

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 21, 2013

The Meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:34 AM. Directors T. Pahucki, J. Wright, G. Keeton and M. Pillmeier were present, along with K. Sumner, C. DeGrootd and K. Brown (OCSWCD), A. Reith (CCE) and J. Heller (NRCS).

There was a moment of silence observed for the loss of Director David Hulle.

CORRESPONDENCE – The Ag and Farmland Protection Board Meeting Agenda and MINUTES were passed around. A brief discussion followed.

The **Financial Report** for April was approved by Pahucki, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.

SWCD STAFF REPORTS

C. DeGrootd (SWCD) – DeGrootd has been working on various grants including getting a reimbursement request together for the Black Dirt Region Flood Control Grant.

Paperwork was completed for the Ag NPS Grants Rounds 13 and 14 for their close-outs.

The Ag NPS Grant Round 19 Plan of Work was completed and mailed into the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

DeGrootd and Sumner have been working on the 2014 Budget.

The District's Tree & Shrub Seedling Program received 82 orders. Seedlings were packed out at Bergen's farm with the assistance of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardeners.

DeGrootd completed and mailed out the 4-hour Erosion & Sediment Control Course certificates and wallet cards for participants.

DeGrootd completed the Ag NPS Interim Reports for rounds 15, 17 and 18 and sent in to the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

K. Brown (SWCD) – There has been a lot of field work over the past month. A stream project was finished at G. Vellenga's Farm. Met with B. Wright, Contractor, at Winslow Farm regarding finishing up some small projects, road work and pasture improvements due to overgrazing on one of a farmer's pastures.

SWCD met with P. Johnson and his accountants to discuss the plans of a covered barnyard. He has a large EQIP contract the District has been helping move along (covered barnyard, composting, etc.). It was mentioned the CAFO cow cut-off point is now 300. Under this and you don't have to comply with CAFO.

The only two CAFOs now in Orange County are D. Ford Farm and T. Etzel, a chicken farm.

A survey was completed using the total station with the assistance of an NRCS engineer. The station may be housed in the Middletown office in the future.

Wallkill Spring Inspection – The spring inspection took place May 2. Over 40 sites were identified, including many ‘leaners’ (trees leaning more than 30 degrees towards the channel). We are awaiting DEC’s written inspection report. Sumner, Brown and Keeton went on the inspection and found many leaning trees but not a lot of dead and down trees. Sumner said that some trees go down and take a huge chunk of earth with them into the river. Normally they would just ask the contractor to pull that out. But since we are moving into the flood money work, he wants to make sure everyone is on board with everything, and nothing is under the radar. Sumner asked DEC if the chunk of earth can be removed when the tree is removed. DEC said they didn’t know and will have to look into it. Sediment bars were also pointed out at the inspection. Digging soil out of a river channel is a bit outside of the scope of taking out a downed tree. Pahucki asked what was being done about the lack of access across the Madura bridge. Brown explained that someone dug a “moat” around it and stacked large logs on top of the bridge so now there is no way to cross it. Sumner said that we are waiting to see if the DEC will write a letter and take this up with the landowner.

On May 3rd there was a field day with B&L, Sumner, Brown and Keeton went out to show B&L the work areas.

Brown said that there have been issues with the District’s no till corn planter. Last week they had to repair a flat tire and there is an issue with the seed drops. To date, approx. 150 acres have been planted with the corn planter. Discussion followed regarding purchase of a new planter as the one the District has is getting worn.

There is a Heavy Use Area Protection project being completed on the Gibbs Farm. Installing a spreader pad, drainage and retaining wall.

K. Sumner (SWCD) – Sumner has been working on the grant for the Seward Avenue building. He completed the design work and it was submitted to Orange County by R. Baglia. They are now waiting on the contractor. \$40,000 of this grant is for construction. C. Vellenga’s bid was for \$8,200. They will also install a bioretention basin at the Warwick High School.

Sumner is working on another grant for the Lower Hudson Coalition for Green Infrastructure practices at a Newburgh Town hall. It will be submitted on May 24th.

Construction was started on the O’Dell Farm – bunk silo and runoff control.

J. Heller (NRCS) – NRCS received extra funding which enabled them to fund two additional high tunnels in Orange County. Heller stated that high tunnels extend the growing season.

They have moved forward on two farm and ranchland applications and construction projects are also being worked on.

NRCS is looking at bumping the sign-up period to August.

WRP – taking a look at providing appraisals.

NRCS had a Quality Assurance Review last week.

A. Reith (CCE) - Reith passed out the Cornell Cooperative Extension Ag Program Report.

On May 18th, the Master Gardeners held their Annual Plant Sale from 9-12:30 at the Orange County Fairgrounds 4-H Building.

On May 19th hosted a Goat Fun Day from 1-4 at the Orange County Fairgrounds. Approx. 100 people participated.

CCE is getting prepared for the 2013 Showcase at Bergen’s Farm.

Reith said that planning continues for a Multi-State Certified Classing and Wool Handling to help educate producers and wool handlers in three areas that are vital to producing quality wool clip- production, harvesting and marketing.

Planning includes Dr. Michael Thonney and Dr. Tatiana Stanton, A. Reith, Ron Cole and investors, designers and herdsman from NYS.

There will be a Beef Quality Assurance training on June 28, 2013 at the Blazeski Farm in Pine Bush, NY. Pahucki asked what was Beef Quality Assurance. Reith said Dr. Michael Baker, Cooperative Extension Beef Specialist at Cornell University will teach about herd health, handling, worming, injections, administering vaccines and meat processing.

G. Keeton (SWCD) – Keeton represented the District at the Orange County Water Authority’s Water Festival this past Saturday. He had a station set up and said that approx. 600 people stopped and looked at his station and out of those, 400 stopped and talked. He had tanks with various types of dirt, aquariums with fish, zoo plankton, snapping turtle shells, etc. He also handed out numerous information sheets provided by the Soil & Water District.

OLD BUSINESS

District’s Procurement Policy – Still trying to get a contract between our office and B&L. The Orange County Law Department wants a copy of the District’s Procurement Policy.

Pahucki made the Motion to accept the Procurement Policy draft presented to the Directors by Sumner. Keeton accepted the Motion, seconded by Pillmeier. All in favor.

2013 Black Dirt Region Flood Control Grant - Pillmeier asked how the District charges for projects. Sumner said that the District tracks hours down to a ¼ of an hour in a time book. A code is established for each grant project. Pahucki asked for accounting for the 2013 Black Dirt Region Flood Control Grant and the Wallkill Maintenance Project. He does not want to see duplicate hours for numerous staff out at a project on the same day/time. He would like to see costs cut wherever they can.

Sumner is working on getting a contract in place so we can pay the engineers. He would like a map that clearly identifies easements. There could be multiple easement holders on the same piece of property. Maybe we could get a map from the County instead of B&L in order to save money.

Sumner plans on spending time with the B&L engineer on Thursday when he comes to the District office.

Our first reimbursement request we submitted was paid yesterday and they are working on the second one we submitted last week.

Wallkill Maintenance - Sumner mentioned that when M. Monahan and K. Brown went out together during the Wallkill Maintenance, it was for training. If this is an issue then Sumner will not apply staff training hours towards the Maintenance Agreement. He also noted that having two people (himself and Brown) out with the B&L team was necessary and appropriate in his opinion. Keeton, who was along on the trip as a volunteer agreed.

Wallkill River Flood Control Maintenance Proposals for Equipment Rental were opened. Seven people walked in to pick up the packets. Five submitted proposals. All proposals were opened. See table below for results.

Name of Firm or Corp.	ITEM #	Description	Hourly	Daily	Specify Equip. Offered
E.A.F. Enterprises, Inc., Warwick, NY	1	80 class excavator or equiv. with mechanical thumb.	\$100	\$800	Plus moving machine depending on location of work-John Deere 700
	2	120 class excavator or equiv. with mechanical thumb.	\$125	\$1,000	Plus moving machine depending on location of work-Case 688
Vellenga’s Lawn Care, Inc., Pine	1	45 class excavator or equiv. with	\$100	\$800	45 Yanmar-2008 Hydraulic thumb, 11,000 lbs.

Bush, NY		hydraulic thumb.			
	2	120 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic thumb.	\$125	\$1,000	PC 120-Komatsu-2007 Thumb, 30,000 lbs.
	4	120 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic tree shear.	\$190	\$1,520	Tree shear with 3 grappler arms to hold tree and cut at the same time with rotating head 15 degrees each way.
	6	6 foot brush hog mower with tractor.	\$100	\$800	120 horse powered tractor with 3 point hitch brush hog = 6' wide John Deere.
	7	Batwing style pull behind mower, 15 foot mowing width with tractor.	\$100	\$800	120 horse powered John Deere tractor with pull type brush hog=10' wide John Deere.
	10	90 HP track skid steer.	\$100	\$800	Includes forks, bucket, power rake, grapple bucket, 190c New Holland 2006 track skid steer.
	11	90 HP track skid steer with stump grinder attachment	\$120	\$960	190c New Holland 2006 track skid steer with stump grinder.
Daka Plumbing & Heating, Poughquag, NY	1	45 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic thumb.	\$181	\$1,448	CAT 303.5
	2	120 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic thumb.	\$207.50	\$1,660	CAT 308
	3	160 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic thumb.	\$223	\$1,784	CAT 314
	4	120 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic tree shear.	\$222	\$1,776	CAT 308
	5	160 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic tree shear.	\$233	\$1,864	CAT 314
	6	6 foot brush hog mower with tractor.	\$192	\$1,536	Kabota 50 HP
	7	Batwing style pull behind mower, 15 foot mowing width with tractor.	\$221	\$1,768	Bobcat/Kabota 50 HP
	8	120 class excavator or equiv. with stump grinder attachment.	\$194	\$1,552	CAT 308
	9	160 class excavator or equiv. with stump grinder attachment.	\$241	\$1,928	CAT 314
	10	90 HP track skid steer.	\$188	\$1,504	CAT skid steer
	11	90 HP track skid steer with stump grinder attachment.	\$232	\$1,856	CAT skid steer

	12	Track skid steer with forestry cutter attachment.	\$231	\$1,848	
Suburban Excavating, Middletown, NY	3	160 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic thumb.	\$150	\$1,200	02 CAT 318BL or 98 Komatsu PC200LC
	5	160 class excavator or equiv. with hydraulic tree shear.	\$175	\$1,400	02 CAT 318BL w/16" or 22" hyd. tree shear.
	6	6 foot brush hog mower with tractor.	\$110	\$880	Same Tiger 100 HP 4x4 tractor w/7' brush mower.
	7	Batwing style pull behind mower, 15' mowing width with tractor.	\$120	\$960	Same Tiger 100HP 4x4 tractor w/bush hog 2315 (180") BW mower.
	9	160 class excavator or equiv. with stump grinder attachment.	\$225	\$1,800	02 CAT 318BL w/brown 48" fixed tooth stump grinder.
	11	90 HP track skid steer with stump grinder attachment.	\$190	\$1,520	ASV RC100 w/48" fixed tooth stump grinder.
	12	Track skid steer with forestry cutter attachment.	\$190	\$1,520	ASV RC100 w/48" fixed tooth mulcher.
Russell Kowal, Goshen, NY	6	6 foot brush hog mower with tractor.	\$60	\$480	6' brush mower with tractor and operator.

It was mentioned that Russell Kowal has done the mowing for years for Orange County. Proposals are good for this year with the option to renew.

Three contractors were selected for our 2013 list of approved equipment rental offers. They are 1) Russell Kowal (6' brush hog mower with tractor), Suburban Excavating (various equipment) and Vellenga Lawn Care (various equipment).

E.A.F. did not meet proposal requirements and Daka Plumbing & Heating were over budget.

Sumner mentioned that with approval from the Board, he would like to hire Richard Franke for the position of District Technician. His tentative start date is May 28, 2013. A Motion was made by Keeton to hire Franke. Wright approved the Motion, seconded by Pillmeier. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

Copies of the 2014 Draft Budget Packet were provided to Board Members.

The **NEXT MEETING** is scheduled for Monday, June 17, 2013 at 9:00 AM. The **MEETING** was adjourned at 11:28 AM, on a Motion by Pillmeier, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot
Secretary to the Board