

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
November 21, 2016

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:15 AM. Directors J. Wright, G. Keeton, P. DeBlock and P. Ruskiewicz were present, along with J. Heller (NRCS) and K. Sumner and C. DeGroot (OCSWCD).

2016-11-1 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve the October Board Meeting Minutes as amended. All in favor.

ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

- No actions taken between meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- The Ag and Farmland Protection Board Meeting November Agenda and Draft October Minutes were available for review.
- The notice of the NYS DEC Fall 2016 Semi-Annual Inspection and the report of the Wallkill River was available for review. The inspection was completed on October 18, 2016. A few deficiencies were found and will be corrected in the spring.
- Information received from The Compass Company Consultants, LLC. whom have done consults with some of the other SWCDs re: insurance and risk management consulting. They are offering to work with the District to help find the best insurance for the lowest price. No action taken.

Wright mentioned that Sumner took the Ag & Farmland Protection Board (AFPB) on a tour of the Wallkill Flood Bench and Pochuck Projects. All that attended were impressed.

P. Johnson was at the AFPB meeting and discussed the milk situation. Johnson had mentioned he received a list from Ag & Markets of a list of entities that would take milk. Sumner passed the list out for review. Brief discussion followed.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **2016-11-2 Wright made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to approve the financial report for October. All in favor.**
- Bills for Board Approval were reviewed. A bill in the amount of \$1,230.00 from Barton & Loguidice for road repairs is not yet approved for payment. A separate bill from Barton & Loguidice in the amount of \$1,941.14 was received over the weekend and was added onto the list to be paid.
 - **2016-11-3 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid except for the B&L road repair bill. All in favor.** The Board indicated that they would further consider the M&L road repair bill when other disputed costs are discussed at the close of the Bench project.
- The Draft Grant Update Report for September 2016 was reviewed.

STAFF REPORTS

- Sumner
 - It was mentioned that Meyer has been checking cover crop on farms.
 - Sumner and Ruskiewicz have been working with D. Brady from the Orange County Law Dept. to try to move along the Wallkill Maintenance Expansion. It is on the Physical Services Committee Agenda for today at 3:30 PM to let the County know what they are working on and get their endorsement to

get title work for the parcels in the Pellets Island reach scheduled and to have it taken out of this year's maintenance fund. And to also let them know the focus is on Pellets Island first and then some of the other tributaries. Sumner had requested price quotes from two other abstract companies to compare to the proposal in hand from Hill-N-Dale, but did not hear back from either.

- There was a Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts-sponsored storm water conference in Beacon on October 19th.
- Catch basin repair work, previously approved by the Board, at Orange County Cornell Cooperative Extension was completed.
- The Monhagen Watershed Planning Grant is in full swing. December 2nd will be the first advisory committee meeting. Meyer is putting together a phosphorous sampling initiative. There are a lot of people that volunteered to collect at various points and the lab is already lined up.
- Performance Measures Part B in the amount of \$6,000.00 will be used for augmenting the Monhagen Project.
- Brief discussion on Meyer requesting to take off one week after his baby is born and to work one day a week from home. No action taken.
- Dave Getz visited the Campbell Plaza project site and signed off on everything. We received all of the money for the project from the NYS DEC. The signage still has to be put up. The scout troop from Warwick has been to the site twice to do plantings and stream cleanup.
- The Monhagen Brook Tree Planting was on October 22nd at the Gold Mines site, near the Monhagen school.
- The District received a call from farmer complaining about asphalt dumping on the Wallkill banks at Pellets Island. He was concerned that it was going to end up getting pushed into the river. The District called Town of Goshen and was told it was on a private road, and that they likely wouldn't be able to do anything about it. Subsequently, Sumner received a call from the business owner who placed the asphalt, indicating that the Town of Goshen contacted him and told him that Soil and Water wanted it removed. Sumner told the business owner that we have no authority to compel such an action. The business owner indicated that he was concerned that the River bank was collapsing and he would lose his road, that's why he dumped the asphalt debris. Sumner offered assistance, to fix the area, but told the business owner that we would not endorse the use of asphalt debris on the River bank, and that accepted, environmentally sound methods would need to be used. Discussion followed.
- Sumner received a call from the new County Recycling Coordinator. Topics discussed – Horse manure management and ag plastics.
- The pelletizer equipment is still at Tantillos. Brief discussion followed.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- F. Barber – Farm Service Agency
 - Biomass Crop Assistance Program (BCAP) - Accepting new applications for producers and operators. The window for 2017 applications goes until December 5th.
 - Office renovations are almost complete. A 10 year lease will be signed.
 - FSA COC election – P. Johnson is up for re-election. Ballots went out and are due back the first week in December. The election will be on December 7th followed by the County Committee Meeting.
 - The drought monitor was updated on November 15th but was not released until last Thursday. Orange, Dutchess, Ulster, Putnam, Sullivan and Westchester counties are now all listed as D-3 which opens up the eligibility considerably for certain types of conservation activities.
 - Brief discussion on the Urban Ag Project – purchase of shipping containers to support growing greens and micro-greens inside.

- J. Heller – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - On December 8th there is a tour that is being organized by HUD in the City of Newburgh and they've asked the USDA Service Center to participate.
 - NRCS hired a new employee, stationed in Highland, to work on administrative paperwork.
 - The Soil Conservationist position was offered to someone and she may start in the next few weeks.
 - EQIP applications closed on Friday. CSP applications actively being taken.

OLD BUSINESS

- Walkkill Flood Project update
 - The D. Ford easement payment was made. Sumner engaged Lehman & Getz Engineering to work on the subdivision that has to happen in order for us to purchase this property and the Barron Fields property.
 - Bench Project - Wendell (B&L) came down to do a walk-through with Sumner and the contractor and to develop a list of items that still need completion. CFI received a copy of this list. CFI is continuing trying to get the soil stockpile removed. There was approx. 25,000 cu. Yds that needed to be removed, so far they have moved approx. 9,000 cu. yds of it.
 - Sumner is trying schedule 'as built' surveys of the Bench and the Ford fields by the surveyors that did the original Ford field survey. Continued wetness, which is preventing the farmer from disking the fields to smooth them out, is delaying the scheduling. An employee of the surveyors called Sumner one day and said he was on the way down, even though Sumner had told his boss the site was still too wet and not leveled. With Sumner's assistance, he was able to complete the bench survey, but not the Ford fields.
 - If we are going to keep our options open in order to move to phase II of the Floodplain Bench project next year we will need to cut trees in that area before March 31st. Performance Measures Part C may be \$70,000 next year and this could potentially be used to support the phase 2 work. Discussion followed.
 - Celery Avenue Project – Sumner has been talking to Hoyt about the project. They would like to start from scratch w/ better contract template but both agreed to use existing contract with edits, the main one being incorporation of the alternative bonding specifications developed for and released in the phase 1 bid/contract addendum #1.

(R. Baglia joined the Meeting at 10:46 AM)

- **2016-11-4 A Motion was made by Wright, seconded by Ruskiewicz, to authorize Sumner to request prices for tree cutting and chipping for Phase II. All in favor.**
- **2016-11-5 A Motion was made by Ruskiewicz, seconded by Keeton, to put the Celery Bid Packet out. All in favor.**
- Director Appointment Renewals – Both DeBlock and Wright are up for renewal at the end of this year. Their terms are supposed to be staggered but they are not. The Board recommended we write to the County Executive and Legislators to let them know that we are happy with our current Board of Directors with both Staff and all Directors to sign. It was also recommended that we request The Grange submit an eligible's list.

(P. Ruskiewicz left the Meeting at 11:03 AM)

- **2016-11-6 A Motion was made by Keeton, seconded by DeBlock, to accept and enter into the Ag NPS Round 22 contract. All in favor.**

- Sumner mentioned that if the District has a meeting with CFI to discuss disputed costs, he would like to have at least one Director attend. Discussion followed on the planting of the bench project.

R. Baglia – Cornell Cooperative Extension

- Met with the County of Orange’s new Recycling Coordinator.
- “Death by 10,000 Culverts” presented by Andrew Meyer will be on December 6th at SUNY Orange.
- CCE’s Annual Meeting & Awards Dinner is scheduled for the evening of December 5th.
- Nursery Greenhouse School starts January 24th.

NEW BUSINESS

- Director AEM training will be given at December’s Board Meeting.

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, December 19, 2016 at 9:00 AM.**

2016-11-7 Meeting adjourns at 11:30 AM on a Motion by Keeton, seconded by Wright. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot
Secretary to the Board