

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, March 11, 2024

Presentation: Justin Bach - New CNMP

Presentation: Ryan Cunningham - History/Future of Districts (Module #2)

Directors present at the District office, 25451 State Route 12, Watertown, NY: Jason Bast, Tom Boxberger, David Brass, Chuck Eastman, Mike Kiechle. Others: SWCC AEA, Ryan Cunningham; CNMP, Justin Bach; ERS George Birth, Jonathan Crast, and Sarah Trick; Executive Director, Patrick Crast, and Administrative Assistant, Rhonda Redder. Absent: Dan McBride, (Legislator #2 TBA)

Chairman Bast called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm. *Director Kiechle moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting. Motion seconded by Director Brass. Carried.*

I REPORTS

Financial: February financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$ 155,886.34. *Director Boxberger moved to approve the financial reports and sign the Itemized Disbursements Report \$66,540.11; seconded by Director Kiechle. Carried.*

Cooperating Agencies

SWCC - Ryan: Reviewed the impacts of the Governor's draft budget (Part C increase and CRF). Additional funding is available for CAFO Waste Storages, but proposals should incorporate climate legislation with a cover, retrofitted for a future cover, or some type of greenhouse gas/methane reduction. Districts are asked to participate in the upcoming State Programs Advisory Committee; Performance Measures credit will be given to any participating board member. AEM Leopold nominations are due May 15.

NYACD, CCE, JCADC, NRCS: No reports

FSA: Mary Jane's written report was submitted and distributed.

Director Reports:

Eastman: Attended Cornell's Dairy Shop meeting; it focused on forage and field cropping season. It was a good discussion; every season has its own challenges.

Kiechle: Attended Farm Bureau's lobby days in Albany. We met with staff and an Assemblywoman sponsoring a bill to restrict the use of Rompun. We explained the farm's need for Rompun and that it reduces stress for the animals. Unfortunately, some are mixing it with illegal drugs. It has been used for 50 years as a safe, effective tool for farms. It was a good conversation and she seemed to understand our perspective. We had a booth at the Taste of NY reception; people were seeking cheese curd and Duane Smith's honeyberry jam. The Governor spent an hour at the reception and tasted our products. There were more people than ever; it was a packed event.

II CORRESPONDENCE

- A. SWCC: CRF 5 Cancellation
- B. Suffolk County SWCD*
- C. Legacy Tower Inquiry*

II CORRESPONDENCE (Continued)

- D. Jeff-Lewis BOCES
- E. FLOWPA 2023
- F. Jefferson County: Coalition appointment
- G. IRLC
- H. Sam's Club
- I. NYS Envirothon
- J. FLOWPA 2023*
- K. SWCC: Part C
- L. WSB: Annual Security Awareness training
- M. Jefferson County: Board appointments
- N. Ag & Markets contractual (grantee) reminders (4)*
- O. American Farmland Trust: Smart Solar Listening Session

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Soil Group Worksheets: Our policy will be revised and presented next month for approval.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Climate Resilient Farming/The Nature Conservancy: We are meeting with Onondaga, Franklin, Oswego, and St. Lawrence SWCDs to discuss a potential project with TNC. We may establish a Memorandum of Understanding to plant trees over the next few years and apply for joint funding.
- B. Ruffed Grouse Society is writing a grant for a project, *"Delivering private and public lands conservation for forest and shrubland species in the Great Lakes Basin of Northern NY"*. They have requested a letter of support. Our existing forestry practices encourage early successional trees and create an environment conducive to the desired habitat. ***Director Boxberger moved to send a letter of support for the Ruffed Grouse Society's project as explained. Director Brass seconded the motion. Carried.***

III OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

- B. Succession Plan 2025: ***Director Boxberger moved to enter executive session at 6:18 pm to discuss the employment history of a particular person. Motion seconded by Director Brass. Carried.*** With no further business, Justin Bach, George Birth, Jonathan Crast, and Sarah Trick left at 6:18 pm. Executive session ended at 6:47 pm and the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bast.

Due to the crowds anticipated for the solar eclipse on April 8, our next meeting will be held on April 15, 2024, at 5:30 pm.

Director

Date

Director

Date