

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 12, 2016

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 5:06 PM. Directors J. Wright, G. Keeton, P. DeBlock and P. Ruskiewicz were present, along with K. Sumner, N. Meyer (OCSWCD), and R. Baglia (CCE).

2016-7-1 Wright made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve June's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

- No actions taken between meetings.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- A request for dues from the National Association of Conservation Districts was received in the mail.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Financial report was not ready for Board review.
- Bills for Board approval were reviewed.
 - Campbell Plaza WQIP project is slated to begin the end of July/beginning of August 2016. Sumner noted that the Lehman and Getz bill was for engineering services related to the Campbell Plaza project and would be paid out of the advance we received on this contract.
 - Round 17 Moodna AGNPS remaining grant funds were returned to the State.
- **2016-7-2 Keeton made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid. All in favor.**

STAFF REPORTS

- Meyer
 - No-till program is finished until the fall. Minor repairs needed on a few pieces of equipment.
 - Meyer submitted his first AGNPS Round 20 Heavy Use Area plan set to engineer for review.
 - Meyer has been supporting Sumner with ongoing projects – Middletown GIGP, Barnyard, and Wallkill Bench
 - Meyer mentioned 2 day training for SWCD staff regarding AEM Fruit and Vegetables and the NYS Grown and Certified labelling program. The training is free except for meals.
- **2016-7-3 Keeton made the motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to send Noah to 2 day AEM training on August 2-3. All in favor.**
- Sumner
 - OCSWCD 2017 Budget was submitted to the County. No feedback has been received yet.
 - Sumner has decided not to take on an intern this summer due to the amount of time-consuming projects ongoing.
 - Sumner went to the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting to speak about the District's need for the AGNPS Round 17 time extension. The State Committee approved the extension, but still waiting for approval from the State Comptroller's office.
 - AGNPS Round 17 Moodna grant close-out is complete.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- R. Baglia of Cornell Cooperative Extension

- There is a Corn Pesticide information class scheduled on August 23rd from 11:30-2pm at the Ford's Farm in Westtown.
- There's a Solar Power Program scheduled on August 1st from 7-9pm at the E911 center in Goshen.
- An Open House is planned at the new Cornell Cooperative Extension Center on September 17th.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Celery Avenue Ledge Project**

The bid package is mostly ready for release. There was a discussion of bonding and insurance requirements. OCSWCD Board has not received correspondence from the Town of Goshen regarding the status of the permit for the project since last month's board meeting.

- **Pochuck Ledge Project**

NGS Construction will be at the Pochuck Ledge Project site tomorrow for one additional day to work on a section of the Creek between the two areas worked on previously. Project Engineer Buckman visited the site with Sumner and concurred that the proposed work was within the scope of the original project.

- **Walkkill Bench Project**

- CFI submitted a Soil Utilization Plan to us. We submitted the Plan to the DEC division of Minelands for approval. OCSWCD is waiting for final approval of this plan by DEC.
- DEC approved Conservation Easement agreement drafted for the Project by Richard Hoyt.
- Discussion of purchase/ownership of conservation easement and/or fee title for Bench Project land. Sumner reminded the Board that while Dean Ford has been very supportive and cooperative in working with us to see that the Bench project can be completed on his land, he has been very clear that he does not want to own the land after the Project and easement are completed. Sumner recommends that a viable plan be in place for transfer of the property to another owner before entering into a contract with low bidder CFI to start the Bench Project construction. Several options were discussed, including SWCD ownership and County ownership. Ruszkiewicz agreed to discuss the County ownership option with County officials. Discussions with other organizations including the Orange County Land Trust and Open Space Institute, both for potential funding and for other ownership options, was also recommended.
- Sumner will further study the SWCD ownership option, including speaking with the NYSSWCC office and Richard Hoyt, over the next several days.
- Sumner reminded the board that we are committed to renting 80 acres of land from the Ford's whether the Bench project proceeds or not.
- **2016-7-4 Wright made motion, Keeton seconded, to pay Dean Ford's land rental fee pending signature of rental agreement. All in favor.**
- **2016-7-5 Previous motion amended to pay half of the \$24,000 rental fee pending signature of rental agreement. The remaining \$12,000 rental fee balance will be paid when reimbursement arrives from Housing Trust Fund or after 30 days from invoice. All in favor.**
- **2016-7-6 Motion by Keeton to enter into contract with Bench Project low bidder CFI Construction conditional on the following: 1. Approval of CFI's Soil Utilization plan by NYSDEC, and 2. Resolution to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors and SWCD Legal Counsel of the Conservation Easement and ownership issues associated with the Floodplain Bench project area, seconded by Wright. All in favor.**
- Sumner suggested the Board re-convene before the Chairman signs the contract to review findings on the Project area ownership issue. A meeting was tentatively scheduled for Monday, July 18th at 6PM.

Walkkill Maintenance – No updates to report

NEW BUSINESS

2016-7-7 Motion by DeBlock to approve the O’Conner Davies 2015 Audit, seconded by Keeton, all in favor.

2016-7-8 Motion by Ruszkiewicz to approve the Mowing Equipment Rental Agreement presented to the Board at the June meeting, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.

The **August regular monthly MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, August 22th, 2016 at 9:00 AM.**

2016-7-9 Meeting adjourns at 7:20 PM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Wright. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Sumner
Noah Meyer