

# *Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District*

*Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, June 9, 2025*

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

Secretary Kiechle called the meeting to order at 5:54 pm after public comment from Patrick Crast; he answered questions on the County reforestation lands. ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the May meeting minutes; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.***

## **I REPORTS**

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

### **Cooperating Agencies:**

**SWCC – Ryan:** Written report was distributed. Next meeting is 6/17. AEM 19 is open; action plans are due 7/1. CRF 9 will be coming out soon. AEA regions have changed slightly; Jefferson will not be impacted. There will be another AEA dedicated to downstate counties.

**NYACD:** NE annual conference will be held 9/21-24. Next meeting is 6/25 through Zoom.

**CCE – Isaac:** Dairy prospects program will be held 8/25-6/26; students will learn about opportunities in the dairy industry.

**FSA & NRCS:** No report

**JCADC:** Dairy Parade was held last Friday.

### **Director Reports:**

***Boxberger:*** Participating in a green energy panel at the Hilton on Monday, June 16.

***Kiechle:*** Drove a float in the dairy parade, and it was a little nerve-racking with the large crowd. Plan to attend Farm Bureau's July 8 meeting in St. Lawrence County about the mini nuclear generation plants. Spoke to Assemblyman Scott Gray at the parade, and he is interested in the different aspects this.

***Executive Director – Bach:*** Rhonda and I attended the manager's meeting last week; many topics were discussed, including AEM, equipment grants, wetland delineation, and civil service. DEC is overloaded with requests, and Sarah is looking into getting approval to perform wetland delineations. Some Districts have had success with making civil service positions non-competitive; we will inquire with HR. Rhonda and I met with The Nature Conservancy (TNC), and we reviewed the services we can continue to provide; they are preparing a new agreement. We have two AEM 18 projects to complete this summer and a FLOWPA project. Presented at the Black River Watershed Conference; Sarah was recognized for her outstanding sampling methods. She captured varied flows which will be helpful with modeling. Our AEM 19 application is ready, and it will be released by July 1 and ranked afterwards for implementation 2026-2028. We are requesting the maximum AEM funding.

### **Staff Reports:**

***Sarah:*** Presented at IRLC conference. Reviewing grant opportunities and the MS4 mapping grant. Black River Coalition and Stormwater Coalition will be meeting later this month. Will be helping Justin with AEM, Tier 3s.

George: Will be on site when the Kasoag Lake culvert is installed in Oswego. St. Lawrence County heavy use area is ready, but construction won't begin until August. Working on two bedded pack designs and assisting with County Forest work.

## II CORRESPONDENCE

\*Outgoing

- A. Resignation of Jonathan Crast, District Forester
- B. Office Manager\*
- C. Eastern Shore Insurance Agency: Refund
- D. Jefferson County HR: Executive Director exam certification and probationary report
- E. NYS SWCC: Part B 2024
- F. MVP: 2026 rates

## III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Office Manager: ***Director Boxberger made a motion to hire Katie Spaulding as the Office Manager effective June 23, 2025. Motion seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote - carried. Director Boxberger moved to adopt salary steps (2025-2030) for the Office Manager position. Motion seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- B. Slack Lot: County Attorney Sabik visited the site with Justin and George. Patrick Crast explained that it is a quitclaim deed, not a right of way. Since the lot is 95 acres, he recommended avoiding intensive litigation as the value of the forest is not worth the time and effort.
- C. Parking area expansion: George spoke with NYS DOT; a permit is needed to pave the area (30 sq ft).

## IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. WSB: ***Director Campany moved to add Katie Spaulding and Justin Bach as authorized signors on the bank accounts at WSB. Seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- B. Forester: It was agreed to proceed with hiring a forester; the announcement is ready. ***Director Boxberger moved to hire Patrick Crast effective June 9, 2025 at \$50/hour to assist in the search and training of a Forester. Seconded by Director Campany. Carried. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- C. AEM 19: ***Director Boxberger moved to approve AEM resolution #2025-7 and to request maximum funding. Motion seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- D. Wetland Delineation: No action
- E. MS4/NYS DEC grant: ***Director Boxberger moved to pursue a grant for the MS4 communities to improve mapping. Motion seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- F. Oneida SWCD: ***Director Boxberger moved to renew the existing agreement with Oneida SWCD for the services of Don Lynch, PE. Seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- G. Oswego SWCD: ***Director Boxberger moved to renew the agreement with Oswego SWCD making it a three-year agreement to coincide with AEM 19 (2026-2028) for our CNMP and design services. Motion seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm. Next meeting: July 14, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

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Director

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Date

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Director

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Date