



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 12, 2011
Minutes

- I. Call to Order:** Chairman Hughson called the regular business meeting of the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 8:00 p.m.

Board members present – Wilfred Hughson, Chairman
Beverly Martin, Treasurer
Harold Russell, Member
David Sager, Legislator

Elwin Wood, Vice Chairman
Robert Kaplan, Member
John Gorzynski, Member

Agency representatives: – Brian Brustman, SWCD
Meredith Maglio, SWCD

Lisa Schick, SWCD
Trish Westenbroek, CCE

- II. MINUTES:** Elwin Wood made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2011 meeting, Robert Kaplan seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

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

Trish Westenbroek (CCE) – See written report

- Corn days were held at the Dave Peters farm in Hortonville on September 12th.
- A strategic livestock marketing class will be held on September 15, 22, 2 and October 6th in Liberty.
- The Maple Syrup Production class will be held on September 22nd in Liberty.
- The Cornell Annual meeting will be held on October 28th at the Jeffersonville Fire House.
- CCE will hold an Ag Summit on November 28th.
- Finishing up the proposal for the millennium funds and should be done by tomorrow.
- Feed prices will remain high due to the inclement weather. There will also be a shortage of feed.
- Due to the recent tropical storms the NYS DEC has lifted the CAFO SPDES permit from August 27th to September 23rd so that farmers can spread manure.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:**A. Neversink/Rondout Grant:** See written reports.

- The demonstration project for the Rondout has started today. John Perrella is our site supervisor for the project. The two water pumps are not handling the water. Brian suggested to ignore the pumps, do the work, and get out of the water.
- The Claryville area was the worst hit spot from the tropical storms in Sullivan County. There was a small section through Mountindale and Spring Glen on County Route 55. County DPW has done some work. We have looked at two sites with one more to look at for emergency flood work.
- There were some flooding issues in the Rondout area from the storms. Brian and John met with Gary and Cathy Capella of Ulster County SWCD. They had issues above the Sullivan County line and they are working on obtaining FEMA monies or Emergency Watershed Protection monies if available. The MOU between our counties for the Neversink/Rondout grant gives them the right to fix flood related issues should they arise.
- A letter was drafted to Mark Vian, and Beth Reichheld to take monies for the Neversink Demonstration project and use the funds for Emergency Response projects. There is about \$640,000 available for this project. The DEP is in the process of writing up a new agreement with the EPA for additional funding, which should keep the project going until December 2017, which would also replace the funds for the Neversink projects.
- The Denning Road has five sites that they are working on. The Peekamoose Road was washed out. Town of Denning Supervisor, Bill Bruning, is concerned with getting something done around Claryville so that they have one route open going into Claryville.

B. Flood Mitigation Work:

- Brian & John have been assessing flood damage from the storms. It is hoped that some of the flood mitigation funds can be used for these projects.
- The County is working on Falls Mills to fix the shoulder that was taken out. There was a lot of debris there in the river. A lot of secondary channels are blocked with debris and we have a contractor scheduled to remove the debris tomorrow so that the water will move away from the road.
- There is one spot across from the Town hall that runs down past the Claryville Firehouse and cuts across the road.
- The Frost Valley Road is not open yet.
- The Governor has issued a statement forgiving all permits to do emergency stream work.

C. District Dinner:

- There will be no awardees this year.
- Michael Angelo and Rockland House were the two restaurants that we received bids. The Rockland House has prime rib and drinks, Michael Angelo's would be a buffet and we would need to bring in a dessert. Michael Angelo's may put other diners in the room with us. The Board decided to have the dinner at the Rockland House. Lisa will call and look for a date for the end of October or the beginning of November on a Saturday.

- Brian suggested raising funds for local farmers damaged by the storms. It was suggested that there would not be enough funds raised to help many farms. Elwin Wood mentioned that there is going to be a fund raiser to help the Neversink little league park. The board suggested that would be a good idea.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Bank Reconciliation: The August bank reconciliation was reviewed by the Board.
- B. RC& D Invoice: After reviewing the letter from RC&D, which stated the organizations uncertain future, Elwin Wood made a motion that the District should not join the organization at the present time, Harold Russell seconded, and the motion was passed and carried.
- C. The electric bill has almost doubled over the summer months. The Board suggested looking into the bill for possible reasons. It is possible that the CCE's refrigerator is causing the increase. The utility pole by the building should also be looked at.
- D. Elwin Wood made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss an employee. Robert Kaplan seconded, the motion to go into Executive Session was passed and carried. Elwin Wood made a motion to come out of Executive Session, Harold Russell seconded, and the motion to come out of Executive Session was passed and carried.
- E. DEC Gas Drilling:
- The comment period is open until the middle of December.
 - There is talk to have the Soil & Water District's available for site visits.
 - John Gorzynski suggested that the Board review the regulation document and to determine how it will affect the Soil & Water Districts. John feels that after reviewing the document then the District Board of Directors should make a comment.
 - Trish stated that the Cornell University has a program work team that is reviewing the regulations. Harold stated that the Farm Bureau is in the process of also reviewing the regulations.
 - The Board suggested that Lisa call the DEC for a copy of the regulations. If they do not have one available then Lisa will print one copy for the office. Brian will review the different sections to see what ones are relevant to Sullivan County.

VI. DISTRICT CLAIMS: Harold Russell made a motion to approve abstracts and bills, seconded by Elwin Wood, the motion was passed and carried.

2011 - 8B	\$ 42,248.05
2011 - 9A	\$ 11,875.36

Bills presented to the Board for pre-approval:

Cardmember Services (Nev/Rond)	\$ 692.44
Farm Tek (Nev/Rond)	\$ 909.68
Griffen Greenhouse (Nev/Rond)	\$ 1,515.17

Osterhoudt Excavating (Nev/Rond)	\$10,830.00
(Bob requested that someone sign off on the completed project items before payment)	
Arctic Rental (Nev/Rond)	\$ 750.00
Dawn & Peter Erwlein (Round 14)	\$ 2,420.00

VII. TREASURER REPORT: The Treasurer report and Balance Sheet were reviewed. Harold Russell made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report and Balance Sheet, John Gorzynski seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Monday, October 10, 2011 at 8:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: By regular motion at 9:35 p.m.

Lisa Schick,
Program Assistant

Wilfred Hughson,
Chairman