

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For June 16, 2011, 7:30 PM

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Ben Stauffer (Vice-Chair), Clark Decker, Tom Nichols *arriving at 8:00 PM.*

Board Members Absent: Edwin Haddlock, Fred Morrill, and Dan Parker.

Staff Present: Dawn Howard (Manager), Tamme Sharpe (Secretary), Raeanne Dulanski (Technician), and Russell Martin (Forester).

Guests Present: Kent Frary, NRCS DC

I. Call to Order: 8:05 PM

II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: May minutes were **approved with corrections to IV, B2, NE Regional Meeting.**

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

IV. Reports

A. NRCS – Frary

1. Frary has been busy with EQIP and is in the process of pre approving applications with the potential of 13 becoming signed contracts.
2. NRCS Contribution Agreement with SWCD is working out nicely. Dulanski has been busy entering all the data into toolkit, mapping, meeting with the DEC etc. which has made a tremendous impact on these contracts.
3. Two WRP construction projects are up and running.
4. One covered barnyard is about 80% complete and should be done in a few weeks and will be ready for the final review. Another covered barnyard and manure storage facility is also near completion.
5. Additional dollars for more contribution agreements may be available from NRCS for further assistance on other projects.
6. Senja Melin is the new intern for NRCS. She has been busy learning all that goes on in the office and has picked up quite quickly on the tasks assigned to her.

B. NYACD – Decker

1. New York State will be hosting the North East Regional Convention next year.
2. The three bills of importance to the SWCD made it to committee in the Senate. Of those three bills two were passed by both Senate and Assembly.

C. AFPB – Andrews

1. The Annual Legislator Tour has been scheduled for Friday, the 19th of August. A. Tubbs, M. Larson, D. Howard, and B. Andrews will get together to put the final touches on these plans. Daryl Aubertine, Commissioner of Ag & Markets is scheduled to attend the tour this year.
2. Discussion on the No-Till Grain Drill rental and the rate we charge for using this equipment was brought to the table. The rate of \$18.00 an acre is the current fee. In an email from Legislator Arquiett, he proposed a fee of \$10.00 an acre be set for a 2 year trial basis. *Tom Nichols arrived at 8:00 PM, thus forming a quorum. The Meeting was*

called to order at 8:05 PM. After further discussion, the rate of \$18.00 an acre is more than adequate and will remain. Comparing our fee to fees set by national publications, our rate is more than reasonable. As of this moment, Curtis, from Leberge & Curtis is waiting to use this drill for his own personal use. The Board consensus is to write a letter to Legislator Arquiett on this matter, as the rate that is presently being charged will remain, as this rate is fair and reasonable. **Approved**

3. Additional parcels were added to the Ag District with the exceptions of a few requests.

D. SWCC – Howard for Brower

1. A 2012 Farm Bill Listening Session will be held on June 23rd in Auburn, NY.
2. See mail folder for update on NYS legislation.
3. Jackie Moody-Czob is the new Assistant Secretary for Agriculture and Markets.
4. No movement on replacing SWCC staff.
5. AEM training will be held on June 21st. Dulanski and Martin will both attend.

V. SWCD Reports

A. Forester's Report – Martin

1. Martin has visited all County Forest parcels. On Parcels # 19 & 26 in Colton, kids have been partying and burning tires. Law enforcement has been notified. Dulanski and Martin removed three pieces of furniture and a make shift bar this week.
2. Martin is working with Howard on getting some rules and regulations together for the county parcels.
3. The logger will be starting on Parcel #26 soon as the Timco has already been moved in.
4. Boundary work needs to be done on some areas, and is also visiting previous cut sites to get a feel of what has been done.
5. Martin is in the process of working on 2 private sales.

B. Technician's Report – Dulanski

1. Dulanski has been in the field with ANCA working on Tier 1 & 2 plans, along with grazing plans.
2. Yr 7 AEM plans have been handed back.
3. A grazing training class was attended in Malone, along with NRCS training in Ballston Spa, and civil service test training at the county courthouse.
4. Farm Safety Days were last week. We had 494 students participate in this year's 2-day event at the Extension Learning Farm.
5. Work has started on the NRCS Contribution Agreement for EQIP.

C. Secretary's Report – Sharpe

1. The Annual County Audit has been the main focus for most of the month. Everything seems to be in order and now just waiting for the final paperwork for Howard to sign.
2. The final bills for the District Tree program have all been received. We sold over \$19000.00 in seedlings and with expenses we made a profit of about \$9000.00 this year.
3. The Tripoil Grass Carp sale has concluded with 33 fish sold. Martin and Dulanski went to the hatchery to pick them up as the minimum quantity was not sold. Our profit for this year was about \$300.00.
4. The FY2012 Budget is now my main concern. Work has started on this and with the help of Howard and the rest of the staff; I will be plugging in the figures to see where we stand for next year.

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

1. Howard and Martin attended Massawepie Annual Conservation Meeting on May20th.

2. On June 16th Martin and Howard attended the Fish & Wildlife Management Board Meeting in Lowville. There will be separate tags for doe this season. A change in the opening day for deer season was also discussed. A management plan for bear is in the works for next year.
3. The appropriation for the Evans/Candace grant was received in April. This was deposited into the Money Market Account. Authorization to open a new account for this grant was put forth to the board. ***This motion was approved.***
4. An emergency County Dept Head Meeting was called on June 14th. This meeting was to discuss cuts to the FY2012 Budgets. All outside agencies will be zeroed out and this includes both SWCD and forestry. Since 1985 SWCD have taken an 18% cut to their county appropriations. Mean while the forestry has brought in a tremendous amount of income into the county. The offices in the USDA building alone have put over \$35 million into SLC over the years.
5. Sharpe and Howard have started working on FY2012 Budget. With the help of all the staff we will do a budget with level funding. *The board discussed a budget with a 3% increase but while deliberation this option it became stalemated with 2 nays and 2 yeses.*
6. A meeting is now scheduled for July 7, 2011 at 7:30 PM to review the FY2012 Budget. A letter will be sent to each legislator voicing the concerns the SLC SWCD have on the potential cuts.

VI. Old and New Business: None

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

VIII. Announcements: None.

IX. Time and Date of Next Meeting: July 7, 2011, 7:30 PM at the SWCD Office.

X. Meeting Adjourned: 8:55 PM

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Tamme Sharpe, Secretary/ Assistant Treasurer

Date

Attachments: Appendices A & B