

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 16th, 2013

The Meeting was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:28 AM. Directors T. Pahucki, J. Wright and M. Pillmeier, David Hulle & Garry Keeton were present, along with K. Sumner and K. Brown (OCSWCD), R. Baglia (CCE).

CORRESPONDENCE – The National Association of Conservation District (NACD) sent the District an Invoice for 2013 Membership Dues. No Motion was made.

A bill from the auditor came along with the auditor's report. The report books were passed around to each director to be discussed at the next board meeting. Pahucki motioned to pay the bill, Keeton seconded, all in favor. The report will be voted on at the next meeting.

The Ag and Farmland Protection Board Meeting Agenda and MINUTES were passed around. There was some discussion on the minutes as regards to the Wallkill work and some inaccuracies with regard to mapping work that the minutes indicated the staff was doing. Sumner stated he would also attend the next meeting along with Wright.

Also noted that Wright received a phone call from Chris Pawelski, an onion grower in the muck, disgruntled about the way he voted for the engineering firm. Wright wanted to notify the board of this growers actions and what was said.

The **Financial Reports** for March were approved by Pahucki, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.

SWCD STAFF REPORTS

K. Brown (SWCD) – The seeders are out and currently in use. She reported to the board that last year there was a building that collapsed on top of the new seeder at the Slezinski farm. Subsequently the insurance paid for a new back box for the seeder as well as a new piston on the one side. She noted to the board that in addition to that damage there was also a seeding unit that was broken off the machine. According to the dealer this was due to improper use of the seeder not due to wear and tear. After she spoke with the chairman it was decided that the Slezinski farm will pay half of the bill to repair the unit to original state. In addition to this issue it was discussed the line item on the financial report for the no-till rentals. Brown stated that the seeders have only been out in full swing in the last two weeks so it would not be shown on last month's financial statement.

Brown also attended the meeting with Sumner at the Pine Island Fire House with B & L along with the Wallkill Flood Control Advisory group to further pin point the work scope for the contract with B & L.

On April 9th she helped Sumner and CCE with the 4 hour contractor training course at the E-911 center.

On April 11th Brown attended a stream training in Dutchess Co on channel designs and some flood mitigation work.

In addition she has been helping with the tree & shrub re-packing and distribution day on 4/13 at the Bergin farm.

K. Sumner (SWCD) - Stated he has completed two- 4 hr contractor training courses. One was held at a hotel in Newburg, for the Local 17 labors union with the other held at the E-911 center with a special thanks to Mike Pillmeier for getting us the room. There were 117 people signed up and paid for. SWCD received \$75.00 per person while CCE got \$20.00.

The G.I. grant received for Steward Ave has had some traction as well. The plan set is complete and signed off on from Lehman & Getz and is now in Baglia's hands to get the final approval from the county.

Bastek Issue: Sumner received a call from NYS Ag & Markets stating on April 30th there is a meeting at the farm and asking him to attend with survey equipment.

As for the agricultural grant work there is pending construction at George Vellengas for Stream bank work on the Rutgers Creek as well as a concrete spreader pad to be done at Garry Gibbs soon.

R. Baglia (CCE) – Was very happy with the attendance at the 4-hr contractors course. She stated she did not get to attend the stream training as they had another storm-water course that day with 30 attendees.

Ray Range is working with the vegetable producers doing some soil sampling to check for agronomic practices needed.

Discussion then took place on the conservation field days. Baglia would like a meeting between SWCD, CCE and Ed Helbig of the OC Water Authority to re-determine the focus of the field days. Sumner stated there needs to be some financial backing for the program and thinks there may be support from the private sector community.

Discussion followed on the OC 4-H park location and hang ups.

OLD BUSINESS – District Policies – Were postponed until the May meeting due to impeding agenda topics with time allowances, for other agenda topics.

Update on the Wallkill Maintenance Work: Sumner stated we have come to an agreement with the OC law dept and have an RFP out for distribution. Pahucki stated he saw it in the paper. Sumner further reported that we are at the end for the formal questions period. He anticipates that we will have a new contractor list before the inspection report is out.

Update on the 2013 Wallkill Flood Control Program: We had a meeting with B & L on April 8th, 2013 at the Pine Island Fire House. Ideas were discussed by each of the advisory board with the B & L reps to narrow down the work scope. It was decided that B & L would do a prelim screening of all projects first and narrow down the list to projects that are believed to have the highest benefits for construction later. This was followed by a discussion on what projects were in the scope. It was motioned by Pahucki to approve the document as presented, seconded by Pillmeier, all in favor. This was followed by discussion on Annie Rabbit's request. It was decided we would respond to her initial request via a letter as to what the current progress is.

Pahucki also reported he got a call from John Sullivan from the Times Herold Record. Sullivan said he is looking at the Flood Control Project with regards to the impacts it has on the OC landfill with the leachate from the landfill getting into the river. Pahucki stated that DEC is currently testing the river and the ooze from the landfill. Pillmieier will ask the Commissioner Pete Hammond for a report. Sumner reminded the board that whatever we do with the flood control money, we will also look at downstream impacts to ensure no negative impacts are occurring.

As for the technician vacancy: Sumner stated that he was holding off until the work flow pressure releases. This was followed by discussion on the applicants.

NEW BUSINESS – Sumner reported that we did achieve the AG NPSAP Rd 19 grant. This was followed by him reading all of the projects with the landowners and amounts to the board. It was followed by the chair signing the landowner contracts.

The **NEXT MEETING** is scheduled for Monday, May20th 2013 at 9:30 AM. The **MEETING** was adjourned at 10:45AM, motion by Pahucki with a second by Keeton, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Brown
District Technician