



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, November 16, 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 information is posted on our website 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: (Ed)

MEETING MINUTES: October 26, 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

District Board Reappointments
Employee Handbook Updates
Grant and Project Updates
Training Opportunities
Upcoming Events

ADJOURNMENT

***** Next Meeting Wednesday, December 21, 2022 at 4:30 p.m. *****

PUBLIC IS WELCOME!



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OCSWCD- November Board Meeting
Wed, Nov 16, 2022 4:30 AM - 6:30 AM (EST)

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

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ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
October 26, 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), Amanda Amadon (in-person), Rich Russell (in-person), Mark Venuti (in-person), Chairman Casella (in-person 5:07PM)

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

USDA

FSA: Joann Rogers (in-person)

NRCS: None

ABSENT: Ed Jackson

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Vice Chairman Livermore called the regular meeting to order at 4:36pm and Mark 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 September 21, 2022 be accepted as submitted.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved. (Chairman Casella not present yet)

Resolution #20221026-01

BILLS

Motion to approve the bills as submitted and Abstract #10 in the amount of \$50,220.32.

Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Mark Venuti.

Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.

All in favor, motion approved. (Chairman Casella not present yet)

Resolution #20221026-02

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diana reviewed her Treasurer's Report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for September 30, 2022. Megan has reviewed and signed payrolls #19, #20, and #21; the September bank statements; and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through September 30th. A spreadsheet was provided that shows the bills that appear in the Abstract listed with more detail and in their current status.

Diana reported that the District Savings Certificate of Deposit matured and was rolled over per your Resolution #20200617-03. It matured with \$101,442.80.

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

Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved. (Chairman Casella not present yet)

Resolution #20221026-03

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ed Jackson via email:

1. Ed said kudos on the Key Events article.
2. Ed asked about a recent mention of Edith Davey – Megan explained that Edith setup and took down a display at a Town of Canandaigua event on behalf of the District.
3. Ed asked if we had suspended the cell phones for the two employees currently on leave. Megan looked into this and has suspended those two accounts.

USDA/FSA

Report presented by Joann Rogers

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 10/20/2022; for specifics contact the office.

Tree Assistance Program (TAP): provides financial assistance to eligible orchardists and nursery tree growers to replant or rehabilitate eligible trees, bushes and vines lost by natural disaster. (fire blight/frost-freeze)

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 3.125% to 3.625% 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 4.625% for grain stored in bins.

Farm Loan: has a variety of loans available, and funding is still available. For specifics on any of the farm loan programs please contact the Farm Loan team at 585-394-0525 ext. 2. 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.

Joann also shared that Fall Small Grains reporting is due by November 15th.

USDA/NRCS

Report submitted via email from Dan Weykman

➤ **EQIP**

- Existing Contracts:
 - Pd approx. \$14,300 in High Tunnel & Brush Management
- 2023—taking applications, deadline announced: Nov 4, 2022. Approx. 20+ applications so far—cover crop, high tunnels, pollinators, grazing, manure storage, cropland erosion

➤ **AMA**

- Accepting applications for 2023 for Urban Conservation Initiative (High Tunnels, grazing, pollinators, etc.). Deadline also Nov 4, 2022.

➤ **CSP**

- Existing: 2022 payments going out shortly, 7 total contracts, some elected to receive in 2023.
- 2023: 1 or 2 interested applicants so far. No deadline announced yet

➤ **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

APOW

Megan shared the Annual Plan of Work draft with the Board electronically. There were no questions or concerns.

Motion to approve the 2023 Annual Plan of Work.

Motion made by Amanda Amadon, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved. (Chairman Casella not present yet)

Resolution #20221026-04

2023 Part B Project – Castle Creek Stream Stabilization

The District will be partnering with the City of Geneva and the Ontario County DPW to do a streambank stabilization project on Castle Creek for the 2023 Part B Conservation Project. The Part B Funding will be combined with funds from Seneca Pure Waters and FLOWPA to complete this project

Employee Handbook Review

The Policy Committee, Megan, and Diana have been reviewing the Employee Handbook for readability and consistency. Megan will distribute the marked up copy for the Board to review and discuss at a future meeting.

Vehicle

The new Toyota Rav4 Hybrid is scheduled to be delivered Thursday, October 27th. Once the new vehicle is insured and registered, Megan will pursue selling the 2018 Ford Escape through Auctions International per your Resolution #20220316-06.

NYS DEC General Permit

The District's General Permit renewal was submitted in June. The Regional Permit Administrator recently notified Megan that DEC will issue the Notice of Complete Application to begin the public comment period next week. The General Permit renewal application will also be sent to the Ontario County Board of Supervisors for review/comment.

Grants & Projects Updates

CAFO Landmark

Megan reported that the concrete work has been completed and Amanda shared that the fencing work should be starting later this week or early next week. This project continues to move forward and should be completed by the December deadline.

AgNPS Round 24

Megan reported that the remaining project in this grant is the erosion and sediment control project at F & W Farms. Unfortunately, it is too late in the season to begin the work and have the area stabilized before winter. The District would like to request an extension.

Motion to approve the request for an extension for the AgNPS Round 24 grant project at F & W Farms.

Motion made by Amanda Amadon, seconded by Rich Russell.

All in favor, motion approved. (Chairman Casella not present yet)

Resolution #20221026-05

AgNPS Round 25

Will-O-Crest has completed construction of a waste storage system. They have submitted the PE certified as-built drawings. The farm now needs to submit the paperwork for reimbursement. Once that is received, it will be presented to the Board for approval and payout. The waste transfer system project is still pending as the farm decides how they would like to proceed.

AgNPS Round 28

Funding was awarded for the Waste Storage Project at J. Minns Farms and for the Canandaigua Lake Nearshore Barnyard Runoff Management Project with Tamberlane Farm. District staff will begin drafting the Plan of Work for each project soon. The projects at B&M Cattle and Hilton Farm were not funded. District staff will follow up with Ag & Markets for a review.

CRF Round 5

Fruition Seeds still intends to install the water management system in 2023 using funding awarded in this round. After discussing the project, minor modifications will be made to adapt the project to work with existing well resources rather than to a surface water source.

CRF Round 6

Funding was awarded for the EL-VI Waste Storage Cover and Flare System. District staff will begin developing the plan of work soon.

Base AEM Implementation Year 17

The project at the Livestock Exchange is planned for 2023 installation.

NY Grown & Certified Round 3

The District submitted three projects for this round of funding. Projects include FA-BA Farm Waste Transfer, Clearview Farm Grazing Management, and B&M Cattle Barnyard Runoff Management (this project was rewritten after not receiving funding through AgNPS Round 28). Awards should be announced in January 2023.

Agriculture Enhancement Board (AEB)

The District was awarded funding from the AEB for cover crop implementation in the northern watershed area. This area was chosen in an effort to maintain engagement with the farms that were included in the recent CRF Round 6 grant that was not funded. Additionally, an extension request will be presented to the Ontario County PEQ Committee for funds that were allocated to support Soil Health. These funds will be used to support the Soil Health Workshop in 2023.

WQIP Round 17

We received the executed contract for this grant and have vouchered for reimbursement of the funds used to purchase Flexamat for the project on Cratsley Hill Rd in the Town of Canadice. The interim report has been submitted. The 2 remaining projects in this grant (Jersey Hill and Canadice Rd) will be completed in 2023.

GLRI HWA/2022 Part B Project

Megan reported that treatment in Grimes Glen will begin shortly.

FOLLOWPA

2023 - Megan and Tucker will be meeting with a landowner to review a project on Armstrong Rd in the Town of Geneva. This project will focus on upland water retention. The Town of Geneva may also provide some funding for this project. Planning continues.

2022 – Tucker is meeting with Hemdale Farms regarding the project on Whitney Road.

EBM

Tucker is meeting with Hemdale Farms regarding the project on County Rd 4.

Conservation Kick

The DeFelice project has been completed. Tucker will coordinate District staff to seed and mulch the area next week. The District needs a hand seeder to do this type of work.

Motion to approve the purchase of a hand seeder.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved. (Chairman Casella not present yet)

Resolution #20221026-06

Village of Naples EBP (Environmental Benefits Project)

The Village of Naples has elected to use this funding for additional invasive species treatment at Grimes Glen. The Avon DEC office has submitted the proposal to the NYS DEC Central Office for approval. Once the project is approved, the money will come to the District and it will be used to pay the contractor for additional HWA treatment.

Ontario County Residential Tire Recycling

All events are complete. We are waiting on cancelled checks for the last payments. Once received, we will send the complete reimbursement request packet to the County.

Chairman Casella arrived at 5:07PM

Updates

Ag Plastics Recycling

Megan and Tucker will be meeting with Ontario County to discuss opportunities for recycling Ag Plastics and Plastic Films (like boat covers). They are researching options and look forward to discussing this more with the County.

FLCC Natural Resource Conservation Board

Megan was invited to sit on this Board. She attended her first meeting last week and looks forward to participating.

OWTSIT Upgrade

The OWTSIT upgrade is finished. Staff members have begun working with the upgraded version. Once all paperwork is received, Megan will submit a report and voucher for the WRC mini-grant (\$3,000) that was awarded for this project.

Upcoming Events

NYS DEC 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Course – November 10th here at the District.

Motion to approve purchase of any materials needed for the November 10th DEC 4Hr course.
Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Mark Venuti.
All in favor, motion approved.
Resolution #20221026-07

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

Motion to approve payment for the Defensive Driving Course to be reimbursed by NYSCDEA.
Motion made by Jim Malyj, seconded by Ken Livermore.
All in favor, motion approved.
Resolution #20221026-08

2023 Soil Health Workshop
Our 2023 Soil Health Workshop will be March 1st at the Ontario County Produce Auction.

Motion to approve purchases and fees for the 2023 Soil Health Workshop including but not limited to event space, speaker fees, and miscellaneous materials not to exceed \$3,000.
Motion made by Jim Malyj, seconded by Rich Russell.
All in favor, motion approved.
Resolution #20221026-09

Needs

The District is in need of a new case for a tri-fold display board.

Motion to approve the purchase of a new carrying case for a tri-fold display board.
Motion made by Amanda Amadon, seconded by Ken Livermore.
All in favor, motion approved.
Resolution #20221026-10

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. These proposed changes are significant and have been developed without input from NYS Conservation Districts.

Chairman Casella shared that NYACD passed a Resolution at their annual meeting last week requesting notification of any proposed changes to District Law and inclusion in such.

Vice Chairman Livermore stated that the Grange has submitted a Resolution to the State opposing the proposed changes to the composition of District Boards eliminating the Grange seat.

Jim Malyj (Farm Bureau Representative) shared that the Farm Bureau has done the same.

Megan reported that she has shared the proposed changes with County Administrator Chris DeBolt.

Chairman Casella stated that NYACD and NYSCDEA are working together to provide a unified voice and a consistent message to be delivered to NYS Legislators.

Chairman Casella requested that Directors and the District Manager inform him of anything they hear on this matter.

Motion to approve making Friday, November 25, 2022 a District Holiday.

Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20221026-11

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:33 pm.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20221026-12

Diana Thorn, Secretary/Treasurer to the Board