



Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District
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Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting
November 9, 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	Elwin Wood, Vice Chairman
John Gorzynski, Member	David Sager, Member
Robert Kaplan, Member	

Board members absent - Harold Russell, Member	Beverly Martin, Treasurer
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Agency representatives: – Brian Brustman, SWCD	Les Kirby, SWCD
Lisa Schick, SWCD	John Kline, SWCD
Patricia Westenbroek, CCE	Kathy Capella, NRCS

- II. MINUTES:** John Gorzynski made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 5, 2009, meeting, Robert Kaplan seconded; the motion was passed and carried.

III. WRITTEN & VERBAL REPORTS: See attached written reports

Trish Westenbroek (CCE): See written reports

- The October 19th approximately 34 representatives went to Albany to make clarifying statements about the dairy crisis to the NY Senate Ag Committee. At the same time Congress passed emergency appropriations to dairy farmers, which may be put through the MILT system.
- On November 18 the Dept of Planning Commissioner Luis Aragon will meet with young farmers of Sullivan County to discuss the future of agriculture.
- There will be a Venison Workshop on November 18th at the Extension Center.

- There will be a Risk Management meeting on November 19th. This is a pilot program for Sullivan and Ulster County on grass based crop insurance.
- The latest buy-out for CWT will be awarded on November 15th. There were about 156 bids accepted across the nation.
- There has been a lot of bacterial rot and funguses in corn reported. CCE is expecting the yield to be not up to par and expecting feeding issues.
- Interviews were held for final candidates for the CCE Director position. The position was not filled and will need to be re-advertised.

Kathy Capella (NRCS):

- Is working on AEM Tier 3 grazing plans for Terrence Murphy, Chris Hermann, and Doug Diehl.
- Has done modifications for Ed Moran to replace fencing damaged during the storm. Has several other modifications waiting for approval when funding is released.
- Has been working with K-Brand farms on the bark bed that is not working properly. A filter strip should be installed across the laneway into an adjacent field so that water is not being released from any one outlet. Design work is being brought to the engineers.
- Completed the conservation stewardship program sign-up for Sullivan County. There was one application pending for an operation in Livingston Manor. Has been working with FSA on the eligibility issues of producers in Sullivan County, and it was found that due to the new farm bill most of the certification paperwork needs to be updated.
- All farm bill programs are continuous sign-ups. As soon as farmers are interested in participating they should let Kathy know so that she can do planning work ahead of time and get them ready. The deadline on ranking is usually between January 15 and February 15th.

IV. OLD BUSINESS:

A. NYC DEP Contract:

- Final Interviews were conducted for the Stream Program Coordinator and the Streamside Assistance Program Coordinator positions.
- The Contract is in City Hall and awaiting registration.

- There was one candidate for Stream Program Coordinator (Troy Kuphal) that was the first choice for hiring. We are hoping to contact references on Thursday. He has been offered a position from a prior interview. The Board made a motion that if his references check out then we can go ahead and offer the position to him. Robert Kaplan made the
- motion to offer the position to Troy, Dave Sager seconded, the motion was passed and carried. The other two interviewees were Karen Rauter, who has some experience; and Pat Pomeroy, who has little experience.
- Because these positions are long term and not seasonal, they will fall under civil service rule. The District Board of Directors requested that the positions of Stream Program Coordinator and Stream Assistance Program Coordinator be created. Robert Kaplan made a motion to create these positions, Elwin Wood seconded, and the motion was passed and carried. John Gorzynski abstained from voting.

B. Flood Related Matters:

- The District completed projects for this year and is now working on potential projects for next year by putting cost estimates together.
- The District's county audit fee of \$4,000 was taken out of the Stream Mitigation funds. This left a little over \$4,000 of the final invoices to the Town of Callicoon unable to be paid. The District has invoiced the county for \$29,683.26, the total amount of the project but was told that the Planning Dept. only had \$24,999.20 remaining. Dave Sager made a motion that the District pay the Town of Callicoon the total amount of funds owed. What the county doesn't pay this year the District will pay and we will invoice this difference towards next year's funds. Robert Kaplan seconded this motion and the motion was passed and carried.

C. Chestnut Creek Equipment:

- A memo was sent to the New York City Dept. of Environmental Protection requesting that all outdated technical equipment be declared surplus and disposed of. NYC DEP representatives signed the letter approving declaration of property.
- Board of Directors stated to dispose of the listed property and charge NYC DEP any fee incurred.

- D. The District submitted a Conservation Project Financial Assistance (CPFA) grant to the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee in the amount of \$6,000. This grant would be for work done towards stream remediation projects. We are looking to apply this to the Village of Jeff – Laundry Brook project.

V. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Bank Reconciliation: Board Members reviewed the September and October bank reconciliations.

B. WAC Farm Status Reviews:

- Les has finished all Farm status Reviews. A report and an invoice will be sent to the Watershed Ag Council.
- Les stated that farmers expressed their view that they did not think WAC looked at the reports because farmers have not heard from WAC representatives.

C. Rent: The District has not been invoiced for rent for office space since the beginning of the year. Invoicing usually comes from USDA. Lisa has been in contact with NRCS and FSA representatives and it has not been determined who is going to bill us. USDA stated that as of October 2009 the District work out an agreement with Cornell Cooperative Extension to pay rent directly to CCE.

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

2009 -10B	\$ 28,116.09
2009 -11A	\$ 4,786.83

Bills presented to the Board for pre-approval:
Seedway \$ 1,872.00

VII. TREASURER REPORT: The Treasurer report and Balance Sheet were reviewed. Elwin Wood made a motion to approve the Treasurer Report and Balance Sheet, Robert Kaplan seconded, the motion was passed and carried.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Monday, December 14, 2009 at 8:00 p.m.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: By regular motion at 9:15 p.m.

Lisa Schick,
Program Assistant

Wilfred Hughson,
Chairman