

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

**Regular Meeting –September 17, 2014
SWCD Shop Location
8338 Old Ridge Road, Alton NY 14551**

Directors:

Steve Brownell
Bill Hammond
Bob VanLare
Steve LeRoy

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Cathy Comfort

NRCS:

Absent

Absent:

Tom Caprilla

FSA:

Absent

Guests:

Pat VanLare
Victor DiGiacomo

Call to order @ 9:07am

Approval of the Agenda

Additional topics added: Three grant proposal request approvals

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

Acknowledgement of Guests

Welcome Pat and Victor

Operational Business

No motion needed for approval of the July 16, 2014 regular meeting this was approved at the July 30, 2014 finance meeting.

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of July 30, 2014 special finance meeting by B. VanLare seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

L. Gerstenslager pointed out to the Board that additional monies will be coming in to the District Checking with the closing of Round 15 and FLOWPA 12/13 Grants.

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

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

Report from NRCS

A hand-out was provided from Bill Jones.

Report from FSA

No Report

Report from SWCC Victor

Victor DiGiacomo reviewed with the Board his reports from August and September. (A written overview was included in the Board Agenda packet.)

Report from Staff-Mike Walker

Mike Walker stated that first he would like to thank the Board; Lindsey Gerstenslager and the Crew for a successful season, the equipment to run the program effectively and the improvements made to the building also known as the "Shop." Mike Walker further explained that during his years with the program he feels that a significant difference has been made by the harvesting of invasive species and that long-term harvesting does make a difference. B. Hammond inquired if there were many complaints this season; Mike Walker replied that the complaints were usually from weekend residents and this is when we are not harvesting. B. VanLare stated that when he and Pat were in the Conservation Booth at the State Fair they received a lot of inquiries about water chestnuts.

L. Gerstenslager stated that there has been an ongoing interest in the different methods of utilizing water chestnuts and invasive plant materials and she is looking at applying for a CIG grant next year to further study of the nutrient content and the conservation utilization of farming practices for fruit and vegetable producers to increase carbon and organic nutrient materials that are cost efficient and readily available in the summer months for stockpile.

Report from Staff-Scott DeRue

Scott DeRue gave an update on the total loads harvested as of September 5, 2014.

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Port Bay | 36 Loads |
| East Bay | 15 Loads (down from previous comparison) |
| Maxwell Bay | 9 Loads (down from previous comparison) |
| Blind Sodus Bay | 6 Loads |
| Sodus Bay | <u>662 Loads</u> |
| Totals: | 728 Loads translates to 1456 tons |

Scott DeRue stated that next year reweighing will be done as the density of aquatic weeds has changed and the actual tonnage formula needs to be recalculated.

Scott DeRue handed out assessment he has been doing for Red Creek; see attached. S. LeRoy inquired about Maxwell Bay; L. Gerstenslager stated that Scott DeRue's plan is done and that the water table is what the plan is waiting on, L. Gerstenslager also stated that the signage needs to be updated.

Scott DeRue addressed the Board on the Lower Ganargua Creek Implementation Plan and stated that twelve (12) log jams have been identified that need to be removed and at least one of these will have stream bank erosion issues. L. Gerstenslager stated that she had reviewed funding for this project with Scott this morning and that the District is waiting on other funding requests to be granted.

SWCD Operational Business: Lindsey Gerstenslager

- Correspondence folder was passed around for all to see.
- Review of other District visits from August 7th, 2014

B. VanLare stated that he was surprised that Oswego County was in the middle of nowhere; B. Hammond stated that he felt Onondaga County was out of the way for the public to access and he also stated that he felt Cayuga County probably was a good idea when it was built but in today's time could be very expensive. L. Gerstenslager also stated that the additional benefit of not being co-located with NRCS is we could be paid as a tech service provider versus doing the work in-kind as currently. B. VanLare stated that Ontario County is separate from NRCS and FSA and Victor stated that Wyoming County is separating into County space with NRCS and FSA following. L. Gerstenslager stated that we have set aside funds for rent in the event that we are asked to pay rent and if the District is to stay co-located with NRCS, the District needs to be the landlord. B. Hammond stated that revenue streams have changed and being in downtown Lyons is not a necessity and opens up more opportunities. L. Gerstenslager stated that the District is growing and she sees the need for another technician in the near future.

L. Gerstenslager charged the Board with doing a Needs Assessment/Comparison for the future of the District over the next 5-8 years involving future programming and space requirements, help, etc and bring it to the next Board meeting. B. Hammond asked Lindsey to send out a reminder prior to the next meeting. L. Gerstenslager agreed.

B. VanLare wanted to bring up the comment that he would like to see Soil & Water District's focus more on the fruit farms as focus seems to be mainly on dairy and agriculture; Victor agreed this has been top heavy throughout the state and he will keep this in mind for further discussions.

➤ Drainage Program Update

L. Gerstenslager informed the Board that the program got a late start due to the wet spring, at this time over 3 miles complete for 5 projects and more pipe is being delivered.

➤ 2nd Fish Sale Coming Up

The second fish sale is underway with good response and fish will be delivered September 27, 2014.

➤ Budget 2015-Review Process

L. Gerstenslager stated that she is meeting with J. Marquette, County Administrator, to review budget justification.

➤ New Board Members-Training

L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that with two members leaving, Steve Brownell and Tom Caprilla, Farm Bureau member Mark Humbert and Steve Olsen have expressed their interest in joining the Board; L. Gerstenslager would like to do a meet and greet at the next Board meeting.

A MOTION was made to appoint Mark Humbert and Steve Olsen to the Board as of January 1, 2015 and submit this recommendation to the County Chairman by B. Hammond seconded by S. Brownell; carried.

➤ Administration Conference-October 21-23

L. Gerstenslager commented that she will be asking the new Board members to attend the Wednesday session and invited any other Board members to attend. L. Gerstenslager also confirmed that B. VanLare and Pat would be in attendance.

➤ Conservation Skills Workshop-September 29-October 1

Reminder that the Conservation Skills Workshop will be going on again this year.

Approved Minutes for September 17, 2014 Board of Directors Meeting -

➤ FLOWPA Annual Meeting-October 31, 2014

L. Gerstenslager stated that she may not be able to attend this meeting; it is a worthwhile meeting if anyone else is interested please let her know.

➤ Wayne County Ag Economic Committee Agriculture Tour-September 26, 2014

- Breakfast Request-Ag Commissioner is speaking

L. Gerstenslager informed the Board that this tour is next Friday with breakfast from 8-9 and the Ag Environmental Farm of the Year Award will be Presented.

➤ NYS SWCC-Manager's Meeting-Batavia (October 9, 2014)B. VanLare said he would be attending.

➤ Wayne County Farm Bureau-Annual Meeting October 25, 2014 \$15.00 Docker's Seafood & Grill

➤ Cornell Cooperative Extension-Annual Meeting Friday November 7, 2014 (Save the Date)

Other Business:

L. Gerstenslager informed the Board that she has 3 Grants that she would like a motion to apply for. The Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species management; the 2014-2015 NYSP2I Community Grants program and the New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program.

A MOTION was made to approve the application process of these grants by B. Hammond seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

B. Hammond wanted to take a moment to share that he had recently attended an MS4 meeting and he was impressed with L. Gerstenslager's ability and knowledge to speak and educate about opportunities that are out there.

Discussion was also had on the 2000 Chevrolet Truck as it will not pass inspection and a truck will need to be in place by next year's harvesting season.

A MOTION was made to sell the 2000 Chevrolet by B. Hammond seconded by S. Brownell; carried.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for October 15, 2014 at 9 am at the SWCD Conference Room.

Motion to Adjourn at 10:38 am by B. Hammond.