

Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, August 24, 2026

Directors present at Hidden Brook Lane, Henderson, NY: Tom Boxberger, Dick Campamy, Mike Kiechle, Jason Bast, and Chuck Eastman. Others: Justin Bach, Executive Director; Katie Spaulding, Office Manager; Sarah Trick, ERS; and Ryan Cunningham, SWCC. Absent: Dan McBride and Jim Nabywaniec.

Chair Bast called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM. ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the July meeting minutes; seconded by Director Campamy. Unanimous vote - carried.***

I REPORTS

Financial:

July financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: \$24,563.15. ***Director Campamy moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of \$48,948.73; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Cooperating Agencies:

SWCC – Ryan: NYACD Annual Conference is scheduled for October 26-27th in Penn Yan, NY. Annual Plan of Work is due by November 1st. Reminder to review Performance Measures to ensure trainings are up to date. Awards for AgNPS 31 were released, and Jefferson County SWCD was awarded 2 contracts. CRF will have another round of funding available in the next couple of months. There is a new Program Manager for EBM; expecting to see new pilot projects released in the coming years. The Managers' Meeting is November 3-4; Director's attendance counts towards Performance Measures. Per request, an overview of NYACD's role and responsibilities was provided.

CCE – Written report: Flyers were made available for review.

No reports for: NYACD, FSA, JCADC, NRCS

Director Reports:

Kiechle: The Farm Bureau met last month in Camden for policy development but was unable to attend due to traveling. The next meeting is September 2nd. Farmland Protection met and there is ongoing discussion regarding property assessments.

Bach: Trees for the Annual Tree Sale have been pre-ordered. Based on multiple factors, we ordered through one nursery this year. The 25% deposit has been sent to secure the trees. We're working with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) for 3-4 potential fall tree plantings. We received the quote from Williams Forestry & Associates for tubes and stakes; planning to have these delivered when they come up for the fall plantings.

The MS4 Mapping Grant Request for Proposal (RFP) has been sent out. Sarah and George shared the RFP Questions & Answers last week. Bids are due by the end of this month, and the Review Committee will select the contractor.

We received the final closeout payment for AEM 18. Working through the top two Tier 3 plans for AEM 19. Working on two CNMPs for Jefferson County and two more for Oswego County in the fall. Completed two Tier 2 plans for the NYS Grown and Certified Program.

Mailed out seed samples for germination tests for CRF 8 Equipment and will complete the fall cover crop payouts once planting is verified. Williams Forestry & Associates has been paid for CRF 8 Tree Planting via Assignment of Payment. Planning to issue landowner payments and close out by the end of this year.

GYMO just finished a manure storage design for AgNPS 30, and George will send out an RFP for bids by the end of the month, along with developing the SWPP.

Attended Jefferson County Ag Development Council meeting. There are concerns with the loss of farmland to new grassland program through Magnolia, a private environmental organization.

Justin and Katie met with Jefferson County Administration last week to discuss the forestry budget and what is anticipated in the upcoming years. There is a greater focus on the trail system and recreational opportunities. They were pleased with the work that has been done over the summer thus far. We plan to meet with them again next year with a proposed 5-Year Capital Plan.

Staff Reports:

Trick: Participated in 2 outreach events with macroinvertebrates last month. Received the contract for the MS4 Mapping Grant and has been working through that. Wrote 2 policies for the Stormwater Coalition. Planning to expand SW CARES to more school districts in 2027.

II CORRESPONDENCE

- A. Town of Watertown Letter of Support*
- B. Farm Bureau
- C. NYS Dept. of Labor

**Outgoing*

- D. JC Treasurer: White Ash Harvest*
- E. AgNPS 31 Letters*

III OLD BUSINESS

- A. Slack Lot – Received notification from Attorney Sabik that the landowner had the survey completed. The landowner has specific requests on how to build the road and fence. Pending further guidance.
- B. Driveway – No update.
- C. Internships – No update.

IV NEW BUSINESS

- A. Public Benefit Agency Funding Request: The Public Benefit Agency funding request with the 2027 draft budget was submitted to Jefferson County on July 30, 2026.
- B. Liability Insurance RFP: ***Director Kiechle moved to approve the release of the Request for Proposals for Liability Insurance; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote – carried.***
- C. SEW White Ash Rate: ***Director Campany moved to approve the contract for the white ash harvest scale sale at Spencer-Edgar Witchley; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, September 28, 2026, at 5:30 PM. A brief staff presentation may be provided at 5:15 PM.

Director

Date

Director

Date