

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 20, 2016

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:09 AM. Directors J. Wright, G. Keeton, P. DeBlock and P. Ruskiewicz were present, along with K. Sumner, N. Meyer and C. DeGroot (OC SWCD), R. Baglia (CCE) and P. Canterino (OC Legislator).

2016-6-1 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve May's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

- Gurda Landscaping and County Logging Invoices were paid.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- Ag & Farmland Protection Board Meeting Draft Minutes and Agenda were available for review.
- A revised NYS AgNPS Round 18 time extension was presented to be signed by the Chairman and notarized.
- Getz signed a simple letter of agreement for the GIGP project between the District and Lehman & Getz for the work that was approved and discussed in the amount of \$5,000.00.

2016-6-2 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to renew Sumner as signatory which allows him to sign agreements and contracts. All in favor.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **2016-6-3 DeBlock moved to file the May 2016 Financial Report for audit review, Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
- **2016-6-4 Wright made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid. All in favor.**
- May's Grant Update Report was reviewed.

Canterino will follow-up on his Board appointment.

Update on Celery Ledge Project - Canterino called N. Halloran, Town of Goshen Building Inspector, while the Board Meeting was in session. According to Halloran the District has to establish an escrow account with the Town of Goshen in order to move the permit process forward. Canterino will look more into this. Discussion followed.

STAFF REPORTS

- DeGroot
 - The District's new phone system is installed and working.
- Meyer
 - No-till equipment use is almost finished for the season. The seeders were used to plant 310 acres, the planters 350 acres. Both corn planters needed repairs this season.
 - Meyer has been working on a barnyard design for R. Weiboldt.
 - Wallkill Maintenance is planned to start in August when Vellenga's schedule slows down.
 - The Trees for Tribes planting project went well. There were approx. 40 volunteers that planted 250 trees on Saturday, May 14, 2016. Meyer is looking into organizing 4th planting in the fall.
 - Meyer attended the GI course at Cornell Cooperative Extension.

- Meyer attended a WAVE training with the NYS DEC. This fall they will be testing the Monhagen Brook.
- Meyer has been working on the GIGP and WQIP grant applications which are due in July.
- Sumner
 - Green Innovations Grant (GIGP) Update - The Middletown projects are moving forward. Sumner met with the City of Middletown and they're on-board. The City did utility mark-outs and onsite soil testing. L&G, the engineers hired for the project, will engage the services of a landscape architect. It was mentioned that Middletown is a Tree City USA. A letter of support was received from Richard Rose, County Parks. There is an inquiry in to the CCE Master Gardeners to maintain plantings.
 - Campbell Plaza/Monhagen Project Update – The 25% advance was received. The Plaza Manager is on-board. Estimated project start date is the end of July/beginning of August. They are working on a riparian project and talking to the plaza on management of the dumpsters.
 - CRF Grant Update – The grant was for \$75,000.00. County of Orange will provide the \$25,000.00 match on the Grant. Project will probably not happen until next year.
 - Brief discussion on the no-till program. It's a service to the farmers, not a money-maker for the District.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- R. Baglia of Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - Discussion on a solar energy program. Working with the Orange County Planning Department.
 - Streams 101 will be on June 30th.
 - On June 23rd, The New Blue: The Updated NYSDEC E&S Manual, will be held. Don Lake is presenting and they have approximately 75 people signed up.
 - Family Fun Day is on July 23rd.

OLD BUSINESS

Celery Avenue Ledge Project

The District has a draft contract bid package from B&L. This has not yet been sent to Hoyt for review because Sumner did not want to incur costs until he had additional discussion on it with the Board. The Board discussed sending out the bid packet for Attorney review and get the bid out.

Pochuck Ledge Project

It appears additional work can be done for additional benefits. An area between the two areas already worked on has a stretch of riffles. The engineer feels taking some of the rock out of this section is still within the scope of the original project. It can be done with the day rate with the original contractor. The day rate is \$3,500.00. **2016-6-5 A Motion to pay the date rate of up to \$5,000.00 for machine/transport and labor was made by Wright, seconded by Ruszkiewicz. All in favor.** C. Lain is working on final stabilization of the area.

Wallkill Bench Project

A title search initially did not turn up a DEC easement, but a DEC easement was found eventually. D. Ford wants to sell the property (11 acres). We have not yet defined a purchase. The Conservation Easement is still under review by the DEC Attorney. Sumner developed a Construction Access Agreement which he passed out to the Directors for review. CFI offered the lowest bid on this project. They claim that they have buyers for the soil. Sumner asked if the Board is okay with starting construction without the easement information. The Board agrees to a special meeting to approve a contract with CFI if needed.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2016-6-6 A Motion was made by DeBlock, seconded by Keeton to approve a Resolution to submit the Ag NPS RD 17 Time Extension Request. All in favor.**
- The District's 2015 audit that was completed by O'Connor Davies was passed out to the Directors for review. No action taken.
- Meyer reviewed a Mowing Equipment Rental Agreement with the Board. No action taken. One of the mowers is currently stored at the O'Dell Farm. Anyone wishing to rent a mower before the next Meeting will have to submit insurance to us.
- **2016-6-7 DeBlock made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to approve and submit the District's proposed 2017 Budget to the County which requests the same appropriation as last year. All in favor.**
- Brief discussion on the 2017 "Part C" funding on the receipt side of the proposed budget. Sumner would like to use it for a GI infrastructure project.
- The District had a student requesting to do a summer internship. The Board is leaving it up to the District to decide whether or not to hire the intern.

The **NEXT MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, July 18, 2016 at 9:00 AM.**

2016-6-8 Meeting adjourns at 12:37 PM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot
Secretary to the Board