

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Wednesday, May 20, 2026

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

Following the Farm Project presentation by Justin Bach, Director Kiechle called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. **Director Boxberger moved to approve the April meeting minutes; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.**

I REPORTS

Financial:

April financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$30,403.15. **Director Boxberger moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$29,825.98; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote - carried.**

Cooperating Agencies:

SWCC – Ryan Cunningham’s written report was provided to board members. SWCDs are encouraged to review their progress toward achieving their State Aid to Districts (Part C) performance measure goals. Therefore, the *2026 Director Responsibilities – NYS Performance Measures* tracked by the Office Manager were distributed for review for remaining trainings/meetings needed this year.

NYACD – April Directors Report was made available for review.

No reports for: CCE, FSA, JCADC, NRCS

Director Reports:

Boxberger: The solar farm proposed for Watertown and Hounsfield is being resurrected. There will be meetings with both towns within the next couple of months. There is a preliminary proposal for solar and a data center in the Town of Watertown. The Town of Watertown’s supervisor has retired.

Sam Anderson left the room at 5:45 PM.

Kiechle: The Dairy Parade is on June 5, 2026, and the Farm Bureau is having a float.

McBride: Written report – Met with Union presidents for the region’s iron workers and the other labor forces. Micron is ahead of schedule and is expecting to start the construction of the building within the next 6-8 months. Also met with Onondaga County Executive to discuss AI data center funding, commercial sale value, and housing initiative programs.

Sam Anderson returned to the room at 5:49 PM.

Bach: We are a little over halfway done with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) tree plantings. We will begin mowing the 2025 sites soon. Tree plantings for TNC and CRF should be done by the second week of June. The Jefferson County Stormwater Coalition meeting was earlier today, in which the contract of up to \$70,000/year

was signed. We just received the email regarding the mapping grant today; work needs to be completed by the end of this year.

We're still waiting for the AEM 18 closeout funds. AEM 19 projects were submitted and approved by the state committee. Next step is to work on the Tier 3 plans and budgets. CRF 8 tree plantings are underway. Williams Forestry and Associates will be paid once all plantings are complete. Landowners will be paid lump sum when the grant is closed out.

Current focus is on the Tier 3 plans for AEM 19 and aiming to complete 2 CNMPs this summer.

We are combining efforts with Oswego County SWCD for staff training. Joe walked a few sites and potential harvests with Sam on Monday. Joe will continue to assist Sam as needed, while Justin will help Oswego County with ag plans and training a new ag person.

County forest trails/parks will need some signs replaced and updated. Per Director Nabywaniec, with approval, these can be made by the county.

Staff Reports:

Anderson: Working on clearing county trails and cleaning up the park areas. Taking notes of locations that have bigger blowdowns and require additional equipment, or other areas of need. Met with Joe from Oswego County to look at markings. Lyle (logger) is still working on another site, but once he's ready to start on the blowdown cleanup at Totman Gulf, the trail will be closed. Continuing to meet with Williams Forestry and Associates crew throughout the TNC and CRF tree plantings. The crew has been doing a phenomenal job.

Trick: Written report – Continues to water sample. Met with WPBS twice to film/interview the collection efforts. It is expected to air in August. Working on the Stormwater Coalition Municipal Operations Program and new Stormwater Management Plan. Hosted the Sandy Creek 9E Public Outreach meeting on May 12, 2026. Discussed the results of the modeling scenarios and solicited feedback on draft goals for the plan. Attended Stream Crossings Stakeholder meeting and Lewis County Safety Day Training last week. Began preparing the presentation on septic systems for the Indian River Lakes Conservancy's annual Water Quality Conference on June 5, 2026.

Next month will be working on water sampling, attending two conferences, Black River Coalition strategic planning, determining how to move forward with the MS4 mapping grant, meeting with coalition members regarding what they need mapped, and working with permitting and engineering for the two streambank EBM grants.

II CORRESPONDENCE

**Outgoing*

A. EBM Grant*

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Slack Lot – No update.
- B. Driveway – No update.
- C. Internships – The unpaid intern will be done at the end of next week. Our paid summer intern just started this Monday. Justin and Katie met with one person for the summer Laborer position. The job has been offered, acceptance pending.

