

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For March 18, 2010, 7:30 PM

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Ed Hadlock (Vice-Chair), Fred Morrill (Treasurer), Clark Decker, Ben Stauffer and Tom Nichols arriving at 7:45 PM.

Board Members Excused: Tom Grow.

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

Guests Present: Marilyn Stephenson, NRCS and Jim Pullano, NRCS

I. Call to Order

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

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

IV. Reports

A. NRCS – Pullano (Appendix A)

1. Pullano reviewed his report with the Board.

Nichols joins the meeting at 7:45 PM.

2. Stephenson presented Andrews with the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Partner Appreciation Award, to recognize the contributions that the District makes to the NRCS, specifically their assistance with the annual monitoring of Wetland Reserve Program easements. She congratulated the District and thanked them for their continued work and support.

3. Stephenson reported that she will be going in the field with Biologist Kathleen Donna on Friday and that announcements on programmatic pre-approvals should be taking place in the next few weeks.

4. Andrews questioned Stephenson on WRP and personnel. Stephenson responded that she has been informed of a proposal to have a WRP implementation team created and the possibility that they would be housed in Canton. She made it clear that this is only a proposal and no further information is available currently. Andrews asked about the possible effects on the District. As far as Stephenson knows, right now there would be no effect on District staff involvement. This is not Stephenson's proposal, so information is limited. She does not know if this would be new staff or moving of existing staff into these positions. Stephenson's concern is if moving staff, that she can fill those vacancies to make sure there is enough staff to do the work in the field.

B. NYACD – Nichols

1. Nichols attended a portion of the Water Quality Symposium in Binghamton. This was the first time that he was able to attend and had a great time. It was a great event. He is convinced that this is training that all the staff needs to attend every year to stay up with what's happening.
2. Things are crazy in Albany. Lots of unknowns out there. Decker stated that NYACD is encouraging everyone to contact the members of the Legislature and ask them to continue to support Districts. Nichols reported that the EPF has been swept again. Motion to have Howard draft a letter of support to the State Legislature regarding the State budget and have Andrews sign the letter **approved**.

C. AFPB – Andrews

1. The last focus group in the series has been held to gather information to update the St. Lawrence County Agricultural Development Plan. Vast subject materials from all the meetings are being compiled.

V. SWCD Reports

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

B. Forester's Report – Earl

1. Marking Area 30 sale which is a pre-commercial sale near Postwood Park in the Town of Pierrepont.
2. Finished the first of 5 Private Land Plans.
3. Sale #3-2009 will start this week.
4. Sale #2-2009 still on hold.
5. John Rosales of St. Lawrence University is doing a study to try and get County Land to be able to be used for Carbon Credits.
6. A spring tour of ATV trail will be held next month. The Committee hopes to expand the trail into Hopkinton.

C. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer's Report – Dulanski

1. Ag Values have stopped for the most part.
2. NYS Treasurer's Report has changed again and Dulanski will try and have that ready for the Board's review at the next meeting.
3. Tree orders have started coming in.

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

1. Dulanski received the NYSCDEA Division 3 Merit Award at the Water Quality Symposium this year.
2. Maloney received a \$500 Frank Bratt Scholarship for the wetland delineation training and the check has been received.
3. For AEM Year 6 we are in line to be eligible for the maximum amount of \$75,000. (Up from \$40,000)
4. RAPP – Cornell and DEC lawyers had come to an agreement, but Howard just learned that the DEC has more concerns and the baler is on hold again.
5. Blake Putnam has left Cornell and now is an Environmental Teacher at BOCES.
6. Round 16 request for proposals for the ag non point source grant has been received. This year a request for Jim Evans on the shore of Black Lake and Kandace Dietschweiler-Hartley on SR 68, Town of Oswegatchie for barn yards is being developed by Maloney and Howard. Resolution to allow Howard to represent the District in the Round 16 grant process (Appendix D) **approved**.

7. Authorization to pay NYACD annual dues of \$1,500 **approved.**
8. Authorization to purchase tree marking paint up to \$450 **approved.**
9. Approval of payment of NYS Sales Tax in the amount of \$575.76 **approved.**
10. Howard reported that she has been contacted by the DEC and there will be no more RIBs funding.
11. Howard's meeting with the County Attorney regarding the Adopt-a-Trail program hasn't taken place yet. It has to be rescheduled.
12. Howard was able to contact the DEC in regards to Areas of Concern and was informed that all sites are directly on the Lakes or Rivers. The J&L site is too far away. There are 39 sites and no new sites are going to be added.
13. Round 15 contract for the WilLaing Grant is ready to be returned to the State. Only waiting for Workman Compensation proof from the County.
14. Hadlock asked about the Farm Safety Days. The Grange would like to continue to help. Howard informed him that Cooperative Extension was coordinating this year and no committee meeting had been held yet.
15. Marinas have expressed an interest in using the ag plastic baler for boat plastic.

VI. Old and New Business

- A. Morrill has been selected to represent St. Lawrence County on the NYS Association of Counties Blue Ribbon Commission of the Future of Agriculture in NY State. The Board unanimously agreed to support Morrill in this venture.

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

VIII. Announcements: St. Lawrence University North Country Symposium will be starting April 6, 2010.

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

X. Meeting Adjourned: 8:43 PM

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Raeanne Dulanski, Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer

Date

Attachments: Appendices A-E