

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, November 4, 2024

Directors present at the District office, 25451 State Route 12, Watertown, NY: Tom Boxberger, Dick Company, Chuck Eastman, Mike Kiechle, Dan McBride, and Jim Nabywaniec. Others: CNMP, Justin Bach; ERE, George Birth; Forester, Jonathan Crast; Administrative Assistant, Rhonda Redder; and ERS, Sarah Trick.

Absent: Jason Bast

Vice Chair Eastman called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm after a FLOWPA overview by Sarah Trick. ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the minutes of the October meeting. Motion seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Carried.***

I REPORTS

Financial: October financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$202,598.94. ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the financial reports and sign the Itemized Disbursements Report \$101,293.43; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Carried.***

Cooperating Agencies: Reports were distributed for SWCC and CCE. No reports were submitted for NYACD, FSA, or NRCS.

Director Reports:

McBride: SWCD appropriation remained the same.

Nabywaniec: Requested white ash update; Jonathan explained the process and status.

5:51 pm Director Boxberger arrived.

Employee Reports:

Bach: Submitted 4 CAFO Enhanced Nutrient Methane Management Program (ENMP) grants. We have been having some conversations with SWCC to improve AEM. They have agreed to increase the hourly rate in the next round. This will enable us to earn our own as well as assist other SWCDs, as needed.

Birth: 8 projects for 5 farms need to be designed. Assisting Jonathan on the TNC fence.

J Crast: Working on the TNC tree planting initiatives - Reforesting for the Future, Tapping into the Land Potential, and Planting with Purpose. Working with two landowners, and a few more site visits to conduct. We are not offering reduced rates through FLOWPA for the tree sale this year, and we still have over \$1700 in tree sales. White ash harvests are underway as mentioned earlier. Will be marking in Worth.

Trick: We had a meeting with the County on stormwater; Black River contacted us last week as well. Numerous upcoming meetings and hope to close out FLOWPA by the end of this month. I'm in the process of finishing the Chesapeake Stormwater Network's Urban Stormwater Professionals training program. The lab is almost finished with the Sandy Creeks 9E modeling, so we can continue writing the draft.

II CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Selective Insurance
- B. WEX
- C. Jefferson County Treasurer: White Ash funds (3)

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2025 Budget: After reviewing proposed changes, *Director Boxberger moved to adopt the 2025 budget of \$1,138,025 with a planned budget deficit of \$73,607. Motion seconded by Director Kiechle. Carried.*

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Retiree Policy Renewal: *Director Boxberger moved to renew the Retiree Policy with no changes. Motion seconded by Director Kiechle. Carried.*
- B. CAFO Waste Storage: *Director Kiechle moved to cancel CAFO Waste Storage – Round 1 (C011837) grant due to the farm’s request (#045-2068), transfer and return the funds to NYS. Motion seconded by Director Boxberger. Carried.*
- C. Inventory: Computers/laptop in our inventory were purchased 2018-2020, and they are no longer covered under warranty or inadequate for our needs. *Director Boxberger moved to remove the Lenovo Thinkbook laptop issued to Pat Crast, Dell Optiplex 3050 computer used by Pat Crast and the Dell Optiplex 7070/Core i59500 previously utilized as a server from our inventory effective 12/31/2024. Motion seconded by Director Company. Carried.*
- D. Personnel: A temporary District Technician was hired in 2023 to provide pesticide oversight to enable Jonathan to obtain his certification. This oversight is no longer needed as he will be completing the certification this month. *Director Company moved to end the temporary position for Teresa Link, District Technician, effective immediately. Motion seconded by Director McBride. Carried.*
- E. Transfer: We have requested funds from SWCC, but we have no guarantee the funds will arrive before the contractor has completed the AEM projects (2). *Director Nabywaniec moved to transfer up to \$100,000 from the Projects Account to pay the contractor if the AEM funds aren’t received on time. Further, once the funds are received, they will be returned to the Projects Account. Motion seconded by Director Kiechle. Carried.*
- F. Plowing: Quote reviewed; discussed, but no action was taken at this time.

Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Next meeting: December 9, 2024, at 5:30 pm with a presentation by Jonathan Crast at 5:15 pm

Director

Date

Director

Date