

**Minutes Of The Wayne County Soil & Water
Conservation District Board Of Directors**

**Regular Meeting – July 15, 2015
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

Directors:

Bill Hammond
Bob VanLare
Steve Olson
Mark Humbert
Steve LeRoy

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Cathy Comfort

NRCS:

Absent

Guests:

Pat VanLare
Vic DiGiacomo (absent report submitted)

FSA:

Absent

Call to order by Board Chair B. Hammond at 9:00am

Approval of the Agenda

Additional topics added at the end of the agenda, L. Gerstenslager added a Resolution in support of Water Quality Improvement Projects and Nonpoint Source Projects. L. Gerstenslager also stated that the Technicians have a request that is added.

Acknowledgement of Guests

Welcome Pat VanLare.

Operational Finance Business

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the May 20, 2015 meeting by S. LeRoy seconded by M. Humbert; B. Hammond abstained; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2015 meeting by B. Hammond seconded by M. Humbert; S. LeRoy abstained; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the July 2015 Treasurer's report by B. VanLare seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the bill's to be paid for July 2015 by B. Hammond seconded by M. Humbert; carried.

- L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that the \$12,000 transfer of funds approved in the March Minutes was transferred as well as \$500 from General Savings and \$10,500 from Special Projects to cover Accounts Payable and Payroll. At this time the District has \$152,000 in A/R and when the reimbursement comes in all monies will be transferred back. B. VanLare inquired if this was due to the slowness of the State reimbursements; L. Gerstenslager stated that no it was more due to inclement weather and project completion. B. Hammond stated that at all times L. Gerstenslager contacts him and he is kept informed of transfers. S. LeRoy inquired about the monies paid to KM Excavating; C. Comfort steered him to the Transaction Detail report that shows the explanation that this was for Red Creek Mowing.

Report from NRCS

No Report

Report from FSA

No Report

Report from SWCC – AEA Victor DiGiacomo

Victor called this morning he is headed to the Southern Tier where they experienced 5 inches of rain and severe flooding; L. Gerstenslager has his report and will send it.

Report from Staff-Scott DeRue

Tabled

Old Business

- Fleet Vehicles-Tabled; 2016 state bid price list not available yet.
- Town of Rose Well Head Protection Update
 - L. Gerstenslager stated she has sent copies of different resources pertaining to well head protection to the Town of Rose for their resources.
 - L. Gerstenslager and Town of Rose Supervisor Baldrige did a walkthrough for guidance on WQIP Grant for perimeter protection.
 - M. Humbert stated that L. Gerstenslager has been great at defusing tense situations with land owners.
 - B. Hammond inquired if there are many well heads in the County. L. Gerstenslager stated that there are quite a few and establishing this plan with the County will aid in bonus points on agricultural grants.
- AVC Program
 - L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that the AVC program is up and running smoothly; there was one breakdown last week that was covered by warranty.
 - L. Gerstenslager stated that all five staff members have been hired and training was held on June 29, 2015.
 - Another point made was that the water is still high so weed growth is not being seen; at this time overtime has not been used however weed growth is expected to increase in the coming month; month and a half.
 - A Handpull Event July 11th at South Sodus Bay only had 8 volunteers; a plan of action may need to be redone for next year. On July 18th there will be another Handpull Event at Sodus Creek; Harvesting Crewmember Bill Hall and L. Gerstenslager will both be attending.
- Grants
 - NEWCA-DEC & Ducks Unlimited-Jim Eckler from the DEC has approached L. Gerstenslager with a partnership grant for water chestnut remediation. The District's share would be in-kind and the grant would provide for a smaller harvester; conveyor and the cost of personnel for approximately two years to cover the small waterways. This \$135,000 grant was submitted June 7th and notification should be the first part of September.
 - Soil Health Mini Grant-A Mini grant for \$24,000 has been applied for and this will cover an intern and will be utilized for farms to have soil testing done if received.

New Business

- Hand Harvesting Event- Previously reported on under AVC; L. Gerstenslager did want to state that she has been approached about the district's "Got Weeds" T-Shirts and will be discussing this with the WQCC committee to see if they would be interested in this project.
- Drainage Request by the Lake Ontario Midline Rail Road-L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that she and Technician T. Reynolds were invited by the Railroad to do a tour for observation of drainage needs along the railway corridor. L. Gerstenslager stated that there are several blockages that have been identified during an assessment of the Lower Ganargua Creek and an overall cleanout needs to be completed due to the many fallen trees etc; part of the funding for this project will tie in with Rd 12 Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) and further funding L. Gerstenslager stated she will be seeking from the County. B. Hammond stated that the excessive rain over the past few years has become a problem for drainage in the County and needs to be addressed; he stated that the District should seek funding from the County above the normal contract to address these issues. L. Gerstenslager stated that during her attendance at the Employees' Meeting last week she learned about the Climate Resiliency Program and has plans to put this into effect to assist six farms along Lower Ganargua Creek. S. LeRoy and B. Hammond stated that L. Gerstenslager should utilize pictures and costs to show the County what work has been impacted by previous Drainage Assistance and the need for additional funding.

A MOTION was made to request one time additional funding from the County of Wayne with the 2016 Appropriation to address drainage needs not included in the normal maintenance schedule by M. Humbert seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

Other Business

- L. Gerstenslager stated that she has a Municipal Resolution for Water Quality Improvement Projects and Nonagricultural Nonpoint Source Projects.

A MOTION was made to support the Resolution for Water Quality Improvement Projects and Nonagricultural Nonpoint Source Projects by B. Hammond seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

- B. VanLare inquired about the 104 flooding along the RG&E and Railway lines. L. Gerstenslager stated that the Town of Ontario is attempting to clean their ditches; C. Hotto is looking at this and she is working with Kurt from the Town of Williamson for their area.
- L. Gerstenslager spoke more on the County Budget and the need to increase the Appropriation for the District. The District has seen a 36% increase in the last four years and will need to increase staff to keep up and keep expanding its programs to serve the community. The District has not seen an increase in the Appropriation in over ten years. L. Gerstenslager also stated that one of the key issues during the budget process will be space as needs are being looked at with the County, FSA and NRCS. M. Humbert inquired about the budget process; L. Gerstenslager explained that the County sends the District a request which goes to the County Administrator and Public Works; the Appropriation is awarded as part of the final County budget process.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2015, for the annual Finance Meeting and the review of the District Budget Requests for 2016, Internal Audit and policy review at Assemblyman Oak's Office.

A MOTION was made to adjourn at 10:35 am by S. LeRoy seconded by M. Humbert; carried.