

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:06 AM. Directors P. DeBlock, J. Wright, B. Cheney, and G. Constable were present along with K. Sumner (SWCD), E. King (SWCD), M. Held (SWCD), E. Schellenberg (CCE), and O. Vélez-Juarbe (NRCS.)

**2025-3-1 Cheney made the Motion, Constable seconded, to approve February’s Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bank Statements
- Collateral Agreements
- TD Bank – Dolson Ave. Branch Closing
- Empire State Granger Newsletter
- The Hartford – Completion of Annual Audit
- NYACD – 2025 Legislative Day Booklet
- OCSWCD – Barton and Loguidice Professional Services Agreement
  - Sumner presented a proposed formal agreement that B&L drafted for the District. The agreement outlines the main projects they expect to assist the District with and lists a cap of \$15,000. Per Sumner, the District has not exceeded the \$15,000 cap before. Sumner trusts that B&L would notify the District if we were close to the cap. Cheney confirmed that B&L’s general engineering review is a task needed order. Cheney suggested that the District record the cost of the sub tasks and ask B&L to provide an estimate prior to enlisting their services.

**2025-3-2 Cheney made the Motion, Constable seconded, to approve the proposed agreement between the District and Barton & Loguidice. All in favor.**

- NYACD Financial Report (showing dues paid by County, per last month’s Board meeting discussion)
  - Sumner will discuss this further in his oral report to the Board.
- NYSSWCC Region 5 Report from Ben Luskin
- M&T Bank Account Analyses: Feb ‘25
- Certified List of Eligibles: Orange County HR RE: Held

- This notice from the County indicated that Held passed the Civil Service exam she took in December 2024. It authorized the District to designate her position as a permanent status should they choose to do so.

**2025-3-3 Cheney made the Motion, Constable seconded, to classify Held’s position as Conservation District Technician as permanent status, as of 3/14, given the letter from the County. All in favor.**

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Sumner reported that the District received the funding from State Soil & Water for the following: the District’s 2024 Part A & Part C reports, as well as two projects in CRF Round 7. The District is still waiting on funding for the CRF Round 7 Crist Brothers Orchard project, but a claim for payment was submitted last week before the blackout period.

Sumner noted that the Part C funds are mainly unobligated, which gives the District leeway when it comes to allocating the money. For example, the District intends to allocate Part C funds to farm projects via local contribution to help augment the cost.

Sumner continued that the District wants to make the final payment to Sunflower Valley Farm for the Floodplain Bench Phase 4 North project. The District is still waiting to receive the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter appropriation from the County. Cheney has not heard any updates on when the District can expect the payment. Overall, Sumner feels that the District is in good financial standing given February’s budget.

**2025-3-4 Wright made the Motion, Constable seconded, to file February’s Financial Reports for audit review. All in favor.**

**\*\*Ruszkiewicz joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams at 9:20am.\***

**BILLS FOR BOARD APPROVAL**

**2025-3-5 Cheney made the Motion, Constable seconded, to pay the bills as presented. All in favor.**

**CONTRACT REPORT UPDATE**

Any updates to the contracts report for the month of February are highlighted in red ink. Sumner listed the balance for each grant contracts, as well as updates on interactions with the contract participants. Sumner will address further progress in his report to the Board.

Wright asked whether the District still needs to check any cover crop plantings that were done late last year. Held stated that it was up to the District if they wanted to approve the two late cover crop plantings if they came up in the spring. These two farms received funding through CRF Round 6. The issue remains with the District needing the cover crop approved by someone with job approval authority. DeBlock asked whether NRCS could help the District with the sign off issue. Vélez-Juarbe stated that if the farm reaped benefits from the planting, even if it was late, then it meets NRCS standards. Held is working with NRCS to certify the plantings done in CRF Round 6, so the District can receive reimbursement of those payments.

Vélez-Juarbe asked Held if she has the information for the plantings in need of approval. Held knows that she has the information of the plantings since started in 2023, but is unsure of those done prior. The District has until the end of the CRF Round 6 grant, which ends 4/30/26, to resolve this cover crop issue. Vélez-Juarbe advised Held to run RUSLE tests by taking the predominant slope and soil type in the field. Sumner reported that the current balance of cover crop payments that are awaiting State reimbursement is around \$58,000. If the District is unable to provide the sign offs by the end of the grant, then the District would have to return the advance payments from the State.

**INTERAGENCY REPORTS**

**CCE:** Schellenberg informed the Board that CCE will be attending a cover crop & soil health field day at Thompson Research Farm in Freeville, NY. The class will be led by a soil researcher from Cornell University. CCE has hosted two out of the five stormwater management training courses. Schellenberg does not have any news to report on the status of the Conservation Innovation Grant.

**NRCS:** Vélez-Juarbe noted that his team finished the project applications for Round One of EQIP. There are a few applications for the second round of EQIP, but their fate is unknown. This is because funding for that program is sourced from the Inflation Reduction Act, IRA, which the White House paused funding for. NRCS is only able to use IRA funds to pay for existing contracts as practices are completed. Vélez-Juarbe reported that 26 NRCS employees were laid off in NYS.

**Comments from Director:** DeBlock advised any eligible farmers to sign up for Agriculture Risk Coverage (**ARC**) & Price Loss Coverage (**PLC**) income support program. Per the FSA website, the ARC & PLC, *provides payments when actual crop revenue declines below a specified guarantee level.* The deadline to for both programs is 4/15/25.

There were no representatives from NYSC 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.

**M. Held (SWCD)-** Held reminded the Board that she will be attending the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Planning training in Ithaca from 4/1-4/3. The Board approved her going at February’s Board meeting. Held reported that Phil Johnson delivered the roller crimper from I&J and it is currently stored at his property.

As of now, there are six farmers interested in renting the roller crimper this spring. Held wants to discuss with the Board how much funding they want to dedicate to the cover crop & crop residue programs in the fall. Held noted that the projected payment for the crop residue management program is ~\$22 an acre. Given both the cash flow concerns & potential equipment purchases, Sumner suggested that the District accept applications for the two programs, but inform the applicants that they will have a better understanding of the District’s budget come late summer. By then, Sumner believes that the District is in a better position for the Board to decide how much money should go into the local cost share program. Sumner expressed reluctance to dedicate any funds to the crop residue management for spring 2025. Held explained that crop residue management entails harvesting the crop in the fall, leaving the leftovers, and then planting with at least 30% residue on the field. Sumner clarified that a farmer can till a little bit, so long as a certain amount of residue remains. Sumner noted that the goal of crop residue management overlaps with conservation tillage.

Held continued that the District is waiting to hear whether the two applications submitted in AgNPS Round 30 will be selected for funding. The one application is for a fuel tank storage & the other is for a mixing facility. The District received more quotes on the cost of fuel tank storage. This enabled the District to create a more reliable budget in the grant proposal. These quotes for a turn-key above ground fuel storage are projected to be between \$80,000-\$90,000.

Regarding AEM Round 18, Held reported that Joe Minkus mobilized his project, but did not follow the District’s recommendations which would have qualified him for State funding. The District informed Minkus that if he were to do any work that adheres to his project plan, then he is eligible for funding, but Minkus declined the offer. The District is hoping to reallocate his funding. Held is waiting on quotes & water velocity readings of Rutgers Creek from

a farmer who wants a stream crossing project done. Held will work with three farmers to complete their separate environmental risk assessments and draft their farm plan, as part of their AEM Tier II application.

Cheney asked whether the State allows the District to project what the period of construction will be and determine what the adjusted price would be in an application. Sumner confirmed that the District enters a proposed schedule of construction in the grant application. The State has a provision for a contingency budget of 10-15%. If this route is taken, it affects the District's cost efficiency ranking and therefore funding.

**E. King (SWCD)**- King found that the courses she took at the Water Quality Symposium were very helpful to her overall understanding of issues pertaining to NYSLRS, the Office of the State Comptroller, and improving the District's website. King looks forward to implementing these skills and utilizing the professional connections she made.

**K. Sumner (SWCD)**- Sumner provided the following reports and discussions to augment and add to his written staff report. Review "Old and New Business" for further information.

### **OLD & NEW BUSINESS**

**Phase 4 South Walkkill** – Sumner is still working on finalizing the property easements for Pine Island Turf Nursery, PITN. There are multiple factors delaying the process such as addressing the LO's mortgage, trust, etc. The District does not have a closing schedule yet with PITN. Once the PITN easements are finalized, then the District will work on securing the easements for the Bastek properties. Sumner reminded the Board that Green Farmland is another pending easement project. Sunflower Valley Farms inquired about a rental payment for lands that were taken out of production in 2024 to permit floodplain bench phase 4N construction. Sumner recalled that the District previously made rental payments on land that was taken out of ag production for earlier phases of this project. Considering this existing precedent, Sumner feels that the District should make the payments. Sumner acknowledged that the situation is tricky since a farmer rents the land from the LO (Bastek), which leaves the question of who to make the payment to. Sumner is unaware of the working relationship between the farmer & LO, but emailed the two to find out. Sumner is still waiting on a response from the two parties. The District needs to know the payment amount and the recipient of said payment, which are subject to Board approval. Sumner recalled that the District paid \$300 an acre when this last happened. Sumner estimated that ~18 acres was taken out of production for the Phase 4 North construction. Sumner estimated this potential payment to equal ~\$5,000. A fair amount of soil was added to this land during the project, which Sumner thinks the farmer will benefit from.

**Celery Avenue Ledge Lowering Project**- The District hosted the Annual Flood Management of the Walkkill River Advisory Board meeting on 3/7. Those in attendance included town supervisors, members of the Board, District staff, and County employees. King will prepare a meeting summary which will be distributed to attendees. Sumner gathered from the group that there is a strong interest in moving forward with the Celery Avenue Ledge Lowering Project. Additionally, Sumner surmised that the group advised the District to actively apply for funding while waiting for the permit findings. The District has a meeting scheduled tomorrow with the County Planning & DPW departments to discuss a grant offered by the Department of State. The County's Grants Division will be in attendance as well. Sumner admitted that it will be a challenge to describe the ledge lowering as an example of ecological/natural flood control. Sumner noted that it would be ideal if the grants division were willing to oversee the application submission. In return, Sumner would provide input where he can. Sumner explained that the application is submitted through the Consolidated Funding Application which is an online grant application process. Sumner noted that these it is difficult to understand the grant's application requirements until an account is created. The District's received a contractor estimate of \$225,000 in 2024 for the project. Sumner trusts in the accuracy of this estimate. However, the vibration monitoring studies & building survey are not included in his estimate. Additionally, the contractor did not indicate in his bid whether he or the District would be responsible for any damage. This is one of the many factors that accompany this project. Another one includes potential lawsuits from adjacent landowners

that the District could be served. The County Law Department may be able to provide legal services. Either way, Sumner knows that the District will need to maintain communication with the County.

Sumner stated that the Board could decide to allocate a substantial amount of Part C funding to expedite the timeline of the Ledge project, rather than wait on a grant determination. Wright affirmed that the Board is in favor of the District advancing the Ledge project. Sumner wants more consensus on the vibration monitoring research he did, as well as any potential threats to adjacent buildings. Sumner explained that a vibration monitoring system is comprised of both devices and meters that alert to any potential threats. These readings will help the District decide whether to change the construction method or if necessary, abandon the project. Sumner is unsure what the cost of a vibration monitoring contractor is, but he thinks it would be ~\$10,000 or less based on a proposal received last year. Sumner noted that the District still needs a floodplain development permit from both the Town of Goshen & Wawayanda building departments. The request for permits was submitted in November 2024. Sumner recalled that these permits are valid for a year. Cheney noted that Ruszkiewicz or he could always speak to the Town of Goshen supervisor to represent the Board's interest.

**AEM Round 18-** Sumner reported to the Board that construction is underway and progressing well for Hoyt Farm's project. Sumner noted that Pete Ewanciw has not completed work on his roof yet. The District will be sure to remind Ewanciw of the project deadline at the end of the year. Sumner does not know what will become of Simpson's compost bedded pack barn project. Simpson's proposal for Ag NPS Rnd 30 was not submitted since Simpson did not sign the LO commitment letter. The project is in the procurement stage, and the District is submitting requests for quotes. Simpson wants to submit a quote which means the District needs to receive the quotes not the LO. Sumner wants the Board to consider next month whether to continue to wait on Simpson or to reallocate his project's funding. Sumner acknowledged that he has invested a lot of time & the District has paid engineering fees for Simpson's project. However, the District now has the \$29k available from the Joe Minkus project available. There are two potential projects that the District could potentially fund. The first proposal involves installing a manure management area to address a heavy use area at Possible Farms. Sumner confirmed that the District will proceed with the planning process for Possible Farm's proposed project. The second project focuses on adding lowland drainage practices at Pennings Vineyard which would improve their farm's resiliency.

**CRF Rnd 7-** Overall, Sumner is pleased with the status of the projects in CRF Rnd 7. As previously noted, the District is waiting on the funding from State Soil & Water for Crist Bros Orchard's project. The District received an advance payment for the Shuback Farms and Wright Farms projects. Shuback ordered the irrigation equipment that will be cost shared through the grant. Regarding the Wright Family Farm's project, the plans are in place and ready whenever the Farm is ready for construction. If need be, Sumner feels confident that the District could request a time extension of the projects since funding is being received now a 1.5 year since the contract started.

**Revision of the Walkkill Maintenance Agreement-** Sumner expressed frustration with the delay in response from the County for questions pertaining to the carryover funds. The District has reached out multiple times to find out what the account's balance is and when the District can expect to receive those funds. Unfortunately, the District is still waiting for answers to those questions. Sumner commented that it would be a lot easier if a procedure was in place for the funds to be transferred directly to the District's account. The District's contractor is actively working on river maintenance and will start billing the District soon. Sumner wants to know if the District will have to request reimbursement through the DPW or if the bill can be paid directly through the river project's dedicated fund.

**Roller Crimper Project Update -**Sumner reported that Phil Johnson intended on charging the District a \$700 delivery fee for the roller crimper. Instead, Johnson asked if he could use the roller crimper in lieu of payment for the delivery. Sumner confirmed with the Board that this is allowable.

**Ag NPS Round 27-** Sumner informed the Board that the District did receive a time extension on the Ag NPS Rnd 27 project and an additional payment. The project includes two fuel storage plans, one for Rich Weiboldt & Jason

Soudant. The District has been working with B&L to develop a fuel storage secondary containment plan that can serve as a template for future projects. If the District does the project in compliance with the plans prepared by B&L, then the farms will be fully compliant with the mandated codes and therefore decrease their liability. The District estimated the budget at \$10,000, but the two tanks will each cost \$12,000. This figure does not include the cost of installation, so Sumner is trying to find more money for the project. Sumner feels that it would be a great model to help farmers envision improved fuel storage containers on their farm.

DeBlock mentioned that a farm project that was previously deemed to be out of compliance appears to have animals housed. This adheres to the purpose of his project. The District will try to confirm this finding and continue monitoring the project.

**Equipment Planning-** Sumner mentioned that the funding from Senator Skoufis' office is being processed through the Empire State Development, ESD. The ESD is cautioning Sumner that this is a reimbursement program and there may be a 3-6 month delay in receiving funds. For this reason, Sumner recommends, should the Board agree, that the District hold onto the Part C money and not allocate it to other projects. This would allow the District to use it for cash flow. Sumner noted that if the District were to order a new planter it would cost ~\$45,000. The planter is built to order, so Sumner is not sure when it would be ready, but knows for certain that it would not be available for spring 2025 planting. Sumner noted that the District plans on buying another planter with the CIG grant funds, should they become available. The District is discussing buying two more seeders, one 7-foot and another 12-foot Esch seeder. If the District were to prioritize purchasing the Esch, which seems to be the most popular among farmers, it would cost ~\$46,000. In total, the District would be spending ~ \$90,000 on new equipment, but would eventually receive reimbursement for them. If the District bought a new Esch, which is ready to order, then once it is delivered, the District can start the reimbursement process with ESD. The same policy applies to the planter, in regards to submitting a request for reimbursement. Cheney asked whether the District has a copy of the signed contract with the ESD. Sumner learned that ESD does not provide a signed contract, but instead the District's award letter serves as the contract. Sumner asked the Board if the District should start purchasing the equipment. Cheney proposed that the District ask the County for the second quarter appropriation a few months in advance to help with the equipment purchase costs. Cheney suggested that the District ask the Commissioner of Finance for \$90k. Sumner asked the Board to authorize the District to place the two equipment orders.

**2025-3-6 Cheney made the Motion, Constable seconded, to authorize the District to place the orders for the new Esch seeder and planter. All in favor.**

Sumner suggested that the if the District receives the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter county appropriation soon, then the Board can revisit the idea of allocating money into the local cost share fund for potential crop residue management practice approvals. This could be discussed at either the Board meeting in April or May.

**NYACD Financial Report-** Sumner recalled the discussion the Board had at February's meeting pertaining to the District's decision to pay the dues to the State Director's Association. Sumner contacted the Executive Director who reported that the Association of Towns & Counties communicate their support of Soil & Water at the State level. Additionally, Sumner inquired as to how many Districts pay the full amount in dues. Sumner admitted that he was surprised as to how many Counties pay the full or partial amount in dues to the Association.

**Town of Wawayanda- Gas-** Cheney asked Sumner whether the County or DPW have a facility a nearby. Sumner informed the Board that DPW has location close by on 17M. Cheney noted that the nearby DPW could provide the gas purchase the District is considering. Sumner stated that the District would need to reestablish contact with the Town of Wawayanda.

Sumner updated the Board that he asked Harry Porr, the Deputy County Executive, a few months ago about the appointment process for the Board of Directors, but he has not heard back from him. Sumner noted that the

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Directors are supposed to be reappointed annually, but if there is no formal action then the Directors continue to serve. Sumner acknowledged that it would be beneficial for the District to have the Director's appointments on record.

**Next meeting date: April 21st**

**ADJOURNMENT**

**2025-3-7 DeBlock made the Motion, seconded by Cheney, to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 AM. All in favor.**

Minutes Prepared By:

Emily King, Secretary to the Board

March, 2025

**Wallkill Flood Projects –**

P4S – Still trying to satisfy preparations for closing on easement purchase.

**Floodplain Bench Phase 4 North**

Final payment is on Bills for this month, no other activity. Participant inquired about a ‘rental payment’ for cropland that was unavailable last year as a result of project activity. We do have precedent on these payments from previous phases of the project.

**Other Flood Control Items**

**Celery Avenue ledge lowering project** – Nothing from DEC on permit status. Discussed at meeting of Wallkill FFCP partners. A grant opportunity through NYS DOS was mentioned. I reached out to County Grants Division to ask if they could help coordinate an application. They indicated they are working on a number of grant applications but would get back to me when they are caught up. I have reviewed both offerings. In my opinion, one is not viable due to lack of a Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan. The other may be viable, though it appears to emphasize ‘natural’ solutions – the Ledge project may not score well in this regard. A special appropriation by the County, as was done for P4N would by far be the most efficient means for completing the project in my opinion. A meeting has been scheduled for 3/25 with county DPW, Planning and grants division to discuss further.

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

**AEM Round 18** –Two of the ‘Tier 4 Implementation’ projects with funding through AEM 18 started without any notification to our office (Construction Plans clearly state on front page that we must be notified two days before construction begins). I visited both sites and the work done was significantly different from what the Construction Plan called for. In addition, we were not able to observe underground work such as concrete base prep or pipe installation method. I will discuss these projects further at the Board meeting.

**CRF Round 7** - We have submitted a Claim for Payment on the Crist Bros. Orchards project for which we have already paid out a significant amount of the scheduled grant funding. Shuback Sod Farm has ordered the boom irrigation equipment that will be cost-shared through their grant. Advance payments received on Wright Family Farm irrigation project and Shuback project.

**‘Sign Offs’ on Soil Health Practices** –No real updates from last month.

**Revision of Wallkill Maintenance Agreement** –we have requested an update on new procedures for disbursement of funds, per 1/22 meeting with County, but have not received any information. Contractor has been working and we can expect billing soon. We do not know if we need to follow previous reimbursement procedures or if funds will be transferred to us in entirety.

**Roller Crimper Project Update** -The 10 foot R/C purchased partially with CRF Round 6 funds was picked up by Phil Johnson. He would like to use it in place of a brush hog on some of his rented fields. I will discuss further at Board meeting.

**The AgNPS Round 29** – No recent project activity.

**AgNPS Round 27** – Time extension approved, additional payment received.

**AgNPS Round 30** – Walkkill proposal was submitted with two projects – Ownes Fuel Storage and Callisto Chem Mixing Facility. Simpson Compost Bedded Pack Barn proposal was not submitted due to failure of farm to supply Commitment Form.

### **Other Items**

Gas Purchase From Wawayanda – No updates from last month.

**PDR**– I mentioned the idea of ‘regional farmland block’ projects at the WMA meeting with Town Supervisors. No further updates to report.

**Possible Collaboration with Walkkill River National Wildlife Refuge** – no updates from last month, other than short discussion at WMA meeting, where outreach to Pat Ryan’s office was suggested.

**DWSP2** – I am continuing to participate on the Town of Montgomery and Village of Warwick Drinking Water Source Protection plan committees. Warwick’s consultants are interested in developing a ‘regional’ (county) strategy that sunnarizes SWCD programs/assistance, including road salt management, and have requested my assistance. I met with them via zoom on 3/29. Will report further at board meeting.

### **Equipment Planning**

**Skoufis Equipment Funding** – This funding is to come through Empire State Development. It is a reimbursement program, and wait time for reimbursement can be 3 to 6 months. This presents a potential cash flow issue for us which I would like to discuss further at the Board meeting.

CIG grant is in limbo...

From Blanche:

Hi Kevin,

Please see the 2024 NYACD assessments attached to this email. It is the April finances, but if you go to the last few pages

you will find the funds listed by counties. All this information can be found on our website [www.nyacd.org](http://www.nyacd.org) as well.

I do know that historically that the Association of Towns and Counites communicate their support of SWCD's at the state level. I do know that many SWCD's work with their counties and state highway departments on projects and have gathered great support.

**Emily King**

**Secretary to the Board Update**

**3/24/25**

Following February's meeting, I reached out to the former office manager, Sue Cabrera, to provide her with a update of her remaining monthly contributions towards her health insurance for 2025.

I organized files from 2024 and created new folders, etc. in anticipation of 2025. I was able to dedicate a good amount of time to this project and sorted through duplicates to make more space in the filing cabinets.

Additionally, I spoke with Sumner & Held and we determined which politicians we wanted to send the District's 2024 Annual Report to. We decided to send the 2024 Annual Report to the following individuals; Congressman Ryan, Congressman Riley, Assemblymember Kay, Assemblymember Brabenec, Assemblymember Eachus, Assemblymember Maher, Senator Skoufis, Senator Rolinson, and Governor Hochul. I enclosed a cover letter with each mailing with an explanation of the District's mission and gratitude for the support we receive them.

The Hartford, which provides the District' workers compensation insurance, calls for a yearly insurance audit from the District. I compiled the needed information, including employee payroll reports, IRS 941 forms for 2024, and our subcontractor certificates of workman's comp. I emailed our insurance agent when clarification was needed and completed the insurance well before the due date on 3/4. The purpose of the insurance audit is to help the Hartford determine the District's insurance premium adjustment.

I have been helping Sumner with updating the conservation easements and TP-584 forms for the four parcels associated with the Phase 4 South project. I am waiting to speak with Rich Hoyt to discuss a few questions I have regarding some of his edits to the aforementioned documents.

Back in January, I contacted Gina Scott from the Department of Public Works to find out if she heard from her supervisor, Melinda Bender, regarding the District's questions about our Wallkill Maintenance account. Gina responded, but I have not been provided with an answer yet from Melinda. I want to find out what the current balance of the Wallkill maintenance account is. Additionally, Kevin and I want to know when the District can expect the 2025 payments from the four towns/partners. The last communication I had with Gina & Melinda was on 2/25.

I emailed the approved CFPs for the District's 2024 Part C funding, for District expenses charged to CRF Rnd 6, for the 65% advance payment for projects in Ag NPS Rnd 27, and for CRF Rnd 7 Crist Bros to the accounts payable department in the State's Business Service Center. As of the BOD meeting, the District has received funding for the 2024 Part C, the 25% & 65% payment for both the Wright & Shuback projects in CRF Round 7, the AEM Round 18 interim report for technical assistance, and the 65% payment for the Vellenga & Soudant projects in Ag NPS Round 27. The funding that the District received in March will be reflected in the dedicated fund summary for March's financial report.

I prepared and submitted the District's yearly NYS Sales Tax for the filing period, 3/1/24-2/28/25.

Held & I attended the Water Quality Symposium in Rochester from 3/11-3/14. I really enjoyed the courses I took and learned a lot of valuable information. Such information pertains to NYS Retirement, audits performed by the Office of the State Comptroller, improving the District's website, distribution of newsletters, etc. Thank you again to the Board of Directors for allowing Held & I to attend the Symposium.

I uploaded the new soil group worksheet form to the District's website after March 1st. This form indicates the new worksheet price of \$100 per parcel. I have helped a few customers when they come to pick up their finished worksheet. I collected the necessary information, emailed the form to the callers, and shared it with Mary to assist her in the process.

Lastly, I updated the various grant ledgers, as well as the receipts, disbursements, and payroll Excel spreadsheet. I updated the online bank accounts to reflect the total listed on February's dedicated fund summary.

As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you!

Best,

Emily

## OCSWCD Technician Update

Mary C. Held

3/21/2025

Soil Group Worksheet requests have mostly slowed down.

We got results back from the County about the civil service exam. Thankfully, I passed that one.

Emily and I attended the Water Quality Symposium last week. We were gone from Tuesday to Friday and attended classes during the day. The classes that were offered were very informative and definitely helped to broaden my knowledge of SWCD technical duties. The resources I got to use from each of the instructors were all very helpful and I hope to continue using the connections I made well into my career here.

As a reminder, at the last meeting the Board of Directors approved my attendance to the CNMP training in Ithaca in April, from April 1<sup>st</sup> to the 3<sup>rd</sup> now. Originally, it had been from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>, but due to the lack of enrollment, the length of training was shortened to three days. To further remind the Board, the course itself is free of charge, but meals, lodging, and travel would have to be picked up by the SWCD.

I have been helping to develop a monitoring plan and work plan for Phase 2 North on the Wallkill River. I have been developing a re-planting list of potential species from Pine Lands Nursery and coming up with a casual timeline of when we'd like to install the monitoring wells on the delineated wetlands as well as re-planting and re-vegetating the areas.

### **Equipment:**

#### *Roller Crimper Demo Project:*

Phil Johnson picked up the Roller Crimper. As a reminder, these are the farms interested in utilizing the Roller Crimper as a demonstration project:

O'Dell, Mike

Rowe, Chuck

Ronne, Alex

Conklin, Sue: will crimp if CC germinates in spring

Touw, Jason: will crimp if CC germinates in spring

Johnson, Phil: will crimp if CC germinates in spring

### **LCSP:**

I have had one farmer reach out to ask if there's any reimbursement opportunities available for crop residue management. Another farmer reached out to ask about cover crop reimbursement for this fall. I told them I'd bring it up with Kevin and the Board to discuss the Local Cost Sharing Budget for the year.

## **CRF Update:**

### Round 6:

Currently working on running RUSLE2 for the round 6 farmers. I'm getting re-acquainted with the software.

### Payments (RECAP FROM LAST BOARD MEETING):

Russell Smiley: \$1,706.05

Alex Kocot: \$10,441.15

Phil Johnson: --

Jason Touw: \$1,701.70

Bob Stap: \$1,152.90

Total CRF6 **2024**: \$15,001.80

No further updates.

Round 7: No updates from the technician.

## **AGNPS Update:**

Round 27: Contract End Date: March 2025

- Gathering tank quotes for Weiboldt project.

Round 29:

- No update.

Round 30:

- Feb 24<sup>th</sup>: AGNPS 30 was submitted. The following projects were submitted:
  - o Michele Callisto (mixing facility)
  - o Tom Owens (fuel tank storage)

## **AEM Update:**

*Round 18 Tier 4 Projects:*

Joe Minkus: Has mobilized but not necessarily in accordance with the plan. Phone call on 3/21/2025 indicated that he is comfortable with dropping the project and allowing SWCD to re-allocate the funds elsewhere.

Steven Demberg: Indicated that he has collected quotes and velocity readings and wants to send them over email, but has not yet.

Rick Minkus, Mark Hoyt, Pete Ewanciw, and Devon Simpson are more on Kevin's radar.

AEM Activities:

- Tier 2s in progress or about to begin progress on
  - o Alex Ronne
  - o Brian Jay
  - o Potentially Orion Blake – waiting to hear back in terms of project idea
- Tier 3s planned
  - o Alex Ronne (potential grazing plan and/or manure storage)