



Chenango County Soil and Water Conservation District
Board of Director's Meeting
September 15th, 2022
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

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

PAYMENT OF THE BILLS: The August-September bills were approved as presented.

REPORTS:

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

No one present, no report provided.

Cornell Cooperative Extension

Ken was in attendance and reported that they have hired a company to update the entry way of the building (buzzer system, security cameras & fire alarm system). Ken is aware that the lights in the parking lot are not operating, he has contacted the electrician and is unsure if the problem has been resolved. Ken has also been in contact with a contractor to get the parking lot sealed and painted.

Programming wise, Ken reported that the interviewing process is underway for the Ag-In-The-Classroom position.

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 with pictures, attachment A.

Upper Susquehanna Coalition

Jennifer provided a written report, attachment B.

Fish and Wildlife Management Board

Jacob provided a written report, attachment C.

Water Quality Coordinating Committee

Nothing to report.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Retiree Health Insurance

John moves to continue to pay COBRA health insurance premiums for Lance Lockwood. COBRA coverage has been allowed to be extended due to COVID-19. The total amount is not to exceed the allotted amount that is currently set aside. After October 2022 has been paid there is currently, \$ 8,472.24 in the account. Joe seconds the motion.

3-aye 0-nay 2-absent (Lathrop & McIntyre). Motion Passes

Correspondence: None

Adjourn: 2:46pm

Respectfully Submitted

Katy Kemmeren

Recording Secretary/Treasurer

Chenango County Soil & Water Conservation District
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CURRENT PROJECT STATUS

- Riverside Dairy, Town of Pitcher, continues to install the earthen manure storage. The general contractor is about 90% done with the earthwork and a subcontractor is currently installing the liner. *Project funding provided by the NYS CAFO Waste Storage and Transfer Program.*
- Harold Anderson, Town of Coventry - Construction almost complete on the Wylie Brook stream restoration project. The Upper Susquehanna Wetland/Stream team still needs to install 5 – 50' long willow trenches along the new stream bank. The tree planting contractor, Shenandoah Habitats from Virginia, is scheduled to plant the trees this October. We have changed the plans for some of the planting to included larger tree stock as some of the soil is very gravelly where they've just completed work. We hope that with larger tree stock, we can supplement/backfill the holes with better soil. *Funded through NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program & the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.*
- Davidson Forest Buffer Project, Town of Sherburne – a contractor was able brush hog the 13-acre field we are planting this fall. In addition to that, the contractor was interested in mowing some of our other sites, where able.
- District Staff hydroseeded a small stretch of road ditches in the Town of Preston.
- District staff have been busy compiling a list of cover crop participants and setting up contracts for the practice.
- Part B Project- The District is working with the City of Norwich to order and find suitable tree planting sites.
- Part C Projects-
 - Cook Park Bathhouse - Bids were received for the Bathhouse project and prices came in significantly greater than the budgeted amount.
 - The District made final payment for additional steel pipe for the Plymouth Reservoir group and their spillway project.

SWCD LANDOWNER & MUNICIPALITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM REPORT

- The District made the following field visits to landowners for technical assistance:
 - Richard Squire, Town of Afton – Spring Development Assistance
 - Allen Yoder, Town of Bainbridge – Spring Development Assistance
 - Rebecca Newton, Town of Norwich – Stream erosion issues
 - Ilya Kuperman, Town of Columbus – Grazing, silvopasture technical assistance
 - Rebecca Newton, Town of Norwich – stream permit assistance

DISTRICT FUNDING & OPERATIONS

- The District must send in their Part B project request form by November 1, 2022.
- The District must update the 2023 Plan of Work.

DISTRICT SALES

Tree & Shrub Program

- Meadowview has been in contact with Katy to discuss the increased demand for conifers. They want to ensure they have the stock available so there are no shortfalls. Hopefully knowing larger orders in advance will help. Katy has been in contact with some customers that stated last spring that they will be making a big order for 2023. Spring 2023 catalog comes out tomorrow and we will be placing our order as soon as possible.

Fish Program

- Due to the increased cost of delivery, fish and late in the season, it was decided to not do fish sale this year. We have been sending customers who are looking to purchase fish to neighboring counties who are having a sale this year.

AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENTS

- Pasquale Buzzelli- Town of Bainbridge
- Henry Bostelman- Town of Bainbridge
- The Town of Bainbridge has a newer assessor and will be requesting many new agricultural assessments in the coming months.

ANDERSON STREAM STABLIZATION PROJECT - Before



ANDERSON STREAM STABILIZATION PROJECT - After



UPPER SUSQUEHANNA COALITION

Report to Chenango Co. SWCD Board of Directors

September 15, 2022

Presented by Jennifer Kelly

USC General

- The USC is continuing with their Watershed Wednesday series. These training videos are on various topics intended to encourage participation and extend the reach of the USC's work. Previous videos can be accessed on the USC YouTube® page www.u-s-c.org/youtube
- NFWF Climate Smart Proposal to USDA for 9 million was not selected.
- Most Effective Basin Funding – Priority areas have changed so our previous proposal for an additional \$25,000 is on hold for now. We may see additional funding for the Chenango River watershed.

USC Ag-Team

- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – NRCS Funding
 - NRCS and USC have compiled ranking questions, but progress has been slow on opening the first round of applications. End date is 12/29/2026
 - First Round of Funding is for Stream Work
 - Second Round of Funding for Farmstead Practices
- DEC Cover Crop Funding
 - The District has been working on getting sign-up and contracts developed with farmers
 - 2022 funding request from the USC for Chenango County is \$15,680.00

Buffer Updates

- Trees for Tribs Fall Planting
 - Chenango has 2 sites and will coordinate tree pick up with the USC.
- NYSDAM State Buffer Program
 - The additional \$500,000 from Ag and Markets funding expires at the end of October. The USC has been working on negotiating the new agreement and funding.
- The USC manages a contribution agreement with NRCS for work on the CREP buffers. As reported last month, the District submitted invoices for our TA time toward the contribution agreement. We are awaiting payment.

Fisheries:

- **Otselic River:**
 - Selected for Region 7 for evaluation of Romiskany Strain Brown Trout
 - Wild crossed strain – roughly 2x as abundant as domestic strain – post stocking
 - Genetics: Milt collected from Rome Strain males and mixed with hatchery eggs
 - Provides more “wild” instinct to otherwise “tamed” hatchery spawn

- **Trout Stream Re-Classification:**
 - Backpack Electrofishing has been taking place in region to try and identify unprotected streams that “appear likely” to have a resident trout population.
 - Approximately half of the surveyed streams contained trout and will be submitted for re-classification for enhanced protection. – No specific names were given

Wildlife:

- **First EHD Case of 2022 (Dutchess County)**
 - Since 2007; Often-fatal disease caused by midges in late summer, early fall.
 - Cases are historically throughout the state but more concentrated within lower Hudson valley counties.
 - 2021: Suspected EHD Fatality in Region 7
 - Southern have started to show a natural immunity to the virus and hopes are high that northern deer will as well.

- **Summer Wild Turkey Survey:**
 - Turkey productivity has been below average since 2011
 - Online survey helps DEC track poult numbers per hen each August
 - <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/fe7ec92ebf7b45bf8e11a295bf83117e>

- **Madison County Resolution to new NY firearm laws**
 - See attached

N.Y.S. Region 7 Fish and Wildlife Management Board 8/18/22

Report provided by Jacob Welsh

Madison County Resolution – Oppose of NY S.51001/A.41001

RESOLUTION NO. 22-_____

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OPPOSE LEGISLATION S.51001/A.41001 OR ANY FURTHER REGULATIONS TO BE IMPOSED ON RESPONSIBLE AND LEGAL GUN OWNERS

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2022, New York State Legislature enacted Senate Bill S.51001 and Assembly Bill A.41001, which among other things, makes obtaining and retaining a concealed carry gun permit an overly involved and lengthy burdensome process; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Board of Supervisors is responsible for over 67,000 Residents in Madison County, many of whom are conceal carry permit holders and have been for many years; and

WHEREAS, many Madison County Residents also enjoy the sport of hunting and target shooting; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Legislature rolled through legislation in two days with no public input or discussion on new pistol, gun and ammunition restrictions, making it harder to obtain and retain gun and pistol permits, and ammunition for law abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS, among the most onerous of its provisions, it makes it a felony for any individual who has a valid concealed carry permit to bring a handgun to ANY New York State Park, house of worship and restaurants, where residents, businesses and municipalities operate, live, work, socialize, worship and pay taxes; and

WHEREAS, this legislation makes the public less safe by expanding and advertising the number of gun free zones and in doing so further penalizes valid concealed carry permit holders who abide by existing rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Madison County Board of Supervisors consider this law to be an unconstitutional infringement upon our Second Amendment right for law abiding citizen's to bear arms and an overt infringement upon freedom and liberty in New York State, which will not resolve the problems of crime and illegal firearms; and

WHEREAS, Mental Health has become a concern in everyday life and has played a significant role in the recent increase in mass shootings and gun violence; and

WHEREAS, New York State Bail Reform has also played a significant role in recent gun violence and public safety; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Madison County Board of Supervisors is strongly against any new or current gun control legislation that punishes, or is punitive in nature to current pistol permit holders, legal Madison County firearms dealers as well as legal Madison County gun owners; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Madison County Board of Supervisors recognizes that Mental Health plays a significant role in gun safety as well as public safety and supports better mental health screening of any new pistol permit applicants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk to the Madison County Board of Supervisors shall forward copies of this resolution to New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, the New York State Legislature, and all others deemed necessary and proper.

Dated: August 9, 2022

Mary B. Cavanagh, Chairwoman

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Government Operations Committee

Paul H. Walrod, Chairman

Paul H. Walrod, Chairman
Criminal Justice, Public Safety
and Emergency Communications Committee