

**Minutes of the Wayne County Soil & Water
Conservation District Board of Directors
Regular Meeting— May 15, 2024
District Office, 7312 Route 31, Lyons NY 14489**

Directors:

Mark Humbert
Pat VanLare
Peter Stoep
Lynn Chatfield

Staff:

Ron Thorn
Kelly Reynolds
Drew Starkey

- I. The meeting was called to order at 8:33 a.m. by Mark Humbert.
- II. Guests in attendance: Victor DiGiacomo from SWCC and Bruce Wadhams from FSA
- III. **A MOTION** was made by L. Chatfield to approve the agenda as presented; seconded by P. VanLare; motion carried.
- IV. Report: SWCC: Victor DiGiacomo: Funding for this year is in the neighborhood of \$80 million and is up again for next year. CRF Round 8 funding has opened with 3 webinars to educate staff in regard to the newly included federal funding regulations. New CAFO funding will be coming out in June aimed at manure management. Ag NPS Round 30 is expected in October with \$15 million plus bond act money available. He also highlighted his written report as attached in this packet.
- V. Report: Farm Bureau: Mark reiterated the good team at Farm Bureau and the good work they do.
- VI. Report: Grange: Pat VanLare reported that several Granges are celebrating 150 years this year and that the local newsletter would be coming out shortly.
- VII. Report: NYACD: Pat VanLare reported that the state Envirothon in Cortland is coming up next week and that she will be volunteering.
- VIII. Report: NRCS/FSA: Bruce: New employees and a lot of training happening currently. Storage loans are ongoing at a rate of 4.85%. Commodity loans are ending May 31 with 2024 loans coming up. Rates are currently 6.25%. Mark Humbert remarked on the value of co-locating all ag services into one facility as some other counties have done. He is seeking EPA funding through the Land Bank for the project.
- IX. Report: Staff: Drew: Wayne County Envirothon took place at the Montezuma Audubon Center with 11 teams from 5 schools participating. Weedsport and Red Creek are moving on the State level in Cortland. For the tree sale we had more orders this year at around 215 with about the same number of trees sold. Leftover trees were donated to Trail Works and the Genesee Land Trust. This year's second E-Waste event is coming up in June. Dates are tentatively 12-13. There is a huge need and we have a great facility for doing it. Drew received and updated quote from Clean Harbors for a household hazardous waste collection event. They are reviewing our plan for approval. In addition to County contract funds we have allocated FLOWPA money to the project. Clean Harbors quote is \$24,000 for 350 households and they provide all staffing. Drew was able to get another load of TVs out of D&L storage. There is at least another load. It was discussed to approach the town of Huron and D&L themselves to share in some of the cost as the district has paid for 2 loads already.
- X. **A MOTION** to approve Clean Harbors quote up to \$25,000 for a Chemical Waste event was made by P. VanLare; seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried.
- XI. Operational Business:
 - a. Correspondence this month – None
- XII. **A MOTION** to accept the meeting minutes as presented was made by L. Chatfield, seconded by P. VanLare; motion carried.
- XIII. **A MOTION** to accept the treasurer's report for May 2024 as presented by L. Chatfield, seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried.

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- XIV. **A MOTION** to approve the payment of the bills as presented in the Unpaid Bills Report was made by L. Chatfield, seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried.
- XV. Old Business:
- a. GLRI Beaver Creek, Ron coordinated a meeting with all involved parties to discuss options to complete the project within budget. The meeting turned out very well with a spirit of cooperation and solutions. The town agreed to do the project and be reimbursed through the GLRI grant. DEC permitting is done. Waiting on DOS permits and then Army CE. Project planning to be done between Labor Day and November.
 - b. Septic; work has started on already approved projects. Information needs to get out to the public regarding the program. Drew will work on this with others.
 - c. Harvesting; season has started with staff slowly returning. Repairs and maintenance are being done. A meeting was held at the Town of Huron with interested parties to foster improved communications and relationships.
 - d. Drainage; Moving along nicely, currently working in the Town of Galen.
 - e. Scott is coordinating a mussel surveys for future Upper Ganargua Creek Projects. These are usually completed in late summer-early fall.
 - f. Ian is working on current farm grant projects and writing some new grants.
 - g. Several grant construction projects are at various states of construction from planning to start soon, to middle, too being complete and in closeout mode.
 - h. The annual audit will take place May 22-23.
 - i. REDI projects at Port Bay and Blind Sodus Bay Barrier Bar are “quiet” for the moment going through the permitting process.
- XVI. **A MOTION** to approve a request to Wayne County for overages incurred with the REDI Blind Sodus Bay Western Bluff project to be presented to Wayne County Public Works Committee for the amount of up to \$225,000 was made by P. VanLare; seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried with L. Chatfield abstaining.
- J. Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition is moving forward with state funding for Canal corridor projects.
- XVII. New Business:
- XVIII. **A MOTION** to pay VanAcker Farms a partial payment for the Grown and Certified Round 3 project that is nearly complete. Funds of \$10,000 to be taken from their dedicated LNB account. The final payment will occur after closeout is completed, was made by L. Chatfield, seconded by P. Stoep; motion carried.
- a. There was some discussion regarding an employee who would like to take advantage of the dental coverage available. This employee also receives the annual medical buyout. The board would like to clarify the current policy before deciding how the dental coverage would affect the buyout. Discussion was tabled until next month when more information is available.
- XIX. **A MOTION** to adjourn at 10:02 a.m. was made by P. VanLare, seconded by L. Chatfield; motion carried.
- XX. Vic gave a presentation to the BOD from the training Module on District Law.

Next Meeting: June 19, 2024 at the District Office, 7312 Route 31, Lyons NY 14489 at 8:30 a.m. for June Regular Board Meeting.