

**MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**May 15, 2017**

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Vice-Chairman at 9:07 AM. Directors G. Keeton and P. Ruskiewicz were present, along with K. Sumner, N. Meyer and C. DeGroot (OCSWCD).

**ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS - None**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- Letter from B&L to Luci Fernandez, CFI re: Wallkill River Floodplain Bench Phase 1 contract termination.
- Letter to CFI's attorney from our attorney re: contract termination. On May 10, 2017 information was sent to Surety that holds CFI's bonds notifying them that CFI has not performed all work required under the contract. The District received a request for more information from them. Sumner has not yet discussed their response with our attorney or B&L.

**STAFF REPORTS**

- DeGroot
  - Participated in the Monhagen Brook Stream Cleanup on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
  - Worked on soil group worksheets.
  - Worked with auditor on April 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Meyer
  - Worked on the Monhagen Brook Stream Walk (which is halfway complete) and continued to work on phosphorous sampling. Results came back on the sampling. At the time samples were taken the brook was in high flow stage. Results were all within safe levels. Another sampling is scheduled for next week.
  - Trees for Tribes planting was April 29<sup>th</sup> at the Monhagen School.
  - No till equipment rental requests are coming in.
  - The Wallkill Maintenance Spring Inspection was April 18<sup>th</sup>. 15-20 issues were identified.

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

(M. Kemnitz joined the meeting at 9:16 AM)

- Sumner
  - Sumner co-presented a 4-hour Erosion & Sediment Control training on May 9<sup>th</sup> with J. Wedemeyer from Ulster County SWCD for the Local 17 Laborers Union.
  - We received a few resumes in response to the District Technician Vacancy ad that was placed. Sumner may schedule a few interviews.
  - An Envirothon Invoice was sent to the District - The Envirothon Committee said that schools are not supposed to pay the fee to participate. They are supposed to work through their local District SWCD. Jason Touw, Warwick High School's coordinator failed to notify the District prior to enrolling. Discussion followed. The Board decided to budget for the Envirothon in 2018 but are not inclined to pay the fee for 2017 since it was not budgeted for in 2017. Director Keeton stated that if he is needed, he will volunteer some time to assist with the Envirothon.
  - Bob Somers, NYS Dept. of Ag & Markets, contacted the District regarding Maplewood Warmbloods, a horse boarding, breeding and training center located in Middletown, NY. Maplewood is taking a significant amount of fill. The NYS DEC has made several visits and found it satisfactory. The Town is saying they need a permit. Sumner told Somers that the work appears to be taking place in a flood plain along the Wallkill River. Maplewood has not yet contacted the District.

(P. DeBlock joined the meeting at 9:35 AM)

**2017-5-1 DeBlock made the Motion, Ruszkiewicz seconded, to approve April's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.**

#### **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

- A bill from R. Hoyt was added to the Bills for Board Approval in the amount of \$1,526.25. Two bills from Dean Ford & Sons Dairy Farm were also included on the list in the amounts of \$16,825.00 and \$3,300.00. Both for work completed on the Wallkill Flood Project. **2017-5-2 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid but to not pay the Ford bills until we receive reimbursement from HTF or 30 days elapses. All in favor.**

#### **INTERAGENCY REPORTS**

- R. Baglia – Cornell Cooperative Extension
  - Constructed Wetlands for Stormwater Management is on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 8-4:30 at CCE.
  - The New Blue II – Stormwater S&SC and the New Design Manual is on Wednesday, June 21, 2017.
- J. Heller – Natural Resources Conservation Service
  - Was not in attendance. A packet of NRCS updates that Heller prepared was passed out. The application sign-up deadline for 2018 EQIP is June 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - Agricultural Management Assistance Program 2017 High Tunnel Initiative – four high tunnel applications are pre-approved for funding in Orange County.
  - M. Bittner to be at training from June 5-June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
  - Information on the FSA, NRCS and RMA Farm Production and Conservation mission area passed out.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Wallkill Flood Project update
  - The Wallkill Flood Project Phase I is moving steadily forward. Work is being split between multiple contractors. Sumner showed photos of work area. Our Attorney, R. Hoyt, suggested to B&L that they ask for a certified payroll from CFI's subcontractors. They should have been paying prevailing wages.
  - Sumner has not heard back from the County of Orange regarding taking ownership of the conservation easement area.
  - Sumner mentioned that M&M Produce Farms wanted the soil that was excavated by CFI, but according to M&M CFI never contacted them.
  - Celery Ave – Town of Goshen permit review fees were paid. They replied saying that they will be working on the paperwork soon.
  - Sumner mentioned there is approx. \$200,000.00 remaining from the \$2 million Flood Project grant.
  - Phase II is moving along. Plans were sent to two farmers and they are getting written proposals.
- The proposal for the Dam removal project at Browns Pond Lake went in. No news to report on this.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

- None

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, June 19, 2017 at 9:00 AM.**

**2017-5-3 Meeting adjourns at 10:06 AM on a Motion by Keeton, seconded by Kimnetz. All in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot, Secretary to the Board