

Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road Liberty, NY 12754 (845)292-6552 Fax (845)295-9073

Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting September 13, 2010 Minutes

I. <u>Call to Order:</u> Chairman Hughson called the regular business meeting of the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 8:10 p.m.

Board members present – Wilfred Hughson, Chairman John Gorzynski, Member

Elwin Wood, Vice Chairman Harold Russell, Member

Board members absent - Beverly Martin, Treasurer Robert Kaplan, Member

Dave Sager, Member

Agency representatives: – Brian Brustman, SWCD Les Kirby, SWCD

John Kline, SWCD Lisa Schick, SWCD

Quentin Gayhan, NRCS Patricia Westenbroek, CCE Joe Laiz- NYS Retirement

II. <u>MINUTES:</u> Elwin Wood made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2010 meeting, Wilfred Hughson seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

III. WRITTEN & VERBAL REPORTS: See attached written reports

Patricia Westenbroek (CCE):

- CCE is still in the planning stages of filling the position of Executive Director and an Agricultural position.
- The Corn Field Day was held on September at the Sheep Hill Dairy in Callicoon. There were 32 farmers who attended.
- CCE online livestock courses will restart in November.
- CCE will hold their annual dinner in Jeffersonville on October 22nd.

Quentin Gayhan (NRCS):

- Quentin handed out a fact sheet on FSA Conservation Loan Program for landowners to practices as part of their conservation plans. The sign sheet will be on-going until the end of the fiscal year.
- Quentin will push the Conservation Stewardship program in Sullivan County.
- Quentin submitted 2 plans for signature. A CRP contract for Kenneth Slusher and a WHIP contract for Forrest Darder. Elwin Wood made a motion to approve the plans and for Chairman Hughson to sign the contracts, Harold Russell seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Neversink/Rondout: See attached report
 - Working with DEC to try to get the demonstration project completed this year.
 - Karen and Bobby are working on getting the plan completed for the Roundout Creek area by gathering information for the Neversink.
 - Bobby is working on a few small projects with the buffer initiative.

B. Flood Mitigation Sites:

- Work has been started on cleaning the high water channel in Callicoon and reopening it back up.
- Work has been started with rock vein pool digger structures in Youngsville to try to keep the water flowing between the two bridges. This is a joint effort between SWCD, T/O Callicoon and the NYS DOT. The SWCD's Stream Mitigation project is funding the rocks for the pool diggers. The T/O Callicoon has made their trucks available to move the rocks, and the NYS DOT has provided the manpower and equipment to set the rock. County DPW has lent the District a pump to keep the water under control, which will satisfy NYS DEC. The pool digger that is going on the East Branch on the White Sulphur side of the Shandalee Road will also have a dry hydrant installed for the fire department.
- Work has been finished with the Town of Callicoon on Dewitt Flats and Stump Pond Road. We
 opened up a ditch/little stream that crosses Route 52 that floods during heavy rain. Some
 hydroseeding will need to be completed.
- We are still working with the Town of Rockland on a project at Renaissance Park.
- We are still waiting on the permit for a project in Kohlertown.
- A portion of Rick Landers permit for a boat launch has been pulled due to dwarf mussel habitat.

C. District Dinner:

- The Dinner will be held Friday, October 1st.
- The Board suggested the awardees be written as the Sullivan County Legislators.

D. NYS Deferred Compensation Plan:

- Joe Laiz of the New York State Retirement presented information to the Board for joining the 457B plan for employees. This is like a 401k type plan for government entities.
- Employees have the option to joining the plan.

- The investment will be through New York State, with no cost to the District. There is a \$20 annual fee for employees for administration. Contributions are either 1% of salary or \$10 per pay period
- The two choices for investment are a stable income account with a specific % earning, and a variable investment option. Monies grow tax deferred and contributions are pretax.
- John Gorzynski made a motion for the District to submit a resolution for the District to join the 457B plan and offering it to employees, Harold Russell seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

V. <u>NEW BUSINESS</u>:

- A. Bank Reconciliation: The August Bank Reconciliation was reviewed by the Board.
- B. Proposed Tax Changes to Health Ins:
 - Beginning in 2011 health insurance premiums after a specific amount will be added on W-2's to employees earnings and counted towards salary.
 - Woody will check with the county to see if the District is able to join their health insurance plan in order to lower the cost for employee health insurance to the District.
 - Employees may choose to opt for a buy-out of District insurance and a buy-out amount will need to be established at the District reorganization meeting in January, 2011.
- VI. <u>DISTRICT CLAIMS:</u> Elwin Wood made a motion to approve abstracts and bills, seconded by Harold Russell, the motion was passed and carried.

2010 - 8B \$ 41,426.52 2010 - 9A \$ 9,384.55

Bills presented to the Board for pre-approval:

TVD Tree Service (Nev/Rond) \$ 1,800.00 Hoag Riparian & Wetland (Nev/Rond) \$ 5,000.00 Ben Meadows (Nev/Rond) \$ 308.40 Kristt Company (Nev/Rond) \$ 639.00 & 770.68

Watershed Conservation Res (Nev/Rond) \$ 1,100.00 Sullivan County DPW \$ 337.72

VII. TREASURER REPORT: The Treasurer report and Balance Sheet were reviewed.

John Gorzynski made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report and Balance Sheet,

Harold Russell seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 11, 2010 at 8:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: By regular motion at 9:30 p.m.

Lisa Schick, Program Assistant Wilfred Hughson, Chairman