

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
Cornell Room 50 West High Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Minutes of Regular Meeting 02/22/23

In Attendance:

District Directors:

Janet Bartow - Vice Chairman
Jennifer Koval – At Large Farmer
Steven Ropitzky –Chairman
Kevin Veitch – Legislator

District Directors (via zoom):

Victoria Garlanda – At Large
Mike Smith – Legislator

District Staff:

Lewis, Dustin – District Manager
Kaitlyn Bemis– Office Manager
Scott Monica– Senior Field Technician
Dan Palemire – Field Technician

Regrets: Kate Girard, Jay Matthews – At Large Farmer

Meeting called to order at 3:00 pm by Chairman Ropitzky.

1. **Minutes of January 2023 Meeting:** Motion to approve by Bartow, seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
2. **January 2023 Financial Reports:**
 - a. **Proposed New Financial Reporting:** Lewis recommended using Income and Expense reports from QuickBooks instead of the Receipts/Disbursements Report. After a discussion it was decided to proceed with the new method of reporting.
 - b. **Receipts/Disbursements Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers: (Attachment A, B & C)** Motion to approve made by Veitch, seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: Attachment A**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Provide via email, by Girard.
 - b. **FSA:** No Report
 - c. **RC&D:** No Report
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** No Report, meeting scheduled for 2/28/23.
 - e. **NYACD:** Lewis, Bartow & Ropitzky to attend Legislative Days. Lewis reported on the NACD's Annual meeting held in New Orleans.
 - f. **CCE:** No official report. Koval reported on progress with farm map and fundraising.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** No official meeting took place.
 - b. **Grants:** Lewis reported on the following:
 - a. Agricultural Environmental Management – Looking into a new round of funding.
 - b. Septic System – Waiting in the county for an extension.
 - c. Roadside Erosion – The first is complete, will be starting the second in spring focusing in the Town of Day.
 - d. Resiliency Training – Complete, waiting on the final payment.
 - e. Micro Irrigation Grant – Lewis requested a board motion to reimburse Jon Ariel the amount of \$14,479.20 through grant payment recently received. The grant will be closed out later in the year after an inspection is made. Motion to approve payment made by Bartow, seconded by Veitch, was carried unanimously.
 - c. **T&S 2023:** Lewis reported that the sale is live, and brochures are being distributed.
 - d. **Envirothon 2023:** Confirmed the location at Saratoga County Fairgrounds.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **County Contract:** Received contract and Ropitzky to sign for submission.
 - b. **Tire Collection:** Looking to set a date, working in partnership with Malta providing the location as usual.
 - c. **Hazardous Waste:** Bartow reported that Sustainable Saratoga does a collection annually and their website is a good resource for various recycling locations. Lewis reported that Schenectady County SWCD recycles paint year-round and that the DEC is holding a chemical disposal service called "Clean Sweep" on April, 27th 2023 in Saratoga Springs.
 - d. **4hr Classes:** Three classes are scheduled in March and April.
 - e. **Audit of 2022 Books:** Set up a time for review of the books. Bartow and Veitch volunteered to conduct the audit prior to the next meeting.
7. **Other Business:**
 - a. Legislative Days - will be attended by Lewis, Bartow & Ropitzky. The Class C Stream Bill is being reintroduced; the district is looking to oppose the bill in its current form.
 - b. NACD – Lewis reported meeting with a representative who is applying for funding on cover crop in the Eastern United States. Lewis will be looking into the process of signing up farms already involved in the existing cover crop program.
 - c. Lewis discussed looking into a NRCS grant. Lewis to email link to more information.
8. Correspondence: No Correspondence
9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22nd, 2023, at 3:00pm. Meeting adjourned by Chairman at 3:59pm.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Kaitlyn HJ Bemis, Secretary

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

February 2023

- AG. Assessments
- AEM - tier 3 farm plan
- AEM - Conservation plan
- AEM - Conservation plan
- T&S - Brochures
- AEM – Manure Composting
- Ag drainage Matt Thorp
- Division 5 meeting Ray Brook
- Mohawk Watershed meeting
- MAP- Northumberland Culvert replacement
- Highway Metting powers pub
- Attended annual NACD meeting.
- Highway Supervisors meeting
- Upper Hudson Meeting to discuss grant applications.

***All financial records located at the Saratoga County SWCD office are available upon request. ***