

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, July 14, 2025

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

Vice Chair Eastman called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM after a presentation by Sarah. ***Director Campany moved to approve the June meeting minutes; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote - carried.***

I REPORTS

Financial: June financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$2,480.00. Active Grants and Profit and Loss Prevention Comparison were reviewed for the second quarter. ***Director McBride moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$48,031.02; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Cooperating Agencies:

SWCC: Ryan's written report was reviewed.

No reports for: NYACD, CCE, FSA, NRCS, JCADC

Director Reports:

Campany: Started set up at the Jefferson County Fair for the Grange booth. Kayaked Hyde Lake recently and it looks good.

McBride: Slack lot update - County Attorney sent a letter to the landowner's attorney.

Boxberger: Attended and presented at a 3-day program by PACE University, which provided a well-balanced representation of the pros and cons of solar energy. There have been several meetings on the proposal of a dairy processing plant in the Town of Watertown, off Route 81.

Executive Director, Bach: Results for AgNPS Round 30 are out but have not been made public yet. Sarah helped to write them, and George has done all the preliminary designs. Executed contracts for CRF8 are expected soon. County Attorney is reviewing the ag contract so we can have templates for each type of grant. AEM 19 applications are due 7/31/2025. We received our award letter from SWCC for AEM 19 - \$720,000 over 3 years. Some Tier 3 plans were finished last month and we're getting caught up. George has been helping with forestry maintenance, mowing, etc.

Staff Reports:

Trick: Water chestnut pull is July 22, 2025, at Lakeview. Sharing the watershed model and discussing the carbon cycle at Save the River on July 28, 2025. Working on MS4 grant.

Birth: Stream crossing project is designed, and the culvert has been ordered. It is a one-day project utilizing FLOWPA funds, and we hope to get that done soon. Designing the next round of CRF projects. Contractor expects to begin the AEM goat manure storage and the stream crossing project afterward.

Crast: White ash harvests are continuing at Worth and SEW. SEW got hit with the windstorm that went through a week ago; it will slow things down. We have \$12,687 in payments to send to the County Treasurer for white ash sales. Has been marking for two other sales.

II CORRESPONDENCE

*Outgoing

- A. WSB
- B. FLOWPA
- C. Eastern Shore Associates
- D. P Crast: Special Projects Consultant*
- E. IRLC
- F. Black River Watershed Coalition
- G. Town of Watertown Planning*
- H. FOIL request/response*

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Forester – applications are due by Thursday, July 17, 2025
- B. Slack Lot – See update under ‘Director Reports’
- C. Parking area expansion – No response from the Town of Watertown; Director Boxberger will check on this. County Highway will come and look at the proposed project tomorrow.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Inventory: ***Director Boxberger moved to dispose of Rhonda Redder’s old PC and remove it from the inventory; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- B. CRF 8: No action.
- C. Credit Card: ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the District credit card to be put in Katie Spaulding’s name; seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote - carried.***
- D. TNC Agreement: 7 sites were planted this spring; we can’t mow until we have an agreement in place. Draft agreement outlines up to \$81,000, including an increased hourly rate from \$52 to \$60, based on the state rate. The scope of our work is dependent on who is hired as a Forester. TNC requires mowing each site twice per year. ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the updated TNC agreement pending receipt of the contract; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote – carried.***
- E. Mower: No action.
- F. AEM 19 agreements: ***Director Boxberger moved to renew the agreements with St. Lawrence, Franklin, and Lewis Counties, making them each 3-year agreements to coincide with the AEM years and increasing the hourly rate; seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:34 PM.

Next meeting: August 11, 2025, at 5:30 PM in Henderson.

Director Date

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