

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairwoman at 9:06 AM. Directors J. Wright, P. DeBlock, B. Cheney, and G. Constable were present along with K. Sumner (SWCD), M. Held (SWCD), E. King (SWCD), E. Schellenberg (CCE) and O. Vélez-Juarbe (NRCS.)

Cheney confirmed that he attended the NYS SWCC state committee meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>.

**2025-12-1 Cheney made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to approve November’s Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.**

**ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS** –The Board approved issuing a BMP payment to Jason Soudant for expenses related to his project in Ag NPS Round 27. Additional bills were paid and are indicated on the Bills for Board Approval.

In attempting to confirm that we have met the Performance Measure requiring Director attendance at approved regional meetings, Sumner checked the meeting attendees on the November 19<sup>th</sup> State Committee meeting and did not see Cheney’s name. Cheney had previously reported attending this meeting. Cheney confirmed today that he did attend the meeting. The S.C. meeting minutes noted an attendee that did not have a name attached. This may have been Cheney. Wright was listed as an attendee at the meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bank Statements
- Collateral Agreements
- Region 6 Monthly SWCC Report from Travis Ferry
  - Separate from his SWCC report, Ferry reported that State Committee advises against DeBlock being both the Chairwoman & Treasurer of the Board, although it does not violate any specific policy. Sumner proposed that the Board vote to make DeBlock the Chairwoman & Assistant Treasurer, which the State was agreeable to. Since Wright is already an approved signee with the District’s account at M&T, it is most logical to have him be the new Treasurer.
- NYACD Update Letter: November ‘25
- Sidle Insurance Contact Request RE: Policy Renewal
- Open Space Institute Newsletter: Volume 27
- The Empire State Granger: November/December ‘25

**FINANCIAL REPORTS-** Neither Sumner nor King expressed any particular concerns or issues with this month’s report. Sumner noted that although the unobligated fund balance is in the negative, it is not a straightforward number given how our cash flow works. As we have discussed with the Board before, the District examines the details of the various dedicated funds and other aspects of financial activity in conjunction with the Unobligated Balance to

ORANGE COUNTY SWCD DECEMBER 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

anticipate any concerns. There are a few grants nearing the contract end date that hold back 10% of the contract amount, these are contributing to the negative Unobligated Balance. The amount for the AEM 18 contract alone (ending 12/31/2025) is \$37,000. Once the grants are completely closed out, the District will receive the additional money. The schedule for the receipt of the first quarter county appropriation was discussed. It was noted that we should inquire about this soon after the first of the year rather than waiting to see when the payment arrives. The Part B 2026 money is already allocated to a specific project and was received at the start of December.

**2025-12-2 DeBlock made the Motion, Constable seconded, to file November’s Financial Reports for audit review. All in favor.**

**BILLS FOR BOARD APPROVAL**- Sumner called out bills 10 through 13 to CEC Excavating – noting that these include invoices CEC delayed submitting, as well as invoices submitted by CEC for which we delayed payment. Sumner & King double checked the CEC invoices to ensure they were all appropriate and not paid yet.

**2025-12-3 Cheney made the Motion, Constable seconded, to pay the bills as presented. All in favor.**

**\*\*Ruszkiewicz joined the meeting, in person, at 9:38 AM.\*\***

**CONTRACT REPORT UPDATE**- Per usual, the updates to the report are highlighted in red ink. The Board reviewed the contract status report as presented by Sumner.

**INTERAGENCY REPORTS**

**CCE:** Schellenberg reported that the planter was ordered that is affiliated with Conservation Innovation Grant, CIG. CCE & the District need to discuss which agency will pick up the planter from the factory or if CCE will pay to have it delivered. Held & Schellenberg need to finalize the details of the roller crimper purchase before moving forward. Sumner noted that looking at 30-foot-wide roller crimper which could correspond with a 12-row planter, but we don’t know if anyone will use that large of a planter. Sumner mentioned that if the farmer planted first, it would not matter what width the roller crimper is. The 30-foot model which folds for narrow row transport is ~\$47k, which seems like a lot, especially given the chance that it is not used often. The other possible option is that we go with a 15-and-a-half-foot model, ~\$18,000, with a swing hitch, so you'd have narrow transport, which would correspond to a six-row planner. Sumner predicts that most of the participants in the trial will be using a four-row planter, which the District’s 10-foot roller crimper would work with. Schellenberg confirmed that CCE has a budget of \$34,000 for this project. The District is undecided about paying the difference. The Board and District agree that the 15 ½ foot roller crimper with wings that allow for narrow transport is their preferred choice. Schellenberg collected the first round of soil samples for the CIG participants. CCE is receiving a lot of money from various State senators or grants.

**NRCS:** Vélez-Juarbe reported that his team have 42 expiring contracts they need to take care of. The program deadline occurred during the Federal government shutdown, and NRCS does not know if the deadline will be extended. NRCS has not received any guidance yet on the newly released Regenerative Pilot Program, but there is an informational meeting scheduled for 12/17.

There were no representatives from SWCC, CCE, FSA, or WCC present at the meeting.

**STAFF REPORTS**

\*Sumner, King, and Held emailed their written staff reports to the Board prior to the meeting for review.

**M. Held (SWCD)-**

**Enviroscape Model-** Held reminded the Board about the prior discussion regarding the District purchasing a stormwater model. Held learned that even the basic stormwater models can cost upwards of \$7,000. Held asked the Board whether they want the District to purchase a newer Enviro Model & replace it with the same model as before. Held noted that CCE has offered to pay the amount of the older model which totals \$1,500. Held argued that if the District has a more engaging model, then it would prompt the District to take it to more events. The District could bring it to community events such as the Earth Day Fair, Open House on the Farm, or into school classrooms. This would allow the District to expand more into conservation education. Sumner asked Held to show a video of the newer Enviro Model to the Board at January's meeting so that they can see the features. Held noted that these models are built to order & take between 2-4 weeks.

**AEM Strategic Plan: 2026-2030-** Held provided the Board with a draft of the Strategic Plan with the mailing prior to the meeting. These plans are prepared every 5 years. An updated physical copy was made available to the Board for review. The Board needs to approve it today, but edits can be received after the fact. The District shared the Plan with the District partners as well, such as NRCS & CCE, and would like comments by the end of the year.

**2025-12-4 DeBlock made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to approve the AEM Strategic Plan: 2026-2030 as written. All in favor.**

**Roller Crimper '26 Plan** – Held reported that four farms are set to participate in the roller crimper program in 2026 and have their fields indicated. Held is scheduled to meet with Mike O'Dell to discuss the status of his fields.

**Local Cost Share Program** – Held provided the Board with an updated list of the 2025 Local Cost Share Program cover crop payments, as well as the available funds remaining. Held reported that Joe & Lou Jados are requesting reimbursement for 100 acres of a single species cover crop planting. The District feels that there are ample funds to justify issuing payment to Lou & Joe and increase the payments of those who signed up on time. DeBlock recommended that the District inform the Jados brothers of the normal deadline & that if they apply late in the future there may not be any funds available. Schellenberg suggested that CCE could spread word of the cover crop program at their farmer education courses. The District will send an informational email to farmers about the program prior to the fall next year.

**2025-12-5 DeBlock made the Motion, Cheney seconded, to approve Joe & Lou Jados cover crop reimbursement in the '25 Local Cost Share Program. All in favor.**

**CRF Round 6-** Held prepared a breakdown of the total cover crop payments made with CRF 6 funds in 2025. There are a few deliverables that the District is working on completing in this round. Held listed the total funding remaining because of practices that were not done in the round. These include payments such as reduced tillage or cover crop payments, since there is a high variable as to whether they will get done. The District has a few soil testing services to complete which Held is not concerned with. Sumner reported that the cover crop sign off liability is around \$65k, which the District could potentially end up owing the State. Held sent a package of cover crop sign offs to NRCS to await their review and approval. These sign-offs need to be done by February because the grant close out is in March. Sumner mentioned that Travis Ferry is a certified crop advisor and could potentially review these cover crop payments, along with NRCS. Held spoke with Ferry about the possibility of approving the cover crop sign-offs at November's BOD meeting.

**CRF Round 9-** The District is waiting on a decision from the State as to whether the bedded pack barn & irrigation project applications will be approved. Per Held, a decision will be made sometime in February. Should the bedded pack barn application not receive funding, Held will submit it in Ag NPS Round 31. Held has been in correspondence with the certified nutrient management planner assigned to the bedded pack barn.

**\*\*At 10:12 AM, Adam Rowles, a member of the public, joined the call to learn more about the Walkkill River bench project.\*\***

**Certified Crop Advisor Exams-** Sumner suggested drafting a timeline of her CCA testing given her upcoming leave of absence. Held stated that she plans to have all the exams done in 2026.

**District Vehicle Purchase-** Held expressed dissatisfaction with the delivery of the truck, given the missing title, and intends on speaking to the dealership's manager. This missing piece has made working with the DMV a more arduous task. The truck is insured and Held aims to have plates on it by the end of the week. Cheney and Ruszkiewicz are friendly with the deputy of the DMV and can help expedite the process for Held if need be.

**E. King (SWCD)-**

**Spectrum Installation-** King reported that the Spectrum internet was successfully installed two weeks ago. The District received the three new phone Poly Edge E220 desk phones and King will set them up with Ring Central this week. Once the phone connection is established, King will cancel the District's contract with Warwick Valley Telephone. Another goal of King's is to switch our current email domain from IPower to Spectrum, which should resolve the issues District staff experience with limited storage or repeatedly sending emails.

**CDEA Meetings-** King recently attended the December manager's meeting of the Conservation District Employees' Association. Sumner and King agreed that she will attend more manager meetings in 2026. The CDEA board needs a replacement for Ferry who was previously the division VI representative. King expressed an interest to Sumner in volunteering her time to the board, but given her current workload, she will table this idea. King feels that it is worthwhile for the District to grow our involvement in the CDEA in the future

**Website Updates-** Additionally, King is continuing to update the District's website and will be working closely with Sumner & Held to post new content.

**K. Sumner (SWCD)-** Sumner provided the following reports and discussions to augment and add to his written staff report. Review "Old and New Business" for further information.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Bastek Easement-** The closing date for the Bastek Partnership's easements is 12/29 and everything appears to be in place.

**Celery Avenue Ledge Lowering Project-** Sumner met with the technical advisor for the Department of State grant who confirmed that the DOS has everything they need from the District. The advisor informed Sumner that the District will not receive a contract until April or May of 2026. The District can begin work this winter, but would be responsible for the funding. The District wants to know if the County can help the District with funding in the early days of the project. Sumner spoke with Rob Schreibeis, from the County Executive's office, and updated him on the situation. Sumner noted that the Town of Goshen has not sent the work permit to the District. Cheney offered to speak with the County Commissioner of Finance on this matter. Sumner drafted a scope of work that can accompany the B&L construction plan in the distribution to the towns. The DOS has not confirmed whether it is allowable for the District to use the procurement policy used in Ag & Markets projects. If not, the District will need to follow the general municipal law procurement policy.

**AEM Round 18-** The AEM Round 18 two-year contracts end at the end of December. King prepared a 2025 AEM project newsletter via Canva which will be distributed digitally and with hard copies. The digital version allows the

recipient to view images in a higher quality and watch the embedded video. The District will send a few hard copies of the newsletter to the County legislative office to distribute amongst the legislators.

**Wallkill Maintenance Agreement Revision**—Sumner expressed frustration towards the agreement revision process, as well as the District not knowing what the current fund balance is. Based on Sumner’s calculations, the District has used most of this year’s funds. Cheney commented that if the revision amendment is not in place by the end of the year, no action will be taken. If the amendment is not in place, Cheney does not think that they will take any action. Cheney & Ruszkiewicz will see both Kerry Gallagher and Joe Mahoney later today and will speak with them then.

**Secondary Fuel Containment Projects**- Rich Weiboldt’s secondary fuel containment project plan cost the District a significant amount in consulting fees. The District intends on recouping these fees by reusing the plan for similar projects in the future. There is no construction plan drafted yet for Soudant’s work site. Sumner reported that the estimated cost/cap is \$2,500, which Sumner feels is reasonable. The District has until March to get the storage containers installed, but Sumner is not worried about it getting done.

**Miller Farm Easement**- Sumner reported that the landowner was given until 12/12 to respond to the Town of Montgomery & submit a mitigation plan. However, the LO’s lawyers are asking for an extension until the end of January ’26. The Town must decide what their next move will be. Mark Hoyt asked if Sumner could call Rich Golden for litigation firm recommendations. Sumner received a few recommendations from Karen Edelman-Reyes as well. Karen noted that she cannot see the County law department representing the Town, but that they could represent the District. Sumner recalled that Neuhaus expressed support for Soil & Water taking an active role in this matter at the meeting with him over the summer ’25. Sumner recommended that the Town hire a lawyer prior to responding to the LO or his attorneys.

**O’Dell PDR Project**- Sumner and the O’Dell’s found the Teams meeting with David Behm from NYS Ag & Markets to be useful. Even so, Sumner & the O’Dell’s are still confused as to why they must sell the house before the PDR application is reviewed. The O’Dells are trying to be as compliant as possible, especially since they have already invested money into the subdivision of the house. They had an initial consultation with Rich Hoyt, who was adamant that they should not sell the house contingent on the application, but rather on receiving funding. Behm was adamant that Ag & Markets will not review the application until the house is out of the O’Dell’s name. Sumner hopes this matter can be on the agenda at the next Ag Farmland & Protection Board meeting. \$67 million dollars will be available across the State in 2026 for farmland PDR’s through the State’s Farmland Protection Implementation Grants, FPIG, program. It would be a shame to miss out on this unprecedented amount of funding because of staff limitations on preparing proposals. If the County could be convinced to collaborate with the District, Sumner would be willing to actively participate in the application process. OC Land Trust noted that they cannot involve themselves with the O’Dell application in 2026. OC Land Trust is doing the monitoring for an CE application for the Town of Warwick, but the Town of Warwick is paying the OC Land Trust to monitor. The District would need to give serious thought as to whether they wanted to get involved in this kind of monitoring commitment. Cheney would like to speak with Alan Sorensen or Paul Riley from Real Property. The State typically provides 75% funding for the PDR process. If County (Open Space) funds could be combined with the NYS funds, it would make a project more feasible and palatable to the landowner. The fact that the O’Dell property is in three towns seems to be a good reason for the County to get involved. All 3 towns are aware of the O’Dell’s interest.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Sale of Truck**- Given that the District has a new truck, it makes sense to sell the Dodge. We need to determine a legal/acceptable way to advertise it. It was asked whether the staff or a director can submit a bid. Ruszkiewicz mentioned that his father needed to have ethics board approve this. Sumner will ask Rich Hoyt, municipal attorney, about that question. Held is interested in submitting a bid for the truck. The BOD decided that the District needs to receive the bids prior to the January BOD meeting. Need to receive bids by January 14<sup>th</sup>. Cheney recommended that

the District reach out to local dealerships to distribute the news. Sumner suggested that the District post an article in the newspaper (Times Herald Record), CCE's Ag Focus, & FSA newsletter, with specifications available by contacting the District.

**2025-12-6 Wright made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to put the Dodge up for sealed bid. All in favor.**

**Director Training**- Sumner reported that DeBlock completed an item from her training plan on the Open Meetings Law. All other directors completed the NYS Sexual Harassment prevention trainings.

**Next Meeting Date - January 20<sup>th</sup> - Annual Reorganizational Meeting**

**NY MuniTrust**- Steve Arcurio, head of NY MuniTrust, consulted the bond council and council to state comptroller. It has been decided that Soil and Water is not an entity that is using the full faith of the investment in the County. They may submit legislation to correct this and allow for the District to invest in the future. There are municipalities and Soil & Water Districts in NYCLASS. The discussion of joining NYCLASS will continue.

#### **EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS**

**2025-12-7 DeBlock made the motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of employee performance appraisals, Cheney seconded. All in favor.**

**2025-12-8 The Board came out of Executive Session on a motion by Ruskiewicz, seconded by Constable. All in favor.**

**2025-12-9 Cheney made the Motion, seconded by DeBlock, to adopt the 2026 salary table with the 7% COL increase applied. All in favor.**

**2025-12-10 Cheney made the Motion, seconded by Ruskiewicz, to promote Office Manager Emily King from Grade 8 to Grade 9, while remaining at Step 4, effective 1/1/2026. All in favor.**

It was noted that all staff had satisfactory Performance Appraisals.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

**2025-12-11 Cheney made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to approve the 2025 mileage reimbursement for DeBlock. All in favor.**

**2025-12-12 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, Constable seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 AM. All in favor.**

Minutes Prepared By:

Emily King, Secretary to the Board  
Kevin Sumner, Conservation District Manager

Report to Board

KMS

December, 2025

## **Wallkill Flood Projects –**

### **Floodplain Bench**

Bastek (Phase 4 North) Easement Status – we have a closing date of 12/29 at Hill-n-Dale Abstractors in Goshen. We plan to make both the 2025 and 2026 payments at time of closing (2026 payment will be dated in January).

**Celery Avenue ledge lowering project** – I have provided info to DOS for preparation of a Work Plan, the ball is in their court now. They estimated April/May for a fully executed contract. I asked about starting before that possible, and they indicated it was possible, if we were willing to front the expenses. This would be difficult for us, unless the County was somehow able to assist with the cash flow concern.

Wawayanda Floodplain permit received, no word from Goshen since last month's meeting (same status as last month).

**Carbon Farming Project** – Still waiting on final payment of \$4,268.32 on Southway project.

**AEM Round 18** –Simpson project still under construction. Ewanciw project reported complete, awaiting field check.

**CRF Round 7** - We are working on collecting the information needed from Shuback and Crist to certify the Irrigation Water Management practice that is needed to satisfy funding requirements.

## **'Sign Offs' on Soil Health Practices –**

**Revision of Wallkill Maintenance Agreement** –Reimbursements submitted to the County earlier this year were finally received. There has been some correspondence with the Town Supervisors and County Attorney's office regarding the second version of Amendment 2 of the Agreement (full contribution each year), but not there yet. I am trying to help coordinate this (same status as last month).

## **AgNPS Round 27 -**

Wieboldt – We have the required number of contractor proposals for the fuel storage project.

Soudant – Construction continuing on barnyard project, estimated 75% complete. Issued partial payment.. We have the required number of contractor proposals for the fuel storage project. I have asked B&L to prepare a construction plan set.

Winslow –. Waiting on submittal of invoices to issue new payment on completed practices. Unclear how much of their remaining funding will be earned.

Troy Vellenga funding will get returned to NYS.

Contract end date – March, 2026.

**AgNPS Round 29** –. No activity to report

### **Equipment Planning**

**Skoufis Equipment Funding** –Asked Skoufis’ office for help again on 10/20 – still not resolved which State agency will handle contracting.

CIG Grant –.

### **Miller Farm Easement Violations**

Landowner has retained legal representation. His lawyer has requested extension of time to respond from 12/12/25 to 1/30/2026.

### **Other Items**

O’Dell PDR – O’Dell’s have addressed, or in the process of addressing, obstacles to NYSA&M application. I would like to discuss possibility of having someone other than OCLT progress an application for the O’Dell’s on a more aggressive schedule than that offered by OCLT.

Sell Dodge?

Started working on AEM Round 18 contract close out

Started working on other E-O-Y reports

Secretary to the Board Update

The District is officially a customer of Spectrum Internet & I am actively working on setting up our new phones through Ring Central. I will cancel our subscription with Warwick Valley Telephone this week once I have the phones in order. Another goal I will set for myself is to work with our IT provider on transitioning our email domain from IPower to Spectrum. The District's email is very temperamental and often does not deliver emails or allow emails to be received by Kevin & Mary.

I worked on the AEM Round 18 newsletter with Kevin, primarily focusing on the formatting and spellcheck. The newsletter highlights the seven farm projects that participated in the 2024/2025 grant cycle. This newsletter will be distributed to fellow SWCDs and County legislators.

Additionally, I began updating the District's website to promote the newer completed ag projects from the various grants. I am conferring with Mary & Kevin as to what material they want posted and what articles can be archived. I am working on reformatting the site to make it more user friendly and engaging to the viewer.

I virtually attended the CDEA manager's meeting on 12/9/25. The primary topic of discussion was whether the New York Association of Conservation District, NYACD, will hire lobbyists to advocate for SWCDs in Albany. If NYACD does not hire a lobbyist, it was suggested that the CDEA hire their own lobbyist. An in depth conversation amongst the managers, provided them with a few actions to take if NYACD does not hire a lobbyist. I have to speak with Mary & Kevin about this, but it was recommended by the CDEA that the Districts send a thank you letter to Governor Hochul to thank her for the continued funds in the Environmental Protection Fund.

The District was contacted by CEC Excavating who explained that the District has a few outstanding invoices. Kevin and I reviewed these invoices and confirmed that they were indeed not paid. The payments will be recorded based on which grants or accounts they are charged to.

I reviewed several cover crop payments that the District will issue, pending Board approval, with funds from either the LCSP or CRF Round 6. The District received the bill for our NYS Statutory Disability and Paid Family Leave. I prepared an Excel workbook with the calculations I used to project our 2026 figures and shared them with Kevin. I intend on paying this bill this week.

I prepared the profit and loss report for November via QBO with a bit more ease this time. When needed, I will consult with the CPA at DeBellis & Associates firm in Goshen. I updated the online bank accounts to reflect the total listed on November's dedicated fund summary. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

-Emily

## OCSWCD Technician Update

Mary C. Held

12/12/2025

### **Intro:**

Stormwater Model: Erik from CCE has agreed to put up funding for a new Stormwater Model to replace the Enviroscape model that was lost. Kevin and I are still bouncing back and forth the idea of a new stormwater model. The EmRiver EM2 model that a number of other districts use is upwards of \$7,000, but very interesting and engaging. We are trying to weigh our options between getting a new Enviroscape model or just getting funding towards a new model from CCE.

We would like to make a decision on this soon, so if we could come up with a plan of action at the Board meeting, that would be great.

The 2026-2030 AEM Strategic Plan is ready to be reviewed for Board Approval. The Board should have received a digital copy Wednesday to review and offer feedback. A hard copy has been provided today, with note of a few additions since the draft was sent to the Board. We have requested insight and comments from adjacent ag entities such as FSA, NRCS, OCLT, and County/AFPB. The Strategic Plan is due at the beginning of 2026.

### **Equipment:**

Conklin – 2006 (plan to pick up Friday 12/12) – needs bearing and spring fix  
Lombardo – 2022 (plan to pick up Monday 12/15 after Board meeting)

### **Project Roller Crimper Plan for 2026:**

Jason Touw

- Farm 2680 tract 8843 Field 1 (rye)
- Farm 1360 tract 7407 Field 45 (rye)

Alex Ronne

- Farm 1433 tract 791 field 3 (rye)

Phil Johnson

- Farm 2864 tract 8752 field 6 (rye)

Mike O'Dell

- (still has to get me cover crop information but plans to crimp a number of ac in spring)

### **LCSP:**

Please see Bills to be Paid

John King – 2.75 ac

Alex Ronne – 29.74 ac

Both farms confirmed cover crop with farm visit.

**CRF Update:**

Round 6:

Please see updated spreadsheet of CRF6 allocated funding versus paid and remaining.

Dec 2025 Payments:

Phil Johnson  
Jason Touw

2025 Total CC Payments:

Russell Smiley  
Phil Johnson  
Jason Touw

CASH Soil testing complete for 2025:

Phil Johnson  
Bob Stap  
Jason Touw  
Keith Stewart  
Matthew Southway

Still needed:

Alex Kocot CASH tests  
Russell Smiley CASH tests  
~~Matthew Southway manure testing (No longer has compost to test)~~

As of now, total remaining \$\$\$ unspent in CRF6 grant = \$36,624

Waiting on NRCS sign-off on Cover Crop package for Alex Kocot before sending more over to make sure we have everything we need. Have informed them that we need these looked at and approved before Feb, as grant closes in March.

Jason Touw Cover crop has come up and been ID'd by site visit and photos. Alex Kocot may still have a cover crop payout but after request for information has not approached the office about it despite efforts to remind him of payment.

Contract end date: March 2026

Round 9: No update. Jessy Raap and Chip Lain applications were submitted. I've been told to expect notifications about this grant in February. If Jessy Raap has not been funded through this grant round, we will submit through AGNPS.

### **AGNPS Update:**

Round 27: Contract End Date: March 2025 (was extended)

- No update

Round 29:

- No update from technician.

### **AEM Update:**

Jessy Raap CNMP: Reached out to CNMP planner numerous times via text and email to request time sheet and update on completed plan delivery, no reply as of 12/12.

*Round 18 Tier 4 Projects:*

John King: Project complete, received cancelled checks 12/10 and 12/11

Alex Ronne: complete, requested proof of payment

Greg / Leonard DeBuck: Received proof of payment among other close-out materials.

AEM Activities:

- Tier 2s in progress
- Tier 2s completed
  - o Juckas Stables
- Tier 3s being put together
  - o Alex Ronne – grazing plan
  - o Marc Suffern – grazing plan
  - o Juckas Stables – HUA / grazing plan

### **CCA Testing**

Remaining CCA test sections:

- NE Regional nutrient management
- NE regional crop management
- International nutrient management
- International crop management

- International pest management

Plan of accomplishment: Finish all competency area tests in 2026, submit application for CCA, start on CNMP application / plans.

### **Truck purchase**

We received the truck on 12/9/2025. Fighting with dealer and DMV on getting plates, but making progress daily. Started with the lack of manual, then the lack of title, then the lack of correct paperwork to get specialty plates. But we are moving forward, slowly but surely.

So, currently, it has no plates, but it's insured.