

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**July 23, 2018**

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:04 AM. Directors J. Wright, P. DeBlock, G. Keeton and P. Ruszkiewicz were present, along with K. Sumner, T. Ferry and C. DeGrootd (OCSWCD).

**2018-7-1 Keeton made the Motion, Ruszkiewicz seconded, to approve June's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.**

**ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS** – The Dean Ford & Sons land purchase payment and field repair and the Town of Wawayanda bill were paid after last month's board meeting.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- Letter from NYS SWCC stating the District's Ag NPS Round 18 Final Report and close-out were accepted.
- The District received a certified letter from CFI's attorney demanding a Verified Trust Statement. This was already handled by the District's Attorney.
- Letter from NYS SWCC – Notifying the District that the District's Round 3 CRF was not funded.
- The NACD membership renewal request was received. The Board Tabled this.
- The Empire Plan Quarterly Report passed out for review.
- Letter from the NYS DEC giving approval for the first phase of the tree cutting plan that the District developed. The entire project goes from the Celery Avenue ledge to Maple Avenue. Trees can not be cut until after October 1 because of bats.
- Ag & Farmland Protection Board Meeting Agenda and Draft Minutes.
- Various newsletters were available for review.
- NYACD Annual Meeting and Training Conference October 23-25 which includes classes for Directors, Managers and SWCD staff.

(9:15 AM Karen Edelman-Reyes, Senior Assistant County Attorney, joined the Meeting)

Director DeBlock thanked Soil & Water for flowers that were sent to her.

**2018-7-2 Wright moved to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation at 9:18 AM, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.**

**2018-7-3 DeBlock made the Motion, seconded by Ruszkiewicz, to come out of Executive Session at 10:32 AM. All in favor.**

**2018-7-4 Ruszkiewicz made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to move forward with the final payment to CFI Construction with the amount not to exceed \$250,000.00 and to give approval to Sumner to work with the Orange County Law Department to identify sources within the District's budget for the payment, and that this Motion supersedes a previous Motion 2018-6-6 made at last month's Board Meeting. All in favor.**

**2018-7-5 Wright made the Motion, seconded by DeBlock, that the \$40,690.00 that will be paid to D. Ford will be deducted from the two Wallkill Flood Project Dedicated Fund accounts and will show on next month's Financial Report. All in favor.**

**2018-7-6 DeBlock made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to accept the Bills to Be Paid which includes a bill from Upstate Freshwater Institute for phosphorus testing. All in favor.**

The June Grants Report Update was presented to the Board for Review.

## FINANCIAL REPORTS

2018-7-7 Wright made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to file June's 2018 Financial Report for audit review. All in favor.

## STAFF REPORTS

- T. Ferry
  - Last phosphorous sampling results came back in June.
  - Ferry has been working on the Ag NPS Moodna RD 24 Proposal.
  - The AEM Year 13 Final Report was approved by the State Soil & Water Committee.
  - No-Till is slowing down.
  - A farm is currently using one of the District's ditchbank mowers and will drop it back off at O'Dell's Farm when they are done with it. It has an oil leak on one of the welds. Straub's Welding is supposed to go look at it and give us an estimate on repairs. The blades are also dull on it and not cutting well. Price on new blades is approx. \$6/blade and it needs 40. One of our mowers is a slide out rotary mower and the other is an over-the-rail mower. There was a brief discussion on what to do with them. It was mentioned that Roland O'Dell is interested in fixing and maintaining our equipment. The Board gave approval to have the repair work done on the mower and to replace the blades. Discussion on selling the mowers will be brought up at next month's Board Meeting.
  - Ferry had a farm contact him about the Grown and Certified Program for maple syrup. Ferry sent them forms and is waiting to hear back from them. He added that the farm has to have up to an AEM Year 2 plan in order to qualify for the program.
  - Ferry is continuing to assist landowner Jenerson, who is trying to farm property on County Route 56. Most of the land is in a NYS DEC Wetland. The County DPW asked if we could mark out where the 100' wetland buffer boundary is because they are requiring him to get a farm entrance permit. Sumner and Ferry went out and staked the area out.
  
- K. Sumner
  - Participated in a meeting at the CCE 4-H park. They are trying to incorporate some Stormwater management and green infrastructure into the park development.
  - Ag Nonpoint Source grant Round 18 close-out completed.
  - Browns Pond Dam update – A grant has been secured with Hudson Valley Regional Council sponsorship so they are moving forward with the dam removal and it has been reported that the landowner has begun opening the gate to drain the pond. .
  - The District's proposed 2019 Budget was submitted to the County.
  - SWCD is assisting the Orange County Planning Department with correcting their GIS soils layer.
  - A couple of Wallkill River Maintenance items came up after the last inspection report. Ruszkiewicz called Sumner about one on the Pochuck just downstream of the County Route 1 bridge. Sumner also received two calls regarding trees hung up on the Celery Avenue Ledge. Sumner's thoughts were to get the ones on the ledge when they do the tree cutting down towards Maple Avenue but now that it has to wait until after October 1<sup>st</sup> he thinks he will have the contractor attend to these sites as soon as possible.
  - The Lain covered barnyard project is complete.

## INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- None.

It was mentioned that the Farm Service Agency has given out approx. \$125,000.00 since February to the 36 dairy farms in Orange County through the MPP program.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Wallkill Flood Celery Avenue Ledge – County Law has the contract documents and the construction plan that were prepared by B&L.
- Sumner would like to move the bench p2 south forward. He thinks we can complete the project with in-hand funding. The Board is okay with moving forward.
- Trench Silo Cover Project update –The Ag & Farmland Protection Board decided they were going to deliver certificates of appreciation to dairy farmers. Leonard DeBuck's idea was to have a packet to give the farmers at the same time the certificates were delivered that would describe some of the things we are doing to try and help the dairy farmers. There will be something in the packet about model leases in case they want to rent to hunting clubs, something about contacting Matt Decker at the Orange County Land Trust about the Dairy PDR program and information about the Trench Silo Cover Project. Miedema's cover is already on his trench and Sumner would like to get the final bills from the two cover projects.
- Monhagen/West Main Street Trees for Tribs – Staff has been keeping knotweed at bay.
- Quaker Creek Maintenance – Sumner has two proposals in-hand and is seeking a third proposal. We have most of the access agreements signed. Much of the land is owned by hunting clubs who do not want work on their properties after September/October because they will be bird hunting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- Ag NPS RD 24 proposals are due August 20<sup>th</sup>. The District will be submitting two proposals, one for the Moodna and one for the Wallkill. The Moodna proposal has five landowners. The proposed practices were described to the Board.
- **2018-7-8 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to approve the RD 24 Moodna Resolution #2. All in favor.**

(J. Wright left the Meeting at 11:32 AM for the AG NPS RD 24 Wallkill grant proposal discussion)

- The Wallkill proposal will include nine farms. The proposed practices were described to the Board.
- **2018-7-9 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve the RD 24 Wallkill Resolution #1. Kemnitz – aye, Ruszkiewicz-aye, DeBlock-aye, Keeton-aye.**

(J. Wright returned to the Meeting at 11:39 AM)

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, August 27, 2018 at 9:00 AM.**

**2018-7-10 The Meeting adjourns at 11:45 AM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Wright. All in favor.**

Minutes Prepared By:

Christine DeGroot, Secretary to the Board