

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

**Regular Meeting May 18, 2011
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

Directors:

Steve Brownell
Bob VanLare
Tom Caprilla

Staff:

Lindsey Gerstenslager
Cathy Comfort
Scott DeRue

NRCS:

Bill Jones

FSA:

Krista Bowman

Guest:

Pat VanLare

Absent:

Jody Bender
Bill Hammond

Call to order @ 9:04am

Secretary's Report:

A MOTION was made to approve the minutes of the April 20rd meeting by B. VanLare second by T. Caprilla; carried.

Treasurer's Report:

A MOTION was made to approve the treasurer's report by T. Caprilla seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

T. Caprilla asked about the Oaks Grant funds, L. Gerstenslager explained that this has been found to be district funds and currently there are 5 outstanding applications. This grant should be closed out by the end of this year and monies transferred back to district accounts.

T. Caprilla inquired who won the Maple Lawn project, L. Gerstenslager advised it was Maple Lawn and that there was only 2 bids received.

A MOTION was made to approve the bill's to be paid for May 2011 by T. Caprilla seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

B. VanLare inquired as to the bathroom fixture for the shop, it was explained it was a valve for the john that needed replacing.

S. Brownell inquired about the oil purchase and was this biodegradable oil for the harvesters, this was confirmed that yes it was.

L. Gerstenslager explained that we have decided to go back to 2008 and correct the books as of this point forward. She reassured the board that she will have an operational budget by this Friday, May 20, 2011.

NRCS Report

B. Jones gave a report on the CSP program, the overall signup is down however the County has stayed consistent with 14-16 being granted. Also, there has been 1 organic EQIP application granted for approximately \$60,000. There will also be about \$300,000 to \$400,000 in funds for various other new contracts.

B. Jones spoke about the federal budget and the impact it could have on Soil & Water , as we are housed in the same building which is rented by the federal government, if not passed (from OGC) by the end of their fiscal year which ends September 30, 2011.

T. Caprilla asked if we rent from NRCS. Lindsey explained we used to and B. Jones explained that while some Soil & Water districts still do, most do not as the services both agencies provide help each other and NRCS acknowledges that.

B. Jones further explained that as the federal budget tightens there will be further program cuts for NRCS as well as FSA. B. VanLare asked about the employees that will be laid off will they be used to replace retiring employees' and will this save money. B. Jones said at this time this is unsure.

B. Jones said a lot of field work has begun including surveying. L. Gerstenslager mentioned doing some combined work and promoting it; B. Jones agreed and used examples such as Maple Lawn Farms. L. Gerstenslager mentioned that Election Day was a good day to provide handouts to the community.

B. Jones stated that he is currently working on contract management and here is a June 30, 2011 deadline for several farms which he is trying to get completed.

NRCS is having their Civil rights review in June and he has not received the review packet yet, but will need a Soil & Water Board Member available for this review.

There is a new Xerox copier in the office and all agencies will have their own codes so quantities can be tracked. Color copies will cost approximately \$.10 each.

FSA Report

K. Bowman reaffirmed the federal budget problems and stated that as of March 23, 2011 all temporary FSA employees were laid off.

K. Bowman informed the board that Roger Arliss's term is up and there is a nomination deadline of August 1, 2011. R. Arliss is a cash crop farmer.

DCP deadline is fast approaching, L. Gerstenslager inquired as to what is needed, K. Bowman explained that they needed their lease and that FSA is unable to mail the maps (due to the cost of postage) she also explained the orchards are bad as well.

Staff Report

S. DeRue talked about the Water Quality Initiative and building a partnership with the Sodus Bay community and the farming community, he is currently gathering information and would like to eventually include this on our website. SOS representative E. LeRoux is part of WQI and next S. DeRue would like to get the municipalities involved, not at a supervisor level, but more of a board member or planning department employee.

B. VanLare asked about the Spiegel Drive access point for weed harvesting; S. DeRue turned it over to L. Gerstenslager for report on visit made to site.

L. Gerstenslager reported that a visit was made to the site last week with Kevin Rooney who had agreed to act as engineer for the project. When they arrived at the site they were met with great opposition from the homeowners who had previously agreed to allow a conveyer to be brought in for 4 days to maximize weed harvesting in this area. Due to the opposition of the homeowners the plans for the access point have been suspended for the 2011 season and the weed harvesting will be done on a basis that will be economically feasible with the pricing of fuel, staff etc. S. Brownell, B. VanLare and T. Caprilla all agreed with these recommendations.

B. VanLare inquired as to the capability of the harvester and blue green algae; S. DeRue explained the capability of the harvester and the fact that algae is not solid like weeds and would run thru it, therefore making it ineffective at combating blue green algae.

Personnel Report

L. Gerstenslager told the board that she has sent a letter to County Administrator J. Marquette; as well as the County Attorney concerning the Workers' Compensation issue and expects to hear back from them within the next couple of weeks.

It was explained that Terry Reynolds was originally brought on as a contract employee and then was put on payroll under the classification seasonal. Civil Service has reviewed this classification and determined this title incorrect and has reclassified the title to part time provisional pending a civil service exam.

The staff will be having their midyear assessments June 8th with the personnel committee.

District Manager Report

L. Gerstenslager advised the board that she will be developing SOP's (standard operating procedures) for herself and will have staff do the same so there is an operational guide for each function.

S. DeRue has expressed continued interest in leadership of the annual tree sale.

R. Thorn; C. Hotto & C. Comfort will all continue to collaborate on the Ag Value sheets.

I. Gerstenslager explained that she has been in contact with other districts as to how they handle permitting and charges thereof; she is still gathering this information and should have an outline to present to the board at the next meeting.

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Aquatics employee K. Spirito has been brought back for the 2011 season. B. VanLare questioned how the seasonal help is hired and why the board never interviews them. S. Brownell felt that it should not have to involve the board that it is included in the district manager's position. T. Caprilla stated that he felt the board should only be involved if they need to recommend approval. L. Gerstenslager explained the process and how she is emphasizing the chain of command and structure of the agency to all personnel.

L. Gerstenslager reported that the WQ hotline is up and running and that as of June 1, 2011 it will be updated daily by herself; C. Comfort and S. DeRue.

The shop electric and lighting is still getting quotes gathered.

L. Gerstenslager the DEC general permit is moving along it is in the 30 day waiting period stage and should be approved shortly. The Army corps of engineer's portion is not needed at this time, which allows the general permit to be issued.

The County has a permit for beaver blockage and we can call Kevin Rooney for assistance with this, at this time we will offer technical assistance.

L. Gerstenslager has been working as the facilitator with the fish farm muck drainage.

SOS has applied for and included us in the ESF HOW Grant Project; this will help us fund an intern.

L. Gerstenslager asked for board approval for S. DeRue or herself to attend the Water Volunteer conference in Rhode Island; the cost will be approximately \$1,000 but should provide long term education for staff.

A MOTION was made to approve the cost for employee to attend Rhode Island Water Volunteer Conference by S. Brownell seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

L. Gerstenslager that the Graze NY grant would be closed out soon.

RC&D it was talked about and discussed that this program was not beneficial to Soil & Water, and therefore Soil & Water will not participate in paying dues for this program. This recommendation was made due to the Federal Level Closing of the RC & D program. After conversations with County Planning and reviewing the structure of the local level RC & D program, there are minimal opportunities for development and funding.

L. Gerstenslager spoke briefly about meeting with the Sodus Bay Business Association (SBBA) and that she felt that it was a very productive meeting and will be working to coordinate other meetings for community constituents in conjunction with this organization. .

Other Business

L. Gerstenslager reported that there will be a bid sent out for the website and the quotes should be available for the next board meeting.

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L. Gerstenslager explained that we are in the need of purchasing a PC to replace S. DeRue's machine. A quote from the County IT department was obtained at a cost of approximately \$650.00, and that these funds are available in the equipment fund.

A MOTION was made to approve the cost for a new PC to replace broken PC, and that this expense will be paid from the equipment fund by S. Brownell seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 15, 2011 at 9:00am at the SWCD Office Conference Room.

A MOTION was made to adjourn at 10:30am by T. Caprilla seconded by B. VanLare; carried.