

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For September 17, 2009, 7:30 PM

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Ed Hadlock (Vice-Chair), Dave Martin (Treasurer), Clark Decker, Tom Nichols, arriving at 7:45, and Fred Morrill arriving at 8:18.

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

Guest Present: Jim Pullano, NRCS DC

I. Call to Order

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

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

IV. Reports

A. NRCS – Pullano

1. The federal government's fiscal year ends September 30th. Pullano has been working on completing required year end tasks.
2. Pullano provided the Board with Civil Rights education. This month is National Hispanic American Month.
3. Pullano informed the Board that Astor Boozer has signed the Operational Agreement and the District has received a signed copy. Pullano provided a brief review of the components of the agreement
4. NRCS has a new program, the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). CSP was developed to reward farmers that have met a certain threshold of conservation and would like to build upon their current level of conservation (program information provided).
5. Pullano is looking forward to joining Decker, Nichols and Howard at the annual NYACD meeting in Lake George.

Nichols arrived 7:45

B. NYACD – Nichols

1. Nichols reported that plans are coming together for next month's annual meeting.
2. Nichols led a discussion on a property tax resolution that was presented to NYACD. The resolution is to support allowing Districts to impose taxes on landowners just as libraries and fire departments are allowed to do. Nichols is opposed to this resolution. Decker stated that he does not believe that we would use it in the near future here, but in some counties, this may be the only way that they are able to generate funds.

Nichols believes that Brag Rogers will be running for NYACD President again and will not run against him for this position.

C. AFPB – Andrews

1. Next meeting was rescheduled for November 4.
2. The participants' feedback from the Ag Tour indicated that it was very well received. There is talk of another tour next year.
3. Farmland Protection received another grant for more ag plastic recycling. A baler has been ordered through RAPP.
4. The county recycling coordinator will also have a baler available in the future.
5. RAPP's next collection is scheduled for October 27 & 28.

V. SWCD Reports

A. Technician's Report – Maloney (Appendix A)

Morrill arrived 8:18

1. Board suggested that Maloney speak to the Town Highway Association once wetland delineation program is set up, to inform them that we will be offering this service. Soils auger and Munsell received.
2. Martin asked if the closing of the Cornell Lab would adversely affect the soil sampling. Maloney stated that she has sent her first group of soil samples to the new lab and so far has not had any problem. Will see once results are received.
3. Maloney will participate in a grass pelleting tour.

B. Forestry – Howard, Earl not present

1. Earl will not be presenting at Conservation Skills Workshop this year, but did help develop the Forestry section.
2. HDK had a problem with metal and saw blades on a recent sale.

C. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer – Dulanski

1. Dulanski reported that credit card processing companies have been changed.
2. The fall fish sale is continuing until September 25.
3. Requests for maps have been high the last few weeks.
4. Work has continued on the OSC account changes.
5. Dulanski has been working on the Employee Handbook.

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

1. Howard requested permission to purchase a new computer that was budgeted for. Motion to purchase new computer **Approved.**
2. Howard requested permission to purchase a new chair for the Secretary that was budgeted for. Motion to purchase a new chair **Approved.**
3. Black Lake septic grant is still being worked on by an advisory committee without landowner feedback.
4. Howard requested permission for her and Dulanski to travel to the Administrative Conference a day earlier due to the distance. Motion to allow Howard and Dulanski

to travel the day before to Administrative Conference and stay an extra night
Approved.

5. Howard has been working with the County Personnel Office on employee pay levels and retirement benefit questions.

6. Great Lakes Basin Program No-Till Grain Drill grant check being processed. Will have to put together a bid package for the purchase.

7. Our Part B Pond Project has been selected to be highlighted at the NYACD annual meeting.

8. Dues – Bills for Farm Bureau and Granges dues for next year have been received. Motion to pay both dues **Approved.**

9. RC&D – Next meeting will be November 19 in Gouverneur. They are talking about going back to County Committees. Lumber Grading training taking place in October in Norwood. No sign ups yet.

10. FWMB – Howard attended a meeting today. Deer management meeting will be taking place September 30 from 6:30 PM – 9 PM in Potsdam. FWMB is pushing access to private land with landowner permission.

11. Board Training – Four training modules are available online and a training will take place at the next meeting.

12. Andrews asked how many meetings have been held and if the District will have the requirements met. We will have 10 meetings this year which will meet the requirements. Nichols stated that he believes that having more meetings is making the meetings progress faster.

VI. Old and New Business

A. Employee Handbook - Has been read by all employees and they are now starting to go through it as a group. Hope to have a copy sent out to the Board soon so they can review it and have a discussion on it at next month's meeting.

VII. Correspondence: Mail Folder available for Board review.

VIII. Announcements: None.

IX. Time and Date of Next Meeting: October 15, 2009 at 7:30 PM.

X. Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 P.M.

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Raeanne Dulanski, Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer

Date

Attachments: Appendix A – B