

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**December 19, 2016**

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:06 AM. Directors J. Wright, G. Keeton and P. DeBlock were present, along with K. Sumner, N. Meyer and C. DeGroodt (OCSWCD).

**2016-12-1 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve the November Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.**

**ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

- After speaking with the District Chairman, Sumner authorized road repairs on the Dean Ford & Sons Dairy Farm. This is part of the Wallkill Flood Project. A payment in the amount of \$2,520.00 to Dean Ford & Sons Dairy Farm for road repair is listed on this month's Bills To Be Paid for Board Approval.
- The District Manager also spoke to the Chairman about seeking proposals for a one day rock test on the Celery Avenue site similar to what was done on the Pochuck. A proposal was received and is up for review by the Board today.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- A Construction & Capital Campaign Fall 2016 Update flyer was passed around. This is for CCE's Education Center and 4-H Park.
- Reminder from NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee that the District's Ag NPS RD 17 Wallkill grant ended on 11/1/16 and that the contract has to be closed within 60 days.
- Received letters from Steven Neuhaus, County Executive, to reappoint both P. DeBlock and J. Wright to the Board of Directors. Reappointments are subject to confirmation by the Orange County Legislature.
- Certified List of Eligibles received from Orange County Department of Human Resources allowing the District to appoint Noah Meyer to the permanent position of Conservation District Technician.

(P. Ruskiewicz joined the Meeting at 9:13 AM)

**2016-12-2 Keeton made the Motion, seconded by DeBlock, to appoint N. Meyer to the permanent position of Conservation District Technician. All in favor.**

N. Meyer hosted an AEM Director Training using a state sponsored powerpoint.

(R. Baglia joined the Meeting at 9:30 AM)

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- Brief discussion regarding the District's Unobligated Fund balance. **2016-12-3 DeBlock made the Motion, seconded by Ruskiewicz, to move \$50,000.00 of the "Unobligated" funds into the "Equipment Replacement Fund" and \$50,000.00 into the "Wallkill Flood Project". All in favor.**
- **2016-12-4 Wright made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve the financial report for November. All in favor.**
- Bills for Board Approval were reviewed. A bill in the amount of \$1,842.25 from Barton & Loguidice was added to the list. #10 on the Bills for Board Approval is from Dean Ford & Sons Dairy Farm for road work repair on their farm. Originally the Board approved to pay up to \$2,000.00 but it did go over a little. He billed us for \$2,520.00. **2016-12-5 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid including the B&L bill. All in favor.**

- The Draft Grant Update Reports for October and November 2016 were reviewed.

## STAFF REPORTS

- Meyer
  - Meyer has been checking cover crop on farms.
  - The AEM interim report was submitted and Meyer continues to work on AEM plans.
  - Meyer has been completing Soil Group Worksheets as they are requested.
  - Working on the Monhagen Watershed Planning Grant and installing stream gauges.
- Sumner
  - Sumner has been busy working on the Walkkill Flood Project.
  - Sumner, Ruszkiewicz and D. Brady from the Orange County Law Dept. attended the Physical Services Committee Meeting and updated them on the efforts to expand the Walkkill Maintenance Agreement. They approved obligating this year's Walkkill Maintenance Fund money for the title work on Pellets Island, which has been ordered.
  - G. Vellenga Farm is in one of our Ag NPS Grants for two projects – Streambank Stabilization and Stream Crossing. He did the Streambank Stabilization but changed his mind on the Crossing. He asked if he could switch that money to some concrete work in the barnyard. Albany said they would approve the revision on the condition Vellenga decommission one of his outside barnyards and get an engineer to certify the roof that he's already built and the concrete work we would be helping him with. The engineer that was hired for the Stream Crossing will not be able to be paid out of State funds since the project will not be built. Sumner feels that Vellenga should pick up the engineering fee. This was presented to the landowner and he has not yet decided what he will do. Brief discussion followed.
  - Sumner met with the Gantz brothers to let them know about the rock test on Celery Avenue. They are willing to let us use their access roads to the river.
  - Sumner submitted an article to Cornell Cooperative Extension for their Ag Focus newsletter on the Walkkill Flood Project.
  - A call came in from a local farmer regarding a culvert on a commission ditch that is failing off of Mahoney Lane. Sumner sent him an aerial photo so he could pin point where the culvert is located so Sumner can determine what lands benefit from it. Sumner has not heard back.
  - Orange County Planning Department requested that Sumner review the Legoland Site Plan. Sumner invested a few hours spot checking it. He noted that there are a lot of bioretention basins to deal with access road runoff and permeable pavers for walking areas but their biggest impervious area is their parking lots and they are proposing underground sand filters. These are expensive to install and would be hard to monitor. Discussion followed. No action taken.
  - Sumner met with Kevin and Tom Shuback to make sure they didn't have any outstanding issues with the Flood Control Project.
  - Sumner received an email from B. Somers, Ag & Markets, regarding Corny Cattle. They want to build ponds for watering livestock and irrigation. Ag & Markets asked the District to assist them with sizing the ponds. Discussion followed. The Board felt it was appropriate for the District to provide this assistance.

## INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- R. Baglia – Cornell Cooperative Extension
  - Nursery and Greenhouse Growers School will be on January 24, 2017 at CCE.
  - Stormwater Management Series begins in February 2017.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Walkkill Flood Project update
  - **2016-12-6 Wright made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to renew an Agreement for Consultant Services with Barton & Loguidice. All in favor.** The renewed agreement ends on October 31, 2017.
  - Phase I Construction– Operations were suspended because the main work left was to remove the soil stockpile from the site and freezing conditions are needed to allow for truck access and avoid further damage to the site. Sumner feels that there is approximately 20 days of hauling soil left. Parts of the Ford fields are a mess. Was grading completed according to the plan? These fields were chisel plowed and they need to be smoothed out before the final “as built” survey is completed. It may have to wait until spring when things dry out. The surveyor surveyed the bench part of the project, which was given to B&L. The surveyor and B&L are supposed to be working together on a quantity calculation as to how many yards of dirt were excavated. The contractor is claiming they moved more dirt than indicated on the plan. Sumner mentioned that an annual vegetation report is supposed to be submitted to the DEC by the end of this calendar year.
  - Not much to report on the easement and land purchase. D. Ford received most of his money via the easement purchase. The land purchase will happen in '17.
  - Phase II – Sumner is putting together a packet for 2017. We are not anticipating having any money left over from the \$2 million. We still have the \$75,000.00 in state money from last year's Climate Resiliency Farming Program (CRFP) and \$25,000.00 match from the County. And we already submitted an application for Round 2 CRFP program (\$150,000.00 state and \$50,000.00 from the County). Sumner is trying to move the tree cutting on the Floodplain Bench Project Phase II area forward. They need to be cut before March 31<sup>st</sup>. Proposals were requested from four contractors with the District receiving two back. The proposals were broken down by each side of the River and tree cutting and processing were broken out. The Conservation District Manager recommends hiring VLC for tree cutting and processing on the north side of the River associated with phase 2 of the Walkkill River Floodplain Bench Project. He proposes paying this out of the District's general fund or the dedicated fund for the flood work. When part C money is received, we can potentially reimburse the general fund from there. A contract/agreement would be executed with the contractor using a template developed for the SWCD in cooperation with the Orange County Law Department and reviewed earlier this year by Richard Hoyt. He also recommends approval of the Board to proceed with the CRF Round 1 Project with the understanding that Gurda Landscaping will be hired by PINT to undertake the tree cutting and processing phase of the CRF Project. Discussion followed.
  - CFI's third payment request was handed out to Directors for review. The red mark-ups are the engineer's revisions. Sumner described work remaining to be done. This remaining work was presented to the contractor in a 'punchlist' several weeks ago, and much of it has not been completed yet. Sumner showed the Board that punchlist at the November Board meeting. Sumner also informed the board that he had been advised by our attorney that we should respond in writing as soon as possible with our objection when presented with bills we do not agree with. Sumner has already done so in reference to the 3<sup>rd</sup> CFI payment request by way of an email to the CFI Project Manager. Discussion followed on these matters and the information presented, and based on this information the Board was not in favor of making any additional payment to CFI at this time. **2016-12-7 Keeton made the motion, DeBlock seconded, to allow the District Manager to work with the attorney on a letter to the contractor indicating what would have to happen before issuing any additional payments. All in favor.**
  - Rock Test – can be done in one day. The District received a proposal from Vellenga Lawn Care to do the work in the amount of \$6,300.00. **2016-12-8 A Motion was made by Ruszkiewicz, seconded by Keeton, to hire Vellenga Lawn Care to do the rock test. All in favor.**
  - Performance Measures Part C – Discussion on designating the Part C funding for the Walkkill Flood Project. It was decided to reserve decision on what the Part C funding will be designated for.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **2016-12-9 DeBlock made the Motion, seconded by Wright, to authorize the District to submit a Resolution for the District to support Dean Ford & Sons Dairy Farm's application for the Round II of CRFP. All in favor.**
- Performance Measures Part B - \$6,000.00 to be used for the Monhagen Project.
- **2016-12-10 Wright made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to enter into a contract for the Monhagen Brook Watershed Planning Project, with the Orange County Water Authority. All in favor.**
- A Contract between the District and Chip Lain for the Climate Resilient Farming Program Walkkill Bench Project, needed the Chairman's signature.

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, January 23, 2017 at 9:00 AM.**

**2016-12-11 Meeting adjourns at 11:47 AM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot  
Secretary to the Board