



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

May 19th, 2022

1:00 PM

District Board Members Present:

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

Agency Staff Present:

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

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

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

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

No one present, no report provided.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

No one present, no report provided.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Alana was present and gave a brief update on EQIP and presented the Civil Rights training to the board.

Farm Service Agency

Brian was not able to attend the meeting in person but provided a written report. Attachment A.

Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District

Jen read the SWCD report, see Attachment B and presented pictures from the ongoing projects and has visuals for the Part C projects that applied for funding.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Nothing to report.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Jacob reported that the last meeting was cancelled, and the next meeting is scheduled for tonight. Depending on the interest of the board of having a meeting, this meeting may also be cancelled.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Part C- Two applications were received that were reviewed for funding. Projects were reviewed and ranked accordingly. There were a couple follow up questions that needed to be addressed before funding is granted. Jen will follow up with applicants to obtain the answers.

NEW BUSINESS:

Insurance renewal – Insurance renew is for July. No items were brought up for discussion for renewal.

Correspondence: None

Adjourn: 3:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer



United States Department of Agriculture

FSA Report for Chenango County SWCD Board
Submitted By: Brian Sheridan, FSA County Executive Director

Administrative Items:

The USDA Office COVID protocols remain unchanged. Each week the USDA State Office sends out an updated list indicating which offices are required to wear masks and screen visitors. Currently, there are only 10 offices (Chenango included) in the State that are not under these restrictions.

We are currently in year 7 of the 10 year lease at the 99 North Broad Street Service Center. The USDA tenants (SWCD included) are working with the lessor to create a facility safety plan.

Conservation Reserve Program:

FSA just concluded the 2022 Grassland CRP offer period on May 13th. Grassland CRP is considered a working lands program which provides annual rental payments to landowners to maintain and conserve grasslands while allowing them to graze and hay the land. The intent of the program is to maintain the existing permanent cover to provide several benefits, including reducing erosion, providing wildlife habitat and migration corridors, and capturing and maintaining carbon in the soil and cover. These 10–15 year contracts provide an annual payment of \$27 per acre enrolled. Chenango County submitted 5 offers, covering 193.35 acres. In the coming weeks these offers will be nationally ranked, and we will receive notification of which offers have met with minimum criteria for enrollment.

The following Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contracts are near completion:

John Davidson: 3.20 Acres CP-22 Riparian Forest Buffer
Corey & Dale Wolford: 8.0 Acres CP-22 Riparian Forest Buffer

There are multiple other CREP projects in various stages of planning that will be completed in the coming months.

Nicole Angelo, New York State CRP Specialist will be visiting Chenango and Delaware Counties during the week of June 13th. Nicole will visit some of our CREP sites, and learn about how CREP is paired with other funding sources.

I want to thank the Chenango County SWCD for continuing to partner with the FSA Office on CREP projects. It takes a lot of collaboration to get these projects done, and we appreciate all the extra effort that the District staff puts in to make CREP a success in Chenango County.

Dairy Margin Coverage for CY2022:

So far the dairy margin insurance coverage program has NOT triggered a payment for 2022. This is not indicative of major improvements in the dairy industry; however, a slight increase in the national milk price has kept the dairy margin above the national payment triggers. There is concern about feed and input costs during the second half of 2022, which *could* trigger payments under Dairy Margin Coverage.

FSA's Newest Program "Emergency Relief Program" Announced on May 17th:

The Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) will provide payments to producers who faced increased supplemental feed costs as a result of forage losses due to a qualifying drought or wildfire in



calendar year 2021 using data already submitted to FSA through the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP). Phase 2 of ELRP will be developed later to provide additional payments to those affected.

The first phase of the Emergency Relief Program for crop producers (ERP) will provide payments to producers who were impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms, and other eligible disasters during calendar years 2020 and 2021 using existing crop insurance data already submitted to FSA. This program will provide an additional indemnity payment to those affected. Phase 2 of ERP is expected, but details have not yet been released.

As part of the Emergency Relief Program package, FSA is expecting additional programs to assist with milk income loss and the loss of on-farm stored commodities. Details for these two parts of the program have not yet been released.

Organic Programs

FSA has re-opened the Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) for 2022. OCCSP provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of agricultural products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program. Certified operations may receive up to 50 percent of their certification costs paid during the program year, not to exceed \$500 per certification scope.

FSA has also re-opened the Organic and Transitional Education and Certification Program (OTECP) for 2022. OTECP provides an additional 25% payment for an operation's eligible certification expenses, not to exceed \$250. OTECP also provides 75% cost-share, not to exceed \$200, for producers who register for educational events relating to organic production AND 75% cost-share, not to exceed \$100, for soil testing required under USDA's national organic program.

Crop Acreage Reporting

The 2022 crop acreage reporting season is well underway. Each year producers report their crop acreage to the FSA Office to establish a permanent record of crop production. This information is utilized for FSA program participation and crop insurance agents. Crops are reported acre by acre using aerial imagery. The Chenango County FSA Office processes reports for approximately 50,000 acres each year.

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CURRENT PROJECTS & STATUS

- Riparian Forest Buffer maintenance has gotten underway for the season. We welcomed the 2nd steward, Jenea Evans, to assist in maintenance efforts. The mowers and weed eaters have been in use and have also received scheduled maintenance. To date, the stewards and staff have been conducting maintenance activities at:
 - L'Hommedieu Buffer Site, Town of Oxford
 - Davidson Buffer Site, Town of North Norwich
 - Larry Black Angus Buffer Site, Town of Sherburne
 - Decker Buffer Site, Town of Afton
- The District hydroseeded County Road Ditches around Chenango Lake last week. Total hydroseeded 1.5 miles.
- The District has been working with Julie Gates and the Engineers from Principle Design and Construction to review plans for the bathhouse project at Cook Park. The plan, as it stands now, is to build a 10' x 40' with 2 private bath/toilet areas and a mechanical room. The district met at the site with County Planning, Julie and Mike and Dan O'Reilly to put some flags at the site and discuss parking. A new leach field will most likely need to be installed.
- The District has finalized the plans with Quarry Brook Farm on a new CREP project with pasture management practices. We hope to begin implementation on that project soon.
- District staff planted 4 trees on City property at Jamba Flats to test out a weed control method. The USC and Stroud researchers have been talking about using stone mulch as a method for controlling weeds and reducing competition for the trees we plant. We mowed, planted Silver Maples then put mulch around 2 of the trees and their tubes. We hope to see interesting effect. The weeds in this area are most Japanese Knotweed, so we will probably not have great success.
- The USC notified the District and the Greenway Conservancy that the Three Amigos wetland, stream corridor restoration and forest buffer project was selected for funding through Susquehanna River Basin Commission funding. We will assist with developing a planting plan for both the wetland and buffer sites. Town of Norwich.

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT

- The District conducted several field visits in both the agricultural and rural landowner sector.
 - Scott Willet- Town of Coventry, pond issue
 - Marge Davis- Town of Otselic, municipal well and stream issue. We've set up a meeting with Jeremy Waddell of the USC to look at the site.
 - Bruce Cumming- Town of Bainbridge, pond issue
 - Al Denz – pond technical assistance and survey. District staff planted about 20 trees on Al's property to help with erosion control on Bear Brook.

- The District conducted field visits to assist landowners with stream permits and stream related technical assistance.
 - Joseph & John Capella – After the spring storms, the District met with DEC and John Capella to look at additional issues on the property.
 - Tammy Hamlin – Town of Otselic, stream erosion
 - Jim Stone – Town of Afton
- NYS Parks-Snowmobile Grant: Katy has been working on the Phase 3 close out for the 2021-2022 Snowmobile Grant-In-Aid. Last spring the State Parks office decommissioned the online database that was utilized to communicate between individual snowmobile clubs, the local sponsor, and the state office. With this decision, it left all clubs and sponsors with no guidance. Long story short, this has taken more hours than normal. Deadline for Phase 3 is May 31.

DISTRICT FUNDING & OPERATIONS

- A workplan for the Most Effective Basins Funding was submitted to the USC. This funding is an additional \$25,000 to cover implementation costs for Riparian Forest Buffers.

CNY REGIONAL ENVIROTHON

- The CNY Envirothon was held on May 11, 2022, with 5 schools participating with about 40 students. We originally were expecting nearly double that many teams and schools, however, with the rescheduled date, we had a much more abbreviated event. We had a great day, and it was all hands-on deck for Chenango County Staff. I'd like to thank everyone here for working hard to pull the event off. Additionally, there is a massive shortage of volunteers for the State Envirothon. The state event will occur on May 25 and 26. District staff will volunteer and attend on the 24th and Katy will attend from the 24-26th as she is a committee member.

DISTRICT SALES

- Tree Program Pick up was April 29th and 30th. All orders were picked up and the office regrouped after cleaning up to discuss what went well and what we should change for next year. Tree selection and program planning will be begun October-November 2022 for next spring.
- Fish Program will be scheduled for later this summer depending on the availability of fish and the fish hatchery staff.

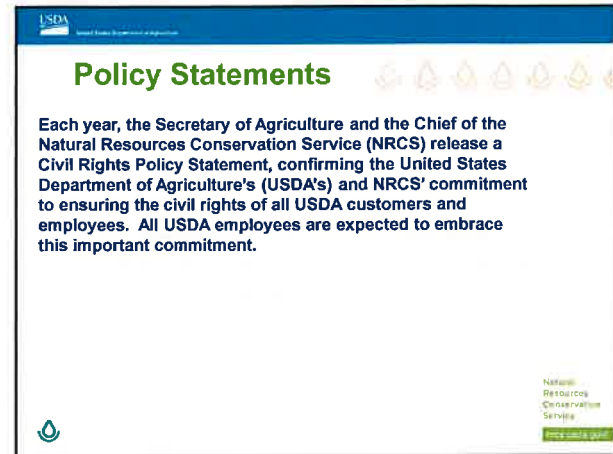
AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- Sandra Theimer- Town of Bainbridge

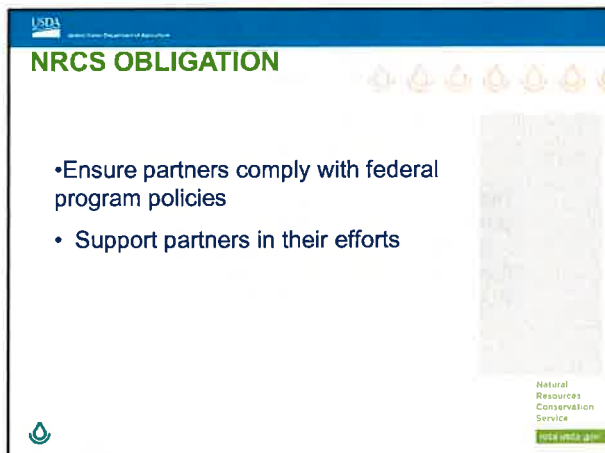
USDA CIVIL SERVICE HANDOUT



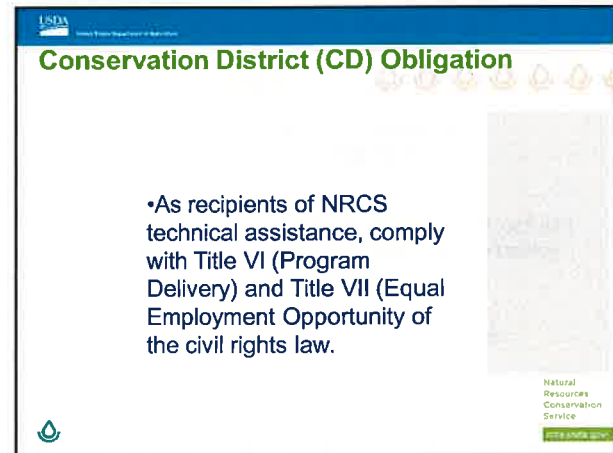
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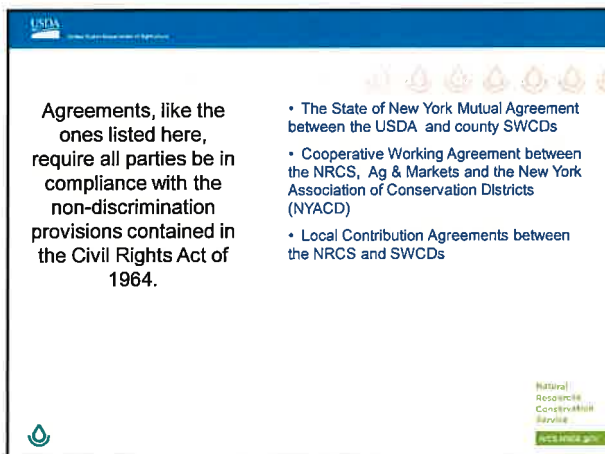
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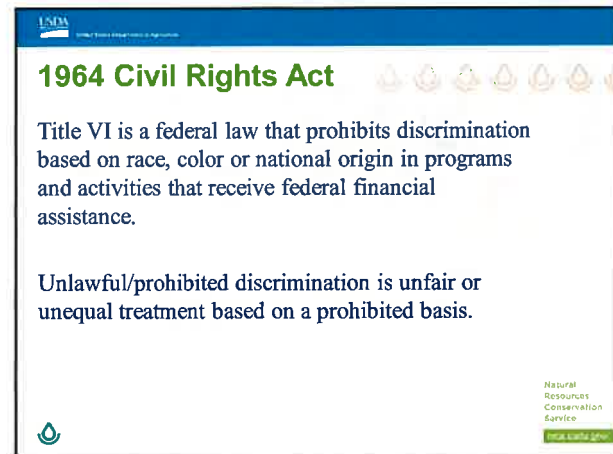
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USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Title VI Program Delivery

Purpose

To eliminate discrimination against applicants, participants, and beneficiaries of any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

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Title VI Program Delivery

Compliance ABCs

- A. Know the Facts
- B. Learn the Language
- C. Support Diversity in Leadership

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Title VI Program Delivery

- A. Know the Facts
- B. Learn the Language

Title 230, Part 405 of the NRCS General Manual contains guidance on effective compliance in program delivery. Click on the link below:

<https://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/RollupViewer.aspx?hid=17024>

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Title VI Program Delivery

C. Support Diversity in Leadership

The NRCS policy is to encourage, support, provide training, and assist all CD boards, councils, and committees to achieve diverse representation of customer groups on such boards, councils, and committees.

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Title VI Program Delivery

Complaint Process

Procedures for filing and processing program discrimination complaints are outlined on these posters posted in the field office.

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Federally Assisted and Federally Conducted Program Delivery Responsibilities

- NRCS employees and partners who work with USDA programs are required to guarantee fairness and equal treatment to all customers eligible to receive USDA/NRCS programs and services regardless of any of the cited prohibited bases enforced by USDA:

race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, familial/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

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Program Outreach

NRCS State and Field offices are required to establish and maintain outreach programs at the local level to ensure that all persons know about the availability of USDA/NRCS program services effectively and are encouraged to participate:

- ❖ Board membership includes willingness to reach out to others, to reach out farther than others, to exceed normal communication expectation, or to go beyond existing limits to communicate with the under-served or under-resourced (women, minorities, persons with disabilities, historically underserved, limited resource, etc.).

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**Title VII
Equal Employment
Opportunity (EEO)**

Purpose

To provide equal opportunity for employees and applicants for employment in every aspect of employment practices and working conditions, without regard for...

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**Title VII
EEO**

"Just say no" to harassment!!

Employees are entitled to work in a non-hostile environment, free of offensive or intimidating actions by supervisors, co-workers, or others.

USDA Anti-Harassment Policy Statement - affirms USDA's commitment to maintaining an environment free from unlawful harassment (sexual and non-sexual).

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**Title VII
EEO**

Complaint Process

Procedures for filing and processing an EEO complaint are outlined on this poster that is prominently and visibly displayed in the Field Office.

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**Title VII
EEO**

Complaint Process

If an individual files a complaint of harassment, that individual is protected from retaliation.

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Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

Federal agencies are required to provide meaningful access for Limited English Proficiency (LEP) customers in federally assisted and conducted programs. LEP customers are those who are not proficient in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language. FPAC offers translation and interpretation services to help customers and staff with overcoming language barriers.

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For additional information about USDA/NRCS civil rights policies, visit the Web site below:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/about/civilrights/>

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Civil Rights Responsibilities Partners Checklist

- **Board Membership Responsibilities**
- **Federally Assisted and Federally Conducted Responsibilities**
- **Program Outreach**
- **Public Notification Responsibilities**

AFFIRMATION

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USDA Non-Discrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

To file a program discrimination complaint, completed the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form AD-3027, found online at [How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint](#) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

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