

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, April 27, 2026

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

Following the IRCS Tree Planting presentation by Sam Anderson, Vice Chair Eastman called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the March meeting minutes; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.***

I REPORTS

Financial:

March financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$25,863.15. Active Grants and Profit and Loss Prevention Comparison were reviewed for the first quarter. ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$57,141.53; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Cooperating Agencies:

SWCC – Ryan Cunningham’s written report was provided to board members.

NYACD – NYACD Director Roles and Responsibilities and Directors Report were made available for review.

CCE – Isaac: Flyers and details provided for: Soil Health Day (June 25, 2026) and Mushrooms & More (June 1, 2026).

No reports for: FSA, JCADC, NRCS

Director Reports:

McBride: The Sugar Maple Solar Project, a 125 MW solar-plus-storage facility, has been approved for the Town of Wilna spanning into Lewis County. More information to come.

Kiechle: Attended the Jefferson County Agricultural Development Conference held on March 27, 2026. Last week Sam and Indian River Central School students planted 75 trees on Kiechle’s land; and Sam fixed tree tubes from previous years plantings.

Boxberger: Attended the Tug Hill Commission Local Government Conference last week and attended sessions regarding Micron and Chobani. Per the conference, there is an anticipated loss of agriculture in Oswego County due to the subdivision and housing development. There may be secondary growth with residential properties and will likely see an increase in Jefferson County for housing due to the Micron development. Director McBride noted that he’ll be attending a meeting with Micron on May 11, 2026.

Campany: Attended the Jefferson County Agricultural Development Conference held on March 27, 2026. Worked with Alexandria Bay’s prekindergarten class and planted 40 trees, which were purchased through the District’s Annual Tree Sale.

Bach: The Nature Conservancy and CRF tree plantings will start next week and are expected to be completed by the end of May. The annual tree sale has concluded; distribution day was held on April 10, 2026. Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition meeting is scheduled for May 20, 2026, in which the new contract will be drafted to include earning up to \$70,000 for 2026. We received the mapping grant, but are still waiting for the contract, which we anticipate receiving in the next 2 weeks.

We received approval for the AEM 18 closeout, final payment pending. Budgets have been put together with signatures for the AEM 19 projects and will be submitted by May 1, 2026. AgNPS30 funds have been received, and designs will need to be stamped before projects begin. We submitted 8 AgNPS31 applications last week, for just under 8 million dollars. We received award notifications for the 4 Ecosystem-Based Management (EBM) grants applied for through the stream-based stabilization grants.

Staff Reports:

Trick: Participated in SW CARES earlier this month, which involved approximately 300 students. Sam assisted with the watershed model and tree planting. Completed 8 AgNPS31 grant applications last week with Justin. The Rain Barrel Workshop (June 10, 2026) was posted and reached registration capacity within 48 hours. Working on water sampling and preparing for the Sandy Creek 9E Public Outreach Meeting on May 12, 2026.

Anderson: Working on the upcoming tree planting preparation. Began county trail cleanup today. Will be tabling at Clayton Spring Fest this Saturday. Anticipates Tri-State Hardwoods to finish their harvest and cleanup soon. Joe from Oswego County SWCD will be walking jobs and assisting with other forestry-related activities next month.

Birth: Written report – Has been assisting with fixing tree tubes and site prep for upcoming tree plantings. Working on culvert and AgNPS designs.

II CORRESPONDENCE

- A. FNBO
- B. NYS DEC
- C. CRF 9 (2)*
- D. Belleville Henderson FFA

- E. NYACD
- F. Guardian
- G. Indian River Lakes Conservancy

**Outgoing*

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Slack Lot – No update.
- B. Driveway – No update.
- C. Internships – We have an unpaid intern working with us now, Monday-Thursday, for 2.5 hours in the morning, through the end of May. We have a college student starting May 18, 2026, for the summer internship; with 2 potential candidates for the temporary Laborer position.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Audit Report: No action required at this time.
- B. Inventory: ***Director Boxberger moved to dispose of Sarah Trick’s old PC and the District’s old copier and remove them from inventory; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote – carried.***
- C. AEM 18 Closeout: ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the final transfer and closeout of the Watertown Savings Bank AEM 18 bank account; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote –***

carried.

- D. Totman Gulf: ***Director Boxberger moved to approve Lyle Moser, logger, to complete the blowdown cleanup as a scale sale at Totman Gulf; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote – carried.***

- E. WPBS Interview: WPBS is working on a short tv series involving climate change and connecting it to the North Country. WPBS reached out to the District to complete a short interview about the water sampling being done. ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the District’s participation in an interview with WPBS with regards to water sampling, to include reviewing/approving the footage before release; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Next meeting: Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 5:30 PM due to Memorial Day.
A brief staff presentation may be provided at 5:15 PM.

Director

Date

Director

Date

