

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 17, 2017

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

2017-4-1 DeBlock made the Motion, Wright seconded, to approve March's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS - None

CORRESPONDENCE

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- The Agenda for April's Ag and Farmland Protection Board Meeting and Draft March Minutes were available for review.
- Misc. newsletters available for review.
- Invoice from NACD – No action taken.
- Invoice from Dutchess County SWCD Re: 2017 Regional Envirothon invoice. We have not had a school participate in years. Warwick put a team together this year. Discussion under Financial Reports.
- Letter from OSWCD to County Exec. Re: requesting that the County consider taking ownership of certain Floodplain Bench lands.
- Letter from OCSWCD to Chet Fiske, NYS Dept. of State, Bureau of Fiscal Mgt re: District supports the Orange County Planning Department's submittal of a 2017 Countywide Resiliency Planning Grant from the NY Dept. of State.

(J. Heller/NRCS joined the Meeting at 9:10 AM)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- It was noted that the \$92,000.00 Performance Measures money we received was earmarked for the Wallkill Flood Project.
- There was discussion regarding the registration fee of \$625.00 from the NYSCDEA for the Warwick school to participate in the Envirothon. The District did not budget for this. The last the District heard, the school was going to pay the fee. No action taken. Sumner explained the Envirothon to M. Kemnitz. Kemnitz offered to write a grant in the future for an educator if we find one.
- **2017-4-2 Wright moved to file the March 2017 Financial Report for audit review, Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
- Three bills were added to the Bills for Board Approval list. 1) Vellenga Lawn Care – work on the Monhagen Project - \$1,485.00 2) Vellenga Lawn Care – Rock Ledge Test - \$6,300.00 3) Vellenga Lawn Care – Campbell Plaza Project - \$2,400.00.
- **2017-4-3 DeBlock made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid. All in favor.**
- **The Grants Report for Feb/March '17 were available for review.**

STAFF REPORTS

- DeGroot
 - An ad for a new District Technician went into the Times Herald Record on April 7th and ran for a week.
 - Participated in the Monhagen Brook Stream Walk last Friday the 14th.
 - Two Ag NPS RD 23 Proposals were completed and submitted. Their due date was March 31st.

- The Ag Interim Reports were completed and submitted.
- Meyer
 - Meyer was on paternity leave for the month of March.
 - Worked on the Monhagen Brook Stream Walk. There are several segments that need to be assessed. Phosphorous sampling done last week. It's the first of five samples to be collected.
 - Trees for Tribs planting is scheduled for April 29th from 9-1 at the Monhagen School. Meyer has been out fixing tree tubes on the existing trees that were planted.
 - Not a lot of calls for no till equipment yet. Working on maintenance of the equipment. He ordered a corn planter tow bar which R. O'Dell will replace.
 - Busy working on AEM plans.
 - The Wallkill Maintenance Spring Inspection is scheduled for tomorrow.
 - Meyer requested to go down to part time 3 days a week starting this week. Will be discussed under New Business.
- Sumner
 - Pellet equipment update – It's not definite yet, but it looks like they are going to transfer ownership to Cobleskill. They are making arrangements to pick it up in Ulster County.
 - Wallkill River Summit in New Paltz was March 28th. Sumner attended and spoke about the Wallkill Flood Project.
 - Draper Ditch Replacement Culvert update – assisted landowner by sending out a letter to other land owners that benefit from the Draper Ditch Group Drainage Outlet. Landowners were asked to share the cost of the culvert replacement evenly. The culvert was replaced. One landowner in a NYS Ag Grant asked if he could switch his money over to help pay for road repair near the culvert. NYSSWCC has been contacted to see if the project location can be switched.
 - Tech advertisement – the District received a limited response.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- R. Baglia – Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - “All in a ROW” – Stormwater Design for Linear Projects is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19th from 8-4:30 at CCE.
 - Constructed Wetlands for Stormwater Management is on Thursday, May 25th from 8-4:30 at CCE.
 - “Local Roads Done Right” is scheduled for May 3rd at CCE.
- J. Heller – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - There was a brief discussion on funding for high tunnels under the Urban Ag Program.
 - Applications for 2018 EQIP are underway.
 - There is a new conservation planner certification process that is now nationally developed.

OLD BUSINESS

- Wallkill Flood Project update
 - The Wallkill Flood Committee Meeting was held on March 23rd.
 - Sumner received a call from a guy who is coordinating a charity fundraising bicycle ride from Florida, NY to Chester, NY. Around \$1,000.00 is expected to be raised and they wanted to donate it towards something that had to do with the black dirt so they chose the District. The ride will take place sometime in June.
 - The Wallkill Bench was under water for 3 ½ weeks. People along the river said that the water went down more quickly than they expected. Only 1 phase done, so this is encouraging. We won't know about overall survival of the plants for a while yet. Approx. 10-20% of the trees are tipping and will need to be better staked this year. We will have to pay someone to fix the trees. Land use changed made by the Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge were discussed.

- Sumner met with P. Ruskiewicz's father in the field. Ruskiewicz brought up some suggestions that he'd like the District to consider regarding the flood work. The area he spoke of is a place referred to as the boulder field, about ½ mile downstream of Oil City Road. He would like the District to look into lowering the field, similar to what was done on the Pochuck Ledge Project.
- Celery Ave – we have a final construction plan for the rock ledge. We are ready to go out to bid on this as we attempt to resolve the issue with the Town of Goshen. Discussion followed on paying Goshen's bill for work on the Wallkill River Flood/Celery Avenue Rock Ledge project in the amount of \$3,252.28. **2017-4-4 Motion was made by Wright, seconded by Keeton, to pay the Town of Goshen bill. All in favor. 2017-4-5 Motion was made by Ruskiewicz, seconded by Keeton, to put out to bid for 30 days. All in favor.** The bid can now be released and will remain open for one month.
- Phase II is moving along. Sumner is now working with landowners on proposals for the CRF grants. As soon as the weather is suitable we hope to start.

(Heller left the Meeting at 10:43 AM)

- There was discussion on sending CFI a contract termination letter. The draft has already been completed by our engineer. Their equipment is already gone and out of the area. There is still a lot of repairs to do yet. General roadway repairs, removal of clay on the fields, removal of the silt fence, fixing the new access road. Sumner would like the Boards' sentiments on whether or not to send the termination letter. The Board will wait to hear from our attorney to see what we do at this stage. If the attorney tells us it's time to terminate, then we will. No motion was made.
- Ford Fields – they already chisel plowed on the better half. R. Minkus has to give a price for shaping the field.
- The proposal for the Dam removal project at Browns Pond Lake went in. We are the sponsors. Chazen is expected to be the professional services vendor.

(R. Baglia left the Meeting at 11:37 AM)

NEW BUSINESS

- J. Wright and P. DeBlock have been officially re-appointed and M. Kemnitz has been officially appointed to the District's Board.

2017-4-6 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to go into Executive Session at 11:43 AM to discuss employment history of one or more employees. All in favor. 2017-4-7 The Board came out of executive session at 12:20 PM on a motion by Wright, seconded by Keeton.

It was decided that Meyer's health insurance and IRA will be pro-rated. 60% of the District's full time contribution will be paid by the District. **2017-4-8 A Motion was made by Wright to allow Meyer to work part-time as a trial for 60 days with pro-rated benefits, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.**

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, May 15, 2017 at 9:00 AM.**

2017-4-9 Meeting adjourns at 12:24 PM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot, Secretary to the Board