

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, February 10, 2025

Directors present at the District office, 25451 State Route 12, Watertown, NY: Jason Bast, Dick Campany, Chuck Eastman, Mike Kiechle, Dan McBride, and Jim Nabywaniec. Others: CCE, Isaac Matlock; CNMP, Justin Bach; ERE, George Birth; Forester, Jonathan Crast; Administrative Assistant, Rhonda Redder; Executive Director, Patricia Shulenburg; and ERS, Sarah Trick. Absent: Tom Boxberger

Chairman Bast called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm after a presentation on culverts by George Birth. ***Chairman Bast moved to enter executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person. Motion seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote - carried.*** All employees and Isaac Matlock left the meeting room. Patricia was asked to reenter the meeting at 5:46 pm. Patricia and Director Nabywaniec left the meeting at 5:48 pm and executive session ended. The remaining staff and Isaac reentered the meeting at 5:50 pm. Director Nabywaniec returned to the meeting at 5:57 pm. The meeting resumed at 6:03 pm. ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the January meeting minutes; seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote - carried.***

I REPORTS

Financial: January financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$61,425.00. ***Director Eastman moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$100,359.00; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Cooperating Agencies:

SWCC – Ryan: Written report was distributed.

NYACD - See correspondence

CCE – NNY Hay and Pasture webinar will be held on 3/6. **NNY Manure Roadshow** will be held on 3/5 at Farm Credit East. **Mud Management** will be held 3/26 at the CCE office. Justin is participating in the Manure Roadshow and Mud Management events.

FSA – Alexandria Maher: Written report was distributed.

JCADC and NRCS – No report

Director Reports:

Kiechle: Farm Bureau has discussed the concern with contracts taking so long. More agencies are involved in the review process before the funds can be spent. We remain concerned that the estimates are no longer valid. The topic is still on their radar, but we do not have many answers at this time. Justin explained contracts were for 3 years and now they are 5 years. Oftentimes farms couldn't get the projects done within 3 years and requested extensions.

McBride asked about the white ash harvest. Jon explained that one of the loggers had some equipment challenges. Prices are doing well; loggers have been delayed due to the amount of snowfall. White ash is still in demand.

Eastman: Attended a CCE meeting held at Rossiters. They have an impressive operation with 8 robots for 450 cows and automated feeding machines. The pros and cons of robotics were discussed.

Staff Reports:

Justin: Sarah has been helping to prepare the AgNPS Round 30 grant applications; we have 6 resolutions prepared under new business, applications are due 2/24. We are getting lots of calls for plans; there are now 15 waiting to be prepared, and Sarah is going to help more with those.

Staff Reports - Continued:

Jon: Getting agreements for TNC tree plantings signed by landowners; we will plant 15 acres and oversee another 15 acres with the contractor. Skidsteer had some mechanical issues, and it was taken to S&N (formerly Caz) to be serviced. We have done the routine maintenance, air filters, etc. The bed liner and plow are being put on the new F350; it should be here soon.

George: Finished 3 projects for AgNPS in preliminary phase for cost estimates. Design will be finished if the grant is awarded. Two other bedded packs and a St. Lawrence heavy use area. Close to submitting to NYS for PE exam, submitted 2 years ago; waiting for Don Lynch to verify hours.

Sarah: FLOWPA 2024 has been closed out and submitted for the desk audit. We are staying on top of MS4 requirements, waiting for past due compliance items. Working with George to finalize the annual reports to put out for public comment; we will need to obtain signatures. We had a Sandy Creeks 9E meeting with UFI and DEC today; DEC is onboard with the scenarios. UFI should be done with modeling by our April board meeting.

II CORRESPONDENCE

*Outgoing

- A. NACD: Membership/dues request and newsletter
- B. County Treasurer: White ash harvest/agreement*
- C. County HR: Payroll certification
- D. NY Farm Bureau
- E. NYACD (2): Membership invoice
- F. Social Security Administration: E-file
- G. Jefferson County: 2025 appropriation

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Phone service: ABS originally told us the annual cost will be \$1200; it will be \$1726 with 2 premium and 4 standard users; approximately \$143.84 per month.
- B. Part B – Amendment #2: The landowner isn't confident in the success of the project and doesn't want to waste funds; he fears the willow will be destroyed by ice melt and flooding. We will experiment with planting various seedlings instead. New Part B request is to create an arboretum behind our building extending to Burrville Power Equipment. TNC will plant 4000 trees, and we will lay stone for a walking trail and install signage for the educational area. ***Director Kiechle moved to authorize an amendment for 2025 Part B to create an arboretum. Motion seconded by Director Eastman. Unanimous vote - carried.***

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Annual Reports are due 2/15, and all reports were submitted last week.
- B. Board Audit: Director Boxberger audited 1/15 and stated, "Comprehensive monthly review of financial data and budget are great for board's constant awareness." Director Eastman reviewed the records today and found everything to be in order with one discrepancy; one cash sales receipt did not contain a second set of initials. ***Director Campany moved to accept the audit report. Motion seconded by Director Eastman. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- C. Dental: With no change in premiums since 2017, ***Director Kiechle moved to renew the dental insurance through Guardian. Motion seconded by Director Eastman. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- D. Employee handbook: ***Director Campany moved to amend cell phone policy in the employee handbook to reflect that payments will be "distributed at the end of the calendar year or when an employee leaves the District (resignation, termination, layoff, or retirement) in one lump sum." Motion seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote - carried.***

IV NEW BUSINESS - Continued

- E. AgNPS Round 30: Justin reviewed resolutions and proposed projects: ***Director Kiechle moved to approve resolutions #2025-1 through 2025-6 for Waste storage and transfer systems for 4 farms #045-3027, #045-5086, #045-1058 (2), #045-2057 and a livestock heavy use area runoff management system for farm #045-3019. Motion seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm. Next meeting: March 10, 2025, at 5:30 pm with a presentation by Sarah Trick.

Director

Date

Director

Date

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