

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 July 13, 2009 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 8:15 p.m.

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

David Sager, Member Robert Kaplan, Member

Board members absent - Harold Russell, Member Elwin Wood, Vice Chairman

Beverly Martin, Treasurer

Agency representatives: – Les Kirby, SWCD John Kline, SWCD

Lisa Schick, SWCD Patricia Westenbroek, CCE

Barbara Davidowsky, FSA

II. MINUTES: John Gorzynski made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 8, 2009, meeting, David Sager seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

III. WRITTEN & VERBAL REPORTS: See attached written reports

Trish Westenbroek (CCE): See written reports

- Due to the amount of rainfall we have had, the quality of hay being cut is questionable. Farmers should be cautious because the wet hay may also lead to barn fires.
- On Friday the Secretary of Agriculture said he would be making an announcement to keep up with the request of new loans on restructuring.
- Milk prices are not looking any better. Prices on the futures are on a slow rise. CWT
 announced they are having a second herd retirement this year, which will be by July
 24th.

Barbara Davidowsky (FSA):

- Barbara introduced herself to the Board of Directors as the new FSA County Executive Director.
- She noted at present, unfortunately there are few programs available to help farmers with crop disasters, such as those caused by excessive rainfall and the lack of warm weather/heat, that has affected all crops this season—prevented plantings, total losses and affected quality losses. Currently, there is no program that allows for quick financial assistance. The only crop options currently available are to those who purchased crop insurance or the NAP (Non-insured Assistance Program) coverage.
- At this time FSA's advice to farmers is for programs that may come down the line and then again they may not. The office will continue to document all weather occurrences that will affect any and/or all crops. This information is forward to Washington and then it is sent to the Governor of New York where disaster declarations can be made.
- John questioned about a press release he read in regards to USDA revising food handling regulations. When will people find out what these regulations are? He questioned whether they would be issuing another agency to oversee this. The areas in consideration are poultry fish eggs, produce and fruit. Trish stated that this is still in the thought process. Barb noted she hadn't heard anything about this but will let the Board know if and when FSA does.

IV. <u>OLD BUSINESS</u>:

A. NYC DEP Contract Talks:

- The contracts have been reviewed by the county attorney and signed off on. The contracts are now back with DEP for the final stages.
- Lisa mailed out letters to approximately 200 landowners and informational packets to roundtable members involved in the projects' planning stages. This is being done in order to meet the deadline for certain requirements.

B. Stream Work:

• Brian, John and Les have been in touch with all highway superintendants to review possible project sites.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. May & June Bank Reconciliation:
 - The May Bank Statement was reviewed by the Board of Directors.
 - The June Bank Statement has not been completed yet. It will be reviewed at the next Board Meeting.

- B. County Audit:
 - The county auditors have completed the District's audit and are waiting for the related party confirmations from the Directors to finalize the audit.
 - The bill for \$4,000 has been received and has been sent to the County Treasurer's Office for payment.

Wilfred Hughson,

Chairman

- C. Received an email from NYACD requesting Director e-mails for this files. Directors present stated that if the use was for sending newsletters by e-mail then they were ok with this.
- VI. <u>DISTRICT CLAIMS</u>: Robert Kaplan made a motion to approve abstracts and bills, seconded by David Sager, the motion was passed and carried.

2009 -6B \$ 24,947.57 2009 -7A \$ 4,668.33

VII. <u>TREASURER REPORT:</u> The Treasurer report and Balance Sheet were reviewed. David Sager made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report and Balance Sheet, Robert Kaplan seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Monday, August 10, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: By regular motion at 8:45 p.m.

Lisa Schick, Program Assistant