

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 20, 2018

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:11 AM. Directors J. Wright, P. DeBlock, G. Keeton and P. Ruszkiewicz were present, along with K. Sumner, T. Ferry and C. DeGroot (OCSWCD).

2018-2-1 Keeton made the Motion, Wright seconded, to approve January'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.
- Bill from Town of Goshen for professional services through November 24, 2017 for the Wallkill River Flood/Celery Avenue Rock Ledge Project Floodplain Development permit application review. No action taken.
- Letter from Neal Halloran, Building and Zoning Inspector for Town of Goshen, regarding the flood plain development permit for removal of the rock ledge off of Celery Avenue. Sumner stated that we did not formally withdraw a request for the permit nor was any request submitted on behalf of the Wallkill Flood Steering Advisory Committee, as suggested by Halloran's letter.

(M. Kemnitz joined the Meeting at 9:16 AM)

- Discussion on letter from Halloran continued. Something needs to be put into writing that we did not withdraw the permit application, that the Wallkill Flood Steering Advisory Committee is just advisory, and that the District decided to work on the Wawayanda side based on Goshen's inaction on our permit application. **2018-2-2 Wright made a Motion, Keeton seconded, for Sumner to send a reply to Town of Goshen. All in favor.**
- NYACD Update. An Invoice was received from the NYACD in the amount of \$1,500.00. **2018-2-3 A Motion was made by Keeton, DeBlock seconded, to pay half of the Invoice and revisit it again at the end of the year. All in favor.**
- Cornell Cooperative Extension's Dairy, Equine, Livestock Trade Show will be on March 14, 2018 in Middletown, NY. T. Ferry will be at a training that day so will not be attending. The District will make up flyers describing conservation project funding opportunities that will be available at the Trade Show.
- 23rd Annual Orange County 4-H Calf & Heifer Sale will be on Saturday, May 12, 2018 at the Education Center & 4-H Park in Otisville, NY.
- National Association of Conservation Districts invoice was presented to the Board. **2018-2-4 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to table this invoice. All in favor.**
- The 2017 Annual Report for Schuyler County SWCD was passed around.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

There was a review of January's financial reports. The end of the year carry-over was briefly explained by Sumner. There is only one outstanding no-till bill. The Equipment Replacement Fund is in good shape so the District may want to think about getting a new seeder in the near future. The Wallkill Flood Project Dedicated fund balance is down to approx. \$6,000.00 from the original \$50,000.00. A dedicated fund line for the County's 2018 \$50,000.00 addition to our appropriation for Wallkill Flood Project work will be added to the Dedicated Funds Summary. **2018-2-5 Wright moved to file January's 2018 Financial Report for audit review, Ruszkiewicz seconded. All in favor.**

Sumner reviewed the list of Bills to Be Paid with the Board. He mentioned that the \$1.00 paid to the Lower Hudson RC&D Council is for the bale chopper from the pelletizer project. The RC&D is close to disbanding and this

project is complete. It had been previously suggested that the bale chopper be kept by the Orange County SWCD in case anyone needs to use it in the future. We would maintain ownership and other counties can borrow it. The machine is already being stored at the O'Dell Farm with the District's other equipment. **2018-2-6 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid. All in favor.**

STAFF REPORTS

- C. DeGroodt
 - Mentioned that the District's annual audit is scheduled for February 27th.
- T. Ferry
 - Checked cover crop on a local farm in order to issue payment out of an Ag NPS grant.
 - Ferry has been busy working on soil group worksheets.
 - He has been updating AEM plans for farmers interested in applying for AG NPS RD 24 funding.
- K. Sumner
 - Wallkill River/Black Dirt Region Flood Mitigation Steering Committee update – Directors Gary Keeton, John Wright and Paul Ruszkiewicz attended the meeting on 1/24/18 along with Sumner and Ferry. Among many other discussions, the value of establishing a formal maintenance program for Rutgers Creek and Quaker Creek was discussed at the meeting. Sumner followed up with County Law after the meeting to get an update on the status of efforts to expand formal maintenance on the Wallkill downstream from County Route 37, but has not received a response. Other follow up after this meeting resulted in quick action on the part of the County to appropriate funding to clean trees from the Wawayanda Channel, similar to the project that we managed in 2005/2006. Sumner reported to the County Legislature's Education and Economic Development Committee (Paul is the Chair). This Committee will start the process of getting \$100,00 appropriated. The project will likely not be starting until summer. The site lacks good access roads, and there are generally no culvert crossings where all the field ditches go into the creek, so this makes the construction work more challenging. At a separate meeting of County officials that Sumner attended on February 1, where multiple Wallkill Flooding issues were discussed, Sumner suggested to the group that a channel improvement project on upper Quaker from the Quaker Creek store to Pumpkin Swamp may be warranted. There are few trees in this reach, and it appears that the channel is simply under-sized. This project has not yet been discussed with the growers/landowners in that neighborhood. Wendell, B&L Engineer, ran a model with a 30' bench across creek and it resulted in a 1" reduction in flood elevations from a 2-year storm. Then he ran it with a 60' bench and it resulted in a 6" reduction. At the meeting Ruszkiewicz discussed putting it in the County's capital plan. The County may have other ways of funding a project like this, which Sumner preliminarily suggested might be in the \$500,000 range. Sumner will talk to the growers. Sumner also providing background information to the County on anticipated costs to substantially complete the priority projects identified by the flood mitigation steering committee including other projects that have been identified more recently. The County intends to request funding from the State with an offer to match with County funds.
 - The Celery Avenue project was discussed at the flood meeting. The CRF3 grant application is due at the end of this month. We were informed by NYSSWCC that the WVDIA was not an eligible project participant. Sumner and Wawayanda Town Supervisor John Razanno spoke with adjacent landowner Gantz and he has agreed to be the project participant. Sumner has the CRF3 proposal completed with Gantz as the participant.
 - NYS DEC was at the flood meeting and there was an informal discussion about the planting plan. Sumner will draft a permit modification that seeks to reduce the number of trees and shrubs planted on the floodplain benches we are constructing.
 - Monhagen Brook Watershed Update – In December, the Governor's office put out a release about an initiative related to harmful algal blooms in New York State. This is moving forward. February 27th will be the first summit in New Paltz and Sumner is planning on attending. It seems clear that dedicated resources for this initiative will be directed exclusively to Middletown's reservoir

- watersheds and not to the natural Monhagen Brook watershed. Phosphorous sampling was completed on ten sites in a day and sent to the lab. Sumner and Ferry collected all the samples rather than mobilizing our volunteer team because we wanted to catch the peak of the stream after heavy rainfall. We are trying to find a spot for a Trees & Tribs planting and also plan a clean-up upstream of Shop Rite on Dolson Avenue in Middletown. We obtained a copy of a Middletown Quadrangle wetland map update from 2011, but the map was apparently never formally adopted as an update to the Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands Map.
- Update Bench Phase 1 Subdivision – We are still trying to satisfy Town of Wawayanda that there is acceptable access to the parcel.
- Sumner held a 4-Hour ESC Course for the Local 17 Laborer’s Union on February 15th in Newburgh. Ferry attended and assisted with the course.
- Tonight Sumner will make a MS4 presentation at the Middletown City Council.
- Jim Bastek pipeline issues. He is talking to someone at FERC and wants to hire a soil scientist.
- The District’s Annual reports were completed and submitted.
- City of Middletown Parking lot retrofits - Two years in a row the District tried to get money to revamp some of Middletown’s downtown parking lots. The District was successful with getting funding to partner with Lehman & Getz to do conceptual designs but did not secure construction funding. Middletown was awarded a large economic development grant and decided to use some of that and some of their own funding to pursue these parking lot retrofits. They hired Lehman & Getz to do the final designs and they’d like to start some of the construction this summer. Middletown is adding more spots to the plan and they keep giving L&G more parking lots that they want included in it.

Kemnitz brought up the topic of a fairly new concept of growing food in shipping containers. ‘Freight Farms’ is a vendor of such containers pre-outfitted for this purpose. The Board agreed the concept was interesting, but there was not a clear outcome of how the District might be involved with such a project.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussed earlier in the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Claim for Payment for CRF2 Final Payment to be signed by the Treasurer and sent in.

CRF3 Resolution asking for \$225,000.00 from NYS and approx. \$76,000.00 from Orange County for local match to be approved and signed. **2018-2-7 A Motion was made by Keeton, seconded by Ruskiewicz to sign and submit the CRF3 Resolution. All in favor.**

AG NPS RD 19 Time Extension was approved and needs to be signed by Wright.

There is nothing new to report regarding CFI.

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, March 19, 2018 at 9:00 AM.**

2018-2-8 The Meeting adjourns at 11:13 AM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Ruskiewicz. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroodt, Secretary to the Board