

**Minutes of the Wayne County Soil & Water
Conservation District Board of Directors**

**Regular Meeting –July 16, 2014
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

Directors:

Steve Brownell
Bill Hammond
Tom Caprilla
Bob VanLare
Steve LeRoy

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Cathy Comfort

NRCS:

Bill Jones

Guests:

Pat VanLare

FSA:

Absent

Call to order @ 9:05am

Approval of the Agenda

Additional topics added: Ag NPS 17BB Motion; Seneca Foods Land Donation, COU with AES for engineering services, NYS Soil Health Grant, Round 20 plan of work

A MOTION was made to approve the Agenda by S. LeRoy seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

Acknowledgement of Guests

Pat VanLare

Operational Business

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of June 18, 2014 meeting by B. VanLare seconded by B. Hammond; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the Treasurer's Report for July 2014 meeting by B. Hammond seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

S. Brownell inquired as to the service charge from the bank; it was explained that this is for the ACH charges associated with Direct Deposit.

Steve LeRoy inquired as to the reimbursements for the Fish Program; it was explained that these were refunds due to the unavailability of fish from the supplier.

A MOTION was made to approve the Bills to be paid for June 2014 meeting by B. Hammond seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

Report from NRCS

See attached addendum

Report from FSA

No Report

Report from SWCC Victor

No Report

Report from Staff-Ron Thorn and Introduction of Ethan Humbert

R. Thorn introduced E. Humbert who is studying Civil Engineering at RIT. E. Humbert will be working on Ag Planning with R. Thorn, Ag Implementation with T. Reynolds as well as updating the Tier V information and working with other technicians to understand the mission of the Soil and Water Conservation District.

R. Thorn informed the Board that the AEM yr 9 summary was completed in May and he is now working on yr 10. The yr 10 allotment will increase to \$50,000 from \$40,000 for yr 9. L. Gerstenslager & R. Thorn are working on updating the Strategic Plan for 2015-2020.

R. Thorn informed the Board that Ag NPS Grant Round 20 successfully approved 4 farms. S. LeRoy inquired as to how the money is distributed on the State level; R. Thorn explained the ranking system.

SWCD Operational Business: Lindsey Gerstenslager

- Correspondence folder was passed around for all to see.
- Housing/Space Needs for Future of WCSWCD

L. Gerstenslager advised the board that a tour of Oswego; Onondaga and Cayuga County SWCD's is scheduled for Thursday August 7th 2014. Information has been received that USDA and NRCS will be going on a month to month lease agreement while the USDA continues to look at reducing their carbon footprint.

- AVC Program Update

L. Gerstenslager stated that up until last week the weeds have been low as the water is still high and cooler than normal for this time of year.

- Drainage Program Update

L. Gerstenslager explained that Technician C. Hotto is 1/3 of the way thru this year's maintenance list. This year had a wet spring and some time was also used with assistance for failing drain culverts. L. Gerstenslager stated that town assistance by the district is going great and we are now working with 4 towns and a muck farm which needs to move a blue line stream.

- Ag Grant Rd 15 Closeout

L. Gerstenslager stated that the closeout is delayed for additional information that is required by the state; however she would like a motion to approve the closeout once all materials are approved.

A MOTION was made to approve the closeout of Ag NPS Round 15 once all materials have been approved by State AEA Victor DiGiacomo by B. Hammond seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

- 1st Fish Sale Report

Report is tabled at this time as final bills have not been received. L. Gerstenslager stated that the district is planning a second sale in September of this year. S. LeRoy stated that he noticed a few people driving away from the pickup site with water sloshing out of the buckets and suggested they are informed of putting a bag inside of the container to secure the water.

➤ Budget 2015 Discussion

L. Gerstenslager stated that she is anticipating a letter from the County at any time as the budgets are traditionally due August 1st to the County. L. Gerstenslager also stated of looking at requesting an additional \$32,000 to replace failing culverts in that have been identified. B. Hammond stated that he believes there is something in writing, a commitment was made and the county should honor the request. S. Brownell stated that it should be done before the culverts fail. S. LeRoy inquired if additional funding could be located thru CHIPS funds.

➤ New Board Members

L. Gerstenslager stated that she has been actively searching for new board members to fill the vacancies that will be created at the end of their terms by S. Brownell and T. Caprilla. After discussion with FSA she inquired if Mark Humbert and Steve Olsen would be interested in serving, both are very active in the district's Ag Advisory Committee and have used various programs of the agency. One will be the farm Bureau Representative and the other will be the Member at Large.

Other Business:

- L. Gerstenslager requested a motion to extend the Ag NPS Rd 17BB to 12/31/2015.

A MOTION was made to approve an extension to Ag NPS Grant Round 17BB from 5/15/2015 to 12/31/2015; to be submitted to the SWCC for approval and contract renewal by S. LeRoy seconded by B. Hammond; carried.

L. Gerstenslager explained to the Board that she had just received a call from Seneca Foods about donating some land to the District; more information to follow.

L. Gerstenslager requested approval for a proposal from AES for engineering services. This contract does not limit the Districts use of choosing engineers but will standardize the cost. Board agreed and proposal signed (see attached addendum).

A MOTION was made to sign the Proposal from Agricultural Engineering Services (AES) for approvals and peer review at the rate of \$80.00 per hour by S. LeRoy seconded by B. Hammond; carried.

➤ NYS Soil Health Grant

L. Gerstenslager advised the board that the district has had requests made for a Conservation Tillage Drill and that a grant has been made available for the district to purchase the drill and conduct 2 classes on use. The district can then charge for use of the drill; the Ag Advisory Committee recommends the filing of grant for this purpose.

A MOTION was made to approve the application of grant funding for the purchase of a Conservation Tillage Drill by B. Hammond seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

➤ Ag NPS Round 20 Plan of Work

A Motion was made to submit the Ag NPS Round 20 plan of work by B. Hammond seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

Approved Minutes for July 16, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting -

➤ Executive Session

A MOTION was made for the Board to go into executive session at 10:40 am to discuss a personnel reviews and other personnel business by B. VanLare seconded by B. Hammond; carried.

The Board returned from executive session at 11:15; no further action required.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2014 at 9 am at the SWCD Conference Room.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:16 am.