

**Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting
March 12, 2009
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
David Sager, Member	Harold Russell, Member
John Gorzynski, Member	

Board members absent - Elwin Wood, Vice Chairman	Robert Kaplan, Member
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Agency representatives: – Brian Brustman, SWCD	Lisa Schick, SWCD
John Kline, SWCD	Patricia Westenbroek, CCE

- II. MINUTES:** John Gorzynski made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2009, meeting, Beverly Martin seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

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

Trish Westenbroek (CCE): See written reports

- Trish discussed events that Cornell Cooperative Extension will be holding.
- There will be a Dairy Producers Open Plan meeting at the Welsh Cabin this Thursday.
- The Dairy prices are continuing to decline to \$9.60.

- IV. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. State Grant Updates:

- John Schumacher (SWCC) will be here Wednesday to close out Round 12.
- We are still waiting to hear whether or not we received Round 15 funding.
- We are waiting to work on Round 14 projects. Now that the snow has melted we are hoping to begin soon.
- Brian will check to see if the farmers participating in the grants are still planning to complete their projects.

B. Flood/Stream Projects:

- There is approximately \$63,000 remaining to work with for stream-type projects for 2009. More was allocated to flood and stream work but John's position will be funded out of this funding, the same as last year.
- We took some of the remaining funds for the county's portion of funding for Army Corp. to finish the analysis on Callicoon Creek. They are suppose to tell us if certain project areas are feasible for flood retention or not by computer analysis. This will determine for future projects or flood mitigation.
- An intern in the Planning Dept. is in the process of contacting all the town highway superintendents to come up with any potential sites they have. She has several responses back. We believe that we will get more use of the funds by working with the Towns, cost share opportunity.
- Received funding for Conservation Project Special Assistance project from Dept. of Ag & Markets that we had submitted for.

C. Project Coordinator (NYC DEP):

- The position of Project Coordinator and Streamside Assistant will be our employee and under our supervision. They have to work with the NYC Stream Management Team.
- The Project Coordinator will use their own personal vehicle and be reimbursed for mileage. The District will lease a vehicle for the Streamside Assistant to use. The costs for these vehicles will be written into the budget. Brian will get prices for leasing a vehicle and submit them into the budget. A 3-year lease will be considered. The vehicle will be housed at the District office. The purchase of a vehicle would be off the State Bid.
- It is recommended that other costs for the budget to be considered is to add 10% to insurances each year. Add a percentage increase, possibly 5%, for COLA for salaries each year in order to reflect salary increases.
- The Board discussed and approved that the District draft up an MOU with Ulster County to encompass work involved with this DEP project.
- The work will be on the Neversink and Roundout reservoirs above the dams.
- 25% of Brian, Les and John's time and 10% of Lisa's time will be included into the budget. John's time was used to base the cost of seasonal help, if needed.
- When budget is completed, Brian will send it to DEP for submission. Once a draft has been received back we will send it to the County Attorney's office for review.
- The contract time frame is set for 4 ½ years.

D. County Soil and Water Conservation Districts are not allowed to levy taxes. In regards to suits against the District, anything listed in the District's Plan of Work submitted to and approved by the State Soil & Water Conservation Committee will be covered by the State. Any work done for the county we will be covered under the county. This was per Mike Latham, Director of the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

E. As per the county, the District's audit will be covered by the County.

F. Brian presented an MOU between Sullivan County and the District as required in order to receive funding. The Directors approved the MOU and Brian signed.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Legislature Report on 2008 Performance:

- Brian will give a report to the Legislature on Tuesday, March 17th.
- A power point program will be used for stream/flood work.
- Dave Sager made a suggestion to include pictures.
- Other projects besides stream/flood work include - 5 stormwater projects, technical assistance for public, 33 farm projects for water quality improvements, pond site investigations for 11 landowners, technical assistance for 5 stormwater projects, technical assistance for drainage work at 8 sites, site plan reviews, forestry improvement assistance, natural resource education to 100 county students.

B. Contractor Training:

- We will be holding a training on Thursday, April 2nd, for stormwater training. The cost to attend is \$25.
- As of April 2010 the NYS DEC will require the contractor who will be disturbing more than an acre to have a person on-site who is certified.
- Brian has been through the training on Soil and Erosion sediment control and has CPSC certification and can teach the 4-hour training.
- Monies over our expenses will be used for other programs.

C. District Dinner:

- It was discussed whether or not the District should hold a District Dinner this year.
- The Board decided that we should continue to hold the District Dinner. We will have a Conservation Farmer awardee only.
- Brian will come up with names for an awardee. Lisa will check out a few other places to hold the dinner and e-mail the Directors with results.

D. Bank Rec: The Board members reviewed the bank reconciliation for January.

E. AEM: The District's AEM Strategic Plan needs to be updated and submitted to the State Soil & Water Conservation Committee. By updating this plan we will be eligible for up to \$25,000 reimbursement each year for the next 3 years. The Board discussed and approved the plan with recommended revisions for Brian to make.

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

2009 -2B	\$ 50,071.56
2009 -3A	\$ 844.51

Bills presented to the Board for pre-approval:

The Misner Agency	\$ 1,389.15
Sullivan County DPW	\$ 937.03
First National Bank of Jeff	\$ 432.08

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

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 13, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

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

Lisa Schick,
Program Assistant

Wilfred Hughson,
Chairman