

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 27, 2018

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:03 AM. Directors J. Wright, P. DeBlock, G. Keeton and P. Ruskiewicz were present, along with K. Sumner, T. Ferry and C. DeGrootd (OCSWCD), E. Schellenberg (CCE) and K. Edelman-Reyes, Senior Assistant County Attorney.

2018-8-1 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to approve July's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS – The Straub's Welding, Inc. bill, the District's M&T credit card and Staples bill were paid and are included on the list of Bills to be Paid.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- Information on the NYACD Annual Meeting and Training Conference class addition was passed around. They will be offering a one-hour session on the Certified Planner Process. There was a brief discussion on whether or not any Directors will attend. The District will need to discuss how we will meet the regional meeting requirement on the Performance Measures. This will be discussed at next month's Board Meeting and this topic will be included on next month's agenda.

(M. Bittner, NRCS, joined the Meeting at 9:05 AM)

- Copy of a Resolution from the Orange County Legislature with updates to the Quaker Creek project funding.
- State Soil and Water Conservation Committee Annual Report. It featured the District's Walkkill Bench Project.
- Copy of Barton & Loguidice letter dated July 31st, 2018 which revises their recommended final payment to CFI.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Sumner mentioned that the remaining Walkkill Flood Project funds from the Housing Trust Fund were received this month. This receipt does not show up on the July Financial Reports, but is noted under the Dedicated Fund Summary. The Housing Trust Fund is sending us the paperwork to close-out this grant. He also noted that the 'Walkkill Flood Project from County Appropriation (\$50,000)' line in the Dedicated Fund Summary is currently \$12,500 but will increase to \$25,000 once our fourth quarter appropriation payment is received.

2018-8-2 Wright made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to file July's 2018 Financial Report for audit review. All in favor.

The District had some repair work done on one of the mowers. Until now we have not put a lot of money into them. Brief discussion followed. It was mentioned that this mower can't be towed and has to be moved via a trailer. **2018-8-3 Wright made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to accept the Bills to Be Paid. All in favor.**

The July Grants Report Update was presented to the Board for review.

STAFF REPORTS

- **T. Ferry**
 - Worked on the Monhagen Plan.
 - Worked on the two AG NPS Round 24 proposals.

- Ferry spent a day in the field with Riverkeeper, Orange County Planning Department and the NYS DEC. They are doing a water quality monitoring initiative similar to the DEC's Greater Wallkill River Water Monitoring project. Riverkeeper has a site on the Rutgers just outside of Westtown, a spot on the Pochuck in Pine Island and also the Rio Grande out of Goshen, etc. Five samples in total were collected. Riverkeeper is in charge and coordinating with the NYS DEC and Riverkeeper is paying the bills. Sumner noted that he approved of Ferry committing this day for the experience, but he was hesitant to commit the District to ongoing assistance with this project due to existing workload obligations.
 - Ferry needs approval from the Board to attend the Conservation Skills Workshop September 25-27 and to pay the registration fee. **2018-8-4 Wright made the Motion, seconded by DeBlock, to allow Ferry to attend the Conservation Skills Workshop, pay the registration fee and the hotel fee. All in favor.**
 - The seeders are in use.
- **K. Sumner**
 - Chester Black Dirt/Cromline Creek Pump Plant Update – A local producer told Sumner that the pump is faltering and still no action taken on runoff from a nearby development. This producer has been trying to get action on this concern for a long time. Sumner verified the pump concern with Lucinda from the Chester Ag Center. Sumner asked Lucinda about the 'steering committee' she agreed to organize between landowners and county officials. The intended purpose of the Committee is to facilitate communication between taxpayers in the Small Watershed District and the County who manages the District. She said they were still doing research and hoped to organize the first meeting this fall. Sumner noted that, based on a meeting with many attendees at the County earlier this year, it appeared that County DPW was actively seeking grant funding to replace the pumps. Landowners at the meeting were largely unaware of these efforts. Ruskiewicz indicated he would follow up with Planning Commissioner David Church about the runoff concern.
 - Monhagen Creek Watershed Plan – The current schedule for this Plan, which the District is actively involved with writing, is to send a 'near-final draft' to NYSDEC for their review by the end of the month.
 - The District's budget hearing was on August 23rd. We were asked if we had to reduce expenditures by the amount of our requested 2019 appropriation increase where we would expect to make the reduction. Board members at the Hearing indicated that we would likely reduce contractual expenses. It was mentioned that we still do not have a second Legislator on our Board. The dairy industry issue was discussed as well. Soil and Water emphasized to the County officials that they thought it would be prudent for Orange County to reach out to Sullivan County regarding partnering with them on the dairy processing plant initiative reported on recently in the Times Herald Record.
 - Sumner received a call from a Town of Montgomery farmer and landowner regarding soils and solar installations. The last Minisink Planning Board meeting had four solar proposals on the agenda. Discussion followed about solar panels and how they're taking up good farm land.
 - Worked on the latest Ag Grant proposals. Both were submitted. Traditionally the District would include a 25% landowner match however this time we submitted them with a 12.5% match and the District will donate additional staff time
 - There are four open Ag Grants. 22 of the projects are stalled. We will have another 14 projects if we get approved for Round 24. Sumner sent out reminder notice letters to participants in the grants. There are six projects in Round 19, which expires at the end of this year, that likely will not be completed.
 - Sumner received a call from Gary Knibbs regarding the pipeline to the new CPV plant that went through his property. The work caused damage to this landowner's farm fields. Knibbs indicates the pipeline company says they will pay for repair work, but they want him to present a proposal for the work. He

called our office to request assistance in preparing a repair plan. Sumner plans to meet with him and a landscaping/excavating contractor at the site.

○ INTERAGENCY REPORTS

● E. Schellenberg – CCE

- Someone is trying to give CCE a Cistern. Erik is now researching supply and demand of water at the 4-H park and deciding where it would go.
- Woods Forum - September 6th at the 4-H Park from 1:30-3:30 for anyone that owns a wood lot, involved in forestry or does any kind of wildlife management.

● M. Bittner – NRCS

- Got funding for the rest of their AMA for high tunnels.
- EQIP 2019 is open for applications. 1 late 2018 Ag Chem Storage which was funded.
- NRCS is advertising for a Civil Engineer for three locations (Walton, Highland or Middletown).
- Organic Training in October 2nd at the Ag Center for NRCS staff and anyone else that would like to attend.

It was mentioned that the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that the USDA is coming out with funding to help producers impacted with tariffs. Most of the money will go towards milk, soy and pork.

OLD BUSINESS

- Quaker Creek Update – Most of the access agreements have been received back by the District. We are still waiting on a 3rd bid for the work. There is a public hearing on September 6th for the Quaker Creek resolution previously discussed.
- There was an article on the silo covers in the Times Herald Record. Calls have been received from other counties regarding the tires and covers.
- There was discussion on using our Part C Performance Measures money which has to be spent on an approved project the same year it is received. The District had hoped to use it on another Walkkill Flood Project this year but the chances of this are getting slim. There was discussion on use of this money for the silo cover project. Sumner negotiated a deal with the vendor that includes discounts reflecting the volume purchase. Sumner estimated the cost for the covers would be around \$63,000 based on the results of the farmer survey we conducted earlier this year. Sumner stated he thought we should explore the possibility of getting reimbursed by the County for the purchase of the Covers, since there has already been discussion at the County about financially supporting this project. **2018-8-5 Wright made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to use 2018 Performance Measures Part C money for the dairy farm tire disposal/trench silo cover project. All in favor.**
- Per request of the directors at last month's Board meeting, Ferry collected information about past use of the two mowers owned by the District. There was approx. 77 hours of District mower use from 2006-2010. From 2011-2017 no hours have been reported. Bellvale Community, who is currently using the boom mower, paid for hydraulic oil after this mower had welding work done on the hydraulic fluid tank. A reimbursement request from Bellvale that should have been on this month's Bills to be Paid, was added and approved by the directors. After discussion, the Board decided to keep the mowers available for rent for now, and make their availability more known to potential County users. The greater availability of Ron O'Dell to repair, maintain and coordinate use of our equipment since his recent retirement was a factor in this decision.

(M. Bittner and E. Schellenberg left the Meeting at 11:20 AM)

2018-8-6 DeBlock moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation at 11:20 AM, seconded by Wright. All in favor.

2018-8-7 Wright made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to come out of Executive Session at 12:09 PM. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

- None.

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, September 17, 2018 at 9:00 AM.**

2018-8-8 The Meeting adjourns at 12:10 PM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Wright. All in favor.

Minutes Prepared By:

Christine DeGroot, Secretary to the Board