

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

**Regular Meeting – February 15, 2017
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

Directors:

Mark Humbert
Steve Olson
Laurie Crane
Pat VanLare

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Cathy Comfort
Ron Thorn
Drew Starkey

Absent:

Monica Deyo

NRCS:

Bill Jones

Guest:

None

FSA:

Julia Foster

Call to order by Board Chair M. Humbert @ 8:50 am

Approval of the Agenda

L. Gerstenslager amended the following items.

- Addition of the FLOWPA 16/17 Contract approval
- NYACD Lobby Days

A MOTION was made to approve the agenda was made by L. Crane seconded P. VanLare; carried.

Acknowledgement of Guests

None

Operational Business

A MOTION was made to accept the minutes from January 2017 Board Meeting by P. VanLare seconded S. Olson; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the Treasurer's report for February 2017 by L. Crane seconded by P. VanLare; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the bill's to be paid for February 2017 by S. Olson seconded by P. VanLare; carried.

- L. Gerstenslager stated that the bill for Decker Excavating was for a culvert pipe that had collapsed she is requesting funds be transferred from maintenance savings.

A MOTION was made to transfer \$3911.41 from Maintenance Savings to the District Checking for payment of this project by L. crane seconded by P. VanLare; carried.

- L. Gerstenslager stated that funding for CRF Humbert Farms has been approved and she would like authorization of voucher 47 for payment.

A MOTION was made to authorize payment of Humbert Farms' CRF contract after the arrival of funds as described in the report was made by P. VanLare seconded by S. Olson; carried. M. Humbert abstain.

Report from NRCS

See attached addendum

L. Gerstenslager stated that efforts are being put in place for improved partnerships with the District's move, these opportunities will help maximize the use of state and federal funding for Ag NPS and other programs for producers. M. Humbert stated that the 25% cost share in some of the programs can be a deterrent for some participants. B. Jones stated that participants need to be aware of all costs associated with the programs up front. L. Gerstenslager added that the district could coordinate efforts to cost share state money to offset part of the 25% to lessen the burden.

Report from FSA

Julia Foster spoke about FSA Programs

- Outreach program Bridges for Opportunity and Receipt for Services, eventually the hope is that this will be tied thru the agencies.
- Gov Delivery has new procedures that include text messaging to be utilized to remind producers of acreage reporting etc. once signed up.
- Livestock forage program deadline was January 31; payments should be going out in March
- 2016 payments for crop insurance will be delayed as they are being reviewed.

Report from FLOWPA

L. Gerstenslager updated the Board on her trip to Albany last week where she attended 7 meetings, met with 5 assemblymen, 1 chief of staff and 2 budget members. L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that there is some concern that the EPF is scheduled to shrink by 1/3 within the next year and suggestions were made for partnership with Soil and Water District's and FLOWPA; a very productive and informative session.

Report from SWCC – AEA Victor DiGiacomo

See attached addendum

Report from Farm Bureau

M. Humbert stated that there has been nothing new.

Report from Grange

P. VanLare shared the following highlights:

- County Meeting is scheduled for the 2nd Saturday in March.
- March meeting announcements of the 2017 scheduled contests will be shared.
- New Empire State grange publication is out – and included an overview of policy for lobbying efforts.
- The Grange is 150 years old and there will be activities planned at the Fair.

Old Business: Lindsey Gerstenslager

- Board Training Plans-L. Gerstenslager will email reminder.
- Space Update-Painting is done; carpet is to go in the end of this week. IT is not ready and is checking to see if the wiring needs to be upgraded. L. Gerstenslager is checking with movers for a price quote for furniture; timeline for move is March 8th.

New Business

- Discussion about Logo-L. Gerstenslager presented the Board with 4 options of an upgraded logo design to improve the image quality of the logo the district currently uses.

A MOTION was made to approve utilizing updated standard logo with two color palates by S. Olson seconded by L. Crane; carried.

- PayPal Account Discussion-L. Gerstenslager discussed with the Board adding a PayPal account to our Website for payment of Tree and Fish orders and Soil Group Worksheets etc. C. Comfort stated that this will make for a secure method of ordering for customers beyond calling with their credit card information.

A MOTION was made to create a policy to be presented at the next Board meeting for adding a PayPal account as a method of payment by S. Olson seconded by L. crane; carried.

- Tree Sale Information-D. Starkey handed out the 2017 budget for the tree sale program and followed with a brief overview stating that this year includes several new species and a very slight price increase. D. Starkey also stated that this year will include digital advertising.
- Envirothon-D. Starkey stated the event will be held April 12th and that 1 school has registered with 4 others showing interest; 60 sponsor letters also have been sent out for funding assistance.
- Ag NPS Round 23-R. Thorn stated that application is due March 31st and there is at least 14.1 million in funding available. R. Thorn stated that there is a meeting March 1st of the Ag Advisory Committee in conjunction with the Planning Committee to go over the priority listing.

A MOTION was made for the District to participate in Ag NPS Round 23 for the following watersheds that have been prioritized by the Ag Advisory Committee and the Water Quality Coordinating Committee strategic planning efforts for farms, who demonstrate interest, have a need and impact water quality by S. Olson seconded by P. VanLare; Carried.

- Culvert Assessment Grant-L. Gerstenslager stated that C. Hotto's certification has opened opportunities for funding.

A MOTION was made to participate in the Culvert Assessment Mini Grant program through the Eco System Based Management program in partnership with NYSDAM by L. Crane seconded by P. VanLare; carried.

- FLOWPA 16/17 funding: L Gerstenslager stated that the contract has been received and a motion is needed for authorization to sign.

A MOTION was made to authorize and sign the FLOWPA 16/17 contract by S. Olson seconded by L. Crane; carried.

- L. Gerstenslager updated the Board on NYACD Lobby Days to be held March 6th and 7th; S. Olson and M. Humbert are checking availability and will respond.

Adjournment

A MOTION to adjourn at 11:20am was made by S. Olson seconded by L. Crane; carried.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 15,2017 at 9 am.