

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 16, 2017

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:06 AM. Directors J. Wright, P. DeBlock, M. Kemnitz, G. Keeton and P. Ruszkiewicz were present, along with K. Sumner, T. Ferry and C. DeGrootd (OCSWCD) and M. Ullrich (CCE).

2017-10-1 Keeton made the Motion, Ruszkiewicz seconded, to approve September's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor

ACTIONS TAKEN BETWEEN MEETINGS –There was a payment in the amount of \$142,250.00 for work on the Wallkill Project.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Bank account statements from the District's banks were available for review.
- The 2017 Semi-Annual Flood Control Project Inspection of the Wallkill River Flood Control Project is scheduled for Monday, October 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM. Both Sumner and Ferry will attend.
- The Legislative Budget hearing is October 23, 2017 at 2:00 PM.

Introductions were made to M. Ullrich.

- The National Association of Conservation Districts Membership Dues request was available for review. No action taken.
- Note with small payment was received from a delinquent no-till user.

(J. Mahoney, Orange County Attorney, joined the Meeting at 9:13 AM.)

- Letter received from NYS Homes and Community Renewal stating Contract Time Extension request for the Flood Project has been approved. The revised completion date is now September 30, 2018.
- NYACD update from B. Hurlbutt, Interim Ex. Dir. NYACD, available for review.
- Various newsletters available for review.
- A copy of the letter the District sent to the NYS DEC regarding the Brown's Pond Dam Removal Project was available for review. At the last regular monthly meeting the District Directors voted unanimously to withdraw their sponsorship of the Project.
- Cardmember Service, our District Credit Card, increased our credit limit without our approval. The District has since contacted the company and had it reduced back to the original limit.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

The payment to Vellenga Lawn Care in the amount of \$142,500.00 will be paid out of the CRF2 Grant.

(J. Heller joined the Meeting at 9:17 AM)

2017-10-2 Wright moved to file the September 2017 Financial Report for audit review, Keeton seconded. All in favor.

Sumner reviewed the list of Bills to Be Paid with the Board. **2017-10-3 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to accept the Bills to Be Paid. All in favor.**

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- M. Ullrich – Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - R. Baglia, Resource Educator at Cornell Cooperative Extension, retired. They do not expect to fill this position until late January 2018/early February. Agendas/Minutes for District Board Meetings should

now be sent to Ullrich.

- The Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner will be on Monday, December 4, 2017.
 - An invasive species called the allium leafminer has been identified in Orange County. It destroys the foliage and stems of chives, scallion, onion, leak, garlic and green onions . USDA has money to do research on this. This Wednesday at Cavallaro Farms, Congressman Maloney will be holding a press conference to talk about the release of the money.
 - The Annual Orange County Farm Toy Show will be on October 28th, 2017 at the Minisink Valley Intermediate School in Middletown, NY.
 - SUNY Orange is adding a floriculture major to their college programs.
- J. Heller – Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Clarified last month's minutes where it states "there is no funding for agriculture management assistance". Wanted it noted in this month's minutes that they have zeroed it out for the 2018 budget.
 - There is a Local Working Group meeting on November 16, 2017 at Rockland CCE.
 - 16 applications for EQIP this year.
 - Heller requested to be added to a Soil and Water Agenda to teach a mandatory Civil Rights Training at a District Board Meeting sometime in 2018.

STAFF REPORTS

- T. Ferry
 - Working on moving no-till equipment.
 - Collecting and organizing the Monhagen Brook Phosphorous Sampling.

- K. Sumner
 - Sumner and Ferry attended a meeting with a local engineering firm and their client, who is trying to develop his property for agriculture. The client is off a county road and he's being told by the county that he needs a road permit to enter the property to mow it for agriculture.
 - Sumner attended the D. Ford CAFO inspection.
 - F. Mikulski is trying to do similar work like he did after Hurricane Irene hit. There is still some money available from some state agencies. He's looking to do road repair and culvert replacement, and the Town is asking for information and permits that were not required at the time of the hurricane repair work. At Mikulski's request, Sumner wrote him a letter explaining that the work he wants to do is similar to the work done as part of the hurricane response. The Town of Warwick Supervisor called Sumner and they are considering Mikulski's projects now.
 - The SE NY Stormwater Conference is this Wednesday in Beacon, NY.
 - Another Monhagen Brook Phosphorous sampling will be scheduled soon.
 - Working on several AG NPS projects.

OLD BUSINESS

- Walkkill Flood Projects – Bench Phase I
 - A subdivision has to happen in order for the landowners in the Bench Phase 1 area to transfer ownership – as has been agreed to previously. L&G is working on this and sent Sumner the package for the two landowners to sign. Sumner asked for a Board Motion for a purchase price to offer one of the landowner's on his property. **2017-10-4 Keeton made the Motion, Wright seconded, to offer Barron Fields, LLC \$4,000.00 per acre on 3 acres. All in favor.**
 - D. Ford took the corn off of the field that received most of the soil from last year's project. The yield still has to be calculated but it was clearly low. A brief discussion followed.
 - Still need to monitor Phase I vegetation. Ferry will take the lead on this.
- Phase II

- Construction is complete. Planting is complete except for the live stake plantings. Live stakes will go in sometime in November.
- The title searches are in progress. Survey field work is completed.
- Fords did aggressive tillage on fields that received soil from the bench excavation and planted cover crop. The cover crop looks good.
- No news from Town of Goshen regarding Celery Avenue permit.
- Sumner will prepare a more detailed financial report on the Wallkill Flood Project for next meeting.
- o Browns Pond Dam Project – nothing new to report.

NEW BUSINESS

- Wright mentioned that the Ag and Farmland Protection Board has some money left over and wondered if Soil and Water had any requests. Purchasing row cleaners for the SWCD corn planter that doesn't currently have them was one suggestion. HRT quoted \$680 per row. A set of 4 row cleaners would cost \$2,700.00. Ferry also researched post pounders which were in the \$12,000-\$15,000 range. **2017-10-5 DeBlock made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to ask the AFPB for new row cleaners. All in favor.** Sumner will email the estimate to Wright.

(J. Heller and M. Ullrich left the Meeting at 10:09 AM)

- The 2018 Annual Plan of Work was reviewed by the Board. Discussion followed. Some work items were added to the Annual Plan of Work 1) Explore opportunities to fund flood mitigation project at the Boulder Field just downstream from Oil City Road, on the Wallkill River 2) explore opportunities to remove farm bridges and bridge approaches, including the Madura bridge, on Wallkill River. **2017-10-6 Wright made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to approve the 2018 Annual Plan of Work with the additions. All in favor.**
- RD 19 Ag NPS Ag Grant Time Extension Request – **2017-10-7 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve submitting the RD 19 Ag NPS Time Extension Request. All in favor.**

2017-10-8 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, seconded by DeBlock, to go into Executive Session at 10:37 AM to discuss pending litigation. All in favor.

2017-10-9 The Board came out of Executive Session at 11:02 AM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Ruskiewicz. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS CONTINUED

- Performance Measures Part B - **2017-10-10 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to use Performance Measures Part B funding in the amount of \$6,000.00 on the Celery Avenue Project, which is the priority of the growers. All in favor.**
- Sumner discussed final billing adjustments on the Bench Phase 2 work with the Board. Based on his calculations, the total soil excavation quantities were 2,700 cubic yards over the quantities anticipated in the Project plans. Sumner proposed additional payment to the contractor at a rate of \$5/CY. The total amount that would be added on to his bill is \$13,500.00. **2017-10-11 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to pay Vellenga Lawn Care the \$13,500.00. All in favor.**

The next **MEETING** is scheduled for **Monday, November 27, 2017 at 9:00 AM.**

2017-10-12 The Meeting adjourns at 11:20 AM on a Motion by DeBlock, seconded by Keeton. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot, Secretary to the Board