

# **St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District**

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

For  
March 8, 2007

Board Members Present: Robert G. Andrews, Jr., Edwin Hadlock, David Martin, Frederick Morrill, and Thomas Nichols.

Staff Present: Dawn Howard, Katie Maloney, Aaron Earl, Kathleen Deugaw, and James Pullano, NRCS

The meeting was called to order by Robert G. Andrews, Jr. at 7:40 PM.

*Frederick Morrill made a motion to accept minutes of the January 18, 2007 meeting as written. David Martin seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

*Frederick Morrill made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports for January and February 2007. Edwin Hadlock seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

### **Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) – James Pullano**

- The NRCS staff has been working on the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Thirty-five eligible applications have been planned, ranked, and submitted for funding so far.
- Seven Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) construction jobs were started this week.
- Kent Frary is back in St. Lawrence County full time. The District Conservationist (DC) in Jefferson County started on March 5, 2007.
- James Pullano has been working with Katie Maloney on 12 Nutrient Management Plans (NMP) which are scheduled to be complete in March and April.
- New York State NRCS has started a Business Management Team to look at re-organizing the agency, restructuring, budget, and the partnership with Districts. Thomas Nichols is on this committee as the NYACD representative.
- NRCS has a budget in place that is similar to last year's.
- Robert G. Andrews, Jr. stated that Thomas Nichols, Dawn Howard, and he spoke with Ron Alvarado, State Conservationist, while in Albany at Legislative Day. They invited Mr. Alvarado to a District Board meeting. The good working relationship of the agencies in St. Lawrence County is used as an example across the state.

### **Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) – Dawn Howard (In addition to written report)**

- Katie Maloney, Conservation District Technician reported:
  - Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM) Strategy -
    - Year 2- Upper Grass River-

- Since Katie Maloney was working on Ag Value Assessments, Dawn started scheduling Tier II appointments for the 22 farms that sent in Tier I Questionnaires.
  - Katie Maloney is putting together Tier 3a plans for participants in the AEM to EQIP grants and will maximize most of the money for Year 2. \$1000 per Conservation Plan development goes toward the \$30,000 available.
- AEM to EQIP
  - Katie Maloney has continued to move through NMP development and will be diligently working on this through the rest of the winter and into the spring. Once summer comes, Katie Maloney will be busy soil sampling the sixteen farms for the AEM to EQIP Too Grant.
- AEM to EQIP Too
  - Katie Maloney has been making GIS maps for the sixteen farms that need soil sampling this summer/fall. She would like to have the maps finished before summer so she can schedule appointments and begin soil sampling.
- Stormwater Reimbursement
  - Katie Maloney had an informal training/brainstorming session with Rebecca Storrings, Environmental Engineer, DEC Region 6. They jointly reviewed a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the new athletic fields at SUNY Canton. Once Katie Maloney is comfortable with reviewing these alone, it may be another avenue to generate money for the SWCD through stormwater reimbursement. DEC indicated that their staff is overwhelmed with SWPPP reviews and sometimes they don't have time or staff to review all plans.
  - Katie Maloney will contact JoAnne Faulkner, Water Quality Specialist at the Oneida County SWCD. She is hoping to travel to Oneida County in spring/summer to shadow JoAnne on stormwater construction site inspections. Oneida County SWCD has an agreement with DEC similar to what we are hoping to have. Katie Maloney will be able to get hands-on training with JoAnne on how she does site inspections while being a district representative. This will be valuable information. Katie Maloney spoke with DEC Region 6 about shadowing JoAnne and they agreed that it would be a good idea.
  - Katie Maloney is still planning on working with DEC in Spring, namely Rebecca Storrings on Stormwater Construction Site Inspections and eventually will be assisting DEC on site inspection on

her own. Katie Maloney developed a cover letter and SWCD site inspection checklist that will assist construction sites with Stormwater regulations. Another project that will be reimbursed through DEC.

- Katie Maloney is expecting 2007 to be a busy year in Stormwater and she is looking forward to taking a more proactive role in this process. All work will be helping Katie Maloney with the stormwater experience that she needs to gain full certification.
- Aaron Earl, Conservation District Forester reported:
  - Aaron Earl did not get to go to Washington, D.C. with RC&D.
  - Aaron Earl, Gary Eddy, (Jefferson County) and Joe Chairvolotti (Oswego County) will be presenting a class at the Water Quality Symposium regarding Forestry and Districts.
  - Aaron Earl and Nick Maneely (Intern) have finished the Ag Value Assessments with help from Katie Maloney.
  - Aaron Earl is working on the Forest Management Plans as time allows. He has 7% more completed since the last meeting.
  - There is currently one logging job going in Hopkinton and will be starting to mark sales soon.
  - Aaron Earl and Dawn Howard gave the State of the Forest address last week to the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators.
- Dawn Howard gave her Manager Report
  - Raeanne Decker did a wonderful job while Kathleen Deugaw was recovering from her accident. She was hired through Penski, Inc.
  - The Remedial Action Committee (RAC) received notification that they were not awarded the \$600,000+ grant for Massena. Clarkson University is probably going to contest this decision.
  - USDA and SWCD will be sharing a booth at the Ag Update on March 29, 2007. The event will be held in West Potsdam from 10 AM to 3 PM.
  - Dawn Howard attended the RC&D meeting today.
    - The Treasurer's Report needs to include better data from the accountant.
    - The Ag Committee (Leslie Wilson) has been working on ideas for projects. These ideas include: tire disposal, updating the Ag Business

Directory, Farmers' Market, Farm Safety Day programs, grain harvesting, and the rendering situation.

- The Recreational Committee has been working on the Carry Falls Bridge project, a Cranberry Lake boating guide, motorized trails, Jefferson County inventory, and the Day-use parks in Colton and Hopkinton.
  - The Forestry Committee has been working on the Woodsmen's Field Days, a placemat for restaurants, chainsaw safety, and an Invasive Pest workshop to be held in Wanakena on April 17<sup>th</sup>.
  - The proposed Federal RC&D budget has been cut to allow approximately 1 coordinator per state instead of the current 375 positions nationwide.
  - Discussion followed regarding what the Greater Adirondack RC&D is doing for projects.
  - The next meeting will be held in Harrisville, NY on May 15, 2007.
- Dawn Howard has been working on AEM Strategy Year 2 – Upper Grasse River Tier II appointments. She has also updated the strategy for Year 3. The District is eligible for \$40,000.
  - Robert G. Andrews, Jr. spoke to Ron Alvarado, State Conservationist, about ACUB and RC&D.

## **Old and New Business**

- RC&D Representation
  - Leslie Wilson's name was sent to the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators for appointment as the SWCD's representative to the RC&D Council.
  - Judy Aldrich is the current SWCD alternate representative.
  - Judy Wendt's name was sent to the St. Lawrence County Board of Legislators for appointment as the Board of Legislators' representative to the RC&D Council.
  - The Board of Legislator's alternate representative position is currently vacant. Please send any suggestions for the vacant position to Dawn Howard.
  - St. Lawrence County may also have an At-Large member for RC&D.
  - Discussion followed.
- SWCD 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

- Dawn Howard showed the Board the pens and hats that were ordered to celebrate the District's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
  - Dawn Howard ordered a plaque for Clinton Thompson, the last remaining original board member from 1957.
  - Dawn Howard discussed with the Board the prices and menus of the three restaurants she called in Gouverneur for the luncheon. It was the consensus of the Board to hold the luncheon on Monday, April 16, 2007 at Mullin's Catering & Take-out. The menu will consist of boneless chicken breast, pork loin, London broil, steamed vegetables, rice pilaf, coffee, soda, and cake. The District will buy the lunches of the Thompson family.
  - Dawn Howard and Kathleen Deugaw will work on the invitations. They will be printed at the District. People to invite include: County Administrator, Board of Legislators, District Board of Directors and staff, the Thompson family, NYACD, NRCS – State Office, Area Office, and Field Office, Press, NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee, local and federal representatives and senators, Cooperative Extension, and old District staff and directors. Please contact Dawn Howard if there is any one else you would like to invite.
  - Senators Griffo and Wright, Assemblyman Aubertine and Assemblywoman Scozzafava are supporting resolutions to recognize 50 years of the St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District.
- RC&D dues have increased to \$500 this year and NYACD dues remain at \$1,200 this year. *Thomas Nichols made a motion to pay the RC&D dues and the NYACD dues. Frederick Morrill seconded the motion and all were in favor.*
  - Thomas Nichols attended the second work group meeting for the NRCS Business Team. He gave an update to the Board and discussion followed.
  - At Legislative Day, the representatives were asked for \$60,000 to go to each county for Stormwater issues.
  - Frederick Morrill and Thomas Nichols informed the Board that they expect the new County Administrator to be hired by May 1<sup>st</sup>, but this person may not start until June.
  - Frederick Morrill discussed the new jail project.
  - Dawn Howard told the Board that Ag Value Assessment rates went up 34% this year.

*Frederick Morrill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM. David Martin seconded the motion and all were in favor.*

**The next board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 17, 2007 at 7:30 PM at the St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District office.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

Kathleen L. Deugaw  
Secretary/Asst. Treasurer