

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, February 12, 2024

Directors present at the District office, 25451 State Route 12, Watertown, NY: David Brass, Chuck Eastman, Mike Kiechle, and Dan McBride. Others: CCE, Abigail Jantzi; CNMP, Justin Bach; ERS Jonathan Crast; Executive Director, Patrick Crast, and Administrative Assistant, Rhonda Redder.

Absent: Jason Bast and Tom Boxberger (Legislator #2 TBA)

Vice-Chair Brass called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. *Director Kiechle moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Motion seconded by Director Eastman. Carried.*

I REPORTS

Financial: January financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$127,313.06. Pat reviewed the 2023 4th Quarter Grant Update. *Director Eastman moved to approve the financial reports and sign the Itemized Disbursements Report \$73,544.31; seconded by Director Kiechle. Carried.*

Cooperating Agencies

SWCC: Ryan's report was sent to the board and available for review.

NYACD: 2024 Legislative Day booklet

CCE: Abbey reviewed upcoming events and provided an regional ag team update.

FSA: Emergency Conservation funding is available for farms impacted by the recent windstorm.

NRCS: They have requested assistance with some of their projects; we will report back with more information.

Director Reports:

Director McBride: Second legislator hasn't been assigned yet.

Justin: We are working with Cornell to host an Ag Workshop for Jefferson and Lewis farms on April 3.

Pat: Reviewed impacts of CLCPA legislation

II CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Suffolk County SWCD
- B. FLOWPA 2024
- C. WSB: Custody Account
- D. City of Watertown: Stormwater Coalition
- E. Jefferson County: Appropriation
- F. NYACD Assessment and 2024 Legislative Day booklets

III NEW BUSINESS

- A. Annual Reports: Reports have been uploaded to SharePoint.

III NEW BUSINESS - Continued

- B. Health Insurance: *Director Kiechle moved to renew the District's health insurance with MVP. Motion seconded by Director McBride. Carried.*
- C. Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) 5: *Director Kiechle moved to accept the landowner's request to cancel contract CRF # T012291; further, SWCD cancels the agreement, and the funds will be returned to NYS. Motion seconded by Director Eastman. Carried.*
- D. Audit Report: With no findings during the annual audit, *Director Eastman moved to accept the 2023 audit. Motion seconded by Director Kiechle. Carried.*
- E. Officers: *Director Kiechle moved to adopt the slate of officers: Jason Bast as Chair, Chuck Eastman as Vice-Chair, Mike Kiechle as Secretary, and Tom Boxberger as Treasurer. Motion seconded by Director Brass. Carried.*
- F. Soil Group Worksheets: Explained Real Property procedures to an assessor.
- G. ERS/Forester: *Director Kiechle moved to approve the job title for J. Crast from Environmental Resource Specialist to District Forester, contingent upon the approval of Jefferson County Human Resources. Motion seconded by Director McBride. Carried.* (This change of title does not impact the employee's salary.)
- H. AEM: *Director Eastman moved to approve the AEM contract (2024-2025) for \$260,000. Motion seconded by Director Kiechle. Carried.*

IV OLD BUSINESS

- A. ERS – Appraisal: *Director McBride moved to enter executive session at 7:02 pm to discuss the employment history of a particular person. Motion seconded by Director Kiechle. Carried.* With no further business, Abigail Jantzi, Justin Bach, and Jonathan Crast left at 7:03 pm.

Executive session ended at 7:22 pm.

Director Kiechle moved to approve a step increase for ERS G. Birth effective immediately. Motion seconded by Director McBride. Carried.

Meeting adjourned by Vice-Chair Brass at 7:24 pm.

Next meeting: March 11, 2024, at 5:00 pm with Ryan Cunningham, SWCC, providing Director training on the History/Future of SWCDs, Module 2.

Director

Date

Director

Date