



# ONTARIO COUNTY

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
www.ontswcd.com

480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, New York 14424  
Telephone (585) 396-1450 Fax (585) 396-1305

## Agenda

Wednesday, December 21, 2022 @ 4:30pm  
**DISTRICT BOARD MEETING**

(The District Board meeting will also be open to partner agencies and the public via web meeting/call-in. The instructions are posted on our website [www.ontswcd.com](http://www.ontswcd.com) and at the office)

Further meeting information is available on the website.

**CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING (open to the public)**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: (Jim)**

**MEETING MINUTES: November 16, 2022**

**BILLS FOR APPROVAL (to include add on bills)**

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (Limit to 3 minutes per person)**

**USDA REPORTS: Joann Rogers, FSA; Dan Weykman, NRCS**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

Grant and Project Updates  
Training Opportunities  
Upcoming Events

**ADJOURNMENT**

\*\*\*\*\* Next Meeting Wednesday, January 18, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. \*\*\*\*\*

**PUBLIC IS WELCOME!**



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OCSWCD Board Meeting  
Wed, Dec 21, 2022 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM (EST)

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**ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**November 16, 2022**  
**Minutes**

**\*\*\*Meeting held in-person at the Cornell Cooperative Extension (District Office) and remote via Go to Meeting\*\*\***

**PRESENT:**

**DIRECTORS:** Vice Chairman Ken Livermore (in-person), Jim Malyj (in-person), Rich Russell (in-person), Mark Venuti (in-person), Ed Jackson (in-person), Amanda Amadon (in-person - arrived 4:47pm)

**STAFF:** Megan Webster (in-person), Diana Thorn (in-person)

**USDA**

**FSA:** Joann Rogers (in-person)

**NRCS:** JoBeth Bellanca (remote)

**ABSENT:** Chairman Casella

**CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING**

Vice Chairman Livermore called the regular meeting to order at 4:30pm and Ed led the pledge to the flag.

**MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Livermore asked for any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes. The following motion was offered:

**Motion that the minutes of October 26, 2022 be accepted as submitted.**

**Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Ed Jackson.**

**All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)**

*Resolution #22021116-01*

**BILLS**

**Motion to approve a budget amendment to move \$2,000 from the WRC/Small Grants line to the Tree Program line.**

**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Mark Venuti.**

**All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)**

*Resolution #22021116-02*

**Motion to approve the bills as submitted and Abstract #11 in the amount of \$86,403.22.**

**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Mark Venuti.**

**Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.**

Ed Jackson asked about the American Water Works invoice – Diana explained that this will be reimbursed by the Watershed Inspection program.

**All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)**

*Resolution #22021116-03*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Diana reviewed her Treasurer's Report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for October 31, 2022. Megan has reviewed and signed payroll #22; the October bank statements; and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through October 31<sup>st</sup>. A spreadsheet was provided that shows the bills that appear in the Abstract listed with more detail and in their current status.

**Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and October financial statements.**

**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Malyj.**

**All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)**

*Resolution #22021116-04*

## PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ed Jackson via email:

1. Ed confirmed with Megan that she will be attending the Water Resources Council meeting on Friday.
2. Ed stated that he enjoyed the last two submissions in Key Events. "Good information and good pictures."

Mark Venuti

1. Mark shared that a Geneva Town Board member gave a shout out to Tucker Kautz regarding the recently installed Conservation Kick project. The basin held up after a rainfall of 2.5 inches.

## USDA/FSA

*Report presented by Joann Rogers*

**Crop and Revenue Loss Assistance for Agricultural Producers:** just announced are plans for additional emergency relief and pandemic assistance for producers to help offset crop and revenue losses for 2020 and 2021. Specific details are being worked on for program enrollment.

**2023 crop year (NAP):** The Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program is available for most crops that are not available through conventional crop insurance. The deadline for some types of fruit trees and perennials is 11/20/2022; for specifics contact the office.

**Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):** we have continuous CRP ongoing for water resource concerns, such as filter strips, grass waterways, fencing animals out of water ways and other pasture related projects.

**2023 ARC & PLC (Agriculture Risk Coverage & Price Loss Coverage) enrollment is open until 03/15/2023:** ARC is an income support program that provides payment when crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level & PLC provides income support payments when the effective price for a covered commodity falls below its effective reference price.

**2023 DMC (Dairy Margin Coverage)** sign up runs to 12/09/2022; DMC offers protection to dairy producers when the difference between the all-milk price and the average feed price (the margin) falls below a certain dollar amount selected by the producer.

**County Committee (COC)/ELECTION:** The next COC meeting is on Thursday, December 8, 2022; if interested in attending the COC meeting please contact the office at 585-394-0525 ext. 2. Local Administrative Area (LAA) 2

consisting of Victor-Farmington, Manchester and Phelps is up for elections this year. We encourage all eligible voters to return their ballots.

**Farm Program Loans:**

- **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL):** interest rates range from 3.875% to 4.250% for terms from 3 years to 12 years; the FSFL has a variety of loan options from bulk tanks, hay barns, grain bins/dryers, telehandlers and storage coolers just to name a few
- **Market Assistance Loans (MAL's)** are short-term commodity loans with interest rate of 5.250% for grain stored in bins.

**Farm Loan:** has a variety of loans available, and funding is still available. Peter Stoep, Farm Loan Officer; Abbey Combs, Farm Loan Officer; and Kim Weykman, Program Technician.

**Farm Record updates:** change in shares of members, change in members of entities, land changes, such as purchases, new leased ground or ground no longer being leased and any banking changes.

**Reminder to complete the AD-1026 form PRIOR to any clearing or tiling projects.**

Please feel free to refer any inquiries on any FSA programs or what programs we have to offer by contacting our office. In addition to myself there are Program Technicians: Courtney Kautz, Alexis McDougal and Sarah Potter. The USDA Canandaigua Service Center building is open to visitors but we encourage appointments to be prepared for your visit, as your time is valuable. Please call FSA at 585-394-0525 ext. 2 to make arrangements for any FSA programs.

**USDA/NRCS**

*Report submitted via email from Dan Weykman – JoBeth Bellanca presented*

**Attached: 2022 NRCS NY accomplishments for all programs and for Historically Underserved participants**

➤ **EQIP**

- Existing Contracts:
  - Pd approx. \$7,300 in CARP payments: additional funds to compensate for price increases due to pandemic. High tunnel contracts.
  - ~\$7700 for cover crops & wildlife mowing
- 2023—Officially 27 applications: Forestry, High Tunnel, Cropland (zone till & cover crops), Pollinators, Farmstead
  - High tunnels—Fast tracking with 'Act Now' program method

➤ **AMA**

- No current contracts or applications.
- Investigating 'Urban' contacts or other outreach avenues (community gardens, etc.)

➤ **CSP**

- Existing: 2022 payments: \$79836 made. ~\$45k to go out Jan 1, 2023.
- 2023: 1 application so far, deadline announced; January 27, 2023.

➤ **Food Security Act Determinations**

- Ongoing. On-site wetland visits suspended for 2022, scheduled for spring. Over 100 determinations completed in FY22 (HEL & WC). Backlog continues on WC.

**\*\*Reminder—AD-1026 to be completed for cropland boundary change activity with for NRCS assessment..**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was distributed electronically.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

*Megan Webster, District Manager Report*

**District Board reappointments**

Ken, Jim, Amanda, Ed, and Sam are up for reappointment.

**Motion to approve the submission of Ken Livermore, Jim Malyj, Amanda Amadon, Ed Jackson, and Sam Casella for reappointment to the District Board.**

**Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Rich Russell.**

**All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)**

*Resolution #22021116-05*

*Amanda Amadon arrived at 4:47pm*

**Employee Handbook Review**

Megan distributed the marked up copy created by the Policy Committee, Megan, and Diana for the Board to review. There was no discussion.

**Motion to approve the updates to the Employee Handbook as submitted.**

**Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Amanda Amadon.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #22021116-06*

Thank you to the Policy Committee and Diana for their work on this.

**Vehicle**

The 2018 Ford Escape was supposed to be photographed on the 17<sup>th</sup> but that appointment was canceled due to forecasted weather issues. Megan will be photographing the Escape and sending the photos to Auctions International so that the Escape can be published on the auction site as soon as possible. The intent is to have the auction and sell the vehicle before the end of the year.

**NYS DEC General Permit**

The District's General Permit renewal application has been received and NYS DEC issued a notice of complete application on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The District published the legal notice supplied by NYS DEC in the Daily Messenger on November 3<sup>rd</sup> as required. Proof of publication has been submitted. We are now awaiting further comments or questions from NYS DEC. The public comment period closes November 17, 2022.

## **Grants & Projects Updates**

### **CAFO Landmark**

Megan reported that the waste storage facility is complete and final stabilization and signage are being completed. Megan spoke with the project engineer and as-builts have been obtained. The project engineer has been in contact with the NRCS engineer and NRCS engineering will review and approve the project soon. Once NRCS payment is complete, the District can do the final paperwork and payout on the project. No major delays are expected and this grant should be set to close within the existing timeframe.

### **AgNPS Round 24**

Megan reported that SWCC approved the request for an extension on this project and we now have through 12/31/2023. The remaining work at F & W Farms is scheduled for 2023.

### **AgNPS Round 28**

The District received funding for two projects, J Minns and Tamberlane. The Plans of Work have been submitted to Ag & Markets and we are waiting on contracts.

### **CRF Round 6**

The District received funding for a Cover and Flare system at El-Vi Farms. The Plan of Work has been submitted and we are waiting on a Letter of Commitment from the project engineer.

### **NY Grown and Certified Round 3**

The District submitted three applications. Unfortunately, one application, the grazing management project at Clearview Farm, has been ruled ineligible for this funding due to missing requirements in the farm's Grown and Certified Certification application. The farm is aware and we will continue to work with them to find another source of funding for this valuable project.

### **GLRI HWA/2022 Part B Project**

Megan reported that treatment in Grimes Glen will begin Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The pesticide applicator will coordinate with land owners for access to the treatment area. We need to use the 2022 Part B funds for this project this year. We also have funds from CLWA that need to be used this year. We are still waiting to hear when the Village of Naples EBP funds will be available and we have FLOWPA funds if needed (if not needed we can amend the FLOWPA contract to use the funds on another project). The contractor will be doing ground level applications this fall and will wait for the spring weather to do the applications that require repelling.

### **FLOWPA**

Megan reported that she and Tucker met with representatives from the Town of Richmond regarding a serious erosion concern along East Lake Rd. Part of this area is on land owned by the Nature Conservancy and part is in the Town's right of way. The Town has done work in this area before. The Town is willing to partner on labor and equipment. If 2022 FLOWPA funds are not needed for HWA treatment, we could amend the 2022 FLOWPA contract and use the funds for this stabilization project.

Tucker met with Hemdale Farms regarding the project on Whitney Road. It is still scheduled for this fall.

### **FLX EBM**

Tucker met with Hemdale Farms regarding the project on County Rd 4. They are making some adjustments to the project and will begin construction in 2023.

### **Conservation Kick**

The DeFelice project has been completed. Staff did the straw mulching. Tucker will provide the as-builts to the Town of Geneva.

### **Village of Naples EBP (Environmental Benefits Project)**

We are still waiting to hear from the NYS DEC central office regarding these funds.

### **Honeoye Lake Alum Treatment**

NYS DEC funded a Nutrient Inactivation Pilot Alum Application in Honeoye Lake. The application is nearly complete (there was a weather delay). Application is expected to be completed the week of November 18<sup>th</sup>. NYS DEC will be monitoring the results of this treatment.

### **Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association**

Megan and Tucker met with the CLWA Board to discuss agricultural practices and District operations in the Canandaigua Lake watershed. A lengthy and productive discussion was had with a follow-up discussion planned for December 15<sup>th</sup>. Tom Eskildsen from Yates County SWCD will attend the follow-up discussion on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

### **Upcoming Events**

Defensive Driving Course – December 1<sup>st</sup> here at the District. This course is being sponsored by NYSCDEA Division 2.

Managers Meeting – DoubleTree Hotel in East Syracuse, December 13-14. NYSCDEA and SWCC are supporting 2 attendees from each district. The District Manager and a Board member are the preferred attendees.

### **Proposed changes to NYS Soil & Water Conservation District Law by the Watershed Health Coalition**

Discussion was had regarding the Watershed Health Coalition's proposed changes to the NYS Conservation District Law.

Mark Venuti shared additional documentation provided to him through SWIO regarding the Watershed Health Coalition's proposal. He stated that it may be helpful to review the proposal and provide specific objections for further discussion.

Megan expressed concern that there hasn't been cooperation and collaboration in the development of their proposal. She also shared that in a conversation with a representative of SWCC it was stated that much of what they appear to be asking for can be done through existing programs. The group agreed that changes to District Law are not necessary.

An article written for Country Folk by Troy Bishop from Madison County was given to Megan by Chairman Casella and she shared it with the group. Megan also shared that CCE is submitting a letter stating that the leader of the Coalition does not speak for them.

The group agreed that the voice of SWCDs needs to be heard and that the Coalition needs to better understand what many Districts are already doing.



**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:46 pm.**

**Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Ed Jackson.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #22021116-07*

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**Diana Thorn, Secretary/Treasurer to the Board**