

**MINUTES OF  
ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MARCH 20, 2019**

**PRESENT:**

**DIRECTORS:** Rich Russell, Amanda Button, Mark Venuti, Sam Casella, Jim Peck, Ken Livermore, and Ed Jackson

**STAFF:** Megan Webster, Diana Thorn, and Elaine Borgeest

**USDA:** Joann Rogers

**NRCS:** Shannon Bozeat-absent

**CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING**

Chairman Casella called the regular meeting to order at 5:01 pm and Ken Livermore led the pledge to the flag.

**MINUTES**

Chairman Casella asked for any changes or corrections to the minutes; since there were none, the following motion was offered:

**Motion that the minutes of February 20, 2019 be accepted as read.**

**Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson**

**All yes, carried.**

**BILLS**

**Motion to approve Abstract # 3 in the amount of \$87,265.96 and Abstract # 3A in the amount of \$17,915.62.**

**Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson**

**The bills were available for Board review.**

Ed Jackson asked that we add the District Educator's name to the Abstract in addition to her title.

**All yes, carried.**

**TREASURER REPORT**

Diana reviewed her treasurer's report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for February 28, 2019. Megan has reviewed and signed off on the payroll and February bank statements. Diana is attending the Office of the State Comptroller's Basic Accounting School March 19<sup>th</sup>- 21<sup>st</sup>. Elaine and Alaina attended the MS4 meeting in Victor yesterday. Elaine and Diana are working together throughout March to provide training to Diana for a smooth transition.

**Motion to approve reimbursing the Bloomfield Public Library the \$85 registration fee for the OSC's Basic Accounting School for Diana Thorn.**

**Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Rich Russell**

**All yes, carried**

**Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report which includes the financial statements for February 2019.  
(See attached item # 1)**

**Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson**

**All yes, carried.**

**Motion to approve the purchase of a \$100 gift card in recognition of Elaine Borgeest's retirement.**  
**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Mark Venuti**  
**All yes, carried.**

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

### **Ed Jackson:**

- Asked about the Civil Service Exams held the Saturday prior to this meeting. Megan reported that Tucker and Katie both took the Senior Technician promotional exam and that Megan took the District Manager test. The results are expected in 3-4 months. Megan offered kudos to staff for attending the Water Quality Symposium and preparing for the exams in the same week.
- Thanked Megan for the piece in the County Newsletter
- Attended the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid training
- Asked about the Digital Towpath contract. Megan reported that it runs through June/July. Alaina is working with the County to build a new WIX based website that we hope to launch at the end of the Digital Towpath contract. Additionally, Megan is discussing with the County the fees we pay for IT support and will report on this when she has more concrete information.
- Asked Sam about NACD Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Sam reported that this was a good and productive event. The work was focused on getting federal monies. Sam reported that New York State is getting more involved which is good because we have so much going on here.

## **USDA REPORT**

Joann provided the following report:

Upcoming FSA programs for the 2018 Farm Bill :

- **Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC) Program:** The DMC program replaces the Margin Protection Program (MPP); estimated enrollment mid-June 2019; there is also a premium refund for producer who purchased buy-up between 2014-2017 to be available end of April 2019.
- Safety net program, **Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Programs:** is to be administered around September 2019.
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):** a general enrollment is projected for December 2019.
- **Farm Loan Programs:** commodity loans for stored grains, loans for storage and the Farm Loan team has a variety of lending opportunities and some loan limit updates with the 2018 Farm Bill . Commodity loans, hay, grain bins, bunks, bulk tanks, maple sap/syrup, cheese, cold storage, and handling trucks to name a few; operating, ownership, emergency, youth, commodity loans and micro-loans; have anyone interested contact the office for specific details and interest rates. Farm loan has funds available in all loan categories.
- Several Disaster programs for adverse weather: for crops, livestock, trees and vines and bee losses (NAP, TAP, LIP and ELAP).
- **Resource for farmers:** [www.farmers.gov](http://www.farmers.gov) and [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)  
Learn more about what the U.S Department of Agriculture (USDA) has to offer to farmers, ranchers, private foresters and agriculture producers by visiting the farmers.gov website.

County Committee meeting: next meeting is Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9AM. These meetings are open to the public.

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 leases and any banking changes

Reminder for any producer/landowner that is doing any improvements, drainage, clearing, tiling to any land to complete an AD-1026 request for NRCS to review PRIOR to the project.

Farm Loans: For specifics on any of the farm loan programs please contact the Farm Loan team at 585-394-0525 ext. 2. Karen Rugenstein, Farm Loan Manager, Peter Stoep and Dianne Fass, Farm Loan Officers and Kim Weykman, Program Technician.

**\*\*Update** – Dianne Fass is leaving this position and going to the Humane Society

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 are Program Technicians: Ali Barner, Abbey Allison and Courtney Long.

Thank you for your time.

Joann thanked the District for including them in the recent Soil Health Workshop.

## **NRCS**

Shannon was absent and did not provide a report.

## **STAFF REPORT**

None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

The correspondence was going around during the meeting.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT MANAGER - MARCH 2019 BOARD MEETING**

**Motion to Approve Appointment of Diana Thorn as Treasurer.**

**Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Ed Jackson (Mark Venuti absent)**

**All yes, carried**

OTN Training – 30 people signed up for the class. We will need to purchase coffee/snacks and Ken Kisner will be reimbursing for purchase.

**Motion to approve the purchase of coffee/snacks for event.**

**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Peck (Mark Venuti absent)**

**All yes, carried**

Katie and Megan presented the NYS DEC 4 Hour Course to the Rochester Builders Association today. The District will be presenting multiple NYS DEC 4 Hour Course trainings in upcoming months and supplies are needed

**Motion to approve the purchase of printed materials for NYS DEC 4 Hour Course for up to \$500.**

**Motion made by Jim Peck, seconded by Ed Jackson (Mark Venuti absent)**

**All yes, carried**

NYS Federation of Lake Associations has asked that Megan present at their annual Conference on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Lake George, NY

**Motion to approve travel and accommodation for NYSFOLA Meeting for Megan Webster.**

**Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Jim Peck (Mark Venuti absent)**

**All yes, carried**

Finger Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc. – The Council is looking to dissolve. PJ was Ontario SWCD Representative, Sam is Ontario County Representative. We need to have this Board appoint someone from Ontario SWCD to serve for the dissolution process.

**Motion to approve Megan Webster to serve on the Finger Lakes Resource Conservation and Development Council Inc.**

**Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson**

**All yes, carried**

Vehicle Update – Bids have been received for replacement of Chevy Colorado and Ford F-150. When the new vehicles arrive, the old vehicles will be auctioned.

To replace the Chevy Colorado:

The lowest bids came in for Nissan Frontier (\$24,363.90) which has been approved by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Commission. Megan will get a price for a new box with the Nissan and any required materials for installation. The information on pricing will be shared with the Commission and Board to decide if the old box will be used or new box purchased.

**Motion to approve purchase of Nissan Frontier, magnetic signs, truck box and any associated components for the Watershed Inspector's vehicle.**

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

**All yes, carried**

To replace the Ford F-150:

Ram 1500 Classic ST Crew Cab 149"WB (\$22,733.00) was received as the lowest bid.

**Motion to approve Ram 1500 Classic ST Crew Cab 149"WB.**

**Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Ken Livermore**

**All yes, carried**

**Motion to approve purchase of soil compaction meter.**

**Motion made by Jim Peck, seconded by Ed Jackson**

**All yes, carried**

**Motion to approve purchase of laser pointer.**

**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Ken Livermore**

**All yes, carried**

### **Project updates**

The District will be submitting proposals for the Ecosystem Based Management Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Grants for the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watershed Program. Currently we are determining projects with partners to submit for funding, proposals are to be submitted by April 8, 2019. The maximum award for each project is \$10,000.

**Resolution to authorize participation by Ontario County SWCD in the Ecosystem Based Management Erosion and Sediment Control Implementation Grants for the Genesee River and Finger Lakes Watershed Program.**

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

**All yes, carried**

AgNPS Round 24– The Geology Report Review has been received for Lightland Farms. No date has been set for pre-construction meeting yet, tentative construction for Spring 2019.

CAFO Grants – Reedland Farms is still waiting for weather to complete construction. Landmark and DeBoover are on hold until additional funding is secured. DeBoovers have expressed interest in Source Water Protection Grant Funding and we are looking into possibilities with Finger Lakes Land Trust. I recently attended a workshop at the Water Quality Symposium This grant supports the establishment of a buffer and conservation easement on the buffer to protect drinking water sources. I spoke further with Max Heitner from FLLT, they will be putting together a proposal to work through and see if the DeBoovers may be interested in the program. Applications are currently being accepted on a rolling basis till funds are spent or until January 14, 2020.

NY Grown & Certified– Project Contracts expire on 4/30/19. We will be requesting an extension for the project with Red Jacket Orchards. Construction should occur Spring/Summer 2019.

WQIP Round 12- Honeoye Inlet Restoration – We are working with NYS DEC and USFWS to add additional structures to the inlet project. The grant extension is to 04/31/2020. J.B. Excavating will be performing the work after May 15<sup>th</sup> 2019. Two other refusals were received for the project. This installation will be using the natural channel design technique known as “rock and roll” with rock and tree and attached root wads to provide instream structure. Megan expressed concern that the procurement policy followed by the NYS Ag & Markets grants varied a great deal with the District policy and asked that the Policy Committee meet to review current Procurement Policy. The Board agreed and meeting will be arranged in May. The Board did not have any concerns over the procurement of the Honeoye Inlet Project enhancement work.

WQIP Round 15 – Waiting to have finalized contract with Sea Grant for engineering work. We do have engineering included in the WQIP funding award and would be good to move forward with LaBella engineering which was received as lowest bid.

**Motion to move forward with LaBella Engineering on Sandy Bottom Park Shoreline Stabilization Design**  
**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Amanda Button**  
**All yes, carried**

Mill Creek Streambank Stabilization Project – Permits have been received from NYS DEC for the Mill Creek project. Katie is working with Town of Richmond to determine possibility for tree removal to be used in streambank stabilization process.

FLLOWPA Projects – The District is waiting for approval from Ontario County Board of Supervisors.

Genesee River Watershed Coalition – Intern space is required for interns and this can be a shared position with the District. Based on our current space issues and new staff, we will hold off on hiring an intern this summer.

CLWC Update – Position has been posted with Ontario County Human Resources and the Daily Messenger as well as through various e-mail contacts. Applications are due March 29<sup>th</sup>. Megan will work with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Commission and the District Personnel Committee to schedule interviews, tentatively in mid-April. The hope is to have someone in the position in May 2019.

Training – Tucker, Katie, Alaina and Megan attended the CDEA Water Quality Symposium last week in Syracuse. Overall it was a useful training with a great deal of information provided. Congratulations to Tucker Kautz for winning the NYS CDEA Division 2 Merit Award- a well-deserved commendation!

Rain Barrel/Rain Garden Program : Geneva– Alaina is also presenting Healthy Lakes Healthy Lawns with CLWA, CLWC, March 21<sup>st</sup>. Rain Barrel workshops April 11<sup>th</sup>, Canandaigua April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Tire Recycling Program – Megan and Alaina are working with County on the ongoing project.

Cover Crop signage – The cover crop sign was displayed to the group and Megan explained they would be available to farms to promote their use of cover crops in the County. NYS Ag & Markets purchase 20 additional signs with the AEM logo for each District in who requested. Megan also shared the cover crop stickers with the Board.

Events – Megan attended Legislative Days arranged by NYACD and it was a successful event. The legislators were all very supportive and complimentary of District activities.

Soil Health Workshop – A very successful Soil Health Workshop was held March 7<sup>th</sup> with approx. 180 attendees. Feedback was very positive from all sides and the staff did an amazing job coordinating the event.

\*Ed Jackson asked Megan for a cheat sheet of acronyms for District related partners, programs, and projects. Megan will work on putting one together.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 6:15pm.**

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

**All yes, carried.**

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