

# *Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District*

*Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, April 14, 2025*

Jon Crast presented on the slash wall constructed last year; a forestry project in conjunction with NRCS.

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

Secretary Kiechle called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.

***Director Boxberger moved to approve the March meeting minutes; seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote - carried.***

## **I REPORTS**

**Financial:** March financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$26,800. ***Director McBride moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$148,681.29; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote - carried.***

### **Cooperating Agencies:**

**SWCC** – Ryan’s written report was reviewed. State Committee’s next meeting is tomorrow.

**NYACD** – Next meeting is April 23 at 7 pm through Zoom.

**CCE** – Isaac: Artificial insemination training is tomorrow and Wednesday. Mud Management has been rescheduled to 4/24. Intro to Small Ruminants will be held 5/6. 4-H Livestock Auction will be 7/19. We have partnered with Tompkins and Greene County CCEs to administer an agroforestry grant; educating on forestry practices, such as riparian forest buffers and silvopasture.

**FSA, JCADC & NRCS** – No report

### **Director Reports:**

**Boxberger:** CCE is encouraging counties in the Tug Hill region to consider agrivoltaics; this was a topic at the Local Government Conference and there is more information on the Tug Hill Commission’s website. THC also sponsored a webinar on raptor conservation, particularly spring raptor migration along Lake Ontario.

**McBride:** Clean up at old Deferiet paper mill site has been scheduled; it will be demolished. The Onondaga County Administrator is coming 4/24 to present on the anticipated impact from the Micron plant in Clay.

**Kiechle:** We met with County Planning to update zoning recommendations for solar farms in the Town of Philadelphia. It was last updated in 2019, and it’s now outdated. Director Boxberger stated that the Town of Watertown has updated theirs several times in conjunction with a developer.

### **Staff Reports:**

Rhonda: Jon helped Sarah with SW CARES; an experienced science teacher reached out in support of SWCARES and to let us know that Sarah did a great job presenting and kept the interest of students. The Erosion & Sediment Control training at BOCES was successful with 40 students; a photo is on our Facebook page, and it was shared by Ag & Markets. Our tree sale was last weekend, April 11 and 12 with numerous tree plantings coming up.

Justin: Working on the CCE Mud Management presentation. Took soil samples today and another farm needs sampling. Met with farms to obtain the initial information for their CNMP. St. Lawrence SWCD planner is leaving for a private company; we currently contract with them, along with Oswego, Lewis, and Franklin. Reviewed the plans currently in progress and anticipates it will take two years to complete the plans that have been requested. After tree planting is complete, Sarah will help write plans. George helped to create an Excel file to assist with calculating the equipment contract payments; this was shared with SWCC and will likely be utilized statewide. SWCC has hired two attorneys which should get contracts moving along more quickly.

Sarah: Worked with our website designer to update our website; the changes should appear soon. Requested comments from the coalition members on this year's Storm Water Management Program plan, and following up on some overdue items. A list of expectations for this year was sent to members; new requirements include monitoring locations inspection and sampling program, an illicit discharge track-down program, an illicit discharge elimination program, and a municipal facility inventory. Tree planting with Jon. Will be looking for sampling points needed for a future Stony Creek 9E and working on the first draft of a BMP project application through FLOWPA.

Jonathan: Will be planting trees over the next few weeks, along with site prep for future plantings. We have 5000 trees to plant on 13 acres for 4 landowners enrolled with TNC. TNC contractors will plant for 3 landowners and site prep is needed; they'll store their supplies in our garage after we're done with our plantings. White ash harvesting won't continue until it dries up. A groomer or plow took out a side to one of our gates where the trail connects in Worth; new 6x6s will be installed after tree plantings are finished. Will start York raking trails and determine where stone is needed. We have some additional work to do at Rainbow Shores for TNC, and we will bill them for "Planting with a Purpose" as well.

II CORRESPONDENCE

\*Outgoing

- A. Jefferson County: White ash contract

B. Coughlin: Newsletter postage

C. IRLC newsletter

D. Jefferson County Treasurer: White ash\*
- E. Jefferson County HR: Office Manager

F. NYS Department of Labor: UIB

G. NYS SWCC: New rates

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Office Manager: The announcement went out March 28 with a deadline of May 2. We have three applicants so far. The job has been advertised with the Watertown Daily Times, Thousand Islands Sun, Country Folks, shared on our website, Facebook page, and a statewide email through SWCC.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Parking area: It was the consensus of the board to proceed; we will report back with cost estimates.

B. Employee handbook amendments: **Director Boxberger moved to revise the Employee Handbook as follows: Cap vacation time at 240 hours effective 12/31/25; Reduce the accumulation of comp time by taking time off within the week it is earned whenever possible; Cap comp time at 100 hours effective 12/31/25; Cap comp time at 40 hours effective 12/31/26; Adopt the County's bereavement policy with any relational disputes to be resolved through Director Boxberger. Director Campany seconded the motion. Unanimous vote - carried.**

C. Performance Measures: New requirements for 2025 were distributed and reviewed.

The Profit and Loss report for the first quarter of 2024 compared to 2025 along with the first quarter's active grant report was distributed and reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:37 pm. Next meeting: 5/12/25, at 5:30 pm.