

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Minutes of Regular Meeting 04/19/2023

In Attendance:

District Directors:

Victoria Garlanda – At Large
Jay Matthews – At Large Farmer
Janet Bartow – Grange
Steven Ropitzky – Chairman
Kevin Veitch – Legislator
Jennifer Koval – At Large Farmer

District Staff:

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

Other:

Kate Girard – NRCS

Regrets: Mike Smith - Legislator

Meeting called to order at 3:02pm by Chairman Ropitzky.

1. **Minutes of March 2023 Meeting:** Motion to approve by Matthews, seconded by Bartow, carried unanimously.
2. **March 2023 Financial Reports:**
 - a. **Income Report, Expense Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers** - Motion to approve made by Veitch, seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Girard reports they are working on a secondary fuel containment project that was flagged for a cultural resources survey. The survey was conducted, and the project is expected to move forward after a review. 2 new high tunnels pre-approved, 1 high tunnel in progress. Girard mentioned an extension of the Inflation Reduction Act and reviewed where to find the practices that are being incentivized.
 - b. **FSA:** No Report.
 - c. **RC&D:** New Report
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Lewis reports he will be attending a meeting in Utica at the end of the month.
 - e. **NYACD:** No Report
 - f. **CCE:** No Report
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** No Report.
 - b. **Grants:** Lewis reported on the following:
 - i. Agricultural Environmental Management –
 1. AEM Project payments- IMP project received and paid for sprayer. Palemire proposed paying 50 % of the district's commitment to the project in the amount of \$18,750.00. - **Motion** to approve payment made by Matthews, seconded by Veitch, carried unanimously.
 - ii. Septic – Lewis reports that we received extension, one project ongoing.
 - iii. Roadside Assistance – Lewis reports we received the final payment and is looking to close out, looking for a motion to reimburse all participating counties as the administrator and close out the account. - **Motion** to approve payment made by Garlanda, seconded by Bartow, carried unanimously.
 - iv. Resiliency Training –
 1. Resiliency Training Reimbursement Payments – Lewis reports that \$12,500 came in as a final payment, he proposes a motion to pay participating counties as the administrator for conducting their training. -**Motion** to approve payment made by Veitch seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
 - c. **Part C 2023:** Lewis reports that he is looking for board members to attend meetings as it is now a requirement to receive credit for the district's evaluation. Scott Fickbohm from **NYSSWCC** is expected to attend the next meeting to conduct District Law Training as well.
 - d. **T&S 2023:** Lewis reports, distribution day is on 4/21/23.
 - e. **Envirothon 2023:** Lewis reports no volunteers are needed, it is being held on Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Fish Stocking 2023:** Bemis reports that the sale is live on the website and estimated about 12 orders so far. Pick up day will be 5/11/23.
 - b. **Fair 2023:** Lewis reports gathering information for a booth and is looking to propose a plan in the next month.
 - c. **NYALGRO:** Lewis reports a training for records management coming up, looking for approval to sign up for classes up to \$1,000.00. - **Motion** to approve payment made by Bartow, seconded by Matthews, carried unanimously.
 - d. **Policy Review:** Lewis reports a few changes to the district's policy. He asks for a review of the changes and proposes reviewing all policies for possible changes soon.
Motion to approve policy changes made by Matthews, seconded by Veitch, was carried unanimously.
7. **Other Business:**
 - a. **National Envirothon:** Lewis reported that the National Envirothon is being held in New York state in 2024, and the National Envirothon Committee is looking for a \$3,000 donation from every district in the State. The board tabled the discussion for review later in the year.
 - b. **Purchase of new computer:** Palemire reports that he is looking into replacing his computer, he will bring a proposal for the next meeting.

- c. **Girl Scout:** Donation request for bluebird kits. - **Motion** to approve donations made by Bartow, seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
 - d. **Audit 2022 Books:** Lewis reports that the audit was completed before the meeting by Bartow and Veitch, and it went well.
8. **Correspondence:** No Correspondence.
 9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 17, 2023, at 3:00pm. Meeting adjourned by Chairman at 4:08pm.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Kaitlyn H.J. Bemis, Secretary Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

April 2023 Field Report

- Tree and Shrub setup tree counting and orders (4H training center)
- 2 dry hydrant sites Galway (Galway)
- Brownville Rd stream erosion (Northumberland)
- Soil map for solar field (Ballston)
- AEM conservation plans (Saratoga Plan)
- AEM Knights orchard sprayer delivery
- AEM no-till Dancing Grain Farm
- AEM round 18 project planning (micro-irrigation)
- Saratoga Mercantile drainage discussions (Saratoga)
- 4 hr training in Montgomery County
- 4 Hr training Albany
- Fish Stocking Prep

