

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

**Regular Meeting – April 20, 2011
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

Directors:

Steve Brownell
Bill Hammond
Tom Caprilla
Bob VanLare

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Cathy Comfort
Mike Walker

NRCS:

Emily Mombourquette

Absent:

Jody Bender

FSA:

Absent

Guest:

Les Travis
Pat VanLare

Call to order @ 9:08am

Secretary's Report:

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the March 23rd meeting by B. Hammond second by T. Caprilla; carried.

Treasurer's Report:

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

The BOD took a few moments to review the bills to be paid. Secretary/Treasurer C. Comfort explained the new reports that will now be used including the Transaction Detail, which gives a clearer picture of the disbursements, as well as what lines they are charges to and two payroll reports including an employee check journal and the payroll liability report. C. Comfort explained the opening of a new checking account that is for payroll purposes only and is a non-interest bearing trust and agency account.

A MOTION was made to approve the bill's to be paid for April 2011 by B. Hammond seconded by S. Brownell; carried.

B. Hammond stated that at a meeting he attended, Sodus Supervisor Steve LeRoy was questioning about the budget for the harvesting program. L. Gerstenslager explained that the FLOWPA 07/08 account should be closed, the 08/09 account the DEC plans to close in 2012 and we are actually in 09/10 which has been indicated will not be received for at least two years. L. Gerstenslager further explained that the three towns only make up approximately \$15,000 of the budget contract from the county with the other monies coming from sources such as ANS as well as FLOWPA. L. Gerstenslager stated that she is currently working with S. DeRue and M. Walker to come up with a working budget. B. Hammond suggested that once we have this budget done we should present it at a Sodus Town Board meeting.

NRCS Report

E. Mombourquette gave a report on the status of various programs and where they stand including:

CSP – 14 applications all preapproved

Forestry – 6 applications with a payment rate of \$4-\$8 an acre

Cropland – 8 applications with a payment rate of \$17-\$41 an acre

EQIP -

Organic, 1 application preapproved

Forestry, 9 applications

Air Quality 14 applications

Cropland, 6 applications

Livestock Waste, 3 applications

Grazing, 9 applications

CAP's-1 CNMP, 2 SPCC

AMA –

High Tunnels, 5 applications

Irrigations, 20 applications (not currently funded by the state)

WHIP-

Shrubland, 1 application

There were a grand total of 85 applications (not including those that were canceled or ineligible) and results of which contracts will be funded should be known next week.

E. Mombourquette also stated that there were 2 WRP applications in the works as well as 2 new ones and CRP has 3 applications in the works.

E. Mombourquette explained that with the budget that passed there was a cut made to Graze NY funds for FY 2012 as well as RC&D funds for FY 2012 and that the new budget that is being worked on for 2012 will be challenging. B. VanLare asked about money for conservation when new budget passes; E. Mombourquette explained that with the backlog of work that it's not necessarily a bad thing and that she has heard that as people retire they may not be replaced as quickly; otherwise all funding should be set.

E. Mombourquette stated that NRCS employees will be going thru a civil rights review in June. An information/factsheet on civil rights will be presented at next month's board meeting. One board member will be required to attend one of the days of the review.

FSA Report

Nothing to report.

District Law Training

LesTravis gave a PowerPoint presentation of Soil and Water Conservation District Law followed by a review of some key topics.

District Manager Report

L. Gerstenslager told the board that she is looking into transferring the cell phones into a government account which will save the district money.

L. Gerstenslager stated that the budget for the Aquatic Program is moving along, she has been in discussions with S. DeRue and M. Walker about being proactive with expenditures and staying in line with the budget.

The Water Quality hot-line is should be set up soon, L. Gerstenslager is trying to obtain the number WQ4U and information about this will be going out in the newsletter. The newsletter this quarter will be focusing on services offered by WCSWCD and will also include a calendar of the summer events. B. Hammond asked about "Constant Contact" L. Gerstenslager explained this is an email marketing plan that allows users to forward our newsletters and allows us to track who reads and responds as well as multiple other tools. L. Gerstenslager also advised the board a press release has been sent out informing the public about the NYS Agriculture Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program.

C. Hotto and his father will be taking a look at the shop electric and lighting and give an estimate for improvement cost. L. Gerstenslager also stated that there will be a strategic plan made for storage at the shop. Discussion took place about the floor of the shop with ideas ranging from crusher run to concrete, estimates to be obtained for strategic plan.

L. Gerstenslager is working thru the DEC general permit application. Due to the uncertainty of the budget structure and requirements of the Army Corp of Engineers there is holdups that L. Gerstenslager is working on. T. Haley form DEC has advised L. Gerstenslager to send in permit application and he will obtain the DEC approval.

L. Gerstenslager explained to the board that currently we have had two complaints of non-drainage project beaver blockage reports, and these dams could become a health/safety concern. C. Hotto has asked for guidance as these are not on the current drainage program and L. Gerstenslager is asking the board if we should just follow SOP which is paying for the trapper and cleanup. B. Hammond expressed his concern with the matter and felt we should help with the permit only. Further discussion initiated by S. Brownell and B. Hammond focused on the person calling not being the landowner therefore this is now a civil matter and we cannot go on the property. B. Hammond suggested sending a letter to the landowner stating services we could provide assisting with the permit. L. Travis suggested setting a fee for that permit as it is time consuming. L. Gerstenslager to look into all fees and will bring back recommendations for May meeting.

Other Business

L. Gerstenslager advised the board that the dates for the certified water testing have changed; this service is now being done on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month. The tree sale is finished and a final report should be done by May. Also as a new budgeting tool staff time is now being tracked by where they are and what they are working on.

Approved Minutes for April 20, 2011 Board of Directors Meeting -

L. Travis gave the SWCC Regional staff report highlighting the following points:

Commissioner of Agriculture, confirmed he is a farmer from Jefferson County-Darrel Aubertine

Environmental Protection Fund Status-

2011-12 budget SWCD at the same levels. EPF \$\$ total – same

Round 17 there has been no word when the award letters may be sent

Districts with agricultural grants need to be working to complete and closeout on time. There is a very limited opportunity to request time extensions.

Proposed Legislation

Waterfront Revitalization Grants SWCD able to apply for them directly

Dept Bill 15 ombudsman – several pieces – need sponsors

Farmland Protection Board modifications, retired farmers may be appointed and District employees may serve in lieu of the SWCD chair

SWCD hold conservation easements

Ag NPS line item, allows up to 25% to be set aside for targeted special use

Agricultural Environmental Management Base Program

AEM Year 6 how is your district doing? Year ends May 6

AEM Year 7 Annual Action Plan due May1

District Strategic Business Plan and Annual Plan of Work, the director training module will be out soon.

And L. Travis announced his retirement effective July 6, 2011. B. VanLare asked if L. Travis knew who will replace him. L. Travis explained that no he did not that out of the 6 positions 4 have or will have retired and at this time there is no answer they are however continuing to address it at meetings. He further explained that it was put out for discussion at the last district manager's meeting and the Civil Service List is slim.

B. VanLare reported that He and Pat attended El-Vi Farms open house and was impressed with the operation.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at 9:00am at the SWCD Office Conference Room.

A MOTION was made to adjourn at 11:30am by S. Brownell seconded by B. VanLare; carried.