

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 20, 2017

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:07 AM. Directors J. Wright, P. DeBlock and P. Ruskiewicz were present, along with K. Sumner and C. DeGroot (OCSWCD).

2017-3-1 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to approve the February's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS - None

CORRESPONDENCE

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- The Agenda for March's Ag and Farmland Protection Board Meeting and Draft February Minutes were available for review.
- A Time Extension Request for Ag NPS RD 18 needs to be notarized.
- A letter from the Orange County Planning Department was received. They are requesting information for the County's MS4 Annual Report. We do not have much to offer them since we no longer have an education coordinator but we will send them what we have.
- Additional correspondence will be reviewed under "OLD BUSINESS".

FINANCIAL REPORTS

(R. Baglia/CCE joined the Meeting at 9:15 AM)

- Sumner mentioned that the District did qualify for the Performance Measures Part C money. We will be receiving approx. \$92,000.00. It will have to be spent this year. Previous discussions mentioned using it towards the Wallkill Flood Project.
- **2017-3-2 DeBlock moved to file the February 2017 Financial Report for audit review, Ruskiewicz seconded. All in favor.**
- N. Meyer's 1st quarter 2017 IRA payment was discussed. The Board approved paying the full 1st quarter payment.
- **2017-3-3 Wright made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid. All in favor.**

(G. Keeton joined the Meeting at 9:25 AM)

STAFF REPORTS

- DeGrootd
 - Has been working on the AG NPS Round 23 Grant Proposals.
 - Working on Soil Group Worksheets as they come in.
 - Worked with auditors on March 2nd.
- Sumner
 - The Wallkill Flood Committee meeting was postponed last week due to the snow storm. The meeting will now be held this Thursday the 23rd.

(J. Heller/NRCS joined the Meeting at 9:31 AM)

- Sumner interviewed someone for the District Technician position last Friday. The person will not be out of school until May. No action taken.
- Working on the Ag NPS Round 23 Proposals. Their due date is March 31st. Resolutions were presented to the Board for both the Moodna and the Wallkill proposals. Sumner reviewed each participant's practices that were put into the proposals with the Board.
- **2017-3-4 Keeton moved to approve the Wallkill RD 23 Resolution, Ruskiewicz seconded. DeBlock aye, Ruskiewicz aye, Keeton aye, J. Wright abstained. 2017-3-5 DeBlock moved to approve the Moodna RD 23 Resolution, Keeton seconded. Ruskiewicz aye, Wright aye, DeBlock aye, Keeton aye.**
- A letter was sent out to landowners and farmers benefitting from the Draper Ditch Group Drainage Outlet. The ditch is in poor condition and is in need of repair/replacement. Based on responses to this letter, the District will try to assist in the coordination of a replacement plan for this culvert crossing. So far only one response was received.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- R. Baglia – Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - The Dairy/Livestock Day & Trade Show is on March 22nd at the Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Center in Middletown, NY from 10-2.
 - Winter Dairy Management was held on March 10th from 10-3 at CCE.
 - The first 2017 Stormwater Management Training Series training is on March 21st from 8:00-4:30
 - The Livestock Summit will be on March 30th.
- J. Heller – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Three new farms in Warwick are enrolled in the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program.
 - Heller offered to do a Civil Rights Training for the District. He requested it be put on one of the District's Agendas.
- P. DeBlock reported that the Farm Service Agency has an Organic Certification Cost Share Program (OCCSP) that provides cost share assistance to producers and handlers of ag products who are obtaining or renewing their certification under the National Organic Program. Certified operations may receive up to 75% of their certification costs paid during Oct. 1, 2016 through Sept. 30, 2017 not to exceed \$750 per certification.

(J. Heller left the Meeting at 10:05 AM)

OLD BUSINESS

- Wallkill Flood Project update
 - During last month's Board Meeting Sumner received word that CFI was working out at the project site despite being directed to suspend work. Sumner went out to the job site after the meeting. By the time he got there, they had stopped working, but they continued working throughout the morning even after a call from the Engineer reiterating the directive to stop. Subsequently, CFI moved their equipment from the site to a nearby location. We received notice that their insurance was going to lapse due to non-payment and would expire 3/20/17. We have not yet received notice that their insurance has been reinstated. Sumner had a field meeting (walk through of remaining work) with CFI and the Engineer on 3/1. Little agreement was reached on the scope and extent of remaining work that should be completed as part of the original contract. During that meeting the Engineer promised CFI that they would get a payment certification the next day. The District has since requested reimbursement from the Housing Trust Fund for CFI's fourth payment and has been advised by HTF that we will not see this money for 7-10 business

days. CFI had requested more, but the amount was adjusted by the Engineer due to lack of completion on projects. Sumner took survey shots at the site to confirm that the new access road was not constructed in compliance with the Engineer's instructions. As the soil stockpile area has begun to dry out, the amount of clay left behind from the stockpiles has become more apparent. An 'exit plan' proposal was sent to CFI on 3/17.

- Phase II and Celery Avenue plans are in B&L's court. Sumner has provided them with addendum materials for both projects he has asked to be incorporated in the plans. We are waiting for the package for Celery Avenue so we can put it out to bid, and waiting for the Bench Phase 2 plans so that written contractor proposals can be sought. Sumner told the Board he expects the turbidity control on the Celery Avenue project to be equal to or greater than the cost of the actual rock removal. The outstanding Goshen permit was discussed. Sumner recently asked the County attorney's office to follow up on their previous inquiry to the Town to determine the status of the permit.
- We have a proposal in hand from Donald Stedge for \$3,500.00 for a boundary survey of the Ford and Barron Fields parcels that are involved with the Bench Phase 1 area. Stedge surveyed these boundaries when he did the earlier Conservation Easement survey work for us, but did not include the entire parent parcel boundaries in the surveys he provided. Our consultants, Lehman and Getz, who are handling the Phase 1 subdivision advised us that the Town will require the complete boundary survey. The \$3,500 fee is to provide the enhanced survey maps as required by the Town. Sumner will authorize Stedge to proceed with the work. One of the reasons we have delayed in making this authorization is because it is still unclear who the owner of the easement area will be. Stedge and Getz have both opined that we can proceed with the subdivision in advance of a final decision on ownership. There has been discussion with some County officials on the County taking ownership of the property, but these discussions have not been encouraging so far. Sumner will write to the County Executive and cc the Chairman of the Legislature to formally request their consideration of taking ownership.

NEW BUSINESS

- Dam removal project – Christopher Eachus, who owns Browns Pond Lake in the Town of Hamptonburgh, requested that the District sponsor a grant proposal for him to remove the dam on this lake. Chazen has agreed to take the lead on writing the proposal. **2017-3-6 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, seconded by Keeton for the District to sponsor and submit the Dam Removal Proposal. All in favor.**

(R. Baglia left the Meeting at 11:02 AM)

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, April 17, 2017 at 9:00 AM.**

2017-3-7 Meeting adjourns at 11:03 AM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Wright. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot, Secretary to the Board