

St. Lawrence County
Soil and Water Conservation District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For
March 20, 2008

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

Staff Present: Dawn Howard, Katie Maloney, Raeanne Dulanski, and Aaron Earl.

Robert Andrews, Jr. called the meeting to order at 8:08 PM.

Dave Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Tom Nichols seconded and all were in favor.

Ed Hadlock made a motion to accept the February Treasurer Report. Tom Nichols seconded and all were in favor.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- Marilyn Stephenson was under the weather and not able to attend the Board meeting to present on the Operational Agreement. The Board agreed to invite Marilyn Stephenson to the next Board meeting.
- Jim Pullano's report was reviewed by the Board. (Attached)

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

- Manager Report – Dawn Howard
 - Steve Lanthier would like to attend the next Board meeting.
 - The letters that were requested at the last meeting by the Board were reviewed and signed. One letter was in support of the SWCD offices that are scheduled to be closed and the other was to make sure that federal representatives were aware that NRCS is going to start charging SWCDs rent.
 - Ron Alvarado has been named as the Acting Director of Ecological Science Department in Washington D.C.
 - Dawn Howard has been working with Myrna Barney of SLC Public Health on a complaint in the Town of Hopkinton. Five wells are bad. There is a CAFO farm near by that is following their spreading schedule.
 - The Board had asked how the Finger Lakes Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA) was formed at the last meeting and Dawn Howard found out that it was formed by SWCDs and Planning Departments. There are 24 Counties included now. Only Counties that drain into Lake Ontario are in FOLLOWPA.
 - The Water Quality Symposium was held March 11 – 14, 2008 in Auburn, NY. Dawn Howard reported:
 - There is a plan to have a standard for technician training.

- NYS SWCC is looking at hiring an engineer for SWCDs to help with that void.
 - She and Raeanne Dulanski attended a class on Employee Handbooks and we still have a few things that should be added.
 - The Board would like to have a working session with employees to go over the Employee Handbook.
 - Dawn Howard attended an Office of Parks and Rec meeting March 19th.
 - The new head of the Snowmobile Grant Program is working on fixing some areas and seems to be doing a good job. The amount of funding is down because the number of snowmobilers was down this year because of a lack of snow, price of gas, new registration system, and less families are participating.
 - Dawn Howard and Katie Maloney attended a training on Non Point Source Grants were they learned that there are going to be changes for the next round.
 - The next BION meeting is scheduled for April 8th and the BION representative will be attending.
 - Leslie Wilson has resigned as the SWCD representative for RC&D. Dawn Howard is getting information together to place ads in newsletters to find someone interested in filling this position. Leslie Wilson did give Dawn Howard the name of someone that might be interested in RC&D. Dawn Howard is going to contact them.
 - Dawn Howard and Aaron Earl are going to the Board of Legislators on Monday, March 24, 2008 where Aaron Earl will be giving the State of the Forest Address.
 - Dawn Howard asked the Board about a training at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, Working Lands that Aaron Earl would like to attend.
 - *Tom Nichols made a motion to send Aaron Earl to Cornell for the Working Lands training. Ed Hadlock seconded and all were in favor.*
- Forestry Report – Aaron Earl, District Forester reported:
 - Management Plans are now 50% complete. No further inventory has been completed due to the weather, but now that Spring seems to be arriving, he should be able to return to working outside.
 - At the Water Quality Symposium Aaron Earl attended classes on CPR, Drainage Law, Invasive Species and Media Training.
 - Discussion on Invasive Species followed.
 - Discussion on Cooperative Extension staffing and whether it will have an affect on the number of calls that the SWCD will be receiving.
- Technician Report – Katie Maloney, District Technician gave her report.
 - Katie Maloney reported that she attended classes at the WQS on:
 - The new AEM Tier 3A
 - Changes are not complete.
 - Going to an hourly rate in an effort to get quality over quantity.
 - New format is going to require SWCD to initiate a progressive plan by developing a Core Package and fully planning a minimum of one component. There are five different components that the plan can focus on; Farmstead, Crop Land Conservation, Manure and Nutrient Management, Pasture Management and Pest/Pesticide Management.
 - Stormwater
 - There is a new general permit coming out.

- DEC is now going to require that each contractor have a trained person on staff to complete Stormwater inspections that are required by their permits. The DEC is reaching out to SWCDs to train these people. As long as SWCDs have a Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) on staff to offer this training (which Katie Maloney is a CPESC – in training), SWCDs can charge contractors to attend.
 - Stormwater Round Table Discussion – Gave an idea of what direction other counties have taken with Stormwater.
 - AEM to EQIP Too Grant – Total of 17 that need to be completed. Two need to pay, five NMPs are complete, ten are left. Katie Maloney’s goal is to have all of these completed by May in order to give them to the farmers.
 - AEM – waiting on State Committee to find out about the changes. Katie Maloney is hoping that the SWCD can bill through the Strategy the seven farmers that were in the grant that didn’t get funding to have CNMPs written.
 - Katie Maloney has to finish her three plans to get her certification as a Certified Nutrient Management Planner. She is hoping to get that completed this summer.
 - There was discussion on Katie Maloney’s time and whether she is going to be able to finish ten plans by May.
- Secretary Report – Raeanne Dulanski gave her report.
 - 8,946 trees have been sold so far in 82 orders for the District Tree Sale.
 - Raeanne Dulanski attended the Employee Handbook class with Dawn Howard, Invasive Species class with Aaron Earl, Workplace Violence Prevention class, and Record Retention class at the Water Quality Symposium. At the Workplace Violence Prevention class she was informed of new laws for NYS Public Employers and will be working on taking steps to make sure that the SWCD is in compliance with these laws. At the Record Retention class Raeanne Dulanski learned about where to find information on SWCD Record Retention and about grants available to help SWCD with its record system.
 - Raeanne Dulanski reported that Farm Safety Days have received \$300.00 in donations.
 - To date there have been 80 Ag Value Assessments completed and 18 were brought in today for completion. Ag Values should be nearing an end soon with the final deadline being April 1st for the few towns that had an extension this year.
 - Tom Nichols suggested that an interview with newspapers or TV stations be done so that people know that the Tree deadline is coming up.

Robert Andrews, Jr. asked Dawn Howard what classes she attended while at the Water Quality Symposium. Dawn Howard stated that she attended Drainage Law, Employee Handbook, Cost Estimating, Construction Materials, and the Managers Forum.

NYACD – Tom Nichols reported:

- Tom Nichols would like to see another meeting for Division 3 Directors.
- Tom Nichols had a teleconference with the NYACD Executive Committee right before the Board Meeting.
 - The DEC Stormwater trainings that Katie Maloney mentioned were discussed.
 - The additional \$ 3 million in EPF requested for SWCDs will not happen with this year’s budget, but they are looking at requesting \$1 million this year and an additional million every year until we get to the \$3 million level.

- *Tom Nichols made a motion to authorize Robert Andrews, Jr. to sign a letter to the State Representatives asking them to look kindly at SWCDs because we are working with other partnering agencies and are state leaders. NYACD is going to draft this letter. Ed Hadlock seconded and all were in favor.*
- Being part of the Great Lakes watershed, Tom Nichols reported that we can apply for grants/funding through them. Dawn Howard reminded the Board that this money has been available for a while and that it is where the funding for the St. Lawrence/Franklin County Hydroseeder came from.
- NYACD annual meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2008 and there will be early registration forms going out.

Robert Andrews, Jr. asked about the NRCS Civil Rights Review. The date has been moved to May 1st.

Robert Andrews, Jr. reported that the NYS FFA Convention is scheduled for Canton, NY in May. 1,500 students and 900 adults are scheduled to attend and there are a lot of activities that are taking place.

Robert Andrews, Jr. asked Dawn Howard what she thought our next step for the Operational Agreement with NRCS should be. Dawn Howard said that she thought that we should meet with Jim Pullano and find out what type of technical assistance he is going to need, how much time that will take and what we have available for time to dedicate to those activities.

Tom Nichols made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ed Hadlock seconded and all were in favor.

Next meeting is May 15, 2008 at 7:30 PM at the St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Respectfully submitted,

Raeanne Dulanski
Secretary/Assistant Treasurer