

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**June 24th, 2024**

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:00 AM. Directors P. DeBlock, J. Wright, P. Ruskiewicz, G. Constable and B. Cheney were present along with K. Sumner (SWCD), E. King (SWCD), M. Held (SWCD), and Erik Schellenberg (CCE.)

**2024-6-1 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, Cheney seconded, to approve May's Board Meeting Minutes as written.**  
**All in favor.**

**ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS** – Some bills were paid and are listed on the Bills for Board Approval.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bank Statements
  - Cheney asked Sumner about the District's use of the credit cards in regards to gas purchases. Cheney suggested that the District look into WEX fleet cards which can help organizations manage their fuel use. Sumner confirmed that the District pays tax on the gas. Additionally, Cheney wanted to know if a nearby municipality would allow the District to purchase gas from them at the rate the municipality pays for it. DeBlock suggested that the Town of Wawayanda may be easier to work with than the City of Middletown. Cheney noted that the Village of Warwick employees' source their diesel and gasoline for their vehicles from the Town. Sumner will speak with Tom DeBlock to find out additional information regarding this process.
  
- Collateral Agreements
  
- Region 5 Monthly SWCC Report from Ben Luskin
  - Sumner noted that \$14 million dollars is available in State funding for Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations, CAFOs, to apply for. Even with this significant amount of funding available, the District still competes with CAFOs for funding in the regular grant program. Sumner confirmed that there are no CAFOs in Orange County, but that a few horse operations that could qualify.
  
- Letter from Orange County's Department of Human Resources RE: Layoff Rights of Classified Service Employees
  
- Letter from New York Association of Conservation Districts, NYACD, RE: Updates to the Association
  
- Draft of Letter to Orange County Law Dpt RE: Title Insurance for Conservation Easements Associated with Walkkill River Flood Mitigation
  - Sumner received a copy of the email to Paul from Richard Golden indicating that Law Department cannot help the District. Sumner found this to be strange since the County Law Department has assisted the District in the past. Sumner stated that the County could get the title reports for themselves in support of the flood mitigation work and share them with the District. Sumner asked the Board for their approval to

## ORANGE COUNTY SWCD JUNE 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

have Richard Hoyt order the title insurance for the conservation easements at a cost of approximately \$1,600.

- Letter to Senator James Skoufis RE: Farm Equipment Rental Program- Request for New Equipment Funding
  - Sumner explained in the letter to Skoufis' office that the No-till Rentals are not a money-making program, therefore the District cannot eliminate the associated fees. Sumner reported that Skoufis' office is no longer pressing this issue in regards to awarding the grant.
- Email Correspondence Between Sumner & DPW RE: Cheney's Request to Amend the Annexed Agreement for the Annual Flood Management Maintenance of the Wallkill River
  - Eric Denaga said that the legislative request will be put forth the legislators then shared with the District for review. Cheney stated that the legislative request did not make the agenda for the legislators meeting. The meeting of the town supervisors was postponed for a few months, but Sumner does not feel there any pressing matters that need attention.

### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Sumner noted a few corrections to May's financial report. Sumner noted that on the May Disbursements, \$200, which is a payment towards No-till equipment storage, is incorrectly listed under ".44/Rent." Instead, it should be listed under ".409/No-till & Other Equipment Repairs/Rental." Code ".44" refers to if the District started to pay towards rent for the office space. Additionally, Sumner noted that the No-till receivables from 5/1/24-6/24/24 is \$7,718. Sumner assured the Board that the District is well on track to reach the 2024 budgeted number for No-till rentals. Lastly, under the Dedicated Fund Summary on the May Receipts there is a little over \$3,000 left over in the local cost share program fund. Sumner will discuss the remaining LCSP funds later in the meeting regarding the spring practices that the District is trying to help farmers with. The District ultimately wants to increase the LCSP funds to \$10,000.

**2024-6-2 DeBlock made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to file May's Financial Reports for audit review, with the corrections noted above. All in favor.**

### **BILLS FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

**2024-6-3 DeBlock made the Motion, Cheney seconded, to pay the bills as presented. All in favor.**

### **GRANT REPORT UPDATE**

Sumner presented the Board with a grant report update and noted that any new entries are written in red ink on the grant report. Sumner noted that the District is still waiting on Albany to receive final payments which is slightly concerning. Per Sumner, the AEM contract, which lasts for two years, cannot be extended. Sumner feels that the NYS blackout period lasted longer this year than previously.

### **INTERAGENCY REPORTS**

**CCE:** Schellenberg reported that CCE is hosting an onion update meeting as part of their annual field meetings series on 7/11 at the Pine Island Legion AV in Pine Island. CCE is also offering a vineyard management and winemaking course on 7/18 at Clearview Vineyard in Warwick. Schellenberg noted that the vineyard has a definitive spotted lanternfly infestation on the property, but their presence is not proving to be detrimental to the grape yield. CCE is offering a farmworker appreciation day & bilingual IPM training on 7/24. Lastly, Schellenberg reminded the Board that CCE's 2024 Country Fair is from 7/25-7/28 at the Education Center & 4-H Park in Otisville.

ORANGE COUNTY SWCD JUNE 2024 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

**NRCS:** Velez-Juarbe was unable to attend today’s meeting, but provided the Board with a written update. The Natural Resources Specialist continues to work on the new preapprovals that need to be obligated by 8/16/24. The new Soil Conservationist starts on 7/1/24. Lastly, there will be a new Resource Conservationist starting on 8/12/24.

**FSA:** There were no updates to report from FSA.

There were no representatives from NYSS or WCC present at the meeting.

**STAFF REPORTS**

\*Sumner, King, and Held emailed their written staff reports to the Board prior to the meeting for review.

**E. King (SWCD)-** King had no updates to add to her monthly report.

**M. Held (SWCD)-** Held informed the Board that the District is currently working on the Crop Residue Management payouts for the participants of the Climate Resilient Farming Round 6. Held stated that she needs to ensure that there is 30% of crop residue present before cover crop is planted. Phil Johnson’s expected payment is \$3,000 and Russell Smiley’s is \$770. Held reported that the District is looking to pay Mark Hoyt with funds from the Local Cost Share Program. Hoyt has 150 acres, but the District has not gone out to verify the fields yet. However, Hoyt has provided a map of the fields that he believes will meet the needed qualifications. Additionally, Held has been working on a participation agreement for a potential roller crimper incentive project. The roller crimper would be used to crimp the cover crop before planting it. Per Held, there are several farmers in the CRF Round 6 who expressed interest in using a roller crimper. Held reached out to Russ Smiley and Jason Touw who are keen on using the roller crimper. Held noted that Johnson expressed interest in the fall 2023, but she has been unable to confirm if that still holds true. Held confirmed that Alex Ronne and Sue Conklin are eager to partake in the program. Sumner and Held recommend that as a basis for participation, the farmer should have a uniform field that can be divided in half. At the end of the season a yield check would occur to determine which side of the field had a higher yield. If the field that was roller crimped has a lower yield compared to the field that was not roller crimped, then the District would reimburse the farmer for cost difference. Sumner and Held will present the Board with a cohesive draft of the participation agreement that will list the participants and a potential payout cost at July’s Board meeting.

**K. Sumner (SWCD)-** Review “Old and New Business” for further information.

**OLD & NEW BUSINESS**

**Local Cost Share Program-** Sumner asked the Board whether they are agreeable to increasing the Local Cost Share fund to \$10,000. Sumner feels confident that the District could cover the cost of those who qualify for the spring residue management. Sumner reported that a few of the farmers participate in the Climate Resilient Farming grant. Sumner reminded the Board that this program requires the sign off approval authority just like the cover crop. Since Sumner’s approval authority is still in question, the District needs to be prepared to pay for this out of our local funds in case the State Committee votes against Sumner’s case. Sumner asked the Board if they are comfortable with increasing the Local Cost Share Program fund to \$10,000 with the possibility that if that the District would cover that through our local funds and would not be reimbursed through the Climate Resilient Farming. Wright confirmed with Sumner that it is allowable for him and Ruszkiewicz to vote on this matter since they participate in programs funded by the LCSP. Sumner confirmed that the two would not benefit from these funds that the Board would be voting on.

**2024-6-4 DeBlock made the Motion, Cheney seconded, to increase the funding for the Local Cost Share Program to \$10,000. All in favor.**

**NYS SWCC Regional Manager's Meetings-** DeBlock recounted the NYS SWCC Regional Manager's Meeting that she and King attended on 6/4. DeBlock spoke on behalf of the Board to advocate for Sumner to be granted authority to sign off on soil health practices. Bethany Bzduch, the Executive Director of the State Committee, told DeBlock that she will let Sumner know when the decision is presented next to the State Committee next. DeBlock informed the Committee that the whole Board will want to call in during that meeting. DeBlock stated that the Board was disappointed that the Committee did not mention Sumner's 43 years work experience at the meeting. DeBlock refuted the argument that the District can wait until fall 2024 for a decision to be made since there are current cover crop payments that need to be met. DeBlock reaffirmed that the District will not accept help from neighboring Districts. Sumner explained that State Committee includes members of the Farm Bureau, State Directors association, members of Cornell Cooperative Extension, and the NYS Grange. Cheney suggested lobbying the Committee members to provide them with the Board of Directors' perspective. The Board decided that they would contact the voting members of the State Soil & Water Committee. DeBlock expressed frustration in the Committee's resistance to change the rules despite creating them. The Board assigned certain members to contact Committee members to ensure that it stays on the Committee's radar. The Board decided that Constable or Jason Touw could call the Farm Bureau rep, Wright can call Dale Stein, and DeBlock will contact the Grange rep. DeBlock suggested that the District send a letter to Greg Albrecht, who is the head of the AEM program. Lastly, DeBlock informed the Board that her attendance at this meeting went towards the required attendances per the Part C Performance Measure. Sumner stated that the District still needs two more attendances from Board members. Sumner noted that these rising required attendances is not easy for the Board Members who already volunteer their time. Cheney suggested that the Board contact Senator Skoufis' office and to inform him of the current situation. Cheney suggested that the Board lobby that Senator Skoufis' show his support for changing the way the Committee is handling this situation. Sumner noted that he is anticipating the majority of these funds to go towards the Crop Residue Management program. Additionally, Sumner reiterated that the expected payments will be presented to the Board for approval on Bills to Be Paid.

**Conservation Easements** – Sumner reported that he is continuing to work on title insurance requirements for the conservation easements. Per Sumner, there is not a strict timeline in place, but the District is working to keep it progressing. The District will keep the Board updated on its status.

**Floodplain Bench Phase 4 North-** Sumner reported that construction has been ready to start on the Bastek property for the Phase 4 North Floodplain Bench project for a few weeks. Sumner and the contractor have been waiting on the landowner and the farmer to sign the contracts to start construction. The District agreed on a price with the landowner, but he wanted the District to formulate a way for it not to impact the tax exemptions that he receives. The District instructed the landowner to speak with his accountant who then spoke with Richard Hoyt. The landowner and his accountant decided that they want to receive the easement payments in five installments. Hoyt would prefer not to use this approach since it is more laborious and he would have to issue a 1099 to the landowner five times instead of once. Sumner is assuming that his accountant determined this approach would allow the landowner not to lose his exemption. Sumner noted that the landowner signed an access license in 2022. The landowner promised to let the contractor know by end of day Monday if the accountant agreed to those terms. Unfortunately, Sumner does not know the exact status of this project, but is hopeful it will continue to move forward.

**Legislative Request-** Sumner credited Cheney with assisting the speedy progression of the District's legislative request for an additional \$150,000 from the County. The \$150,000 would fully cover the construction cost of the Phase 4 North project. Cheney acknowledged that Rob Schreibeis helped facilitate the process and ensure it arrived before the County's Commissioner of Finance.

**Celery Avenue Ledge Lowering Project-** Sumner informed the Board that the joint application for the permits has been submitted and is waiting on approval from the DEC and the Army CORP of Engineers. Sumner wanted to know if the District could ask the Agriculture & Farmland Protection Board, AFPB, to take action to support the Celery Avenue Ledge Lowering Project. Kasha Bialas, who is a voting member, is on the AFPB. Sumner does not know how familiar

she is with the Celery Avenue Project or if she would vote in favor of it. Sumner identified that the District needs to identify funding opportunities and needs to remedy the situation with the neighbors. Sumner plans to recruit farmers that support this project to speak with the landowners. Sumner suggested that Kevin Shuback be asked to attend the discussion at the upcoming AFPB meeting on 6/26. Sumner stated that it would be ideal to have a written confirmation that the AFPB supports this project. Sumner volunteered to attend the AFPB meeting and will contact the AFPB Secretary to have the topic added to the meeting agenda.

**Climate Resilient Round 8-** Sumner provided the Board with a summary of the proposal which is due today for submission. Per Sumner, the track that the Board is applying for is focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Sumner noted that there is a tool that the District is supposed to use to try to quantify the reductions, but the tool did not have robust research on CBP Barns to generate an accurate measure of GHG reduction. If CRF Round 8 rejects the District's application, then the District could apply for funding through the Ag NPS Round 30 grant. Sumner did some research on greenhouse gas emissions and different manure management systems. He found that the research is very inconclusive. Sumner corresponded via email with the designers of the tool, Colorado State University (CSU), who informed him that there is very limited research on compost bedded pack barns that populated the model. This tool was designed by CSU for NRCS. CSU is releasing a new model this year that will show reduction in methane emissions from compost bedded pack barns. Sumner included this information in the grant narrative. Sumner questions whether he should have listed the number for greenhouse gas emissions as zero. Wright stated that weather must influence how the volume of methane gas emissions. Per Sumner, the weather could be variable, but the main change in the system is daily spread vs. the compost bedded pack barn. The guidance talks about managing manure in a more aerated fashion which will reduce emissions in comparison to a liquid slurry system that is anaerobic. The District is requesting \$306,875 in state funds, which is 70% of total project expenses, based on approvals from the Board via email we are proposing to support that with \$48,410 in District funds which is 9% of the project total. Sumner continued that the landowner's obligation is \$82,425. The dimensions of the compost bedded pack barn are 84' by 125' with a covered feed bunk on the outside. The District is proposing to include two pieces of equipment which are somewhat minor in the total project cost which is over \$400,000. The equipment in question includes a side discharge bedding spreader for sawdust and a three point hitch rototiller, both of which are important for maintaining the bedded pack barn. Per Sumner, the spreader would cost ~ \$8,000 and the rototiller would cost ~\$3,000. Sumner noted that one of the biggest deterrents for many farmers is the time demand for mixing the manure pile twice or three times a day. Sumner has thoroughly discussed this responsibility with the landowner and believes that the landowner is prepared for this undertaking. Sumner informed the Board that King will sign the resolution and that the entire package will be submitted for review following the Board meeting.

**2024-6-5 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, Wright seconded, to pass the Climate Resilient Round 8 Resolution presented to the Board. All in favor.**

**Reviewal of Policies-** Cheney suggested that the Board indicate that the total combined reimbursement for dental and vision be \$2,000. Additionally, this policy would be retroactive to the beginning of the year. Cheney clarified that this reimbursement would include any family member that is eligible under the employee's healthcare family policy. Cheney stated that even employees who opted for the health care buyout are entitled to the \$2,000 dental and vision reimbursement. Furthermore, Sumner asked the Board to clarify a question he has regarding the District's Step policy. Sumner explained that the current Step adjustments system is set up that for the first four years, an employee is eligible to receive one Step increase annually. Eligibility for steps 5-7 occur every other year. Subsequently, employees are eligible for 8-10 Step increases every three years. Held and King started above Step 1 in September 2023. Sumner wants to know whether King and Held start the clock from their starting points and are eligible for a Step increase for each of the first four years. The Board voted to have employees who enter the table above step 1 to be eligible for Step increases for the first four years.

**2024-6-6 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, Wright seconded, to adopt the updated policies to the District's Provisions of Employment. All in favor.**

**2025 County Budget Proposal-** Sumner presented the draft of the 2025 budget proposal to the Board for review. Sumner indicated that the main point of discussion concerns the County Appropriation. Sumner reminded the Board that the District carried the extra \$600,000 into 2024. The remaining number was increased by 3% which came out to \$286,813 for the County Appropriation request. Sumner stated that drafting the budget requires a fair amount of guesswork. Per Sumner, the total projected 2025 receipts is a little over a million dollars. The total projected 2025 disbursements is slightly less than the 2025 receipts. To balance the budget, Sumner determined the difference and made a transfer to dedicated funds. For this reason, the dedicated funds are integral in carrying the disbursements and receipts back and forth. Sumner explained the document detailing the comparison of salary and benefits over the past couple of years to the requested 2025. Sumner noted that the cost of the District's benefits is nearly half the cost of the projected salary. The total 2025 projected salary is \$214,000 and the total project 2025 benefits is \$114,000. Cheney asked why the budget for the 2024 health insurance was \$84,000, but in 2025 was projected to be 65,000. Sumner explained that in 2023 when the 2024 budget was proposed, the previous office manager was still employed with the District and she had a family health insurance policy. However, now there is only one family policy and one individual policy listed. Sumner indicated that the buyout health insurance for Held is listed in the budget. Additionally, Sumner explained that the employee retirement contribution is less than in 2024 since the former office manager is no longer participating in the retirement plan separate from the NYSLRS. Sumner reported that he is still working on having the 2025 revenues and expenditures balance. Sumner needs to make sure that the individual forms compile correctly to the total expenditures and revenues. Sumner stated that whether the 3% increase is allocated towards a salary adjustment, it will be addressed at the January 2025 reorganizational meeting. Ruszkiewicz confirmed that overall the County budget proposal is less than it was in 2024.

**2024-6-7 DeBlock made the Motion, Constable seconded, to accept the proposed 2025 District Budget to the County for reviewal with any adjustments necessary to balance the Budget and the County forms. All in favor.**

Cheney informed King that in the copy of the Provisions of Employment that she emailed the Board, the "P" is missing from the Provisions of Employment title. King assured him that she will correct that mistake.

**Next meeting date: July 15<sup>th</sup>**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**2024-6-8 DeBlock made the motion, seconded by Wright, to adjourn the meeting at 10:21 AM. All in favor.**

Minutes Prepared By:

Emily King, Secretary to the Board

Report to Board            KMS

June, 2024

**Wallkill Flood Projects –**

Conservation Easement documents sent to Pine Island Turf Nursery (Phase 4 South) and Green Farmland (Phase 3). No reply from them yet, haven't followed up with PITN yet, but did speak with GF representative.

I drafted a memo to the County Law Department to ask if County can arrange for the title work needed. We can review this at the meeting.

**Floodplain Bench Phase 4 North**

The contractor has been ready to start for a couple weeks. The landowner and farmer have had the contracts since 5/20, but they have not signed them yet. We have been attempting to address the landowner's concerns about the Conservation easement payout working with our attorney and his accountant. We are hoping to have signatures by the week of the 24<sup>th</sup>, may have update at Board meeting.

With Barry's assistance, a Legislative Request is in the works to allocate \$150,000 to this project's construction costs.

**Other Flood Control Items**

No updates on Celery Ledge project since submission of Joint Application for Permit. I would like to suggest that we ask the AFPB to register their support for the this project.

**Carbon Farming Project** – All complete, except waiting on final payment of \$4,268.32 on Southway project (same status as last month).

**AEM Round 17** – We have been told that our final report was approved, waiting for Albany to catch up on processing Claims for Payment.

**AEM Round 18** – Still waiting for NYS processing of initial Claim for Payment. Work on this contract is active – approximately \$44,000 in staff time has been expended since 1/1/24. Hoyt project 1A/1B archeological study field work completed, consultant indicates verbally that nothing of significance was found, waiting for full report to submit to SHPO for 'go ahead'.

**CRF Round 7** – Work Plan materials for all three projects have been submitted to NYSSWCC – awaiting contracts. All staff are working to advance these projects while we await funding. (Same status as last month.) Crist Brothers project is moving forward, drilling of well started last week.

**'Sign Offs' on Soil Health Practices** –The status of this matter at NYSSWCC is unknown. Paula attended Manager's meeting with Emily and brought it up. She can report on this conversation.

**Revision of Wallkill Maintenance Agreement** – At DPW, status unknown. With concurrence of Town Supervisors, I postponed the scheduled June meeting of the MA partners pending progress of the revision.

**Climate Resilient Farming Round 8 Proposal** – I spent a lot of time over the last month on the Simpson Farm Compost Bedded Pack Barn application. Directors OK'd by email a 10% contribution of SWCD funds

to support this application. I will provide more details at meeting, need resolution and need to submit (upload) day of the Board meeting after resolution is passed.

Funding Request Letter to Senator Skoufis was included under correspondence. I would like to have a discussion with the Board when time permits about this request and about the future of the equipment rental program.

Provision of Employment Policy – The last of the 2024 draft policy updates was provided to the Board by email. Two points that needs clarification –

1. Is the intention to reimburse up to \$2,000 TOTAL for dental and vision, or \$2,000 for each.
2. If the draft policy is adopted by the Board, shall it be retroactive to the beginning of 2024 (this would impact several provisions, including dental and vision as well as the proposed health insurance buy out)?

A related question regards the interval of step increases when an employee starts at a step higher than step 1.

Worked on 2025 Budget. Proposing 3% increase in County Appropriation Request (based on 2024 request WITHOUT special project ‘add-on’). Due to County Budget by 6/27, so we need Board approval of request at June meeting.



**Emily King**

**Secretary to the Board Update**

**6/24/24**

Since May's meeting, I worked alongside Mary and Kevin on providing the final documents for the AEM Round 17 closeout. I corresponded with Ronnie and Ben Luskin regarding the needed proof of cancelled checks.

I received a few phone calls from a homeowner and contractor with questions regarding their personal projects. I spoke with Kevin who provided me with the information regarding water testing, hydrologic unit code, and stormwater construction permits in the town of Goshen.

I created a map detailing Devon Simpson's property for his proposed bedded pack barn project with CRF Round 8. Such details included the property boundaries of Indian Acres, various soils on the property, ranking of said soils, and the floodplain boundaries. Kevin and Mary reviewed the map and provided edits. Additionally, I reviewed the District's application for CRF Round 8 and discussed my suggested edits with Kevin.

I updated and shared the final edits of the Provisions of Employment with Kevin who subsequently shared them with Barry. The latest version of The Provisions of Employment was shared with the Board of Directors prior to June's meeting and requires their final approval. Additionally, I spoke with an employee from the County's Employee Benefits Division who confirmed that the County health insurance buyout rate is \$1,000 per quarter.

The District received a letter from the Orange County Department of Human Resources regarding Ronnie O'Dell's employment status. The County also wanted to know why Ronnie was not listed on the payroll for January 1, 2023, to January 7, 2023. I mailed a letter, which was signed by Kevin, confirming Ronnie's employment with the District and explained that Ronnie's hours vary since he is a part time field technician. Furthermore, I submitted the MSD 426-B form and paid family leave notices for Travis Ferry to the Department of Human Resources.

I assisted Mary with various deliveries of either the Esch seeder or corn planters. Mary has been very helpful in teaching me the ins and outs of transporting the equipment safely. I towed the equipment on various occasions with Mary's company and guidance.

I reviewed the District website and noted my own suggestions to the website. I intend on discussing them with Kevin before July's Board of Directors meeting. Following Kevin's instruction, I began updating the list of farmers markets in Orange County.

Paula and I attended the 2024 Regional District Managers Meeting on 6/4 to represent the District's interest. I noted the recommendations that the State Committee provided when it came submitting closeout materials, AEM Round 18, etc.

Furthermore, I updated the various grant ledgers, as well as the receipts, disbursements, and payroll Excel spreadsheet. I had greater success this past month with compiling the end of month financial report and was able to do so on my own.

Lastly, Kevin and I began updating the District's 2025 budget which needs to be submitted the week of 6/24. I referred to previous year's budgets for guidance and spoke with Kevin regarding questions I had.

**OCSWCD Technician Update**  
**Mary C. Held**

6/21/2024

**No-Till Corn planters:** So far, we have experienced relatively smooth sailing in delivering corn planters and seeders to farmers. We're up to 15 corn planter rentals this season.

**Local Cost Share Program:**

In addition to the farmers below in CRF6, **Mark Hoyt** has expressed interest in participation in a crop residue management incentive payout. He would have an additional ~150 acres or so in crop residue management to add to our primary list of CRF6 payouts. He has indicated on a map which fields he thinks are eligible, making his payment close to \$3300 for an estimated 150 ac if we use the CRF6 standard of \$22/ac.

**CRF Update:**

Round 6:

Some of the farmers in CRF6 have crop residue management listed under practices that can be reimbursed. The farmers listed below have the practice in their contract, however, not all of them took advantage of the practice enough to justify payout – such as plowing under or mowing before planting. As exemplified below, the cost of all the crop residue management payments would be covered by CRF6, with the exception being the addition of Hoyt Farms.

Name	Farm	CRF6 Acres	CRF6 Payout	Acres Planted	Expected Payout	Notes
Alex Kocot	Harvest Queen Acres	150ac/3yrs = 50/yr	\$3300/3yrs = \$1100/yr OR \$22/ac	50+ (118 was verified as cover crop in fall of 2023)	\$0 for plowing under with less than 30% residue left at planting	Plowed majority of it under
Jason Touw	Wagon Wheel Farm	60ac/ 3yrs = 20ac/yr	\$1320/3yrs = \$1100/yr OR \$22/ac	20	\$0 for mowing/tilling with no residue left at planting	mowed / plowed under
Phil Johnson	Fort Hill Farm	450ac/3yrs = 150ac/yr	\$9900/3yrs = \$3300/yr OR \$22/ac	145	\$3,190	Was not able to get in touch with him but cover crop of 145 ac was verified in fall 2023
Robert Stap	Mist E Hill Diary	45ac/3yrs = 15ac/yr	\$990/3yrs = \$330/yr OR \$22/ac	0	\$0	Did not plant
Russell Smiley	Smiley Farm	105ac/3yrs = 35ac/yr	\$2310/3yrs = \$770/yr OR \$22/ac	35	\$770	

Round 7: No updates on the technician's end.

Round 8: Submissions due June 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Kevin has been mostly working on the CRF8 application. Emily and I prepared a map highlighting the prime soils on the farmland and how much frontage of the Simpson property is along the Neversink river.

### **AGNPS Update:**

Round 27: Contract End Date: March 2025

- Winslow Therapeutic: four culvert pipe quotes were gathered from Dempsey, WinWater, Schmidt's, and Woodard's. The quotes are for 48" HDPE Pipe, 20ft long
  - o In short:
    - Dempsey: \$149.56 / sq ft = \$11,964 + \$500 shipping = \$12,464
    - Win Water: \$144.63/ sq ft = \$12,510.50
    - Schmidt's: \$10,298.12
    - Woodard's: \$113.75 / sq ft = \$9,300 (includes shipping)
- Marty Lain: Has not been billed for a final expense, waiting to see if the provider bills him so we can add it to his closeout. I am going to give it some time before worrying about it.

Round 29:

- No updates on my end since the last board meeting.

Round 30:

- From the last board meeting, Tom Owens of Hillcrest Farms reached out to inquire about government assistance with a fuel tank replacement project. I put him on the list for government assistance and will reach out when AGNPS 30 becomes available. Currently, we are still waiting for round 30 to be available.

### **AEM Update:**

Round 17: Has been closed out.

Round 18: Reworked plan budgets to accommodate \$8k study for Hoyt project and am currently working to collect signatures on updated budgets as well as updated contracts. At the moment, getting the signatures is the only thing really holding us back from requesting advance payments for Ewanciw and Simpson, who are both the most 'ready' projects aside from Hoyt.

Updated Budgets Abbreviated:

Hoyt – Erosion Control System

State Share: \$66k (with \$8k going towards contractual services – study)

LO Share: \$28,575  
Total: \$86,575.00

Rick Minkus – Heavy Use Area Runoff Management

State Share: \$29k  
LO Share: \$10k  
Total: \$39k

Joseph Minkus – Heavy Use Area Runoff Management

State Share: \$29k  
LO Share: \$30k  
Total: \$59k

Devon Simpson – Silage Leachate Control and Treatment System

State Share: \$44k  
LO Share: \$15k  
Total: \$59k

Peter Ewanciw – Livestock Heavy Use Area Runoff Management

State Share: \$14k  
LO Share: \$5k  
Total: \$19k

Demberg – Access Control System

State Share: \$18k  
LO Share: \$6,667.00  
Total: \$24,667.00

Request for 25% advance on TA payment was sent out some time ago and we are awaiting fulfillment of that.