

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District  
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
For October 15, 2009, 7:30 PM

**Board Members Present:** Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Ed Hadlock (Vice-Chair), Clark Decker, Tom Grow and Tom Nichols, arriving at 8:30.

**Board Members Not Present:** Dave Martin (Treasurer) and Fred Morrill.

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

**Guest Present:** Chanda Lindsay, NRCS Coordinator, assisting Black River-St. Lawrence RC&D Council.

**I. Call to Order**

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

**III. Treasurer's Report:** September Treasurer's report was **approved**.

**IV. Reports**

**A. RC&D – Lindsay (Appendix A)**

1. Lindsay was able to attend the AFPB's Ag Tour on August 24. She thought that it was excellent. She enjoys having the opportunity to get out and see the different ag businesses in the community.
2. Lindsay provided copies of her report to the Board.
  - a. Andrews informed Lindsay that AFPB has received a Vermont SARE grant to help get the Ag Plastic recycling program going. They will need to work closely with RAPP. Lindsay agreed, saying that RC&D has been helping with communication and to facilitate the projects. Andrews asked about a market for the plastic. Lindsay said that things are looking better and she knows that there are people with RAPP that have been working behind the scenes trying to get this going.
  - b. Hadlock was interested in hearing more about the Wind Project. Lindsay said that this is an interesting project because RC&D is not taking a side on the issue. Sustainable Energy Development, an energy development company, has been contracted to head the project. They are the technical and developmental experts. They are going to be installing a meteorological tower, holding community meetings and want total community buy-in in order to move forward with any development.
  - c. Decker is glad to hear that there is going to be work done to try and open additional slaughter houses. There is a dire need for more.
3. The RC&D Council is trying to get more information/participation from all Counties. The Council would like to enter a 3-5 year trial period of a County based RC&D Committees. These would be very flexible, able to meet as much or little as needed. Hoping to have better participation. The meetings could also be paired with

another meeting such as a SWCD Board meeting or a WQCC meeting. Lindsay is interested in any thoughts or ideas on this matter. If the Board has any comments after the meeting, let Howard know and she can pass them along.

a. Andrews thought that it would be better to have a more local group. It is easier for the volunteers to travel locally.

4. Lindsay thanked the Board and Howard for getting a full slate of representatives from St. Lawrence County.

#### **B. NYACD – Decker**

1. Decker and Howard are leaving Sunday morning to attend the annual meeting in Lake George. Nichols will join later.

#### **C. AFPB – Andrews**

1. Next meeting was rescheduled for November 4.

2. Looking forward to implementation of the SARE grant and coordinating with RAPP's Blake Putnam.

3. Concerned over AFPB budget.

4. Lots of interest in AFPB. Lots of acres have been added to Ag Districts and there is lots of interest in property taxes.

5. Education in schools by Betsy Hodge of Cooperative Extension is to continue.

6. The Ag Directory update is almost complete.

### **V. SWCD Reports**

#### **A. Technician's Report – Howard. Maloney not present.**

1. Maloney has completed two wetland delineations. The report for Heuvelton Central School is available for review.

2. New computer is here and waiting on IT to come and install.

#### **B. Forestry –Earl**

1. Marking of blow-down sale in Colton continues. It is over 100 ac. Also marking a small Red Pine sale. Sale in Area # 11 in Stockholm completed. A local person will clear out bent over whips in exchange for less than 3 cords of firewood. Has his own insurance.

a. Grow asked if the markets are any better. Earl said that pulp is moving, which is what this sale is, and poles are generally always pretty good.

2. Earl needs to develop a local law for County land. There is not currently any rules for use of the County land, so there is no local law to enforce against camping, littering, mud bogging, unauthorized posting, taking firewood and all other land misuse concerns.

3. Completed the second of five Part B Forest Management Plans and Earl feels that five is a doable amount by the end of the year.

*Nichols entered the meeting 8:30 PM*

#### **C. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer – Dulanski**

1. Dulanski passed out the NYS Retirement System projection for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2011 (due February 2011). She wanted to make the Board aware of the amount that they are going to be facing. The 2010 bill has been received for

\$14,179 and there was \$16,700 budgeted. The 2011 bill projection received is for \$21,360.

2. Dulanski has been doing a lot of work on the new Employee Handbook and has been working on the new County website.

3. Fall fish program has concluded. 8,125 fish were sold. Pick-up day will be Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>.

4. Authorization to pay first quarter auto insurance and pay NACD dues was **approved**.

#### **D. Manager's Report – Howard (Appendix B)**

1. County appropriation to SWCD of \$36,938 has been proposed to take a 10% cut. Howard stated that she believed that we will be okay. We have only ordered one of the two computers that were budgeted for and Maloney has opted out of going to CCA training this year. That should almost make up for the amount that the proposed cut is for. Howard is going to attend a Board of Legislators meeting regarding the cuts to outside agencies on October 20. Morrill (who was unable to attend tonight's meeting) has called and spoken with Howard. He would like her to present the amount of Federal dollars that are brought in for each of the County dollars invested. Howard is working on recalculating that number. Grow suggested that Howard be sure to present all the projects and programs that the District is involved in.

2. Board appointments – Howard reported that Nichols and Martin's appointments are up at the end of this year. Howard will send the reappointment form to Nichols to have him fill out. Martin has indicated that he does not want to be reappointed. We will need to find another Farm Bureau representative.

3. Grant applications – Howard is unable to do for Black Lake. Army Corp did not respond with information for the grant. Also, NYACD had a consultant working with them to write a grant. There was confusion over who the grant was for, and what it was for and a late request for a letter of support was received. Andrews requested that Howard write a letter and inform them that SLC SWCD thought that it was a good idea, but we require more information and more time to participate in a grant.

4. Carbon Credit Survey – Howard completed a survey for the NY Association of Counties. It asked questions about County Lands, land protection programs, farm methane digesters, and landfills. There is a possibility that this may lead to available funds for the County because of the forest management plans.

5. Tom Lee brought a woman from India interested in watersheds to the District to speak with Howard. She works for the federal government of India. She was very interested in AEM and Howard had a very interesting conversation with her.

## **VI. Old and New Business**

**A. No-till Grain Drill Bid Opening** – Opening took place at the SWCD counter at 2:30 PM today. Bids submitted are as follows:

1. Monroe Tractor: \$34,500 with fertilizer box  
\$30,500 without fertilizer box
2. Leberge & Curtis: \$29,486
3. Walldroff Farm Equipment: \$23,950

Motion to purchase the No-till Grain Drill from Walldroff Farm Equipment for the amount of the bid was **approved**.

**B. Employee Handbook**

1. Howard asked the Board to continue working through the handbook and to especially look at the Benefits for Retirees policy because this is a new policy for their consideration and comment.
2. Andrews stated that he feels that the Board is not ready to discuss the Handbook tonight.
3. Decker would like to form a committee to review the Handbook. He feels that the Board should invest as much time as they can into the Handbook because the staff has worked very hard on it. Nichols wants to be sure that the District is going to be able to keep its word on whatever is in the Handbook. Decker volunteered to sit on the committee. Andrews also volunteered and the Board decided that they would like Morrill to sit on the committee too because of his experience. They would also like to have a staff member on the committee. **Approved.** The committee will work around Morrill’s schedule. Howard requested to sit on the committee to share her past employee experiences and also suggested Dulanski sit on the committee.

**VII. Correspondence:** Mail Folder available for Board review.

- A. Day-at-the Farm thank you for assistance and a copy of the brochure.
- B. Grange dues payment thank you.
- C. SWCC Strategic Plan.
- D. Farm Bureau notice regarding DEC Open Burning Regulations.
- E. SLC resolutions supporting Federal Milk Marketing Improvement Act of 2009 and the adoption of “The Milk Tariff Equity Act”.
- F. SLC budget review schedule and tentative budget presentation.
- G. Ed Blackmer, the new County RC&D alternate representative’s biography.
- H. Heuvelton School wetland delineation report by Maloney.

**VIII. Announcements:** Director training session is to follow tonight’s meeting - “The History & Future of Conservation Districts”.

**IX. Time and Date of Next Meeting:** November 19, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

**X. Meeting Adjourned:** 9:15 P.M.

**Director’s Training Session**

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson	Date
Raeanne Dulanski, Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer	Date

Attachments: Appendix A – B