Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Board of Directors Meeting – Monday, October 26, 2026

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

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

I REPORTS

Financial:
September financial reports were reviewed; claims and bank statements were available. Open invoices total: $47,450.00. Profit and Loss Prevention Comparison was reviewed for the third quarter. ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the financial reports and to sign the Itemized Disbursements Report of $211,380.60; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote - carried.***

Cooperating Agencies:
SWCC – Ryan Cunningham's written report was reviewed and provided to board members.

NYACD – September Directors Report was made available for review.

No reports for: CCE, FSA, JCADC, & NRCS

Board of Director Reports:
Campany: Attended the Annual NYS Grange Session in Waterloo last week. Agricultural education is really growing, and FFA memberships have increased. Commissioner Ball spoke and mentioned the great work SWCDs are doing. Attended Land Judging with SWCD staff earlier this month; it was a great event.

Nabywaniec: Attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at Tug Hill Estate. NYS Assembly Member, Scott Gray, spoke of the challenges with energy supply and demand.

Bast: Also attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting at Tug Hill Estate; it was reaffirming policies already in place.

Kiechle: Missed the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting due to traveling.

McBride: New York State's ban on fossil fuel appliances is set to take effect October 28, 2026.

Staff Reports:
Spaulding: The annual newsletter has been finalized; Coughlin is working on printing them now. There will be 250 newsletters distributed by mail, and 300 have already been shared via e-mail.

Bach: Active Grant Updates were reviewed for the third quarter. Land Judging was in Lewis County this year; 4 schools participated with 75 students. Completed 20 acres this fall for tree planting through The Nature Conservancy. While Williams Forestry & Associates were here, they delivered the 2,000 tubes and stakes that will be used for school plantings and Planting With Purpose. Sam has started working on Spring 2027 Planting

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Plans. There's a 5-acre tree planting through CRF 9 planned for the spring. C&S is working with municipalities for the MS4 Mapping; Sarah has reported that everything is going well.

Working through Tier 3 plans for the AEM 19 projects. Completed 180 out of 235 soil samples. Working on 2 CNMPs and 1 NMP. CRF 8 cover crops deadline has passed; just waiting for more growth to verify. CRF 8 Tree Planting closeout paperwork has been submitted. Farms have been paid, minus the 10% holdback.

Waiting on NRCS to review the GYMO design for a manure storage project through AgNPS 30. The project will be bid out and anticipating construction in the spring. Waiting for approval from the PE for a bedded pack barn design. That construction is anticipated for 2027 or 2028. We were awarded two projects under AgNPS 31, one of which the design has been sent to GYMO for review, and funding will likely be paired with NRCS.

II CORRESPONDENCE

**Outgoing*

A. JC Treasurer: White Ash Harvest*
B. Jefferson Co. Letter of Support*
C. NACD Newsletter/Contribution

III OLD BUSINESS

A. Slack Lot – No update.
B. Driveway – George is working through the permit paperwork through the online portal.

IV NEW BUSINESS

A. Guardian Renewal: With a 5.5% increase in dental insurance, ***Director Kiechle moved to renew the Guardian employee benefits package; seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote – carried.***

B. GYMO Agreement: ***Director Boxberger moved to renew the agreement with GYMO for engineering services; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote – carried.***

C. TNC Agreement: ***Director Nabywaniec moved to renew the agreement with The Nature Conservancy; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote – carried.***

D. Part B Project 2026: Due to the Vance Shores project being postponed, ***Director Nabywaniec moved to approve amending the 2026 Part B project to contribute toward the trail maintenance on Jefferson County Reforestation Lands; seconded by Director McBride. Unanimous vote – carried.***

E. CRF 9: ***Director Kiechle moved to approve opening an interest-bearing account and the transfer of funds to make payment as needed for the following project: $39,200 for tree planting for farm #045-5113; seconded by Director Campany. Unanimous vote – carried.***

F. EBM: ***Director Campany moved to approve opening interest-bearing accounts and the transfer of funds to make payment as needed for the following Ecosystem Based Management Stream Corridor Management Pilot Programs: $300,000 for producers #045-2004 and #045-1070; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote – carried.***

G. AgNPS 31: ***Director Kiechle moved to approve opening interest-bearing accounts and the transfer of funds to make payment as needed for the following Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Programs: $278,920 for producer #045-1035 and $253,920 for producer #045-6014; seconded by Director Boxberger. Unanimous vote – carried.***

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H. CRF 10: ***Director Nabywaniec moved to approve the application for Climate Resilient Farming Round 10: Track 3 Soil Health, and to adopt Resolution 2026-17 for the following AEM producers: 045-5090, 045-4059, and 045-5124; seconded by Director Kiechle. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Based on the District's capacity to manage and monitor such a project***, Director Kiechle moved to approve the application for Climate Resilient Farming Round 10: Track 4 Tree Planting, up to a maximum of 50 acres, and to adopt Resolution 2026-18 for the following AEM producers: 045-2080 and 045-5090; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Sam Anderson left the meeting at 6:16 PM and returned at 6:18 PM.

I. BOD Appointments: Vice-Chair, Charles Eastman's term will be expiring as of December 31, 2026. Director Eastman has communicated that he will not be seeking reappointment but will remain on the Board of Directors until his seat can be filled. Therefore, Director Eastman will renew his appointment for the new year, and once there's a suitable replacement, Director Eastman will resign and the replacement will fulfill the term from that point forward. ***Director Boxberger moved to approve the reappointment of Director Eastman until a suitable replacement has been appointed and approved; seconded by Director Nabywaniec. Unanimous vote – carried.***

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, November 23, 2026, at 5:30 PM. A brief staff presentation may be provided at 5:15 PM.

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Director Date Director Date

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