

St. Lawrence County  
Soil and Water Conservation District

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
For  
September 18, 2008

Board Members Present: Robert G. Andrews, Jr., Ed Hadlock, David Martin, Clark Decker, and Thomas Nichols arriving at 8:15 PM.

Staff and Guests Present: Dawn Howard, Katie Maloney, Raeanne Dulanski, Aaron Earl, James Pullano, NRCS.

Robert Andrews, Jr. called the meeting to order at 7:31 PM at the Soil and Water Conservation District office.

*Dave Martin made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Clark Decker seconded and all were in favor.*

*Dave Martin made a motion to accept the July and August Treasurer Reports. Clark Decker seconded and all were in favor.*

**Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Jim Pullano, District Conservationist**

- The federal government's fiscal year ends September 30<sup>th</sup>. Jim has been working on completing paperwork to report the county's activities for the fiscal year and close the books.
- A \$150,000 EQIP project was just brought into the county, bringing St. Lawrence County's EQIP total to \$370,000 for this year.
- There still has not been any program details about the new Farm Bill passed down to the local level yet.
- St. Lawrence/Lake Champlain Watershed Team is having a meeting in the Canton office at the end of September or beginning of October.
- Chris Reidy, the team's Biologist is going to be leaving. The Biologist position needs to be filled.
- Jim has received support from the St. Lawrence/Lake Champlain Watershed Team. While Jim was gone on annual leave for a week, a team member did come to Canton and act as DC for him.
- There is a WRP 50/50 Contribution Agreement that has been worked on and Dawn will discuss it further with the Board.

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

- NRCS sent out an email to all SWCDs about funding for SWCDs to enter into 50/50 Contribution Agreements with NRCS to do WRP monitoring. There were two different monitoring programs:

- On-site Review- This option was suggested to be completed by a Biologist. It consists of reviewing on-site items such as boundaries, WRP functioning, ...
- Annual Review- This is from the office monitoring. It consists of verifying the current owner of the WRP site, looking at aerial photos, and calling the owner with a few questions for them. All of these required tasks are listed on a checklist. It is estimated that this activity will take 2 hours per site. We will be paid \$27 an hour, but with a 50/50 Contribution Agreement, we get paid for half of the work. We will be making \$27 per site review and there are 183 sites in St. Lawrence County. The total value of this Contribution Agreement to us is \$4,941.
  - *Clark Decker made a motion to authorize chairperson Robert Andrews to sign the 50/50 Contribution Agreement with NRCS to do 183 WRP site annual reviews. Dave Martin seconded and all approved.*
- Budget discussion – Robert Andrews warned that there are hard fiscal times coming in 2009 and 2010. This WRP agreement is a good source of extra revenue to help with the budget. Dawn Howard reported that we did not end up purchasing the ATV that she had called some of the Board members about. There was some confusion about which ATV we were going to purchase and the one that the County wanted to sell the SWCD was a two-wheel drive and not what the SWCD was looking for at this time.
- There was a typo in the Manager’s Report that the McKnight Day at the Farm Tour is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>. The correct date is October 4<sup>th</sup>. There will be an ag plastic baler demonstration taking place that day. It should be really interesting.
- Raeanne Dulanski would like permission from the Board to attend the Farm Safety Day Coordinator training in Niagara Falls, Canada on September 29 and 30, 2008 and permission to attend the Wednesday, October 1, 2008 session of the Administrative Training Conference in Utica, NY. Both training sessions are budgeted for.
  - *Clark Decker made a motion to approve sending Raeanne Dulanski to the two training sessions. Ed Hadlock seconded and all were in favor.*
- Katie Maloney would like permission to attend the Conservation Skills Workshop in Cortland, NY, October 6-8. Katie will be attending classes on wastewater treatment strips and designing pasture infrastructure.
  - *Ed Hadlock made a motion to approve sending Katie Maloney to the Conservation Skills Workshop training session. Dave Martin seconded and all were in favor.*
- Clark Decker, Tom Nichols and Dawn Howard would like to attend the annual NYACD meeting October 19-21 in Geneva, NY. The NYACD has also requested a \$100 donation from every SWCD in NY to help pay for needed renovations to the Nation Association of Conservation Districts office building.
  - *Dave Martin made a motion to send Clark Decker, Tom Nichols, and Dawn Howard to the annual NYACD meeting and to send a \$100 donation for the National Association of Conservation District’s office building renovations. Ed Hadlcok seconded and all were in favor.*
- Dawn Howard asked for permission to pay the Farm Bureau and Grange dues.
  - *Clark Decker made a motion to pay the two dues. Ed Hadlock seconded and all were in favor.*
- October’s Board meeting will be held as a training session. An Environmental Panel has been formed to discuss water quality issues. This training session will be held at the Courthouse in the Legislators Boardroom, October 16, 2008 at 7:30 PM. The November Board Meeting will also be a training session. We have learned that a requirement for the Board of Director’s training plan is going to be District Law training within the last three

years. We have made arrangements for Steve Lanthier to come and give this training to the Board. Dawn Howard asked the Board to consider the previously discussed idea of having a training session in months that are not as busy for Board members, during the day with lunch.

- *Clark Decker made a motion to hold the November 20, 2008 meeting/training session from 11 am to no later than 3 pm, with lunch provide; however, there is still an option to change if something happens over the next month. Ed Hadlock seconded and all were in favor.*
- Black Lake Invasives Weed Committee (BLIWC)- Tom Nichols presented a bill from the BLIWC for \$6,500 to Quantitative Environmental Analysis, LLC (QEA) for the Black Lake Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Plan. Raeanne Dulanski reported that there is a problem with a missing check. Dawn Howard forwarded an email that she received from Patricia Toti, Black Lake Chamber of Commerce Secretary, to Raeanne about someone noticing that a check had not cleared yet. SWCD has not received a check from this person and apparently, no one knows where it is.
  - *Tom Nichols made a motion to pay the \$6,500 bill from QEA from the Black Lake Invasives Weed Committee account. Dave Martin seconded and all were in favor.*
- Dawn Howard will be attending the 2008 Mid-Atlantic Association of RC&D Councils Annual Conference in Clinton, New Jersey September 21-24. Dawn is now the acting Black River – St. Lawrence secretary and the RC&D Council voted and made her a temporary member-at-large so that she can be a voting member. Our SWCD has had a good response from the RC&D representative ad that was placed in the FSA and Co-op Extension newsletters. The first response was from Doug Thompson. Doug attended the last meeting and is interested in being a SWCD representative. Two more people have called and inquired. They are going to attend the next meeting and see if they would like to become involved in RC&D.
  - *Clark Decker made a motion to accept Doug Thompson's application and forward it to the Board of Legislators. Dave Martin seconded and all were in favor.*
- County Forest Land being used for firewood has been discussed. The Board of Legislators was presented with the idea to allow the County Forests to be opened up to the public to cut firewood. Tedra Cobb approached Aaron Earl, County Forester, with this idea. Aaron believes that there are areas that could benefit from using firewood cutting as part of Timber Stand Improvement (TSI); however, he shared that he does have concerns about the logistics. Dawn Howard was contacted by Tedra Cobb on Wednesday. Tedra suggested that the YCC/Youth Brigade be utilized for the cutting of firewood. A list of pros and cons was developed prior to the meeting and shared with the Board. Discussion about using the County Forests for firewood followed.
  - *Clark Decker made a motion to oppose the proposals that would open the County Forests to private individuals to cut firewood or use the YCC/Youth Brigade to cut firewood for the County's Heating Assistance Programs. Dave Martin seconded and all were in favor.*
  - *Tom Nichols made a motion to support a conceptual proposal to utilize contractual assistance for undesirable wood/firewood cutting to help with the County's Heating Assistance Programs, and which would follow the County Management Plan for care of County Forests. Dave Martin seconded and all were in favor.*

#### **New York Association of Conservation Districts (NYACD) – Tom Nichols**

- Tom Nichols is collecting resolutions for the NYACD annual meeting.

- Dawn Howard presented the Board with the training initiative summary and a resolution that was created by Madison County for the creation of a statewide engineering and technical training program. The Board agreed to endorse the presented resolution.

Tom Nichols left the meeting at 8:50 PM

**Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) – Dawn Howard continued**

- Insurance Policy – Ken Isaman of Robert A Sweeney Agency Inc. insurance company is contacting all SWCDs about their insurance coverage. He has conducted a comprehensive comparison of our current coverage to what he believes that SWCDs should have and has come up with a quote. The Board discussed the policy and came up with the following concerns: What’s the anniversary date of the current policies? Where’s the claim office? The board would also like additional quotes before a decision is made.
- There is a St. Lawrence County Urban Forestry Conference being planned by the DEC for October.
- Steve Lanthier, SWCC contacted Dawn Howard after the manager report went out and had the following comments:
  - Round XV grant RFP is going to be coming out soon.
  - Jefferson and Lewis Counties have been added to his area.
  - Director’s training plan template should be out soon. All the details are not yet known, but we do know that recent (within the last three years) District Law training is going to be a requirement.
  - Part C of the Performance Measure’s reporting is going to change. We have already received this money. Discussion followed on changing the requirements after money has been received.
  - New CAFO permit is going to be released. Not as much information is going to be required from medium size CAFOs, but it is going to be harder for medium CAFOs to move up to large CAFO size. Large CAFOs are also going to be required to have public hearings when they want to make changes to their operations. More information will be required.
  - Manager meeting will be held Wednesday, September 24, 2008. Dawn Howard will be in New Jersey so Katie Maloney and Raeanne Dulanski will be attending in her place.
- Forestry Report – Aaron Earl, District Forester
  - Area #33, Lenny Road sale is almost complete.
  - Marking is taking place in area #25, Sullivan Road and in Hopkinton.
  - Aaron Earl may have to fill in for Cooperative Extension and host the Forestry portion of the FFA Conservation Field Day contest.
  - The ATV trail was ridden with Raeanne Dulanski to check for signage (to see if the correct areas were signed, if the signs were easy to see and follow, and if potentially dangerous spots were marked.). There were a few areas discovered that improvements will need to be made.
- Technician Report – Katie Maloney, District Technician

- NRCS Conservation Planner Certification – All these plans have been completed and approved. Documentation has been submitted to the NRCS State Office. Waiting for NRCS State Conservationist Ron Alverado to sign and return.
  - AEM Year 4
    - Katie Maloney is working on completing full CNMPs and plan updates for the strategy.
    - The process has begun with some of the seven new farms in this years program. Katie Maloney will need to complete a Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3a (NMP, Cropland Plan) for each of the seven farms. The Tier 3a work consists of soil sampling and collecting field data while the weather is nice, and then completing the plans.
    - Katie Maloney had the AEM Year 4 quarterly meeting with Steve Lanthier and she is right on target with what she developed for the Year 4 annual action plan.
  - AEM Strategic Plan
    - Katie Maloney has done some brainstorming on updating the strategy for the next five years.
    - An AEM Steering Committee needs to be formed. Katie Maloney is hoping to utilize a local working group consisting of SWCD, NRCS, FSA, Cooperative Extension and couple of knowledgeable farmers.
      - Robert Andrews and Clark Decker volunteered to be on the AEM Steering Committee.
  - Stormwater –
    - SWCD has learned that the reimbursement money that we have been receiving from the DEC is no longer going to be available.
    - Discussion about what role the SWCD should play. Katie Maloney is qualified to do the weekly inspections that contractors will be required to start completing. It was talked about working on a program to have Katie Maloney doing these inspections for a fee.
- Secretary Report – Raeanne Dulanski
    - The Fall Fish Program deadline is September 26<sup>th</sup>.
    - Raeanne has been working on the Water Quality Coordinating Committee’s Water Quality Strategy revisions.

**Next meeting is October 16, 2008 at 7:30 PM in the St. Lawrence County Legislators Boardroom at the Courthouse. It will be the Environmental Panel on Water Quality training session.**

*Clark Decker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 PM. Ed Hadlock seconded and all were in favor.*

Recording Secretary: Raeanne Dulanski

Chair: Robert Andrews, Jr.