

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For September 16, 2010 7:30 PM

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Ed Hadlock (Vice-Chair), Fred Morrill (Treasurer), Clark Decker, Tom Grow, Ben Stauffer, and Tom Nichols at 7:40 pm.

Board Members Absent:

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

Guests Present:

I. Call to Order

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

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

IV. Reports

A. NYACD – Decker

1. Decker reported that there is a conference call on the 28th to review the resolutions that have been received.
2. Annual meeting is October 17 – 19.
3. Howard discussed Senator Aubertine's letter to Patrick Hooker, NYS Commissioner of Agriculture. When the State budget was passed, SWCDs had an increase of money and the Farmland Protection Program (FPP) decreased. Recently Hooker moved additional funds from the FPP to Soil and Water programs. Aubertine wrote a letter requesting that the money be returned to FPP. *Motion to write a letter to Hooker (carbon copy to Aubertine) requesting funds be allocated to meet all FPP obligations and to not pit two agriculture agencies against each other. **Approved.***

B. AFPB – Andrews

1. Next meeting will be November 4th.
2. A letter offering mediation was sent to the people involved in a Massena ag conflict. No response has been received.

Nichols enters meeting

3. Andrews is hearing positive feedback from last month's Agriculture Tour.

V. SWCD Reports

A. FSA Report – Howard

1. Program Technician position announcement has closed.
2. Annual CRP and DCP payments will be made in October.
3. Average milk price was \$16.79 last month, the highest since September 2008.
4. No funds for the new fiscal year. Administrative purchases are through the State Office.

B. SWCC Report – Howard

1. Steve Lanthier's last day will be September 21st.
2. September 24th there will be a meeting in Albany to address staffing.
3. Manager's Meeting will be held around October 2^{8th}. The top two people of SWCC will be there to present information to the Managers.
4. Districts can use Association of Counties meetings on Performance Measures.
5. Round 17 RFP will be out soon.

C. Forester's Report – Howard

1. Earl is working on his fourth sale. Sale #3-2010 was for the County Highway Department.
2. Three forestry plans have been completed. He has the names for the last two plans and should be starting those soon.
3. State of the Forest Address to the Board of Legislators will be September 27th.
4. Polaris ATV grant submitted.

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

1. Nichols congratulated Maloney on her new position. He hates to see her go.
2. Hadlock appreciates what Maloney has done for the District.
3. Andrews stated that although he is not happy that Maloney is leaving, the NRCS WRP position is a real career stepping stone.
4. Morrill also congratulated Maloney.

E. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer's Report – Dulanski

1. Fall Fish program is out and so far numbers are down.
2. Dulanski requested the Board review their bio information that is posted online and inform her of any changes.

F. Manager's Report – Howard

1. Discussed the effect that Maloney's resignation will have on the District's budget. Howard has called Albany and they stated that as long as 75% of the requested \$65,100 requested for AEM was earned, then the District would not have any problem with eligibility for the enhanced AEM funds in the future. Discussion on how the 75% could be earned followed.
2. *Motion to have Howard advertise for the Technician position with a starting salary of \$25,000 - \$30,000, negotiable with experience and education (after consulting with the County Human Resources office) **Approved.***
3. *Motion to continue discussions with NRCS regarding In-Kind work (including WRP, WHIP and in-field assistance) for the Operational Agreement **Approved.***
4. Nichols discussed hiring a 3-6 month temporary position to help with the workload as a new technician was hired. Discussion followed. Consensus of the

Board was to concentrate on hiring the full time position. If there is an issue with finding a qualified person, then revisit the idea of a temporary position.

5. Interviewing Committee will consist of Hadlock, Andrews and Grow.
6. *Motion to make the following revision to the Employee Handbook: carry the definition of immediate family from the bereavement leave on page 34 of the Employee Handbook to sick leave on page 44* **Approved.**
7. *Motion to accept the Dispute Resolution Policy* **Approved.**
8. *Motion to pay Grange and Farm Bureau dues* **Approved.**
9. The No-Till Grain Drill is on display at the Hammond Fair this weekend.

VI. Old and New Business

- A. Discussion on I-98 proposal. A modified version of a provided resolution will be presented to the Board by staff next month.
- B. *Motion thanking Katie Maloney for her years of years to the District* **Approved.**

VII. Correspondence: Appendix B

VIII. Announcements: None.

IX. Time and Date of Next Meeting: October 21, 2010, 7:30 PM at the SWCD Office.

X. Meeting Adjourned: 8:40 PM

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Raeanne Dulanski, Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer

Date

Attachments: Appendices A & B