

**Minutes of The Wayne County Soil & Water  
Conservation District Board of Directors  
Regular Meeting July 18, 2012  
SWCD Office, Lyons, NY, 14489**

**Directors:**

Steve Brownell  
Bob VanLare  
Bill Hammond  
Tom Caprilla

**Staff:**

Lindsey Gerstenslager  
Cathy Comfort  
Terry Reynolds  
Chris Hotto

**NRCS:**

Bill Jones

**FSA:**

Absent

**Absent:**

Steve LeRoy

**Call to order @ 9:05am**

**Operational Business Report:**

**A MOTION** was made to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting by B. Hammond seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

**A MOTION** was made to approve the minutes of the June 27, 2012 meeting by B. Hammond seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

T. Caprilla inquired about the payment to Alpha Boats, L. Gerstenslager explained that this was a down payment made to Alpha Boats for the repairs to Harvester 2.

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

B. VanLare inquired if the district cell phones have internet access. L. Gerstenslager explained that at this time they do not, however she can see a need for this application in the future is: mapping and weather.

**A MOTION** was made to approve the bill's to be paid by B. Hammond seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

L. Gerstenslager reviewed the Ag NPS Rd 17 payments that were included in the board packets.

**NRCS Report**

See attached addendum.

B. Jones then spent time going over National Civil Rights review with the board. During the week of August 6, 2012, it is expected a review will be done in Wayne County and a district board member, the district manager, a district employee and two producers for NRCS will be required for the review. L.

Gerstenslager inquired as to writing a letter due to the fact NRCS conducted a state review last year at this time and this is a bad time of year with all programs being very busy.

### **FSA Report**

Absent.

### **Staff Report**

C. Hotto will not be able to give a report today as he is busy in the field with ditching and grass carp. R. Thorn is off on a flex day however he did include a listing of other Soil and Water districts and the pricing they charge for Soil Group Worksheets. L. Gerstenslager explained that the proposed idea is changing the rate to \$25.00 per worksheet, if they fill out a Tier 1 worksheet that reduces the rate to \$15.00 and if a Tier 2 is completed then WCSWCD will refund the Soil Group Worksheet price up to five (5) parcels.

L. Gerstenslager explained that doing this should stimulate more AEM participation.

**A Motion** was made to change the rate charged for Soil Group Worksheets to \$25.00; if a Tier 1 application is filled out then the rate charged will be \$15.00; and if a Tier 2 is completed then the rate charged will be refunded up to five (5) parcels, by B. Hammond seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

T. Reynolds addressed the board on recent concerns with the How-Bar Farm Heifer Barnyard quotes, see attached addendum. T. Reynolds explained the low bidder on the quotes and the significant concerns that arose with their bid and subsequent interview. Upon completion of this outline S. Brownell felt there was enough of a concern to refuse the quote. Conversation turned to rebidding the project which would delay it an additional two (2) weeks, however since the prices have already been made public the fear is that it won't be able to achieve competitive pricing. S. Brownell stated that due to all circumstances involved it would be in the best interest of the district to invoke section 200, item 6; refusing this quote and granting the project to the next highest bidder.

**A Motion** was made to invoke Section 200 Item 6 which states, "reserving the right for the WCSWCD to reject any and all non-responsible quotes, including those deemed unqualified to complete the project" by B. Hammond seconded by B. VanLare; carried.

L. Gerstenslager will follow this up with the contractor.

### **District Manager Report**

L. Gerstenslager reported the closeout of AEM year 7 explaining to the board that the district did not meet the full \$40,000 due to R. Thorns time being divided by 2 projects. AEM year 8 has started and is already ahead of schedule.

L. Gerstenslager reported on the harvester restoration stating that this project has been started and the boat is at Alpha Boats.

L. Gerstenslager reported on the Forestry Grant application previously discussed at the last meeting and advised the board that the district does not qualify for this funding opportunity.

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L. Gerstenslager also advised the board that funding for Ag NPS Rd 17 Black Brook and Port Bay has arrived and two (2) farms have been paid, see attached payout worksheets.

L. Gerstenslager addressed the board on the Shop Improvement Plan turning the floor over to T. Caprilla who accompanied her on the inspection. T. Caprilla reviewed a handout (see attached) that outlines what would need to be done to make the shop secure and viable for a longer operating season/year round office. B. Hammond brought up the idea of possibly purchasing an already constructed property and selling the Alton shop. L. Gerstenslager stated that she has been looking into funding sources for this project and there are several avenues that could be utilized most notably NYS CFA Funding Foundation for next year. The board decided that L. Gerstenslager should look into what is out there for property, and follow up at next meeting.

L. Gerstenslager at this time updated the board on the Summer Special Project/Invasive Species on Maxwell Bay stating that one (1) summer intern has quit which L. Gerstenslager stated she has talked with the intern's advisor about and a replacement for this intern has been made. The program has made a dent in the water chestnuts in Maxwell Bay.

L. Gerstenslager advised the board that the HOW Grant Partnership Advisory Committee for Maxwell Bay has met and is looking forward to another productive meeting next week.

L. Gerstenslager addressed the board on the Septic Program Bridge with Ontario County SWCD stating that an agreement has been reached for the interim to utilize Ontario County SWCD for 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspections in the district. This program will help identify potential problems by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party so corrections can be made by landowners. L. Gerstenslager asked the board if a motion can be made to offset Ontario County for mileage.

**A Motion** was made to authorizing Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District to reimburse Ontario County SWCD for mileage to Wayne County sites for 3<sup>rd</sup> party septic inspections at the federal mileage rate by B. VanLare seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

L. Gerstenslager included a letter from the Zurich Bog/Bergen Swamp Preservation Society with concerns of the Arcadia Landfill and advised the board that she has explained that at this time WCSWCD would not be getting involved.

L. Gerstenslager requested of the board to subscribe to additional newspapers in the area; the board agreed and also explained she might be able to get them free or at a reduced price by calling and talking with them. L. Gerstenslager to follow up.

L. Gerstenslager then requested to achieve the ability of networking from home so she could access email and the WCSWCD server when not in the office.

**A Motion** was made for L. Gerstenslager to obtain the ability to network from her home to WCSWCD server by B. VanLare seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

**Other Business:**

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L. Gerstenslager advised the board that employee C. Hotto has requested Family Leave time for the birth of his child due in September. The request is two (2) weeks leave and additional time up to two months of part time leave (he will be working part time). The board discussed the utilization of flex and vacation time and sick leave. The board further discussed flex vacation and compensatory leave with the thought of perhaps doing a buyout of accumulated time. Additional ideas to be brought to the August meeting.

B. VanLare requested funding from the board to pay his registration costs for attending the NYACD Northeast Regional Conference in Corning NY.

**A Motion** was made to pay for B. VanLare's registration cost of \$200.00 for attendance at the NYACD Northeast Regional Conference in Corning NY by B. Hammond seconded by T. Caprilla; carried.

L. Gerstenslager showed the board the "Got (aquatic) Weeds" T-Shirts that were designed to help promote chestnut pulls.

And last L. Gerstenslager advised the board that a contract has been achieved with Katlynn Marine for assisting in the AVC Harvesting Program.

Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday August 15, 2012 at 9:00am at the SWCD Office Conference Room. L. Gerstenslager reminded the board of the audit meeting on July 25, 2012 at 9:00am in the conference room.

**A MOTION** was made to adjourn at 11:13am by B. Hammond seconded by B. VanLare; carried.