

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, September 22, 2025

Directors present at the District Office, 25451 State Route 12, Watertown, NY: Tom Boxberger, Jason Bast, Jim Nabywaniec, Dick Campany, Dan McBride, and Mike Kiechle. Others: Administrative Assistant, Rhonda Redder; Office Manager, Katie Spaulding, ERS, Sarah Trick; Forester, Sam Anderson; Special Projects Consultant, Pat Crast; CCE, Isaac Matlock; and SWCC, Ryan Cunningham. Absent: Chuck Eastman.

Chair Best called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the August meeting minutes; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote - carried.***

I REPORTS

Financial: August financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$853,973.50. ***Director Campany moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$89,462.75; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Cooperating Agencies:

SWCC – Ryan: Written report was provided to board members.

CCE: Information and flyers provided for the following: Seeds of Stewardship, Invasive Species of Jefferson County (October 23 @ 5 PM), Artificial Insemination Training (October 28 & 29), Pest Management Strategies (September 23 @ 6 PM), and Jefferson County Small Ruminant Producers Group (October 10 @ 1 PM).

No reports for: NYACD, FSA, NRCS, JCADC

Director Reports:

Kiechle: Farm Bureau's annual meeting is Saturday, October 18, at Creekstone Farms Event Center in Adams, NY. It's a combined meeting for Jefferson, Lewis, and Oswego County Farm Bureaus.

Boxberger: There is a meeting with the proposed developer for the dairy facility in early October. A draft environmental statement and some preliminary plans are expected to be reviewed.

Nabywaniec: No answer yet on the Stormwater Coalition memorandum discussed at the last meeting.

Bach: Written report - Continuing to work with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for 2026 tree plantings. Contract with TNC may need to be amended based on the number of plantings and acreage. Provided update on 2025 projects including the manure storage, bridge, and culvert. Working on 3 CNMPs for Jefferson County and 1 for Franklin County. Multiple grants have been awarded over the past year to include: CRF 8 Equipment, CRF 8 Tree Planting, and AGNPS 30.

Staff Reports:

Trick: Wrote 3 new policies for Stormwater Coalition but couldn't pass them at the last meeting due to no quorum; will bring to the December meeting for approval. Land Judging has been arranged and scheduled for October 16th. Assisted with bridge installation this past month. Submitted interim reports for 6 of the 8 MS4s, which are due October 1st. Next month will be working on FLOWPA application rankings and submitting the remaining MS4s. Will present at A&P Biology class for Alexandria Bay on October 1st. Conservation Skills and FLOWPA board meeting are coming up.

Crast: Reviewed white ash sales to date. Scale sales are coming in and expect to be done in the next 2 weeks. Sam is taking over lump sum sales.

II CORRESPONDENCE

*Outgoing

- A. Washington Park, #21 Extension*
- B. Forester*
- C. Timber Sale Agreement*
- D. White Ash Harvest*
- E. TNC Agreement Request*
- F. Farm Bureau
- G. Department of Agriculture & Markets

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Slack Lot – No action.
- B. Parking area expansion – No action.
- C. Mower – Purchased and scheduled to arrive this week.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Annual Plan of Work: ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the Annual Plan of Work for 2026; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote – carried.***
- B. Westons Corners: We received two bids; both met the minimum of \$45,000. ***Director Kiechle moved to accept and approve all bids for Westons Corners, Stands 2 & 8, and award the sale to the highest bidder; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote – carried.***
- C. Administrative Assistant Post-Retirement: ***Director Boxberger moved to enter executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person; seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Rhonda Redder, Sarah Trick, Sam Anderson, Pat Crast, Ryan Cunningham, and Isaac Matlock left the room at 6:02 PM. Executive session ended at 6:06 PM and everyone returned to the meeting room. ***Director Kiechle moved to rehire Rhonda Redder following her upcoming retirement at \$30.72 an hour, on an as needed basis, for the purpose of providing training and guidance to District staff; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.***

- D. UFI: Stony Creek: ***Director Campany moved to approve the UFI: Stony Creek contract; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote – carried.***
- E. Assignment of Payment (2): ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the assignment of payment for AEM farm #045-6011, to include transferring the funds from AEM 18 and making payment to the contractor upon completion of the project; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Director Kiechle moved to approve the assignment of payment for AEM farm #045-5128, to include transferring the funds and making payment to the contractor (SWCD) upon completion of the project; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote – carried.

- F. Jefferson County Highway Letter of Support: ***Director Nabywaniec moved to approve the letter of support addressed to USDA NRCS for Jefferson County Highway moving forward with the replacement bridge on Weaver Road over Skinner Creek; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:14 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, October 20, at 5:30 PM due to the Columbus Day Holiday.

Director

Date

Director

Date