

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, March 10, 2025

Director Training: Ryan Cunningham presented Module 1: Conservation in NY.

Sarah Trick presented information on annual report requirements for the Stormwater Coalition members.

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

Chairman Bast called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

Director Kiechle moved to approve the February meeting minutes (2); seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.

I REPORTS

Financial: February financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$304,992.46. *Director Boxberger moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$51,793.45; seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote - carried.*

Cooperating Agencies:

SWCC – Ryan: Reviewed his written report. AEM Leopold Award nominees are due 5/15. Next State Program Advisory Committee (SPAC) meeting is 4/10. Volunteers are needed for the NYS Envirothon 5/28-29. CNMP training is 4/1-4 and NAACC training is 4/3.

NYACD - Correspondence

CCE – Isaac: Introduced Eric Antrim, new Crop & Soil Specialist with CCE. Working with Justin to host a Mud Management workshop on 3/26 at the CCE office.

FSA – Kelsie Williams, Acting County Executive Director: Open enrollment for Dairy Margin Coverage Program deadline is 3/31. Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage Programs deadline is 4/15. Producers also may report hay ground at any time, and they don't have to wait until the spring.

JCADC – Conference will be held at JCC, in conjunction with Farm Bureau on April 4.

NRCS – Tom Pratt: Can now complete payments. Kent Frary, District Conservationist, is retiring Friday, 3/14, and Tom will be acting for him until further notice. Both NRCS and FSA are under a 90-day hiring freeze.

Director Reports:

Campany: Attended the 4-hour erosion and sediment control course. It was well done and interesting.

Kiechle: Attended the Taste of New York Reception & Lobby Day last week in Albany; it was the best attendance ever. Elected officials sampled items produced throughout the state; Adam Minor served cotton candy made with maple sugar and nearly depleted his entire supply. It was a good opportunity to network with NYS legislators; 90% attended.

Eastman: Attended the Manure Roadshow at Farm Credit East; it met the criteria for CAFO training requirements.

Staff Reports:

George: Revising the Kasoag Lake design. We expect additional soil group worksheet requests due to the revals in Ellisburg.

Jon: Finalized TNC tree planting plans, 9 in total, including Planting with a Purpose. Trees will be arriving next month, and we'll start planting. White ash harvest is continuing. Starting equipment maintenance. Boundary lines will need to wait until mid-summer or fall because the sap is running steadily.

Sarah: Checking with UFI, creating an infographic for 9E. Will be creating a flyer for modeling. Hunting down signatures for Stormwater Coalition annual reports. Prepping goodie bags for 300 students for SW CARES and will be teaching the week of March 24. Attending Water Quality Symposium this week.

Justin: Sarah helped write grants; it took a great deal of time to prepare 6 grant applications. We have started working on the Round 19 AEM application and it will go out this summer. Entered soil sample data, and working on NMPs. Will provide a presentation for CCE's Mud Management on 3/26.

II CORRESPONDENCE

*Outgoing

- A. Jefferson County HR: Payroll Certification
- B. NYACD: Legislative Day booklet
- C. NYS SWCC: Part C Performance Measures
- D. Zultys*
- E. Watertown Savings Bank*
- F. Shulenburg*
- G. Social Security Administration*
- H. NYS Department of Labor*
- I. NYS Department of Taxation and Finance (2)*

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. 2019 F350: *Director Boxberger moved to accept the Auctions International bids and approve the sale of our 2019 Ford F350 pick up to the highest bidder (\$33,200). Motion seconded by Director Eastman. Unanimous vote - carried.*
- B. Office Manager: New position duties statement has been submitted to HR for approval.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Archives: 2017-2018 and various other records to be archived were presented for disposal. *Director Kiechle moved to authorize the disposal of documents in accordance with the NYS Records and Retention Schedule. The motion was seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote - carried.*
- B. Civil Service: *Director Boxberger moved to make the following employees permanent as they have successfully passed their civil service exams: Justin Bach, George Birth, and Sarah Trick, effective February 26, 2025. Motion seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.*
- C. Save the River: *Director Boxberger moved to submit a letter of support for Save the River's Jr. Riverkeeper Program. Motion seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried. Carried.*
- D. Hyde Lake: *Director Campany moved to utilize FLOWPA funds to enter into a one-year agreement with Clarkson University to obtain samples for Hyde Lake. Motion seconded by Director Eastman. Unanimous vote - carried.*
- E. Grant Implementation: Equipment

6:15 pm Chairman Bast recused and left the meeting; Director Eastman presided over the meeting.

IV NEW BUSINESS - Continued

Director Kiechle moved to administer grants with equipment as follows: Equipment payments will be linked to the BMP practice (ex: CRF 8 equipment cost will be divided by the number of acres in the application.) Farms will be paid the cover crop rate and the individualized equipment rate for each year of the grant until the farm has reached the acreage and/or the grant period concludes. Motion seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote - carried.

Director Bast returned to the meeting at 6:31 pm and presided over the meeting.

- F. BOCES: ***Director Nabywaniec moved to partner with BOCES to provide the 4-hour Erosion & Sediment Control training at a reduced rate for senior students enrolled in appropriate trades. Director Campany seconded the motion. Unanimous vote - carried***
- G. Yealink phones: ***Director Boxberger moved to sell 4 Yealink office phones and 2 cordless Yealink phones through Auctions International and remove the phones from the inventory. Director Campany seconded the motion. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- H. Tug Hill Tomorrow Land Trust: All agreed to move forward in assisting with their project if their grant application is successful.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm. Next meeting: April 14, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

Director

Date

Director

Date