

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 17, 2015

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:07 AM. Directors J. Wright, G. Keeton, and P. DeBlock were present, along with K. Sumner, and N. Meyer (OCSWCD).

2015-8-1 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve July's Board Meeting Minutes as amended. All in favor.

Sumner discussed the added agenda item of Actions Between Meetings to address decisions made by the board through email or over the phone.

- Unanimous decision to accept Wel-Don as the contractor for the Pochuck Ledge test was achieved via email. His bid was higher but he provided more ideal equipment.
- OCSWCD employee IRA payouts were approved by email.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Greater Catskills Flood Remediation Program time extension until July 29, 2016. It was indicated that this could be the last time extension on the Wallkill Bench Project. Sumner will follow up with contact person for clarification.

(R. Baglia arrives at 9:10 AM, S. Wong arrives at 9:13 AM)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Sumner reports No-Till program income is currently double the district's projected income
 - Wright pointed out that this means additional wear and tear on the equipment
- **2015-8-2 Wright moved to accept the Financial Report, DeBlock seconded. All in favor.**
- **2015-8-3 Wright moved to accept Bills To Be Paid, DeBlock seconded. All in favor.**
- Payment to Wel-Don in the amount of \$6,300 approved, all in favor.
- DeBlock commented to make sure all bills are included in monthly statements instead of between meetings. Wright and Keeton agreed.
- Comments about board members voting through emails
 - It was decided that all Between Meeting Actions should be approved at the following board meeting to be included in the minutes.

STAFF REPORTS

- Meyer
 - Level 1 Technician training a success, covered AEM farm assessment, surveying, and riparian buffer management
 - Meyer has been spending time at the Pochuck Ledge for the recent drilling test, on the Wallkill and Pochuck for the Wallkill Maintenance
 - Engineering designs for the Middletown GIGP and Campbell Plaza Monhagen Brook grants
 - Equipment rentals are picking up again
- Sumner
 - Attended Bastek/Millennium Pipeline field meeting. It is still uncertain what the outcome will be.

- Engineering designs for the Middletown GIGP and Campbell Plaza Monhagen Brook grants.
- T. Vellenga's manure storage project moving along smoothly.
- Following up on several AGNPS projects.
- Sam Pollak's complaint about potential pollution in the Walkkill River. It was decided that Sumner and Meyer would follow up and check out the alleged source.
- Annual budget hearing seemed promising.
- Update on K. Brown's planned return to the office – Brown has requested to postpone her return until the end of November, 2015.
 - **2015-8-4 DeBlock moves to approve Brown's request to extend leave through November, Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
- Discussion of Meyer's attendance to Conservation Skills training from September 21st through 25th.
 - **2015-8-5 DeBlock makes motion for a General Rule to approve daily meal allowance of \$50/day while employees are away at trainings. Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
 - **2015-8-6 Keeton makes motion to approve Meyer's attendance to Con. Skills training, Wong seconded. All in favor.**
 - **2015-8-7 DeBlock moves to amend daily meal allowance while at training to exclude alcohol. Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
- Sumner discussed notes on the State Comptroller's audit and auditor. Discussion followed.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- R. Baglia of Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - Opening event at 4-H's new park complete.
 - Dam Seminar being held in New Paltz
 - Cornell Local Roads Class offered at CCE for Managing Highway Departments 10/6.
 - Illicit Discharge and Detection course still in development. Meeting this Wednesday.
 - Dairy staff member has left CCE. They are reorganizing their staff. Rachael Moody has all livestock responsibilities.
 - Christmas Tree twilight meeting coming up in Dutchess County.
 - 4H Park harvest festival 9/26.

OLD BUSINESS

- Walkkill Flood Project
 - Recap of Celery Avenue Ledge Project special meeting with the engineers and concerned landowners/residents.
 - Sumner proposed submitting to the DEC the engineer's response to letters from the public with a cover letter from the District summarizing the outcome of the special meeting.
 - **2015-8-8 DeBlock makes motion to send suggested letter to DEC, Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
 - 2 rounds of revisions have been made and sent in to ACoE regarding the bench project permit package. Sumner said he hoped there was still an outside chance that approvals could be obtained in time for tree cutting this fall/winter (the allowable window for cutting based on bat habitat concerns).

- Karl Brabenec contacted Sumner regarding a \$100,000 member item. Sumner submitted a proposal to use the funds towards the bench project but has not heard back.
- Review of Pochuck Ledge test photos
- Report from Leonard DeBuck that Pochuck flow has lowered 12-18 inches. DeBuck claims the new pinch point for water flow is the upper ledge south of the old Transport Lane bridge.
- Discussion of new test to determine composition of upper ledge with a contractor with turbidity control experience.

(11am P. Ruskiewicz joins meeting)

- **2015-8-9 Keeton moves to allow Sumner to seek contractor for 2nd Pochuck Ledge test for under \$5,000. If greater than \$5,000, board will be consulted. Ruskiewicz seconded. All in favor.**
- Campbell Plaza Monhagen Brook Project
 - 2 plan sets are drafted. 1 has been stamped by engineer, 2nd is in review.
 - Waiting for proposal from contractor.

NEW BUSINESS

- RFI for Equipment Storage
 - Bid opening from Ron O'Dell for equipment storage
 - \$200/month for all District equipment excluding the UTV and trailer
 - Dedicated coverall building
 - Mechanic services for \$40/hr
 - 5 year contract
 - Ruskiewicz stated Vriebrock (County DPW Commissioner) couldn't think of any County DPW places to store the UTV.
 - Sumner offered to store the UTV for free
 - Explored options for UTV storage
 - Enclosed trailer
 - Board requested Sumner and Meyer research enclosed trailer prices
 - Sumner will prepare draft agreement for storage at Ron O'Dell's to be reviewed and signed at next board meeting.
- Discussion about 5 Spoke Creamery's cows crossing the road, brought up by Wong. He wants to pasture cows on the opposite side of County Route 6 from the dairy barn.
 - General board opinion was that the only real solution would be a tunnel under the road for the cows to cross through and that it would be difficult to get funding for such a project on a main road.
- Hitch quotes for the Colorado to tow the UTV presented to the board.
 - **2015-8-10 Keeton moves to approve hitch and wiring purchase for Colorado from U-Haul Middletown. DeBlock seconded. All in favor.**
- **NEXT MEETING** set for September 21st, 2015.
- **2015-8-11 Deblock moves to adjourn meeting. Keeton seconded. All in favor.**

Meeting adjourns at 12:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Noah Meyer
District Technician