

**Minutes of the
Wayne County Soil & Water Conservation District
Regular Meeting— August 21, 2024
District Office, 7312 Route 31, Lyons NY 14489**

Directors in attendance:

Mark Humbert, Chair
Lynn Chatfield, Vice-chair
Pat Van Lare, Treasurer
Jim Brady
Peter Stoep

Absent:

Staff in attendance:

Ron Thorn
Kelly Reynolds

Guests:

Michael DeBadts, CPA

- I. The meeting was called to order with a quorum at 8:36 a.m. by Chair Mark Humbert.
- II. Acknowledgment of Guests—Michael DeBadts who went over the 2023 audit findings with us. No major issues were found.
- III. **A MOTION (1)** was made by L. Chatfield to approve the agenda; seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried.
- IV. Report: Farm Bureau: Mark Humbert: The Regional Farm meeting was held last week. Kim Skellie from El-Vi Farms is likely to be the new Vice President.
- V. Report: Grange: Pat Van Lare: There was a lot of activity at the Wayne County Fair in Palmyra last week. It was a very busy week. Grange will be at the Lyons Farmers' Market this coming Saturday doing a baked sale.
- VI. Report: NYACD: Pat Van Lare: The registration packet for the annual meeting is out. Pat would like to attend and recommends others do as well, especially new people.
- VII. Staff Reports: Ron Thorn:
 - A. Various Harvester equipment is down for the season, which is coming to a close at the end of the month.
 - B. Drainage is going along steadily. Johnson Logger will come out to Pilgrimport Rd. to remove dead Ash trees. Set up is starting for Bear Creek. Waiting for crops to be off fields for other projects.
 - C. Ian would like to remove tires from Archibee property on Catchpole Rd near Huckleberry Swamp. This is private property acquired at County auction. Owner has collected tires into one area, Town of Rose will load them.
 - D. Drew has set a date with Clean Harbors for a Household Chemical Waste event November 9 for 200 households. Paint is being discouraged as it can be taken to any paint store. The event is expected to use up the County budget funds allotted for it.
 - E. The septic program has 3 projects to be paid out upon approval.
 - F. REDI West is nearing completion with final road repair underway.

- G. REDI East is still not permitted and contracted. There is a question of a bond issue for road repair at completion. Ron is unsure of how a bond would work as it is not part of the bid packet. It was advised to give the matter Dan Conners from the County.
- H. Several grant closeouts have gone to Vic for approval. Several more are coming up for closeout and several more have begun work.

VIII. Operational Business

- A. **A MOTION (2)** was made by J. Brady to accept the meeting minutes as presented; seconded by P. VanLare; motion carried.
- B. **A MOTION (3)** was made by P. VanLare to accept the Treasurer's Report for as presented; seconded by J. Brady; motion carried.
- C. **A MOTION (4)** was made by L. Chatfield to approve the payment of the bills as presented; seconded by J. Brady; motion carried.

IX. Old Business

- A. Envirothon: Ron & Drew volunteered at the National Envirothon. Ron commented on how impressive the oral presentations were. Tennessee won 1st place with NY and Maryland coming in 2nd and 3rd.
- B. County Fair: We shared a booth last week with NRCS and FSA. Several staff members volunteered at the booth during the week.
- C. EFLC: Projects will be structural in nature as funding will come through bond issues. January 1st 2025 is the start goal. 42 million over 5 years with 11 counties participating.
- D. 2025 County Budget Review: Ron's preliminary meeting went well with the modest COLA raises in requested funds. The next phase will be a September public works meeting.
- E. District Technician position: Ron is ready to submit a request for civil service testing for a district technician with an initial pay range of \$40,000-\$45,000. Mark requested a discussion of current salaries at the next meeting. Kelly will prepare a report for the board to look at.

X. New Business

- A. **A MOTION** was made by P. VanLare to approve up to \$300 (\$50 per person) to send staff members to the annual Conservation Skills Workshop in Auburn, NY September 23-26; seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried.
- B. **A MOTION** was made by P. Stoep to approve funding up to \$2,000 to send BOD members and staff to the Annual NYACD Meeting in PennYan, NY October 21-22; seconded by J. Brady; motion carried.
- C. Truck purchase: Ron reported that a new truck has been purchased and one of the old ones traded in which was previously approved by the board.
- D. Drew conducted a weed pull at Maxwell Bay.
- E. **A MOTION** was made by L. Chatfield to give the District Manager/Treasurer permission to pay or set up autopay for the monthly RG&E bill to avoid late fees, seconded by J. Brady; motion carried.

- F. **A MOTION** was made by L. Chatfield to open a Money Market at LNB and consolidate the district's own reserve accounts and excess funds into it, seconded by P. VanLare; motion carried.
- G. **A MOTION** was made by P. VanLare to approve payment for 3 Septic grant applications as presented; seconded by L. Chatfield; motion carried.
- H. **A MOTION** was made by L. Chatfield to use up to \$2,000 from the Solid Waste Recycling contract to help remove tires from the Archibee residence on Catchpole Rd in the town of Rose, seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried.
- I. **A MOTION** was made by L. Chatfield to make final payments to the participants of CRF Round 5 Lower Ganargua Creek Watershed Cover Crop Project using funds from the CRF Round 5 Cover Crop and Special Project Funds accounts then replenish the Special Project Funds account once monies arrive from the State. Closeout is AEA approved. Seconded by P. VanLare. P. Stoep abstained. Motion carried.
- J. **A MOTION** was made by L. Chatfield to make final payment to Mason Farms for the Grown & Certified Round 2 Sediment Basin & Irrigation Project for \$33,062 to be taken from the special Projects account and replenished once monies are received from the State. Close out is AEA approved. Seconded by J. Brady; motion carried.
- K. **A MOTION** was made by L. Chatfield to make final payment once AEA close out approval has been given of \$41,053.09 to Field Craft Farms for the AgNPS Round 24 Lake Ontario Phase II Salmon Creek West Field Craft Farms grant to be taken from the Special Projects account then replenished once monies arrive from the State. Seconded by P. VanLare; motion carried.
- L. **A MOTION** was made by M. Humbert to advertise the position of District Technician once Civil Service approval has been given, seconded by J. Brady; motion carried.

XI. Adjournment

- A. **A MOTION** was made by P. VanLare to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 a.m.; seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried.
- B. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. at the District Office 7312 Route 31, Lyons NY, 14489.