

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

**Regular Meeting – September 16, 2015
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

Directors:

Bob VanLare
Steve Olson
Mark Humbert
Steve LeRoy

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Cathy Comfort

Absent:

Bill Hammond

NRCS:

Bill Jones

Guests:

Pat VanLare
Vic DiGiacomo-SWCC
Ben Schmidt-NRCS Area Coordinator

Call to order by Board Vice-Chair B. VanLare 8:35 am

Approval of the Agenda

Additional topics added under new business, L. Gerstenslager added discussion on Accident Insurance for employees.

B. VanLare inquired if non-employees were allowed to ride in district vehicles; L. Gerstenslager stated that she has checked with the insurance company on this previously and it is allowed as long as it is authorized by the District Manager.

Acknowledgement of Guests

Welcome Pat.

Operational Finance Business

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the August 19,, 2015 meeting by M. Humbert seconded by S. LeRoy; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the September 2015 Treasurer's report by M. Humbert seconded by S. Olson; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the bill's to be paid for September 2015 by S. Olson seconded by M. Humbert; carried.

Report from Staff-None this month

Old Business

- Farmstead Issue-Tabled; Messages sent to Town and Producer with no responses at this time.
- Walworth Drainage-Tabled; Contacted waiting to hear responses.
- Conservation Skills Workshop; Great classes being offered, however staff is in field season and training requirements have been met for both staff and board (Steve LeRoy to meet with Lindsey to update her on his Fish and Wildlife meetings).

New Business

- Conservation Farm and AEM Steward of the Year Award 2015-L. Gerstenslager stated that she has sent the press release to surrounding publications with no response as of yet; it has also been sent to FSA. O. Rothfuss from Wayne County Planning does have a farm he will be nominating. M. Humbert requested L. Gerstenslager send him an email and he will check with his contact at the Sun to see if the Press Release could be run.
- Staff Update-L. Gerstenslager updated the Board stating that R. Thorn is mending from his bike accident; S. DeRue has a bone bruise and is recovering and the bright spot is welcoming Chris and Monica Hotto's baby born September 3rd. At this time Chris will be working part time as the family welcomes their addition, Chris will be working on the drainage contracts etc. L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that when this year's Policy's are reviewed and Policy for the Board will need to be added and a Telework policy will also need to be reviewed and added.
- Grant Contract Updates-Tabled; L. Gerstenslager explained to the Board that she is working on 3 Grant Programs due in the next three weeks; L. Gerstenslager asked the Board for guidance on whether they would like her to focus more of her time on continuing to write the new grants or work on the closeouts of the 2 that the district already has. The Board encouraged her to continue writing the new grants. S. LeRoy inquired about the district and matching contributions; L. gerstenslager explained that personnel monies are used as match.

A MOTION was made to approve application of Grant Opportunities as they become available by S. LeRoy seconded by S. Olson; carried.

- NYACD Annual Meeting-L. Gerstenslager stated that she would like to attend this year's annual meeting to be held October 20-22 in Utica. B. VanLare explained that these meetings are for Directors and Managers to discuss issues as NYACD is the lobbying agency. S. LeRoy stated that he would like to attend some of the conference and will work with L. Gerstenslager on scheduling.
- Next Board Meeting Conflict-It was decided that the next meeting will remain October 21st with an abbreviated agenda to approve operational business.
- 4th Quarter Plan-L. Gerstenslager stated that she will be meeting with staff and reviewing their plans of action and where they are at time wise in projects.
- Staff Incentive: Internship Supervisor Stipend Discussion-L. Gerstenslager explained that staff oversees interns including filing of paperwork etc. and this is part of performance measures. L. Gerstenslager stated that she would like to be able to have a stipend payment for the staff member that is responsible for this. S. LeRoy stated that this would be a good discussion for the next budget year as it was not included in with this year's budget request.
- Williamson Budget request for 2016-Please see attached.
- Accident Insurance- L. Gerstenslager explained to the Board that this is something requested by the staff; C. Comfort researched this through our current carrier Guardian and L. Gerstenslager quoted it through the District Insurance Broker. This is 100% employee funded and there is interest from staff for the District to make it available.

A MOTION was made to add Accident Insurance to the 2016 benefits package offered to the District Employee's by M. Humbert seconded by S. Olson; carried.

S. LeRoy left the meeting at 9:50 am.

Report from SWCC – AEA Victor DiGiacomo

Written report included.

V. DiGiacomo also included that this fall there should be a training opportunity for Administrative and Management offered and funded by the State.

District Law Training will be available as a webinar this fall.

Report from NRCS-Bill Jones

Written report included.

Ben Schmidt, Area Coordinator, NRCS- Introductions were made all around B. Schmidt told a little about himself and his background and explained his position with NRCS stating that he is in charge of 15 counties covering Steuben and west as well as GLRI responsibilities.

B. Schmidt took this time to pass around attached items and gave a brief explanation of each:

- Update on area programs and agreements
- GLRI Map-proposal to obtain phosphorus removal money; proposal approved with additional money for phosphorus loading in the Upper Genesee and Black Creek areas. M. Humbert made comments as to how it would be beneficial if there could be a plan where the phosphorus could be removed from areas of concern but then utilized by producers in need instead of them spreading more phosphorus. L. Gerstenslager asked if there was an overlay map that could be obtained. M. Humbert asked what SWCD can do to assist NRCS; B. Schmidt stated soil health, grass waterways etc.
- Edge of Field Study-This would be a GLRI site and a grass waterway system; USGS does the installation and monitoring this needs to be in a GLRI area. L. Gerstenslager stated she may know of a candidate for this.

Other Business

None

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for October 21, 2015, at 8 am at the SWCD Conference Room.

A MOTION was made to adjourn at 11:25 am by M. Humbert seconded by S. Olson; carried.