

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 27th, 2025

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:09 AM. Directors J. Wright, P. Ruskiewicz, G. Constable, B. Cheney, and P. DeBlock were present along with K. Sumner (SWCD), M. Held (SWCD), and E. King (SWCD).

2025-10-1 DeBlock made the Motion, Cheney seconded, to approve September’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
- Region 5 Monthly SWCC Report from Ben Luskin
- NYS Department of State: Tentative Funding Award for Celery Ave
- Ag & Markets: SWCC Regional Coordinator & Regional Boundaries Updates
- Senator James Skoufis: Response to District’s Tier 6 Letter
- OC Dept of HR: Updates to NY HELPS Local Program
- National Association of Conservation Districts: Conservation Investment Request
- The Empire State Granger: Sept/Oct ’25 Edition
- Nuggets & Nibbles: Summer ’25 Issue
- Town of Montgomery: Notice of Violation to Miller Farm CE
- Shawn Hoffman RE: Goshen Permits for Celery Ledge Project (Lanc & Tully Engineering)
 - The District previously thought that only a floodplain development permit, but learned that we may need a clearing & grading permit and may also need site plan approval from the Planning Board. Whether the District will receive a floodplain development permit has yet to be determined.
- Barton & Loguidice Letter to Frank Leva (Building Inspector for Town of Goshen)

CORRESPONDENCE OUTGOING FROM OCSWCD

- Memorandum to Town of Goshen RE: Celery Ave Ledge Lowering Project
 - On 10/10/25, the District sent a letter to the Town of Goshen requesting exemptions to the additional permits & fees given that it is an agricultural project and addressing other questions from

the Town's consulting engineer. Sumner noted that the project's disturbance levels are below the limits that require a project to be reviewed by the planning board.

- Sumner has been in contact with Wawayanda's consulting engineer and provided the construction plan to him. He assured Sumner that the permit approval will not take long. However, the District has not heard from the Town of Wawayanda yet on the status of the permit. The District would appreciate any assistance that the Board can provide with this matter. Sumner is reluctant to issue request for proposals since we do not have the funding or permits. Per Sumner, the B&L documents for the Ledge project do not specify how many days the Board has to award the contract.

FINANCIAL REPORTS- King explained that the September '25 financial report looks different since it was generated using QuickBooks Online. King is working closely with a C.P.A. at D&A accounting firm in Goshen. King noted that the codes used for each entry are essentially the same and that obsolete codes were removed. King will continue to populate the District's dedicated fund summary, DFS, document and add a more detailed account of the District's current cash contribution to each grant. King reported that in September there were no significant purchases or deposits. There is a positive unobligated fund balance of \$187.52. Sumner intends to take a step back with the monthly budget preparation and instead elaborate to King how he has historically approached budgeting. The District is still waiting on the remaining Carbon Farming Project funding that the State has yet to pay out.

2025-10-2 Constable made the Motion, Ruszkiewicz seconded, to file September's Financial Reports for audit review. All in favor.

Dedicated Fund Summary Transfers- Sumner recommended that the Board allocate funds from the 2025 Part C Performance Measure, \$231,280.46, to certain projects. There is still \$56,384.45 in the 2024 Part C fund which Sumner recommends transferring to the District's Equipment Replacement Fund to cover upcoming truck purchase. Regarding the Bastek easement payments, Sumner received an email from Bastek's accountant who reported that the Bastek's would like a payment by the end of 2025. They are requesting a 1/5th of the full easement purchase price per previous agreements. The total easement purchase amount is \$84,525. Sumner suggests that the District assign two years' worth of easement payments, \$34k, to a line dedicated to the Bastek easement purchase on the DFS, drawing these funds from the 2025 Part C line. Then in 2026, the District can assign more funds to this account using the 2026 Part C money. Since the District committed \$50k from local funds to the Celery Ave Ledge Lowering project in the DOS application, Sumner recommends adding a new line to the DFS for the Celery Ave project, again drawing the funds from 2025 Part C. After these transfers, the 2025 Part C account totals ~\$147k. Based on the assumption that the Board will increase the total LCSP funding amount to accommodate for the cover crop signups and completions, Sumner suggests taking \$20k from the 2025 Part C to the LCSP. Lastly Sumner prepared a summary of projects that may or may not happen and estimated the funding that the District will be providing from local funds. This entry of \$86k would be labeled cash contributions from the District to farm projects and would cover funding expenses for next year. After all these transfers, the remaining balance in the 2025 Part C account is \$41,280.

2025-10-3 Cheney made the Motion, Ruszkiewicz seconded, to approve the suggested transfers to the DFS presented by Sumner. All in favor.

BILLS FOR BOARD APPROVAL

2025-10-4 Cheney made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to pay the bills as presented. All in favor.

CONTRACT REPORT UPDATE- Per usual, the updates to the report are highlighted in red ink. Sumner still needs to update payments for individual farms on the report.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

CCE: Schellenberg was not in attendance at the meeting, but Sumner relayed that Schellenberg continues to work with participants in the Conservation Innovation Grant. Sumner does not know how the federal government shutdown is affecting the progression of the grant. Schellenberg asked Sumner what insurance would be required if CCE wanted to help move the no-till equipment using our vehicles. Sumner wants to be cooperative, but is hesitant to allow them to use our vehicles. The District can look further into hiring someone to move equipment or speak with O'Dell about moving equipment.

There were no representatives from SWCC, NRCS, FSA, 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)-

EnviroScape Watershed Model- The District cannot locate our EnviroScape watershed model, which was last used by Schellenberg. CCE cannot find it either, which leaves the District with the question of whether to purchase a new one. Per Held, the cost to replace our previous model is \$1,500. Held estimates that a newer model, such as the EmRiver EM3 model costs \$2k, but she is waiting on confirmation from the company regarding the price. Sumner acknowledged that the District has not been doing much environmental education since the Conservation District Educator left. Sumner recommends that if the District were to replace the model, we would need to make a conscious effort to use it. King & Held both stated that they are agreeable to work the occasional Saturday to attend an event that will showcase the model. DeBlock proposed that the District purchase the EmRiver EM3 model and have CCE cover the cost of our former model which is \$1,500 and the District cover the remaining cost. The Board instructed Held to discuss this matter with Schellenberg informally and report back.

Esch 2023 Seeder- The Esch seeder began sinking which made it very difficult for road transport, but Sumner spoke with the District's mechanic about a solution. The Esch does not have any travel locks for road travel, so O'Dell will fabricate a lock for the Esch.

Local Cost Share Program - Held provided the Board with an updated list of farmers who are interested in receiving cover crop reimbursement through the LCSP. The District received four additional requests since allocating the \$50k to the LCSP. The District is asking the Board to increase the budget to \$70k to accommodate for the 100-acre cap for the new additions. Per Held, the projected total costs for locally cost-shared cover crop projects after these additions is \$66k. Held has a summary of the current plantings and payments that will be made this month. Per Held, these plantings have been verified by the District. Sumner would like to suggest discussing whether the Board would like to increase the 100-acre cap at November's meeting.

2025-10-5 DeBlock made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, to increase the allocation from \$50k to \$70k for the LCSP. All in favor.

CRF Round 6- Held supplied the Board with a breakdown of the allocated funds versus the paid and remaining funds. Held explained that funds can be moved between farmers in the CRF Round 6 which is normally not allowed. The District is proposing to move the funding from the LCSP into CRF6 to cover their cover crop payments. Once NRCS returns to the office, Held will have them review her RUSLE runs and receive approval so that the District can avoid repaying the State for the cover crop payments made through CRF6.

CRF Round 9- The applications for CRF Rnd 9 are due by 11/17/25. Held is working on the CRF Rnd 9 application for Jessy Raap's composted bedded pack barn. Sumner is working on an application as well for Pine Island Turf Nursery. Lain would like to buy the same irrigation equipment that Kevin Shuback purchased, which currently costs \$110k. Sumner is considering a future group irrigation project for growers in the Blackdirt which would allow for statewide

recognition of the region and opportunities to support agriculture. Sumner discussed that the District could contribute cash money for these competitive grants which increases the District's application ranking. Typically, the District's applications call for a 75% contribution from the State & 25% from the landowner. Sumner asked the Board whether they want the District to contribute any local match to the Raap and Lain projects or keep the standard breakdown. If the District does not contribute money, then the breakdown would be 80% maximum from the State & 20% minimum from the LO. Sumner confirmed with the Lain that he is agreeable to a 30% contribution. Due to varying factors, the District does not have a solid number for Raap's project cost, but Sumner estimates it will be upwards of \$200-250k. Sumner does not know if Raap is prepared to make the full 25% contribution. The District will receive \$230k next year in funding from 2026 Part C. Sumner noted that the projects in CRF Round 7 were selected for funding and the District contributed a local match. Sumner feels that the Board should consider whether the District invests more time into green infrastructure and helps municipalities in the future. Sumner proposed the District supply a 15% contribution for the District and reduce both the State and LO contribution. Cheney thinks that each project should be looked at closely to determine the District's contribution.

2025-10-6 Wright made the Motion, Cheney seconded, for the District to make a local contribution to the projects in the CRF Round 9 project applications. All in favor.

Staff propose cancelling the project funding for Stephen Demberg since there were no animals on the farm and the State advised against applying for management practice when there is no livestock present. The District sent Demberg a letter to this effect. In place of Demberg's project, the District is proposing a project for Royal Acres Farm who is up to date on their AEM Tier 3.

Held registered for three CCA exams that are scheduled in November.

District Vehicle Purchase- Held sent out a request for proposal to local dealerships, but did not receive any acceptable offers. As a result, the District ordered the 2026 Chevy Silverado 3500 from G&H Auto Group Mohawk Chevy, which the Board previously approved. This total price is \$49,573.28, which includes delivery, and it should arrive by the end of December or mid January.

Pollinator Project- Held provided the Board with an application she drafted for a pollinator habitat & species establishment project. Held prepared a mock budget for a ½ acre pollinator field for each participant. A farmer that the District is familiar with is ready to move forward with the project. Held would like to participate in the pollinator program as a landowner. Held explained that the participants would use a pollinator blend, which includes 20-30 native grasses & flowers. Held noted that determining the success of a pollinator garden is dependent on the number and variety of pollinators. Wright shared that his farm has reaped the benefits of their own pollinator garden, specifically for their pumpkin crop. Held requested \$10k for a demo round which includes 1-3 locations that are ready to start. Held estimates that for each ½ acre lot it would cost \$3k after considering the labor, tarping, materials, seeds, mulching, and seeder rental. The process includes terminating the growth on the field, tarping the ground for the winter, and seeding in the spring. DeBlock recommends doing a test round before opening it up to other LO & farmers. Constable suggested using silage plastic instead of a Uline tarp since it is more cost effective. Cheney suggested reaching out to other users to see how pollinator projects fare with use of hay as bedding.

2025-10-7 DeBlock made the Motion, Wright seconded, for the District to allocate \$6k for two pollinator demonstration project plots to be started this fall. All in favor.

E. King (SWCD)-

Spectrum Installation- King coordinated with both Spectrum & the District's IT provider to schedule the internet installation date on 10/14. However, due to a failure to communicate, the installation was postponed because the District needs to have RG6 coaxial cables installed to do so. There are other businesses in our building that have

ORANGE COUNTY SWCD OCTOBER 2025 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Spectrum which makes the installation easier once the cables are in place. King spoke with our landlord and requested that his electrician install the cables and to bill the District for his services. As of 10/24, King does not have any updates from the landlord, but she will touch base with him after the Board meeting. King scheduled a tentative installation date on 11/19 to secure the internet & phone package we were given.

NYS Sexual Harassment Prevention Training- King will share the NYS sexual harassment prevention training with the Board which needs to be done before the end of year.

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

AEM Round 18- Sumner reported that two construction projects started since the last Board meeting, Alex Ronne & Devin Simpson. Sumner expects that the District will use up the rest of the grant’s staff time allocation by the end of October. The District will continue to track their staff’s time chargeable to the AEM contract to determine how much more could have been earned. Sumner has a recommendation for the Board to substitute Royal Acres Farm for the Demberg project. Sumner confirmed with State Committee that there is no conflict of interest since King is not an owner on her family’s farm aka Royal Acres. The District is suggesting that the Board allocate Demberg’s project funds, which were \$18k, to Royal Acres’ road improvement project.

2025-10-8 DeBlock made the Motion, Constable seconded, to cancel the funding for the Demberg project. All in favor.

2025-10-9 Constable made the Motion, Wright seconded, to execute the resolution to add Royal Acres Farm to the AEM Tier 4 program. All in favor.

Walkkill Maintenance Agreement- The District met with the County on 10/1 to discuss the four town’s carry over funds & yearly predetermined allocation. The County attorney issued a revised amendment, but Sumner does not know the status of the four towns acting on the revised amendment. Sumner emailed the four town supervisors last week asking them to address the new amendment. Sumner feels that the District will not receive funding from the County until the amendment issue is resolved. The District will carry the balance of the contractor’s recent labor on the river project until the reimbursement is issued from the County. The District currently has an outstanding balance with the County of about \$35k. The four towns have not made their 2025 agreement contributions. The District is unaware of the total amount in the account since we do not have bookkeeping access to the river maintenance funds. In the future, Sumner anticipates that there will be a running fund in the account, which is dependent on whether the County or the District is managing the funds. Cheney acknowledges that there is confusion surrounding this issue. There were concerns about whether the municipalities will be able to make the 2025 payments. Cheney will talk to the County attorney about the language used in the amendment that indicates the four towns need not make the 2025 contributions to the flood project.

2025-10-10 Cheney made the Motion, Ruskiewicz seconded, that reaffirms that the yearly \$60k needs to be available for 2025 due to previous and ongoing projects per the Walkkill Maintenance Agreement. All in favor.

Ag NPS Round 27- Sumner is not in favor of pursuing a time extension for the Rnd 27 grant projects whose deadline is 3/1/26. The District received a final plan for a secondary fuel containment storage for Wieboldt’s project from B&L. Sumner is hopeful that this plan can be used for two farms in Rnd 27 that have essentially the same design and goal. Will Wieboldt is preparing a proposal for both Jason Soudant’s and Rich Wieboldt’s projects which hopefully will be close to the budget of \$22k. Ideally, the District can use the same plan, updated as necessary, and allow B&L to review it with the memo they prepared.

Skoufis Equipment Award- The State agency is still unaware as to whether Ag & Markets or Empire State Development is handling the award funds. Until a decision is made, the District cannot purchase the specified equipment.

Johnson Tire Bags- The District offered a program at least seven years ago that involved supplying farms with gravel bags to weigh down secure covers. Phil Johnson contacted the District asking whether the District can help cover the replacement cost for some gravel bags. Sumner prepared an estimate of \$550, plus shipping, for a package of 200 bags. The Board determined that these would be considered maintenance costs and should be carried by the farms that received the secure covers and gravel bags.

CRF Round 9

2025-10-11 DeBlock made the Motion, Ruszkiewicz seconded, to execute the CRF Round 9 resolutions for the Jessy Raap & Pine Island Turf Nursery grant proposals. All in favor.

NY MuniTrust- King has no updates to report on the discussion with the Senior Vice President at NY MuniTrust. King is waiting for an answer from her regarding an investment stipulation that the SVP needed to ask her Board. Cheney instructed King to contact him if she does not hear back from the SVP.

Employee Performance Appraisals- Sumner will present the employee performance appraisals at the November Board of Directors meeting.

Performance Measures- King and Held will inform the Board of eligible meetings that they may attend to satisfy a performance measure requirement. Overall, they have been making note of what the District has completed and what still needs to be done.

Next meeting date: November 24th.

ADJOURNMENT

2025-10-12 Ruszkiewicz made the Motion, Cheney seconded, to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 AM. All in favor.

Minutes Prepared By:

Emily King, Secretary to the Board

Report to Board KMS

October, 2025

Wallkill Flood Projects –

Floodplain Bench

Easements Status - We are still waiting for the Bastek partnership to provide details of the Partnership as requested in the Title work, before the Conservation Easement for Phase 4 North can proceed. I reminded the owners that we need this info to proceed.

Celery Avenue ledge lowering project – DEC and ACoE permits have been secured. NYSDOS grant award letter received, waiting for further instructions. All requested information has been provided to both Wawayanda and Goshen, awaiting their replies. Will report further at meeting. Although flow/weather conditions are still good for completing the project, with uncertainty of when funding will be available and outcome of Town permits, starting anytime soon seems unlikely.

Email from Goshen’s consultant and our reply are included in this month’s correspondence.

Carbon Farming Project – Still waiting on final payment of \$4,268.32 on Southway project.

AEM Round 18 –Simpson and Ronne projects are under construction. New project at Royal Acres farm to replace Demberg is on agenda for Board approval. Suggest that Board officially approve withdrawal of Demberg funding before approving Royal Acres project/Contract and resolution.

CRF Round 7 - We are working on collecting the information needed from Shuback and Crist to certify the Irrigation Water Management practice that is needed to satisfy funding requirements.

‘Sign Offs’ on Soil Health Practices –

Revision of Wallkill Maintenance Agreement –Still waiting on transfer of funds or reimbursement of expenses submitted months ago. Met with County departments on 10/1. Revised Maintenance Agreement Amendment sent to four towns by County Attorney’s office, status of acceptance/approval unknown. I contacted the 4 town supervisors on 10/23 to ask them to follow up on the draft amendment.

AgNPS Round 27 -

Wieboldt – Received final fuel storage plans from B&L, provided them to landowner. Owner has changed mind several times, most recently has expressed renewed interest in completing the project. With B&L permission, I provided the plan and the accompanying review memo to NYSSWCC Engineer for sharing with other counties.

Soudant – Construction underway on barnyard project. In process of getting contractor proposal for fuel storage project. If the contractor bid is in line with the project budget, we are hopeful that the same contractor will install Wieboldt and Soudant systems. In this way, we would be distributing the design cost between two projects.

Winslow –. Waiting on submittal of invoices to issue new payment on completed practices. Unclear how much of their remaining funding will be earned.

Troy Vellenga funding will get returned to NYS.

Contract end date – March, 2026.

AgNPS Round 29 –. No activity to report

Equipment Planning

Skoufis Equipment Funding –Asked Skoufis’ office for help again on 10/20 – still not resolved which State agency will handle contracting.

CIG Grant –.Continuing to work with CCE to firm up participants and prepare for spring/2026 demo plantings. Still need to decide on Roller/Crimper model and place order.

Miller Farm Easement Violations

Violation letter was sent to owner with a due date of 10/24 for him to submit mitigation plan. Landowner replied with letter but did not provide a mitigation plan as called for in the town’s violation letter. Copies of violation letter and landowner’s response available for review.

Other Items

Budget Hearing with OC Legislature 10/27 at 2PM.

Phil Johnson inquired if we could purchase more gravel bags for distribution to participating farms.. These are used with the Secure Covers we provided to OC farms to replace tires on trench silos. They tend to have a limited lifespan due to wear from handling.

CRF 9 – We are proposing two applications, 1) Compost Bedded Pack Barn for Jesse Raap; 2) Irrigation Water Management (rolling cart/boom sprinkler) for Pine Island Turf Nursery. Resolution to submit needed from BOD. We currently are not proposing a cash match from the District.

LCSP – we will be requesting the Board to increase the current \$50,000 allocation to cover additional signups for cover crop.

I will be on leave 10/28-11/5.

Secretary to the Board Update

I prepared and submitted the District's 3rd Quarter '25 quarterly tax forms, Form 941 (federal tax return), as well as Schedule B which accompanies form 941, and NYS-45 which is the State withholding tax form.

The District received a letter from Senator Skoufis' office regarding my letter of support for the Fix Tier 6 movement. Senator Skoufis' office highlighted prior actions he and his colleagues have done to reform Tier 6. I included the letter in the list of correspondence that is presented to the Board at October's meeting.

I coordinated with both our IT provider and Spectrum to schedule our internet on. Unfortunately, due to a lack of communication, the installation did not occur, and I was told that we need to have RG6 coaxial cables for it to happen. There are other businesses in our building that have Spectrum which makes the installation easier once the cables are in place. I spoke with our landlord and requested that his electrician install the cables and to bill the District for his services. As of 10/24, I don't have any updates from the landlord, but I will touch base with him after the Board meeting. I spoke with a Spectrum representative who recommended that I schedule a tentative installation date to secure the internet & phone package estimate we were given. This tentative appointment is on Wednesday 11/19 at 9 a.m. Per the Spectrum rep, I can reschedule this date at any time with no risk of affecting our quote.

I prepared the profit and loss report for both August & September by using QuickBooks Online. I am finding it very helpful to work with the CPA at D&A accounting firm. I know that I have a lot to learn, but am pleased with my performance so far. I understand that the formatting of the reports are different compared to our older ones, but it is essentially the same in a lot of ways. The reports are now consolidated, meaning that prior inactive accounts were removed, and many of the same codes are applied to the accounts on QBO. I will continue to work on the formatting of the financial report so it isn't three pages long. I needed to add the 2024 budget column manually since our version does not offer that feature. We would have to upgrade to QBO Plus which is \$99 a month vs the \$38/month we are currently paying.

As a reminder, the District will opt for the payment plan of \$6.25/month for 24 months for all 3 desk phones. As previously discussed, the \$80 installation fee will be waived, and the \$10 router charge will be disregarded since we have our own.

I gathered and prepared materials for the hearing with the County legislature on 10/27 to seek approval for the proposed 2026 budget. This hearing is at 2 p.m. on the 27th.

Mary and I attended the Conservation Skills Workshop in Auburn, NY. I took a growing strong forestry program, culvert design, basic surveying course, and a green infrastructure tour in Syracuse.

I updated the online bank accounts to reflect the total listed on September'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

10/24/2025

Intro:

Emily and I spent four days in Auburn, NY attending the Conservation Skills Workshop. It was very informative and with two years of experience now under our belts, we were able to gain a bit more insight into our selected courses. Con Skills, having the more hands-on focused classes, helps in guiding and getting us thinking about our current programs and future potential programs. I was especially proud of our engagement and ability during the survey class (we had a very good handle on this because Kevin had taken us out to survey so many times). The forestry class gave us more familiarity in that realm, especially considering how much forest land is still available in Orange County. The culvert design class was very information-heavy on all the rules and permitting processes involved in designing a culvert and, importantly, getting it funded. The green infrastructure class was very informative and engaging, and touring Syracuse to spot all the different types of green infrastructure that have been implemented there was very interesting.

All in all, a very successful Con Skills. I am grateful for the opportunity to have gone.

Since we no longer have our EnviroScape watershed model, we've tossed around the idea of purchasing a new one or finding a different model to take for educational events. Since CCE was the last user of our model and doesn't know where it is, they've offered to split payment on another EnviroScape model. We currently don't do a substantial number of educational events, but because they are part of our performance measure requirements, we are obliged to do them as needed throughout the year. Our model was going to be helpful for the classroom event we were requested for in Warwick that we weren't able to commit to without the EnviroScape (since that's what they actually wanted). Many new watershed/erosion models are expensive and only see the light of a classroom or educational event a few times a year, so purchasing a new model would depend on how much we'd like to spend on something that.

Many districts enjoy the EmRiver EM3 or EM4 models, which I have looked into. They're big, bulky, and look expensive, but are definitely interactive. I have included photo examples of the models below.

We can discuss if we'd like to allocate money to something like this. Personally, I think we should, whether it's another EnviroScape model (~\$1,500) or a new stream model, such as the EmRiver.



Equipment:

(Knock on wood). All equipment is running smoothly at the moment, nothing huge to report other than a few springs breaking that have been fixed. The number of people requesting the Esch is increasing, and users seem to be very happy with its performance. We are still learning new things about the seeder, such as the fact that apparently the hydraulic fluid can leak and cause the seeder wheels to sag if a certain knob isn't twisted the right way. The seeders and planting equipment are always teaching us something new, whether we really wanted to know it or not...

LCSP:

Please see bills to be paid for confirmed cover crop that is ready to be paid out.

Please see spreadsheet attached to report for additional cover crop requests, budget numbers, and other information. Please also note that we are, with the Board's approval, requesting a budget increase due to the number of additional cover crop requests that we have received since the original budget was established. In short, we are requesting a budget increase to \$70,000 to accommodate these requests.

Cover crop requests for payment have been spot-checked and confirmed planting by SWCD staff.

CRF Update:

Round 6:

Waiting for NRCS to come back to the office to review cover crop planning tools to sign off on.

Soil testing needs to be completed in the coming month. Of the seven participants, five farms will need to be completed for CASH and agronomic soil testing (two were already completed).

Cover Crop Funding: We are proposing to shift funding between participants to cover additional cover crop expenses for 2025/ We believed we have enough left from unspent previous years' funding to cover CRF6 participants' previous plantings in addition to the 2025 crop. Therefore, the allocated funding for Smiley and Touw through the Local Cost Share Program will be returned to the pot for other applicants.

I have attached the funding spreadsheet again for review.

Round 9: Putting together application for Jessy Raap Composted Bedded Pack barn. Applications are due November 17th.

AGNPS Update:

Round 27: Contract End Date: March 2025 (was extended)

- No update

Round 29:

- No update from technician.

AEM Update:

Jessy Raap CNMP: Checkpoint meeting scheduled for October 31st at noon, CNMP to be completed shortly thereafter.

Round 18 Tier 4 Projects:

Steven Demberg: Cancelled funding due to lack of animals on the farm.

John King: Proposing to transfer funding from Demberg to King, proposal received, project ready to go, awaiting Board approval to re-allocate funding.

Alex Ronne: Project started with Chris Vellenga.

AEM Activities:

- Tier 3s being put together
 - o Alex Ronne – grazing plan
 - o Marc Suffern – grazing plan
- Tier 3s completed
 - o John King (completed with signature)

CCA Plan:

- Registered for CCA pest management international
- Registered for CCA soil management international
- Registered for CCA soil management regional

Truck purchase

Local RFP went out with no responses that beat the price from Mohawk Chevrolet. The truck was ordered. A check for the price of the truck can be cut anytime between build date of November 17th to the time of delivery, roughly 45 days after November 17th. So at the top of the new year. However, Kevin has indicated that we need a Board motion to move funding around from Part C funding to the equipment funding in order to make the purchase.

The Board passed a motion to purchase the following vehicle, given no local dealers could beat the price:

G&H Auto Group Mohawk Chevy: 2026 Chevy Silverado 3500: \$49,573.28 (built)