

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For June 17, 2010, 7:30 PM

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Ed Hadlock (Vice-Chair), Fred Morrill (Treasurer), Clark Decker, Tom Grow, and Ben Stauffer.

Board Members Absent: Tom Nichols.

Staff Present: Dawn Howard (Manager), and Raeanne Dulanski (Secretary).

Guests Present: Jim Pullano, NRCS DC

I. Call to Order

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

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

IV. Reports

A. NRCS – Pullano

1. Pullano reported that the intern has started. She has been getting out in the field as much as they can arrange. She has been working with Peter Gibbs when he is in St. Lawrence County.
2. Peter Gibbs is a WRP Biologist that works on the WRP backlog in St. Lawrence County about two days a week. He is the first member of the WRP team. The status of the other team members is unknown. At last check, the other team members had not been advertised for.
3. A number of wildlife program sign ups ended last week.
4. Pullano is heading into construction season.

B. NYACD – Decker

1. NYACD's next face-to-face meeting is the 28th.
2. Howard reported that the annual meeting will be held Sunday, October 17th to Tuesday the 19th in Utica. There is a discount for early registrations (registering by September) so she asked the Board to think about who would like to attend so the early registration can be taken advantage of.
3. Howard also reminded Decker that a Division III meeting will need to be held by July.

C. AFPB – Andrews

1. Andrews supplied the Board with a copy of the focus group meeting summary sheet. The summary is still being worked on to create a more user friendly version.
2. AFPB took its first action from the results of the focus group meeting. A letter was written to the FWMB regarding the amount of nuisance wildlife in St.

Lawrence County. That letter was delivered to them by Howard today at their meeting.

- a. Howard reported that the letter was very well received by the group. Most agreed that the bear season should be extended. They stated that there are changes being made to D- map. There is discussion that gun season may be shortened and bow season extended. This would help with the turkey population but may hurt the deer take.
 - b. The FWMB passed a resolution to support doing something about the nuisance animal population and will forward it to NYS officials. Howard reported that she has requested a copy of the resolution. Once she receives it, she will share it with the Board.
 - c. Howard also reported that she learned that the Governor's proposed budget cuts the Forest Practice Board. The DEC has received 124 open burning complaints. Last year they had only received 5 by this time. The last fact that Howard shared from the meeting was that the deer take was down 25%.
3. AFPB has also sent a letter to the DEC regarding the proposed regulations for the outdoor wood furnaces.
 4. This year's ag tour will be taking place August 20.
 5. The SWCD & AFPB are both going to be involved with the St. Lawrence County Fair's ag awareness topic - ag plastic recycling. A new building has been purchased and presentations will be played in there. Currently the ag plastic recycling presentation that Blake Putnam developed and Jon Montan's grass pelleting PowerPoint are supposed to be showing.
 6. Morrill reported that his first Blue Ribbon Committee meeting will be held in August. Morrill will be sharing the results of the AFPB's focus group meetings with the Blue Ribbon Committee.

V. SWCD Reports

A. Forester's Report – Howard for Earl

1. Postwood Park bid opening took place. The opening bid was \$27,000.
2. Earl has started marking the 2nd 2010 sale and will be doing a 3rd.
3. Two private lands forestry projects are complete and he has set up meeting with the third landowner.

B. Technician's Report – Howard for Maloney (appendix A)

1. Maloney attended a SWCC manager meeting for Howard because Howard was attending a County department head meeting. Topics that were discussed at the manager's meeting that the District needs to look into are:
 - a. FOIL policy update
 - b. Complying with the open meeting law. Howard reported that Lanthier stated that the District needs to put a notice in the newspaper and to get the County to post it on their calendar. Decker suggested posting a notice of meeting date at the beginning of the year in the paper to save on cost.
2. Wetland Determinations
 - a. Discussion took place on intent of program and the consensus of the Board was that this service is available for private landowners and not for

developers or people with the intent of making money from the determination. Those people should be directed to the private sector.

- b. *Motion to require the eight hour minimum fee to be paid prior to work on the site starting.* **Approved**
3. Maloney attended the CPESC review session and has scheduled to take the exam June 29th.

C. Manager's Report – Howard (Appendix B)

1. *Motion to write off Gary Stowell's \$5.00 debt from March 1, 2010 for one GIS map and to no longer extend credit to Mr. Stowell.* **Approved.**
2. *Motion to pay NYSCDEA NYS Fair assessment of \$100* **Approved.**
3. *Motion to accept the Black Lake Invasive Weed Committee's request to use their funds to reimburse Richard Henderson \$150 for the purchase of a benthic weed mat* **Approved.**
4. *Motion to approve the purchase of forestry paint up to \$350* **Approved.**
5. Howard reported that the SRMT's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant proposal that Howard had written a letter of support for, did receive funding.
6. Massena RAC will be hosting a public hearing/meeting. An Area of Concern BUI is trying to be delisted and a public hearing is required.
7. Information was submitted to Marilyn Stephenson of USDA –NRCS to use in the development of a possible Contribution Agreement. The District was approached by NRCS about doing a Contribution Agreement for a mailing about WHIP to potential qualified landowners. Nothing has been received back from NRCS yet.
8. The DEC has not released the funds to pay for the RAPP baler. Two balers have been constructed and once the funds have been released, they will be delivered. At delivery there will be a training session taking place in Thompkins County.
 - a. Discussion took place about how the District will be reimbursed for expenses incurred by the baler and the turnaround time for receiving payment.
 - b. Discussion on moving the baler and where the baler will go took place. The current plan is to take the baler to the farms with large amounts for on-farm baling and to work with the recycling coordinator at the County and have the baler available at transfer stations for smaller amounts.
9. The County auditors have been auditing our information and made the suggestion to increase the Investment Policy Amount from \$100,000 to \$250,000 if the limit was set to ensure that all funds are covered by FDIC, because FDIC limit has been raised to \$250,000. *Motion to increase the Investment Policy to \$250,000 to reflect the FDIC change* **Approved.**

VI. Old and New Business:

- A.** Discussion on the District's budget. Dulanski had prepared an overview of what the District's County appropriation would look like with different scenarios, which was reviewed by the Board. The Board requested the budget be send out to them as soon as it was prepared so they can review it and if need be, they can call in with approval or questions.
- B.** Andrews shared a letter from USGS regarding their interest in using his well in a groundwater study. Andrews wanted to let the Board know that this was going on in the County and was wondering if anyone else had heard of any other water testing

happening. No one else was aware of anyone similar letters. Andrews thinks that it is a good thing to be checking the water quality in SLC.

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

VIII. Announcements: None.

IX. Time and Date of Next Meeting: July 15, 2010, 7:30 PM at the SWCD Office.

X. Meeting Adjourned: 9:05 PM

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Raeanne Dulanski, Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer

Date

Attachments: Appendices A-C