

MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 21, 2015

The **MEETING** was **CALLED TO ORDER** by the Chairman at 9:09 AM. Directors J. Wright, G. Keeton, P. DeBlock and S. Wong were present, along with R. Baglia (CCE) and K. Sumner and C. DeGroot (OCSWCD).

2015-9-1 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to approve August's Board Meeting Minutes as written. All in favor.

Sumner discussed the added agenda item of Actions Between Meetings to address decisions made by the board through email or over the phone.

- Sumner gave DeGroot approval to pay a Staples bill prior to Board approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

- Statements from the District's banks were received.
- Ag & Farmland Protection Board Meeting Minutes and Agenda passed around.
- NYS Office of Community Renewal received the District's Time Extension request for the Wallkill Flood Project. The extension was granted until July 29, 2016.

(P. Ruskiewicz arrives at 9:21 AM)

FINANCIAL REPORTS

- **2015-9-2 DeBlock moved to accept the Financial Report, Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
- **2015-9-3 Wright moved to accept Bills To Be Paid, Keeton seconded. All in favor.**
- August's Grant Update report was reviewed.
- The Board reviewed an Agreement to store equipment at Ron O'Dell's Farm. Further discussion under New Business.
- **2015-9-4 Wright made the Motion, Keeton seconded, to approve payment to Vellenga's Lawn Care in the amount of \$425.00 for the RSR Project streamside mowing and for \$4,600.00 for the Pochuck test work out of the District's general fund. All in favor.** It was noted that the District will be reimbursed this money from both the RSR Grant and the Wallkill Flood Grant.

STAFF REPORTS

- DeGroot
 - Brief discussion on bank accounts. Due to fees being charged at Key bank, DeGroot has been making arrangements to switch our accounts from Key Bank to M&T.
- **2015-9-5 Keeton made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, to close existing Key Bank accounts and transfer funds to M&T. All in favor.**
- Sumner
 - There is active construction on G. Johnson and D. Ford farms.
 - A streamside tree planting along the Monhagen Brook is scheduled for Saturday, September 26th.
 - Meyer and Sumner are giving a talk on September 29th on Ag Waste Management, AEM, Pasture Management and Composting at Ford Stables.

- The Lower Hudson Coalition of Conservation Districts Stormwater Conference is being held on October 14th at the Dutchess Manor in Beacon.

INTERAGENCY REPORTS

- F. Barber of Farm Service Agency
 - USDA now has a 10 year lease of current office space.
 - BCAP reauthorized for new farm bill.
 - A lot of CRP contracts are expiring.
- R. Baglia of Cornell Cooperative Extension
 - The 4H Park Harvest Festival is on September 26th.
 - Managing a Highway Department-Local Roads Program is October 6th at CCE.

OLD BUSINESS

- Wallkill Flood Project
 - The second test work project at the Pochuck Ledge area has been completed. Sumner summarized the results – no ledge rock was encountered in the channel upstream of the old Transport Lane bridge, which is expected to reduce the cost of the project. If a bid package can be prepared quickly, it may still be a possibility to complete the project this year.
 - **2015-9-6 Wright made the Motion, Wong seconded, to authorize Sumner to request a proposal from Barton and Loguidice to prepare construction plans reflecting the District's test work and prepare a revised bid package and to request this be done within two weeks. All in favor.**
 - Sumner reminded the Board that funding in the current B&L contract/agreement is mostly expended.
 - Sumner asked the Board for some guidance on progressing the Celery Avenue ledge project. This project has all required permits in place except a floodplain development permit that the Town of Goshen has indicated they will require. Sumner wrote to Town of Goshen that we have all permits except for theirs, and asked for a status report. None has been provided to date. Sumner has been continuing to work on improvements along the River below the Celery ledge – per the concerns expressed by local landowners. The Board does not want to abandon the Celery project, but wants to focus more effort for the time being on the Pochuck project since it is closer to being construction-ready.
 - Sumner reported that he has not heard anything more about the \$100,000 'grant' application for flood control work he was requested by Assemblyman Brabenec to prepare and submit.
- Campbell Plaza Monhagen Brook Project
 - The utilities have been marked out at the Monhagen project location.

(R. Baglia left the meeting at 11:38 AM)

NEW BUSINESS

- Wong asked attendees to give thought to potential candidates for the 'Orange County Tribute to Women' project. Brief discussion followed.
- Prices on UTV enclosed trailer discussed. This item was put on hold for one month in order to review prices for a used trailer.
- **2015-9-7 Discussion on purchase of pop-up canopy. Wright made the Motion, DeBlock seconded, for the District to purchase a canopy up to \$300.00. All in favor.**

- **2015-9-8 Ruskiewicz made the Motion, seconded by Keeton, to enter into a rental storage agreement with Ron O'Dell at the rate of \$200/month starting on October 1, 2015. All in favor.**
- The District's 2016 Budget Hearing is on October 26th at 2:00 PM.
- There was a brief discussion regarding NYS Retirement. The District will look more into this.
- AG NPS Round 21 Grant Proposals for Livestock Waste and Farm Runoff were not approved.
- Meyer started a vision plan. The District will reimburse him at the end up the year up to the amount approved in the Provisions of Employment.
- The Board denied Meyer's request for time and a half comp time for working overtime on Saturday. They stated they preferred he receive straight comp time.
- **NEXT MEETING** set for October 19, 2015.
- **2015-9-9 DeBlock moved to adjourn meeting. Wright seconded. All in favor.**

Meeting adjourns at 12:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine DeGroot
Secretary to the Board