

ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
September 18, 2024
Minutes

Meeting held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension (District Office)

PRESENT

DIRECTORS: Chairman Sam Casella, Vice Chairman Jim Malyj, Ken Livermore, Ed Jackson, Mark Venuti, Dale Stell, Amanda Amadon

ABSENT:

STAFF: Megan Webster, Diana Thorn, Katie Lafler

USDA

FSA: Joann Rogers

NRCS: None

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Casella called the regular meeting to order at 4:30pm and Jim led the pledge to the flag.

MINUTES

Chairman Casella asked for any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes from August 21, 2024. The following motion was offered:

Motion that the minutes of August 21, 2024 be accepted as submitted.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-01

BILLS

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 bills as submitted and Abstract #9 in the amount of \$85,258.40.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Jim Malyj.

Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-02

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diana reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for August 31, 2024. Megan has reviewed and signed payrolls #17 and #18; the August bank

statements; and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through August 31st.

Diana shared that the District Savings Certificate of Deposit #2 matured and was rolled over for 90 days with \$105,862.58.

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

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-03

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ed Jackson

1. Ed asked if the truck sold on Auctions International. Megan shared that it sold for \$22,200.00. We have the paid invoice from Auctions International and we are waiting on the payment.
2. Ed stated that he liked the report in the most recent Key Events.
3. Ed shared that he saw another district was having trouble getting fish for the fish sale. Megan stated that our supplier has stopped offering that service and we have cancelled our fish sale.

FSA

Joann Rogers

County Committee (COC): The next COC meeting is on Tuesday, 09/24/2024 at 9AM

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): Continuous CRP: is a voluntary program that contracts with agricultural producers so that environmentally sensitive agricultural land is devoted to conservation benefits; inquires can be directed to Courtney Kautz or Joann Rogers; [Conservation Reserve Program \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/conservation-reserve-program); Fact sheet: [Conservation Reserve Program: CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT PERIOD \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/conservation-reserve-program/continuous-enrollment-period)

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP): provides financial assistance to producers of non-insurable crops to protect against natural disasters that result in lower yields or crop losses, or prevents crop planting; deadline for 2025 grasses mixed forage (hay), fall small grains-rye and value loss type crops (Christmas trees & floriculture is **09/30/2024;**
[noninsured crop disaster assistance program-nap-fact sheet.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/noninsured-crop-disaster-assistance-program-nap-fact-sheet)

Disaster Programs: FSA offers a variety of disaster programs that assist with honeybee losses, livestock losses, milk losses, tree and vine losses, and feed losses. With the recent storms Ontario County has a disaster declaration for the tornado. We request producers contact the office if they have any weather related losses to report.

Farm Program Loan:

Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL): interest rates range from 3.875% to 4.125% for terms from 3 years to 12 years; the FSFL program has a variety of loan options from bulk tanks, hay barns, grain bins/dryers, telehandlers and storage coolers just to name a few; [farm storage facility loan programs fact sheet july 2022.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/farm-storage-facility-loan-programs-fact-sheet-july-2022)

Farm Loan: has a variety of loans available and funding is still available. Farm Loan staff: Abbey Combs, Farm Loan Officer; and Kim Weykman (Kimberly.weykman@usda.gov), and Denise Buisch (denise.buisch@usda.gov) assists with new farm loan inquiries; Abbey and Kim can be reached at 585-394-0525 ext. 2 and Denise can be reached at 315-946-9912 ext. 112.

Farm Record: if new producers are interested in getting their farm records established please have them contact the office to make an appointment to get these established; here is a factsheet for your reference: [farmersgov-getstarted-factsheet-06-15-2021.pdf](#)

Crop Reporting: the office is preparing for fall crop reporting of wheat, rye, triticale with a reporting deadline date of 11/15/2024.

Fact sheet: [FSA: Crop Acreage Reporting \(usda.gov\)](#)

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 at 585-394-0525 ext. 2.

In addition to myself there are Program Analysts: Courtney Kautz, and Sarah Potter. We are hiring a County Program Analyst; application deadline is 09/18/2024: [USAJOBS - Job Announcement](#)

We encourage participation from all types and sizes of farm operations, whether you are an Urban or Rural producer/farmer.

NRCS

Dan Weykman

No report.

STAFF REPORT

Katie Lafler

Awarded Applications-

WQIP:

Round 18:

- Roadside Stabilization in the Genesee River Watershed – Award amount of \$610,000
 - o Town of Canadice has completed all work
 - o Town of Bristol
 - Egypt Road is ongoing, hoping to be complete this fall
 - Ganyard road is complete

Round 19:

- Aquatic Connectivity on Naples Creek
 - o Working with Trout Unlimited for \$10k in match through Embrace a Stream grant
 - o Gian from Fish and Wildlife is helping with design
 - Project is due to start in the next couple of weeks
- Culvert Repair for CR 6 culvert with DPW
 - o DPW providing design, culvert is located in the Town of Geneva on Wilson Creek.
 - Work is nearing completion
- Roadside Stabilization Application with DPW
 - o Improvements to roadside drainage on CR 33 into Grimes Glen
 - Project is complete and came in under budget
 - Remaining funds have been reallocated to another project on Co Rd 11 following damage from Hurricane Debbie
 - o Additional funds for hydroseeding county wide

HWA Fiscal Year 21:

- All work for this grant has been completed. Final close out and project signage remains.

Regenerate NY:

- Baker Family Property
 - o Work to remove invasive species has begun
- Weiss
 - o Work to remove invasive species has begun

Part B:

- Vernal Pool Installation at the Canandaigua Vista owned by the Finger Lakes Land Trust

Applications in Progress-

WQIP:

Round 20

- Naples Creek Planning Grant
 - o Funds to explore design of streambank stabilization in the area
 - o This project was submitted as part of SOGL as well, although not funded we were encouraged to apply again
- Ontario County Roadside Stabilization Program
 - o Continuation of previous work with funds for hydroseeding
 - o Stabilization of roadside erosion on Lincoln Hill (Co Rd 18)
- Central Finger Lakes Road Salt Reduction Project
 - o Nearly every town in the county is participating, including some in Yates county
 - o Purchase of salt reduction technology such as live edge plow blades for highway departments

CRF Round 8:

- Track 4 Forestry Project with landowner in the Town of Geneva.

Regenerate NY:

- Working with 1 new landowner at this time for a Regenerate NY grant for invasive species treatment and tree planting in the Honeoye Lake Watershed
- Resubmitting additional work with previous 2 landowners (Bakers and Weiss)

HWA Fiscal Year 24:

- Application submitted for treatment of an additional 125 acres within Ontario and Yates Counties.

Additional Opportunities:

- Water Retention projects with the Finger Lakes Land Trust on several properties in the Canandaigua Lake watershed.

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Permitting

- Increase in the number of permitting requests from private landowners. No one seems to object to our fee schedule
- Communication with DEC being the biggest area of concern for submitting applications
 - o The District maintains open lines of communication with DEC and Army Corp

Drone:

- Several municipalities have utilized our drone surveys for stream surveys and stormwater infrastructure inspections
- We have used it extensively for before and after pictures of construction projects
- Neighboring Districts have expressed interest in our Drone and we have done demonstrations for them
- Working with Sky Ops to expand better understand survey potential utilizing a drone

AEM:

- Assisting with AEM program through grant applications and technical assistance
- Several projects currently being installed with more on the schedule for the remainder of the year
- Soil testing program both Spring and Fall
- Several workshops scheduled for summer/winter

On-Going Work:

- Working with Jenny on Ag Values
- Reviewing site plans for the county planning board as needed
- Providing technical assistance to municipalities regarding stream stabilization projects and stormwater concerns
- Continue work with Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force, providing meeting minutes for quarterly meetings
- Assisting with planning and coordination of Water Quality Symposium Forestry Track

Megan thanked Katie for doing a great job and she shared with the Board that writing the Road Salt Reduction grant required new learning and extensive coordination with the municipalities and Katie willingly did what needed to be done and did it well.

On behalf of the Board, Chairman Casella thanked Katie for her hard work.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was going around the room.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Megan Webster, District Manager Report

Board Appointments

Megan shared that the terms are ending for several Directors.

Motion to approve recommending the following appointments to the Ontario County Board of Supervisors:

Sam Casella, Practical Farmer

Amanda Amadon, Practical Farmer

Ken Livermore, NYS Grange

Jim Malyj, NYS Farm Bureau

Ed Jackson, Member at Large

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-04

2025 Annual Plan of Work

Megan presented the APOW.

Motion to approve the 2025 Annual Plan of Work as submitted.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-05

2025 Part B Project

Megan shared that she has drafted the 2025 Part B project. It is titled Managing Water Resources and it will be focused on supporting education and outreach regarding wells, septic systems and erosion and sediment control through our Water Workshop and various outreach materials. Some of our handouts are very old and she would like to update and reprint them as part of this project.

Motion to approve the 2025 Part B project Managing Water Resources.

Motion made by Amanda Amadon, seconded by Dale Stell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-06

University of Rochester Hydrology and Water Resources Class

Megan is working with the University of Rochester's Greene Center for Career Education and Connections Hydrology and Water Resources class. The UR offers a Bond Scholars Summer Internship Program that pays a \$3,000.00 stipend to an undergraduate student for an approved internship. Megan would like to use an intern in this program to do some of the work in the above described 2025 Part B project.

Agreements for Service

Megan shared that we have four agreements expiring this year. We will be offering the opportunity to renew to the Town of Victor for stormwater inspection assistance, Seneca County SWCD for education services, Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition for administrative and outreach support, and the Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force for administrative and outreach support.

Megan reminded the Board that our current lease for the space in the CCE building expires this year as well. The Planning and Facilities Committee may need to meet with CCE to discuss the renewal.

Grant and Project Updates

Base AEM

Megan shared that the Wesche project is complete.

Motion to approve payment to Wesche for the AEM Implementation project not to exceed the contracted amount of \$43,250.00.

Motion made by Dale Stell, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-07

Megan shared that the project at Grimble Hill Farm is complete.

Motion to approve payment to Grimble Hill Farm for the AEM Implementation project not to exceed the contracted amount of \$5,250.00

Motion made by Dale Stell, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-08

Ag NPS 27

The work at Brahms is done. Yates County holds this grant and will handle the assignment of payment.

Ag NPS 28

Megan reported that the waste storage including the concrete and fencing are done at J Minns. The riparian buffer and the waste transfer system still need to be installed. The farm has requested reimbursement for the storage portion and they plan to do the waste transfer system in the spring. Megan has contacted NYS Ag and Markets representatives for information on how to proceed with an amendment to the contract.

Motion to approve amending the Ag NPS Round 28 contract with J Minns Farms to separate the waste storage component and the waste transfer component into two different systems.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Dale Stell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-09

CRF Round 7

We continue to wait for the contracts for this round.

CRF Round 8

Megan stated that next week is Climate Week and we hope to hear about our Round 8 applications during that week.

CAFO ENMP

Megan shared that staff are working with multiple farms to submit single farm applications for enhanced nutrient management projects. The applications are due October 28th.

2024 Part B

Megan reported that the 2024 Part B project Vernal Pools at the Canandaigua Vista location owned by the Finger Lakes Land Trust has been completed. FLLT will reimburse the District \$1,700.00 for work done on the project.

Motion to approve payment to T Woolley Enterprises for the vernal pool construction at the Canandaigua Vista property.

Motion made by Jim Malyj, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-10

NFWF SOGL

We continue to wait on the contract and we are still working through the federal requirements for NEPA.

NYSDEC Watershed Grant

Work has started on the Castle Creek water management project.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

Megan shared that Katie has submitted an application for additional funding for HWA treatment in the Canandaigua Lake and Honeoye Lake watersheds.

Water Resources Council (Ontario County)

Megan shared that we were awarded funds for two of the three projects we submitted: Wilson Creek Erosion Control focusing on drainage stabilization on J Minns Farm, and Flint Creek Erosion Control focusing on a project on West Swamp Road in the Town of Gorham. We have also applied for Seneca Pure Waters SNRP funds for the Wilson Creek project. We hope to implement both projects this year.

The WRC also announced a round of mini-grants (\$3,000 each). Applications are due December 1st. We will likely submit several applications.

FLLOWPA

District staff has identified a new contractor for the project on Armstrong Rd. We still hope to implement the project this year.

Signage

Megan reported that WQIP Rounds 18 and 19 and the GLRI HWA grant all require signage at the completed project sites.

Motion to approve payment to Ewing Graphics for signage per the grant contracts.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-11

WQIP 18

Megan reported that the Town of Bristol continues to work on a large steep slope project on Egypt Rd. The Town of Canadice has completed all work on this round. The Town of Bristol has completed the Ganyard Hill Rd project.

Motion to approve payment to the Town of Canadice for Fleximat materials and work totaling \$29,502.32.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-12

Motion to approve payment to the Town of Bristol for Fleximat materials and work totaling \$34,160.49.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-13

WQIP 19

Megan reported that we are working on the contracts for this round.

Approvals

2025 Tree & Shrub Sale

Megan reported that our main supplier has notified us of price increases for 2025. At this time, we would like the Board to consider raising our prices to ensure that we cover our costs and time for the sale.

Motion to approve tree and shrub sale pricing as follows:

10 trees for \$20

25 trees for \$45

100 trees for \$150.

All tree packs \$30.

Motion made by Dale Stell, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-14

NYACD Raffle Item

Motion to approve the purchase of a raffle item to donate to NYACD.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-15

NYSFOLA

Motion to approve costs related to Megan attending the October 26th NYSFOLA meeting at The Woods.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-16

Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition

Motion to approve any related costs to hosting an upcoming meeting of the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918-17

Upcoming events

9/24/24-9/26/24- Conservation Field Days

Week of 9/23/24 Conservation Skills Workshop (Megan, Katie, Jenny and Tucker will attend)

9/27/24-9/28/24- Fun on the Farm at Hemdale Farms

10/3/2024- Ontario County Board of Supervisors Tour

10/22/24 – OWSC Stormwater Training

11/21/24 – Water Workshop (formerly the Realtor Workshop)

11/26/24 – NYSDEC 4 Hour Course

Megan and Diana shared with the Board that Diana will be working with the Accountant to deal with a long outstanding uncashed check in the amount of \$35.00.

Jim shared with the group that a local person involved in politics recently posted a picture of a HAB on Seneca Lake with negative comments about farms/farmers and agency responses.

Next meeting: October 16, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:58pm.

Motion made by Dale Stell, seconded by Ed Jackson.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240918- 18

Diana Thorn Secretary-Treasurer