

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 19, 2015

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 5:32 PM. Directors J. Wright, G. Keeton and P. DeBlock were present, along with R. Baglia (CCE) and K. Sumner, N. Meyer and C. DeGrootd (OCSWCD).

2015-10-1 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to approve September's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS

- Walkkill Flood Mitigation Project - The District accepted the proposal from B&L to prepare construction plans reflecting the District's test work and prepare a revised bid package. The fee for the work is \$2,500.00.

2015-10-2 Keeton made the Motion, Wright seconded, to approve Sumner signing the proposal and paying the fee of \$2,500.00. All in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Statements from the District's banks were received.
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation announced that the 2015 Fall Inspection of the Walkkill River Flood Control Project is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.
- A Walkkill River Watershed Flood Control Project Maintenance reimbursement was received by the District.
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation reviewed and approved the District's request for a permit modification for the Pochuck Creek Rock Ledge project.

(P. Ruskiewicz and S. Wong arrive at 5:55 PM)

There was a brief discussion on the District's No-Till Rental Agreement. Sumner handed out a revised draft for review by the Directors. The revisions were intended to clarify the policy on extra charges for 'idle' equipment. **2015-10-3 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to accept the idle equipment policy clarifications in the no-till agreement with a minor wording change to item 7 and an addition to the introduction emphasizing courtesy to other users. All in favor.**

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **2015-10-4 DeBlock made the Motion, Wright seconded, to approve payment to T. Vellenga in the amount of \$128,498.50 for completing one of his Ag NPS Round 20 Livestock Waste Grant systems. All in favor.**
- **2015-10-5 Wright moved to accept Bills To Be Paid, Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
- **2015-10-6 Wright moved to accept the Financial Report, Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
- September's Grant Update report was reviewed.

STAFF REPORTS

- DeGrootd
 - Briefly discussed the stolen Ford pickup tailgate.
 - All but one Key Bank account is closed and M&T Bank accounts were opened.
 - Ag NPS Grant Interim Reports are almost ready to be submitted to the State.

- Meyer
 - Brief update on the RSR Project. 200 trees have already been planted on property along the Monhagen Brook off of Route 78 in Middletown. Another planting is scheduled for October 24th from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Volunteers are requested.
 - Meyer attended an AEM Tier 3A training.
 - So far this year, over 720 acres of crops have been planted using the District’s no-till seeders.
 - Cover crop field checks have started on farms participating in the Ag NPS Grant program.
 - Meyer participated in the Pochuck Ledge test.
 - There was discussion regarding staff overtime.

2015-10-7 Wong made the Motion, seconded by DeBlock, to direct the District Manager to revise the District’s Provisions of Employment section on “Overtime” to more clearly define situations that would be approved for ‘time and a half’ overtime. All in favor.

- Sumner
 - There is an Ag Waste Management, AEM, Pasture Management and Composting presentation by SWCD staff tentatively scheduled for October 27, 2015 at 5:30 PM at Mark Ford Stables in Middletown.
 - Both Sumner and Meyer attended the 15th Annual Southeast New York Stormwater Conference and Trade Show on October 14, 2015 at Dutchess Manor in Beacon, NY.
 - Sumner and DeGroot met with Ellen Kennedy, Associate Examiner, Office of the State Comptroller regarding the District’s audit. A brief discussion followed.
 - Sumner noted that the Monhagen Brook Watershed planning grant submitted by Orange County Water Authority – to which OCSWCD was a partner – was funded.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- R. Baglia of Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - The Hudson River Watershed Alliance is hosting a 2015 Annual Watershed Conference on October 29, 2015 from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM at the Henry A. Wallace Center, FDR Presidential Library & Home in Hyde Park, NY.
 - The Managing a Highway Department-Local Roads Program was held on October 6th at CCE.
 - There was a brief discussion regarding the recent farm market robberies around the County.
- J. Heller of Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Heller is out of the office for 120 days on a work detail. Anyone requesting assistance from NRCS should contact Kathy Capella, District Conservationist in Highland, NY.

OLD BUSINESS

- Wallkill Flood Project
 - No word yet on the Wallkill Bench Project. It’s still at Army Corp.

- **2015-10-8 Keeton made the Motion, seconded by DeBlock, to rebid the Pochuck Ledge project with any minor adjustments recommended by Counsel. All in favor.**
- Sumner took Directors DeBlock and Wong on a river tour to see the Pochuck Ledge.
- Activity on the Celery Avenue ledge project will be renewed as time allows.
- The District's 2016 Budget Hearing is on October 26th at 2:00 PM at the E911 building.
- Sumner reported to the Board the content of an email to the County Executive's office and other County Legislators regarding a perceived lack of maintenance of the 'Pellets Island' reach of the Walkkill/Cheechunk (downstream of Maple Avenue). The Board took no action on this matter other than to direct Sumner to remind the County Executive's office of where efforts left off last year to expand the existing Maintenance Agreement covering the River upstream from Maple Avenue.
- Campbell Plaza Projects – Sumner reported that his bioretention basin plans were signed/stamped by Dave Getz. He is planning to meet again with the Middletown City Engineer this week to gain their approval and support.

NEW BUSINESS

- **2015-10-9 Wright made the Motion, seconded by Ruskiewicz, to approve The District's 2016 Annual Plan of Work. All in favor.**
- **2015-10-10 Keeton made the Motion, seconded by Wright, to approve replacing the District's 2015 Ford F-350 tailgate which was stolen, with a new locking tailgate. All in favor.**
- **2015-10-11 Keeton made the Motion, seconded by Wright, to submit the 2016 Conservation Project Financial Assistance Request (maximum of \$6,000) project title: Wallkill River/Black Dirt Region Agricultural Flood Mitigation. All in favor.**
- There was discussion on the District submitting a proposal for the flood project for the Climate Resilient Farming Grant. \$1.4 million is available to support projects that mitigate environmental impact of agriculture-related activities and increase the resiliency of farms throughout the state. Possible sources for the required 25% minimum local match were briefly discussed.

2015-10-12 DeBlock made the Motion to go into Executive Session at 8:11 PM to discuss employment history of a particular person. All in favor.

The Board reconvened from Executive Session at 8:37 PM.

It was noted that the Board accepted employee performance evaluations for Degroodt and Meyer, as prepared by Sumner and signed by Sumner and the Employees. The Board also completed a performance evaluation for Sumner. The evaluations will be filed in the respective employee's personal file.

The **NEXT MEETING** is scheduled for Monday, November 16, 2015 at 9:00 AM.

2015-10-13 Meeting adjourns at 8:43 PM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Wright. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot
Secretary to the Board