

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

**Regular Meeting – June 17, 2015
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

Directors:

Bill Hammond
Bob VanLare
Steve Olson
Mark Humbert

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Cathy Comfort

Absent:

Steve LeRoy

NRCS:

Bill Jones

Guests:

Pat VanLare
Vic DiGiacomo (absent report submitted)

FSA:

Absent

Call to order by Board Chair B. Hammond at 9:03am

Approval of the Agenda

- Additional topics added at the end of the agenda, L. Gerstenslager added Health Insurance and an Executive Session to discuss Personnel Issues.

Acknowledgement of Guests

Welcome Pat VanLare. P. VanLare updated the group on the recent Real Life Sunday Service and Pot Luck dinner to celebrate Conservation Stewardship week; this service was held at the Lyon's Methodist Church on the first Sunday in May and was well attended.

Operational Finance Business

TABLED - The minutes of the May 20, 2015 regular Meeting are tabled for quorum.

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the special meeting for approval of the Soil Health Mini Grant from June 15, 2015 by B. Hammond seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the June 2015 Treasurer's report by B. VanLare seconded by B. Hammond; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the bill's to be paid for June 2015 by B. Hammond seconded by S. Olson; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve the purchase of No-Till Conservation Drill from Empire Tractor in the amount of \$34,450 (\$24,000 Soil Health Grant/ \$10,450 from Equipment Savings) by B. Hammond seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

- L. Gerstenslager explained to the Board that this program will be modeled after Onondaga County with a deposit being made and liability language in the contract; contract will be provided for the Board to approve when available.

Report from NRCS

See attached addendum.

Mark Humbert entered the meeting at 9:15

Report from FSA

No Report

Report from SWCC – AEA Victor DiGiacomo

See attached addendum. V. DiGiacomo.

L. Gerstenslager highlighted a few items:

- 2015 AEM- We are not nominating a farm this year.
- Water Quality Data Solicitation-L. Gerstenslager has written a special request approved at the last WQCC meeting (see attached letter) as the data needs to be updated. The monies will be from FLOWPA the Board will have to approve hiring of the intern.
- Ag NPS-All set.
- AEM Report-

A MOTION was to approve the AEM year 10 final report was presented for approval for work completed from May 2014-May 2015 with the total voucher amount of \$50,000.00 reimbursement by M. Humbert; seconded by S. Olson. Carried.

- NYS Consolidated Funding Application & WQIP Grant- The entire staff went to training for future funding opportunities related to State Funding streams. The County is fortunate to have two representatives on the regional council and several of the working groups that we can advocate for local priority projects.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program through USDA NRCS-The District will not be applying for RCCP as this time.
- Town of Ontario – Discussion focused drainage issues surrounding several homes having increase in water in their yards along the south side of 104. In several instances the blockages under Route 104 are the root causes for lack of flow; L. Gerstenslager informed the Board that Assemblyman Oaks is getting involved as the blockages are on property owned/managed by CSX and RG&E. B. Hammond requested to know the contact in Washington for CSX. Updates will be given at future board meetings.

Operational Business –Lindsey Gerstenslager

Update from SWCC Meeting

- Ag NPS Round 21 will be known I August after the SWCC meeting is held.
- New Procurement Policy update- Once NYSDAM legal representatives approve the new procurement policy, it will be effective immediately.
- Operations Subcommittee will have a meeting July 8th. The Operational Subcommittee is gathering standard policies and procedures for general management as a guide to District employees and administration.
- NYS Conservation District Employees Association (CDEA) is also holding a meeting to discuss the new Climate Resiliency Program from NYSDAM on July 8th at the July CDEA meeting in Utica at the Radisson Hotel. R. Thorn and L. Gerstenslager will be attending this meeting.
- Grant Summary Report: As outlined, L. Gerstenslager reminded the Board that this will be a busy year as the District for implementation and contract completion. The staff will be closing 10 grants by the end of the year (2015).

Old Business

- Fleet Vehicles

L. Gerstenslager explained to the Board that a bid package has been sent to 5 local dealerships with 2 responses received; one from Lessord's and the other from VanBortle Ford. Both bids are similar and both are similar to state bid. L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that the Wayne County Public Works

Committee authorized the transfer of \$10,000 from the Harvester Savings account to the purchase of the new pick-up truck.

A MOTION was made to approve procurement of a truck from the dealership that can provide the most responsible price and vehicle in the best time frame for the needs of the District not to exceed \$27,000.00 by B. Hammond seconded by S. Olson; carried.

A MOTION was made to approve procurement of a mid-sized four door sedan car from the dealership that can provide the most responsible price and vehicle in the best time frame for the needs of the District not to exceed \$20,000.00 by B. Hammond seconded by S. Olson; carried.

➤ Town of Rose Well Head Protection Update

L. Gerstenslager has been assisting the Town of Rose in accessing information that will technically assist the Town with a Well Head Protection Plan; currently Rose is only looking at agriculture and gas drilling as causes of concern for water quality contamination and L. Gerstenslager has been encouraging them to look at water quality protection from a Whole Watershed Management approach and is attending Town of Rose Planning Board meetings to assist them in accessing other programs that would benefit the Town and other sample Towns that have gone through this process. L. Gerstenslager explained to the Board that her overall goal is to have the County appoint a Wellhead Coordinator to identify Well Heads in all municipalities in Wayne County and submit this map to the NYSDOH for recognition of municipal water use for State recognition which will help the District and the County secure funding for water protection in the future, especially with the WQIP program and Ag NPS programs.

➤ AVC Program-Potential Machine Availability

L. Gerstenslager stated that the DEC has approached her and offered assistance on purchasing the smaller weed harvester that is for sale in Kentucky; Jim Eckler from the DEC is currently in the process of writing a Grant to help fund this equipment. This harvester would be used for areas like the Clyde River, Montezuma, etc. Steve, the owner of Alpha Boats who built the machine, has checked the boat and stated it is worth about \$38,000 as it comes with the trailer and has been in storage for two years. Seneca County has also shown interest in needing work down and would be willing to share equipment (conveyor and dump truck). B. Hammond stated that he would want a commitment letter of funding from the DEC before pursuing this further; L. Gerstenslager stated that she has a meeting with them next week and will provide updates.

New Business

Waterfront Issues-

- AVC Program Update-A new employee is starting this year on the AVC program, his name is Marlin Morley; Chris Dallas has been cleared and is returning to work and the 3rd employee will be starting on the 29th. Currently the Harvesters are on Port Bay.
- Blue Green Algae L. Gerstenslager notified the Board that Blue Green Algae may be a concern this summer; two blooms have been identified on Port Bay and potentially one unconfirmed on Sodus Bay.

Conservation Technical Training-

- C. Hotto and S. DeRue are continuing in their studies for CPESC and R. Thorn continues his with CNMP development.

Great Lakes Action Agenda Meetings-June 3rd and June 9th (B. VanLare and L. Gerstenslager)-

- On June 3rd L. Gerstenslager attended the 1st session so she could gather information from all meetings and on June 9th she was joined by Bob and Pat VanLare. Both Bob and Pat VanLare felt the meeting was very informative and Pat gave a brief description of the events of the day. P. VanLare stated that the group was split into 4 sub groups and they sat in on the Water Quality Group she did notice that septic and education was part of the needs in all four groups. Some of the other topics discussed were bacteria issues and beach closings, farmer to farmer education,

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natural resources and the Salmon River. L. Gerstenslager attended the 3rd meeting in Monroe County and was involved in the discussion of invasive species and education and the meetings that will be held quarterly until 2020.

B. Hammond suggested someone from Soil & Water speaking with the Highway Supervisors at their meeting; L. Gerstenslager stated that this is something that she and C. Hotto have been attempting to do for the past years and have not been successful. B. Hammond stated he will take her to the next meeting with him.

B. VanLare left the meeting at 11:20

Soil Health Grant- Updates for both rounds were done with approval of the special meeting minutes from the June 15, 2015 meeting (Round two) and approval for procurement of the conservation drill (round one).

Computer Hardware & Software Updates-

- L. Gerstenslager explained to the Board that she has worked with County IT for the cost of replacing 7 computers for \$5,623 for the hardware and another \$8,960 for the Office and Adobe licenses. In August of 2014 \$12,000 was set aside in the Equipment Fund for this Upgrade additional monies will be available in the Equipment Fund to cover the amount still needed.

A MOTION was made to use additional monies from the Equipment Fund for the upgrade of the District's computer system pending long term location determination by M. Humbert seconded by S. Olson; carried.

Discussion about Space and Location-

L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that she has been having ongoing meetings with B. Jones from USDA NRCS and T. McKay from USDA FSA about the Federal Governments future plans and also she has a meeting with County Administrator J. Marquette on Wednesday June 24th about County space; B. Hammond stated he will try to attend.

A MOTION was made to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 11:36 by B. Hammond seconded by M. Humbert; carried.

A MOTION was made to resume normal meeting at 12:05 by M. Humbert seconded by S. Olson; carried.

Other Business

L. Gerstenslager advised the Board that she has written a letter to Excellus opposing the 9.8% proposed rate increase and will be copying staff and encouraging them to write letters as well. L. Gerstenslager also reminded the Board that there will be two meetings in July.

Next Board Meeting is scheduled for July 15, 2015 at 9 am at the SWCD Conference Room. REMINDER, July 29, 2015, the annual Finance Meeting will be held to review the District Budget Requests for 2016, Internal Audit and policy review.

A MOTION was made to adjourn at 12:10 pm by B. Hammond seconded by M. Humbert; carried.