



Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting
December 10, 2018

Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** Vice Chairman Kaplan called the regular business meeting of the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present – Robert Kaplan, Vice Chairman Harold Russell, Member
Eugene Benson, Treasurer John Gorzynski, Member
Nadia Rajs, Legislator

Board members absent – Mark, McCarthy, Legislator Wilfred Hughson, Chairman

Agency representatives: – Brian Brustman, SWCD Lisa Schick, SWCD
Karen Rauter, SWCD/Nev/Ron Melinda Meddaugh, CCE

- II. MINUTES:** J. Gorzynski made a motion to accept the minutes from the October 22, 2018 board meeting, E. Benson seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

- III. WRITTEN & VERBAL REPORTS:** See attached written reports.

A. B. Brustman (FSA):

- The Farm Bill is expected to be done by end of week with few changes.
- The Margin Protection program will probably continue into next year. There may be a refund from this program for previous years problems, where no payments were issued for this area.
- There were no Corn payments for 2017 for Sullivan county.
- There is currently no disaster program for hay productivity for this year.

B. M. Meddaugh (CCE): see written report

- Opened a Taste NY store in Woodbury Commons in November.
- Working on Technical Assistance programs, and staff training certifications for Ag Educators. Programs will include Pesticide Certification and Food Safety Modernization Act.

B.M. Meddaugh (CCE): continued

- Workshops to include: Food hubs, commercial kitchens, realtor class for ag district.
- Received a USDA grant to purchase new equipment to update the upstairs classroom kitchen to a Teaching Kitchen that will be certified by the Dept. of Health and NYS Ag & Markets.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Neversink/Rondout Grant: See written report

- The WAG meeting will be tomorrow.
- Presented agreement between NYC Greenbelt nursery and the District for District Manager's signature. NYC Greenbelt acquires native seeds from the area to be grown to tubelings for future use within contracted basin areas. N. Rajsz made a motion to approve the Agreement and have the District Manager sign, H. Russell seconded, the motion was passed and carried. K.Rauter will look into adding admin fees into the renewal of the NYC DEP contract.
- The stream restoration project is almost complete. The laborers are working on completing the plantings.

B. Program Updates:

- Directors would like to review and restructure the policy on how hourly employees are paid. This will be reviewed again at the next meeting.
- There are three stream projects that need to be tabled until next year due to the weather. Will check to see if remaining flood mitigation funds can be rolled over to next year's funding.
- A program to cut farm tires in order to meet NYS DEC standards is being looked into. A trial project will be conducted to see if the program will be possible.
- The Budget was submitted to county with additional funds requested. County has budget meeting planned and we should hear about 2019 budget soon.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Bank Reconciliation:

- The November bank statements were reviewed.
- The NYS Round 23 grant requires a separate interest-bearing account to be opened. N. Rajsz made a motion to open the account with B. Brustman and E. Benson being authorized signers on the account, and L. Schick being a non-signer with access to the account, J. Gorzynski seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

B. Director Reappointments:

- R. Kaplan and H. Russell sent reappointment request letter to county Legislature. No other appointment requests were received. E. Benson made a motion to accept the reappointment of R. Kaplan as member at large and H. Russell as active farmer, N. Rajsz seconded and the motion was passed and carried. The resolution will be sent to County Legislature for appointment.

C. District Policy:

- A Sexual Harassment Policy was presented to the Board of Directors. The County Attorney has reviewed the policy. B. Brustman, the District Manager will be the contact person for people to address concerns, and L. Schick will be an alternate contact person. An employee can contact a Director of the Board if he/she does not want to use either contact person listed. N. Rajsz made a motion to approve the Sexual Harassment Policy, E. Benson seconded, and the motion was passed and carried. The required training will be held in the new year.

D. Paid Family Leave: Pay out options need to be looked into and will table until next meeting.

VI. **DISTRICT CLAIMS:** N. Rajsz made a motion to approve abstracts, bills and pre-approvals, seconded by R. Kaplan, the motion was passed and carried.

2018 – 10B	\$315,619.20
2018 – 11A	\$ 21,530.06
2018 – 11B	\$ 26,733.54
2018 – 12A	\$ 23,599.85

Bills presented to the Board for pre-approval: Total - \$ 119,214.18 - See breakdown sheet

VII. **TREASURER REPORT:** The Profit and Loss and the Balance Sheet were reviewed. J. Gorzynski made a motion to approve the reports, H. Russell seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

VIII. **NEXT MEETING:** Monday, January 14, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

X. **ADJOURNMENT:** Adjourned at 8:00 p.m. - Motion by N. Rajsz

Lisa Schick,
Program Assistant

Robert Kaplan,
Vice-Chairman