

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District  
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
For April 21, 2011, 7:30 PM

**Board Members Present:** Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Ben Stauffer (Vice-Chair), Fred Morrill (Treasurer), Ed Hadlock, and Dan Parker.

**Board Members Not Present:** Clark Decker, and Tom Nichols.

**Staff Present:** Dawn Howard (Manager), and Tamme Sharpe (Secretary).

**Guests Present:** Marilyn Stephenson (NRCS), Bob Brower (SWCC), and Walt Paul.

**I. Call to Order**

**II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** March minutes were **approved**.

**III. Treasurer's Reports:** March Treasurer's reports were **approved**.

**IV. Reports**

**A. Walt Paul** (Appendix A, B, C, D)

1. Paul spoke to the Board re his concerns on the Strategic Plan for State Forest Management and Part 182 – Endangered and Threatened Species of Fish and Wildlife; Species of Special Concern Regulation. Paul drafted two form letters voicing concerns on these two topics.
2. A third handout was on Bill number A3374: an act to amend the environmental conservation law, in relation to freshwater wetlands of one acre or more in size and other wetlands of significant local importance. The board was very impressed with his presentation. Bob Andrews invited Paul to address the AFPB in the future on these topics.

**B. NRCS** – Marilyn Stephenson (Appendix E, F)

1. Jim Pullano is acting DC until further notice. Pullano supplied the board with a handout covering the recent activities of NRCS.
2. Stephenson announced that special funding has been approved for the SLC SWCD and NRCS District Technical Assistance Contract. The agreement stated that SWCD can perform up to 2068 hours of technical assistance over the next two years with a 75% payout of \$52,734 at an hourly rate of \$34.
3. A Partner Appreciation Award from NRCS was presented to the Board by Stephenson.

**C. NYACD** – Brower

1. Three NYS bills concerning SWCDs are moving forward.
2. Ecosystem Based Management Council is now looking at the whole picture instead of just for example stream banks. They would like to amend the law to include SWCC.

3. Looking to amend the NYS law that makes the SWCD Chairman the only SWCD voting member to AFPB.
4. A proposal was made for pond inspections to be the responsibility of the SWCC and completed by the SWCDs. NYACD opposed this action.
5. The Annual NYACD meeting will be held October 16 -18, 2011 in Utica.
6. Round 17 of the NPS Grant has \$11 million to spend on 43 projects. A press release is forthcoming announcing the participants.

**D. AFPB –Andrews**

1. The Biomass meeting held April 5, 2011 had a great turn out. Double A Willow presented a proposal for planting willows to be used as energy for the co generator that Newton Falls Paper is installing. This will have a lot of potential for marginal farmland in St. Lawrence and Jefferson County.
2. Plans are in the works for the ag tour for legislators this summer.

**V. SWCD Reports**

**A. Manager's Report – Howard (Appendix G)**

1. SWCD still has two outstanding bills that the County Attorney is working on. A check was received for one of the outstanding bills with a list of stipulations attached. The County Attorney's office is still researching this before cashing the check. Final notice has been sent for the second client. Legal action will be taken if this notice is ignored.
2. NYPA may not be sponsoring the Envirothon this year. New procedures have come into play and the request for money was not submitted before the deadline. Enough money has been fund raised to pay for our winning teams to be sent to the State competition, and to buy plaques, but we will not be purchasing t-shirts for our participants this year.
3. A bill from Morse Agronomics Ltd. was received in the amount of \$1,190 for work performed from 11/2010 to 4/5/2011. A *motion* was made to allow Howard to pay this bill. *Approved*. This amount will be reimbursed by AEM.
4. 22 bales of ag plastic were taken out on a flatbed trailer to New Jersey. We have had no feed back as of yet from the company who received the plastic.
5. Todd O'Brien from Dairylea is planning a Grazing Workshop at SUNY Canton and was looking for a farm in southwest SLC that is now using grazing.

**B. Forester's Report – Howard**

1. Interviews were conducted April 6, 2011 and Russell Martin from Newton Falls, NY was hired. Martin will start on May 16, 2011.
2. Curran will move into the Pitcairn site on April 22, 2011.
3. In the past week, 6 inspections have been done.

**C. Technician's Report - Howard**

1. Dulanski continues her class work. She is also working on finishing up AEM Yr 6 Plans.

**D. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer's Report – Sharpe**

1. Sharpe reported that the tree program has been her main focus. Tree week is next week and she has been busy finalizing orders and getting product together for the sale.
2. Triploid Grass Carp program has started.

**VI. Old and New Business**

**A. County Forest Land**

1. Morrill is concerned about the selling of County forest land. Howard and Brower explained the amount from a sale would bring in only \$38 as the land would go back to the State for \$1 a parcel.
2. A concern on generating income from county forest land ie selling hunting rights was also discussed.

- B.** Bob Andrews attended the Biomass meeting on April 5, 2011 and a *motion* was made to pay Andrews mileage for this meeting. *Approved*

**VII. Correspondence:** Mail was available for the Board's review. (List of items in Appendix H)

**VIII. Time and Date of Next Meeting:** May 19, 2011, 7:30 PM at the SWCD Office.

**IX. Meeting Adjourned:** 9:25 PM

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Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

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Date

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Tamme Sharpe, Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Attachments: Appendices A-H