

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**January 19, 2016**

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:13 AM. Directors J. Wright, G. Keeton and P. DeBlock and P. Ruskiewicz were present, along with R. Baglia (CCE) and K. Sumner, N. Meyer and C. DeGroot (OCSWCD).

**2016-1-1 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve December's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.**

**ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS**

- A 'Designation of Depository For Direct Deposit of HTFC Funds' was signed by Chairman Wright in order to allow NYS Housing Trust Fund Corporation to electronically deposit funds into the District's M&T checking account.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Statements from the District's banks were received.
- **2016-1-2 Wright made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to pay 1/2 of the New York Association of Conservation District's Invoice in the amount of \$750.00. All in favor.**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- There was a brief discussion regarding Meyer taking the Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) exam and various trainings. Meyer will take the exam in December 2016.
- There was a brief discussion regarding mileage reimbursement for Directors Wright and Keeton. Their additional mileage for special meetings and projects will be reimbursed in February 2016.
- **2016-1-3 Wright moved to accept the Financial Report, DeBlock seconded. All in favor.**
- Bills added to the list of "Bills To Be Paid" 1) NYACD Dues -\$750.00 2) Lehman & Getz - \$825.00 3) Gary Keeton 2015 Mileage Reimbursement - \$120.75 4) John Wright 2015 Mileage Reimbursement - \$303.32 5) Kristen Brown Final IRA Payment - \$359.87.
- **2016-1-4 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid. All in favor.**
- Discussion followed regarding two late no-till payers. It states on the bottom of all invoices that if payment is not received within 4 months of the date on the original invoice, then they may be added to the list of people required to pre-pay for use of the equipment in the future.
- There was discussion on the Ag NPS RD 17 Wallkill C. Lain project. Sumner stated that NGS Construction put a bid in on it and will start soon.
- NYS NPS Ag Grant Round 18 expires in July 2016. Meyer has been working on contacting landowners in the grant as we will need commitment letters from them.
- DeBlock visited T. Vellenga's Ag NPS Round 20 project. Discussion followed.
- Decembers' Grant Update report was reviewed.

**STAFF REPORTS**

- Meyer
  - Meyer has been working on AEM Tiers 1 and 2 and working on Tier 3 planning.
  - Meyer has been working on moving along the Ag NPS RD 18 projects.
  - Meyer worked on his 1<sup>st</sup> Heavy Use Area Protection Plan for an Ag NPS RD 20 participant.

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Trees for Tribes site will potentially be on Dolsontown Road in Middletown. Some of the plants on the Monhagen site will have to be moved as they are under a power line.
  - There has been a steady flow of Soil Group Worksheet requests coming in.
  - The corn planting units were mailed out to be refurbished.
  - Meyer requested the Board's permission to attend the Water Quality Symposium held March 15-18. Classes offered this year include RUSLE II training and Cropware training. It's \$580.00 for a single room. **2016-1-5 Keeton made the Motion, Wright seconded, to allow Meyer to attend the training. All in favor.**
- Sumner
    - There was a brief discussion regarding the District meeting the 2015 Performance Measures. The special request the District submitted for Performance Measure 1g – Participation in State, Regional, and National meetings and functions for attendance at the meeting Wallkill Flood Steering Committee Meetings was granted for one-time approval for 2015.
    - Sumner and C. Vellenga looked at the catch basin at 18 Seward Avenue. Vellenga came up with the price estimate of \$600 to repair it.
    - Sumner attended a meeting at the Orange County Planning Department last week regarding the PDR Ranking that's going to come up at the Ag & Farmland Protection Board Meeting. The discussion was whether or not the Board is going to rank each proposal vs. endorsing them all (which is what they have traditionally done). Brief discussion followed.
    - Tantillos, an orchard operation in Ulster County, signed a lease agreement for the biomass Pelletizing equipment owner by the LHLIRC&D. They will provide full insurance on the equipment.
    - Discussion on the partial close-out of the Ag NPS RD 20 Livestock Waste grant. The state holds back 10% of our grant until the entire grant is closed out.
    - An attorney representing Corny Cattle in Thompson Ridge, NY, requested Soil Group Worksheets on the property.

## INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- F. Barber of Farm Service Agency
  - There will be a "Train the Trainer", an organic initiative, at the Orange County Emergency Services Center in Goshen, NY on January 27<sup>th</sup>. This is only for USDA employees.
  - S. Stap is the new Farm Service Agency County Committee member in Orange County.
  - Barber is covering Dutchess and Sullivan Counties. DeBlock is acting in his absence.
  - Snow Closings – will be by majority vote by the heads of the USDA agencies: Farm Service Agency, Rural Development and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
  - New phones will be installed in the Service Center sometime in February.
  - A 10-year lease for the current office space will be signed.
  - There will be construction on the IT room.
- R. Baglia of Cornell Cooperative Extension
  - Onion School will be on March 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - Dairy Days will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Pine Bush firehouse.
  - Vegetable School will be held on February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

## OLD BUSINESS

- Wallkill Flood Project

- Update on the Pochuck Rock Ledge Removal Project – after some final grading, the project will be complete.
  - Sumner spoke with Maloney staff last week. They wanted to know whether or not the District Board is going to support reinvigorating the Army Corp Feasibility Study. They also wanted to know whether Sumner thought any NRCS programs could assist them.
  - Celery Ledge Project – Last month the Board asked Sumner to check again with the Orange County Attorney. The Attorney sent Sumner a copy of letter that he wrote to Goshen’s Attorney asking about the status of the permit. Sumner has not heard anything since. Sumner’s suggestion to the Board is to authorize B&L to proceed with development of a bid package for the Celery Avenue Ledge Project. He does not see any reason why we would need the permit from Goshen to issue the bid package.
  - **2016-1-6 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to proceed with the development of a bid package. All in favor.**
- Wallkill Maintenance Project
    - The work down below the Celery Avenue Ledge is complete.
  - Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Grant Proposal - There was previous discussion on the District submitting a proposal for the Wallkill flood project for the Climate Resilient Farming Grant. \$1.4 million is available to support projects that mitigate environmental impact of agriculture-related activities and increase the resiliency of farms throughout the state. Possible sources for the required 25% minimum local match had been briefly discussed. The grant proposal was submitted on December 11. The proposal asks for \$75,000 in NYS funding. After Sumner attended two County Legislature committee meetings, the County of Orange did agree to provide a 25% match. The last Sumner heard, they were going to be presenting a ranked list to the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee at their February meeting. There were 17 applications from 12 counties.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- Election Of Officers – **2016-1-7 Wright made the Motion to retain the existing slate of Officers: J. Wright as Chairman, G. Keeton as Vice-Chairman, P. DeBlock as Treasurer and J. Wright as Assistant Treasurer, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.**
- Existing Office Policies - Policies were reviewed. None of the policies were changed except the Provisions of Employment to which Sumner had made minor edits. The Board asked Sumner to revise the language with regard to the Board’s role in hiring and dismissal. Several other minor edits proposed by Sumner were accepted by the Board, but the Board decided to have Sumner bring back the POE at the February meeting with the requested changes for formal adoption.
- There has been no news on a new Director for the District.

The **NEXT MEETING** is scheduled for Monday, February 22, 2016 at **12:00 PM**.

**2016-1-8 Meeting adjourns at 11:37 AM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot  
Secretary to the Board