

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**December 17, 2012**

The Meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:00 AM. Directors T. Pahucki, M. Pillmeier, J. Wright, D. Hulle and G. Keeton were present, along with K. Sumner, C. DeGroot, K. Brown and M. Monahan (OCSWCD), J. Heller (NRCS), F. Barber (FSA) and R. Baglia (CCE).

Hulle made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to accept November's Board **MINUTES**.

**CORRESPONDENCE** – Miscellaneous newsletters were passed around.

There was a letter to the District from John Lupinski, Orange County Farm Bureau President regarding the makeup of the Orange County SWCD Board. He requested that Chris Pawelski be appointed to the SWCD Board. Pahucki stated that he'd spoken to Chris Pawelski and that John Wright currently serves as the Farm Bureau representative and his term is not up until the end of 2013. At that time, the Orange County Farm Bureau can submit a letter on Chris's behalf.

Sumner passed around a letter he wrote to J. Bastek, a black dirt farmer, regarding restoring portions of cropland after work associated with the Millenium Pipeline project. Bastek has been to the District office many times and Sumner has been out at Bastek's property to take survey shots. An email from Matt Brower documented that the Millenium Pipeline has not provided the restorative services that they should have. It's unfortunate, but Mr. Bastek may have to hire a private attorney, as the District has no authority over this project. Sumner stated he would like to have this included on the Ag & Farmland Protection Board Agenda so it could be discussion. Pahucki asked if the District was involved with any of the erosion control damage. Sumner said that the District did not have any involvement.

It was noted that the Unobligated Funds on the Financial Report are in the negative. Cash is currently tied up in Ag Grants. The District has to keep getting ag grants approved to keep the money flowing and push farmers to complete ag projects in order for staff time to be used up.

Pahucki requested a spreadsheet showing the cost of the equipment rental program vs. what we get back on it. Sumner said this was already done and brought to the AFPB Meeting he attended. Pahucki said that the District's request for AFPB to assist with their ag rental equipment program has not been dismissed by AFPB. It is still undecided. Pahucki mentioned that the Ag & Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) will have \$20,000 left over as of next year. It can be decided then how to subsidize the District's ag rental equipment program.

The **Financial Report** for November was approved by Wright, seconded by Keeton.

**SWCD STAFF REPORTS**

**K. Brown (SWCD)** – Brown has been working on Ag Environmental Management (AEM) paperwork.

The District's no till seeder had a barn come down on top of it during Hurricane Sandy. It was moved to Phillip Johnson's farm since he is the District's great plains dealer. The quote from P. Johnson to repair the seeder is \$1,500.00. The farmer's insurance company agreed to the price and will pay Johnson directly to repair it.

Wallkill Maintenance Project Update – Suburban Excavating was planning on completing the work last Saturday. There are a few more sites added after the inspection.

Brown attended a Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) conference and earned CCA credits.

The Farm Bureau Annual Meeting was on November 28, 2012.

**M. Monahan (SWCD)** – Monahan has been completing/updating AEM paperwork in the farmer files.

He has worked on Dean Ford's Streambank Project and has begun work on a diversion waterway on another farm.

Monahan attended an Emerald Ash Borer conference. Pahucki asked if spray can be used on the borer. Monahan said yes, but it's very expensive. Discussion followed regarding where the ash borers are being found and how to stop them from spreading.

**K. Sumner (SWCD)** – Performance Measures – . Three Board members had to go to approved regional trainings by the end of 2012 as part of the items required to qualify for the entire PM reimbursement. We did not satisfy this requirement for 2012. This may be a 'non-issue' if districts statewide earn all available funding in part A of the State reimbursement program (The reimbursement cap to Districts went from \$30,000 to \$60,000 in 2012). Pahucki suggested that in the future, start trainings here at the District Office at 8:00 AM before a Board Meeting. He requested that Directors be given a list of up-coming trainings monthly.

James Baglia, a geology student at SUNY New Paltz, will be doing an unpaid 'winter internship' with OCSWCD during December 2012 through January 2013. Sumner developed a project for him to evaluate green infrastructure practices in Orange County, including collecting samples of soil from each practice and determining the particle size distribution – an important factor in the design and performance of these practices.

Two Ag Non-point Source Grant Proposals were submitted for Round 19.

Staff are involved in construction projects on several farms. One project is a live stake planting with locally grown Streamco Willows. We also completed the Dean Ford Round 13 streambank stabilization project, the O'Dell stream protection project (Round 14), started the Constable laneway project (Round 17), and showed the Winslow erosion control project to the contractor selected by Winslow (Round 15).

A slew of annual reports are due by February 15<sup>th</sup> and work on them will begin immediately.

Two Ag Nonpoint Source grants will be closed out in January 2013.

### **INTERAGENCY REPORTS**

**F. Barber (FSA)** – There is no news on the lease. They send requests for information and have not heard back but they do not anticipate moving anytime soon.

There is a temporary staff reduction and hiring freeze.

There were reports of tree damage after Hurricane Sandy. EFRP requested funding. DEC is the technical service provider.

**J. Heller (NRCS)** – They have 41 applications being processed this year. 11 of them are for seasonal high tunnels.

Farms need to have a Conservation Activity Plan before projects can be funded in the future.

They are in the process of cancelling and terminating contracts. If participants have not completed any practices in over four years, they can be cancelled.

There has been a realignment of staffing. There will now be one District Conservationist.

Was requested to look at flood plain easement sites.

**R. Baglia (CCE)** - Ray Range, who was hired as the new CCE Commercial Produce Educator, will work.....

Practical Poultry Practices: Parts and Portions will be on January 5, 2013 from 9:00 am – 12 pm at CCE.

Gathering of Gardeners: Backyard Stewardship will be on January 15, 2013 at CCE.

Managing Insecticide Use Lunch Meeting is on January 16, 2013 at Aroma-Thyme Bistro in Elenville.

2013 Stormwater Management Training Series: Stormwater Basics in on January 16<sup>th</sup>.

Farm Net and Farm Link: Transitioning and Financial of Farming is on January 31, 2013 at CCE from 11 am to 2 pm.

**OLD BUSINESS** – None.

**NEW BUSINESS** – In a discussion about the Pellets Island reach of the Wallkill River, it was mentioned that New York State owns all of the land. When the landfill property was deeded to Orange County it states specifically only to the top of the bank.

The District's Organizational Meeting will be January 14<sup>th</sup>.

The 2013 Annual Plan of Work Draft was presented for review. The Directors asked that it be emailed to them.

DeGroodt has been working on Conservation Plans for farms participating in the Ag Nonpoint Source Grant program.

Rose Baglia's son is going to intern with the District. He will be assessing Green Infrastructure in the field. It is not a paid position. The Board approved reimbursing him for his mileage when he drives his own vehicle up to \$100.00.

The **NEXT MEETING** is scheduled for Monday, January 14, 2013 at 9 AM. The **MEETING** was adjourned at 10:23 AM on a Motion by Hulle, seconded by Keeton.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroodt  
Secretary to the Board