.

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

- Met and planned/laid out tile drainage for Jim Browning, Town of Greene.
- Met with Jerome Peptis to look at a pond leak. Town of Sherburne.
- Met with Jesse Bateman to look at a potential pond site. Town of McDonough.
- Met with Annheleen Smith, to talk about the state funding that is available to farms. Town of Greene.

NY's pheasant hunting season will not be cancelled, stocking resumes at state game farm

- Updated: Jun. 22, 2023, 3:10 p.m. |
- Published: Jun. 22, 2023, 2:59 p.m.
- [Steve Featherstone | sfeatherstone@syracuse.com](#)

Hunters in New York will have a pheasant season this fall after all.

An outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza wiped out nearly 7,000 pheasants—the state's entire breeder flock—at Reynolds Game Farm in Ithaca earlier this year, and with them vanished the possibility of pheasant season, which begins in October in Upstate NY.

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation just announced that the fall 2023 pheasant season will proceed as planned. DEC said it is acquiring ring-necked pheasants from a commercial hatchery to supplement fall upland bird hunting opportunities around the state.

Reynolds Game farm will get both young (8-12 weeks) and adult birds over the coming weeks, where they'll be raised until they're ready for stocking at more than 100 locations around the state.

Reynolds Game Farm

In operation since 1927, Reynolds Game Farm distributes tens of thousands of pheasants statewide. Without stocked birds from the farm, public pheasant hunting opportunities would not exist in New York.

The farm employs rigorous biosecurity protocols, DEC stated during the recent outbreak at the facility, including fencing and overhead netting to prevent large birds like hawks, owls, ducks, geese, and gulls from getting into the pen. Staff also conduct regular disease surveillance, DEC said.

DEC says it will continue to follow existing HPAI protocols to protect the flock and remains committed to producing and releasing pheasants in 2023 and beyond.

Pheasant hunting is one of the most popular small game hunting activities in New York, with around 23,000 hunters harvesting over 50,000 pheasants statewide each year [according to DEC](#).

For more information about pheasant hunting in New York, including an interactive map of pheasant stocking locations, visit DEC's [website](#).

What is HPAI?

HPAI is a strain of the influenza virus that primarily affects birds. When it's discovered in a commercial poultry operation, the entire flock must be killed to contain the spread of the disease.

The current outbreak of the virus began in 2021 and continues to affect more than 800 flocks in 47 states, totaling nearly 60 million birds, [according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture](#).

The last outbreak of HPAI in 2014-2015 resulted in the loss of more than 50 million poultry in 21 states according to a USDA [report](#).

HPAI also circulates in wild birds, including waterfowl and raptors. The current outbreak has had a far more severe impact on wild birds than past outbreaks by a factor of ten.

Last spring, near the start of the latest outbreak, the virus [killed nine bald eagles](#) in New York, and [307 HPAI cases](#) in wild birds have since been detected around the state, including Tompkins County.

Can people get sick from HPAI?

The Centers for Disease Control considers the current risk to the general public from the current H5N1 outbreak to be [low](#).

Since the outbreak began in late 2021, only one person in the U.S. has tested positive for H5N1. That person was involved in the culling of poultry with presumptive H5N1 bird flu in Colorado, the CDC said on its [website](#). The patient reported fatigue for a few days and has since recovered.