

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, October 20, 2025

Directors present at the District Office, 25451 State Route 12, Watertown, NY: Jason Bast, Chuck Eastman, Jim Nabywaniec, Dick Campany, Dan McBride, and Mike Kiechle. Others: Justin Bach, Executive Director, Katie Spaulding, Office Manager, Sarah Trick, ERS, and Sam Anderson, Forester. Absent: Tom Boxberger.

Following Executive Director Bach's presentation on recent AEM and FLOWPA projects, Chair Best called the meeting to order at 5:32 PM. ***Director Eastman moved to approve the September meeting minutes; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote - carried.***

I REPORTS

Financial: September financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$1,167,093.50. Active Grants and Profit and Loss Prevention Comparison were reviewed for the third quarter. ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$45,773.92; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Cooperating Agencies:

SWCC – Ryan: Written report was provided to board members.
No reports for: CCE, NYACD, FSA, NRCS, JCADC

Director Reports:

Boxberger: Written report - Dairy processing facility is still in the works; they are looking at 2 possible sites: Watertown and Hounsfield. The annual Tug Hill Commission Dinner last week focused on ag, both state financial programs and the new yogurt facility near Rome. Chobani will have a representative speaking at the local government conference in April at Turning Stone.

Kiechle: Attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting on Saturday night. It was a tri-county event, including Jefferson, Lewis, and Oswego. Over 100 people attended; it was a great turnout.

Nabywaniec: Also attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting, in which Mike Kiechle received a special recognition. Provided update on the slack lot, in which the landowner intends on moving forward with getting it surveyed themselves. There will be a date scheduled for SWCD to meet with Jefferson County to provide an overview of SWCD services, programs, and revenue.

Campany: Attended Land Judging with SWCD last week, in which 3 schools participated. Has been attending the NYS Grange Annual Meeting in Watertown since Thursday. There's about 150 people attending from around the state. Ag Commissioner Ball spoke very highly of Jefferson County SWCD.

Bach: The Nature Conservancy (TNC) 2025 plantings have been mowed, and monitoring is done, with just 1 survivorship monitoring left to complete. One site had approximately 300 tree tubes come down from the recent windstorm; these have been checked on and cleaned up. There are 9 new landowners for 2026 plantings, and SWCD mowed 3 of the sites for site prep. Boundary lines have all been laid out. Bought 2 new doors for SWCD office, and they will be painted and installed soon. Working on 3 CNMPs and soil sampling. Cover crops are done for CRF 8. There are 72 acres of tree planting needed over the next 4 years with CRF 8. Waiting on AgNP30 contracts. Recently received an update from Jefferson County regarding the Slack Lot, in which the

landowner wants their own survey done. SWCD has secured \$2.5 million in grants over the last 2 years for the residents of Jefferson County.

Staff Reports:

Trick: Attended wetland training at the beginning of the month. Land Judging last week went great. Will be meeting with Black River DPW on the MS4 program later this week and assisting with a nationwide webinar with Environmental Finance Center regarding the Black River Initiative and how it evolved over time. Will be attending the River and Roads training in Vermont at the end of the month.

Anderson: Has been reviewing management plans, walking current jobs, re-conning wood lots looking for white ash. Working on updating data, posting/painting boundary lines, and will find a new job to mark. There has been \$207,000.00 in the sale of white ash/timber harvested on Jefferson County reforestation lands for 2025 thus far.

Birth: Written report – Has been mowing and working on final designs. There is a rain barrel workshop scheduled for Wednesday evening at the Watertown Library. Has 2 preliminary designs for AgNP31 to do. Will be on-site for verification for the St. Lawrence design.

II CORRESPONDENCE

*Outgoing

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|---------------------------------|---|
| A. ASTC Easements* | F. Thomas Trash Service |
| B. White Ash Harvest* | G. National Association of Conservation |
| C. Timber Sale, Worth Stand 23* | Districts |
| D. Tri-State Hardwood, LTD* | H. Cornell Cooperative Extension |
| E. Tree Planting Plan* | |

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Slack Lot – See Director Reports above.
- B. Parking area expansion – No action.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Part B: ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the 2026 Part B project, contributing toward the Best Management Practice project to address flooding within Vance Shores Development; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Chair Bast and Justin Bach left the meeting at 6:16 PM, and Vice Chair Eastman took over presiding.

- B. CRF 8: ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the transfer of funds and to make payment upon completion for the following projects: \$802,992.00 for equipment for 4 farms #045-2005, #045-2039, #045-5129, and #045-2039, and \$313,170.00 for tree planting for 4 farms #045-4040, #045-2003, #045-4063, and #045-1092. Motion seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Chair Bast and Justin Bach returned to the meeting at 6:20 PM and Chair Bast continued presiding. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM. Next meeting: Monday, November 10, 2025 at 5:30 PM.

Director

Date

Director

Date