

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

**Regular Meeting – February 16, 2011
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

Directors:

Steve Brownell
Bill Hammond
Tom Caprilla
Bob VanLare
Jody Bender

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Chris Hotto
Cathy Comfort

NRCS:

Bill Jones

Guest:

Pat VanLare

Call to order @ 9:00am

Secretary's Report:

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the January 19th meeting by B. Hammond second by B. VanLare; carried.

Treasurer's Report:

A MOTION was made to approve the treasurer's report by B. Hammond seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

B. VanLare submitted a hotel room bill from the Soil and Water Lobby Days program.

L. Gerstenslager explained that the state accounting system is going to a modified accrual system.

L. Gerstenslager did a narrative on the request and recommendation for fund transfers as well as the establishment of a special general fund savings account. These recommendations are looking ahead to offset increased costs. B. Hammond asked if there was an outline in place for the Special Projects fund.

L. Gerstenslager said there was,

A MOTION was made to transfer \$34,128.88 from the general fund to the designated accounts by J. Bender seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

A Motion was made to transfer \$10,000.00 from the general fund to establish a general fund savings account by J. Bender seconded by B. Hammond; carried.

A moment was taken so the Board and the new secretary/treasurer, Cathy Comfort, could get acquainted. Introductions were made as well as a brief background given by all present.

NRCS Report

W. Jones gave a report about the status of various starting with the Environmental Quality Assistance Program (EQIP). To date W. Jones has received 47 applications; this is down slightly from last year

however numbers are still good considering no outreach was done. A special EQIP for Organic Initiative has a signup deadline of March 4th. W. Jones is looking into a prescreening process to streamline applicants. There is also Conservation Activity Plans (CAP) for energy audits and secondary containments. Again the need for more outreach was emphasized; L. Gerstenslager suggested informing planning boards as one way.

Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program has received 28 applications with the majority of these being for irrigation. Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) has received 1 application. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) has received 15 applications 9 for agricultural land and 6 for forest.

W. Jones informed the board that E. Mombourquette was attending the conservation boot camp in Arizona for three weeks and will be leaving on the 28th.

FSA Report

K. Bowman was not present but had provided a newsletter to share; these were distributed by L. Gerstenslager.

SWCD Report

C. Hotto gave a PowerPoint presentation on the 2010 Ag Drainage Program including before and after pictures of significant drainage/ditch cleanout work done throughout the district as well as beaver dam removal.

Suggestions were made by S. Brownell, B. Hammond and J. Bender that it would be a beneficial presentation for the Standing Committees as well as the Board of Supervisors to see. B. Hammond also suggested the showing to the Farm Bureau and Grange to get additional backing.

L. Gerstenslager and C. Hotto also spoke about plans to implement some sort of survey process for the landowners benefited by this program.

The 2011 tree sale is underway with a significant amount already ordered; S. DeRue is handling the orders as they come in. L. Gerstenslager extended thanks to the Wayne County IT department for putting the information and order form on the County website. L. Gerstenslager suggested that next year we might look into coordinating the tree sale with Earth Day so the trees are delivered a month later.

L. Gerstenslager reminded the board of Envirothon and that volunteers are still needed. Also a reminder that Code Enforcement training for February 25th is still open, 2 have signed up and it is worth 2 ceu.

District Manager Report

L. Gerstenslager let the board know that the State Financial, Program Reports and Performance Measures were done and submitted to the State.

Handouts were given on the Water Quality Symposium (WQS) that is upcoming with board members strongly encouraged to attend.

Approved Minutes for February 16, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting -

The 2010 Annual Report is done, 100 copies will be printed the rest will be available on cd.

Other Business

S. DeRue has put together a community task force for Sodus bay and they are meeting March 14th. B. Hammond suggested sending Secretary/Treasurer to take minutes.

T. Caprilla introduced that BOCES is willing to assist with projects as part of their education programs. L. Gerstenslager to check with C. Hotto on feasibility.

B. Hammond noted that he had seen accounting training offered by the NYS Comptrollers office, he will forward C. Comfort the address.

B. VanLare presented a report on the Soil and Water Lobby Days; including discussion on Agricultural Environmental Management (AEM).

P. VanLare was again thanked for her wonderful refreshments.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 9:00am at the SWCD Office Conference Room. This meeting was moved by one week due to the Water Quality Symposium.

A MOTION was made to adjourn at 11:12am. Carried