

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
50 West High St. Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Minutes of Regular Meeting 03/22/2023

In Attendance:

District Directors:

Janet Bartow – Vice President
Victoria Garlanda – At Large
Jennifer Koval – At Large Farmer
Steven Ropitzky –Chairman

District Staff:

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

Regrets: Kevin Veitch – Legislator, Mike Smith – Legislator, Kate Girard, Jay Matthews – At large

Meeting called to order at 3:10pm by Chairman Ropitzky.

1. **Minutes of February 2023 Meeting:** Motion to approve by Bartow, seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
2. **February 2023 Financial Reports:**
 - a. **Income Report, Expense Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers** Motion to approve made by Bartow, seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Provided via email, by Girard.
 - b. **FSA:** No Report.
 - c. **RC&D:** No report.
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Lewis advised he has been involved in discussion meetings. Lewis reported that CRF and AgNPS Funding will be open for applications shortly.
 - e. **NYACD:** No report, Lewis reports that they are currently in Washington DC to discuss the farm bill.
 - f. **CCE:** No report.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** No meeting this month.
 - b. **Grants:** Lewis reported on the following:
 - i. Agricultural Environmental Management – Lewis discussed preparing for the next round of funding. The process of gathering applications for review is expected to happen in the next month or two.
 - ii. Septic Grants – Lewis reports he received the official extension. He expects to send out another mailing to notify potential applicants in the next month or two.
 - iii. Roadside Erosion – Lewis reports the funding was received and it is being determined how to distribute it before closing. The new grant will be focused on the Town of Day.
 - iv. Resiliency Training – Waiting for funds.
 - v. Micro Irrigation Grant – Lewis reports reimbursing Ariel Farm, waiting to submit a bill for time to close out grant.
 - c. **T&S 2023:** Lewis reported that the sale is closing on Friday, March 24th with the possibility of an extension.
 - d. **Envirothon 2023:** Bemis reported that registration closes at the end of the month and that there has been a lot of interest. Lewis discussed future donations for the program and the transition back to an in-person event.
 - e. **Audit of 2022 Books:** Nothing to report, looking to reschedule due to absences.
 - f. **Tire Collection:** Rescheduled to October 3rd, 2023. Preparing to make a registration form available.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Policy Review:** Lewis discussed making a review of policies, is planning on sending out an email for review before the next meeting.
7. **Other Business:**
 - a. **Truck Purchase:** Lewis reports that Palemire gathered three local truck bids. The board discussed moving forward with the bid and waiting to sell the older truck until after the new truck was delivered. Motion to approve purchase of the truck by Koval, seconded by Bartow, was carried unanimously.
 - b. **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 will review the information provided to discuss at the next meeting.
 - c. **Tax Question:** Ropitzky requested more information about the board member W-2's
8. **Correspondence:** Bartow and Ropitzky received a thank you from NYACD for attending Legislative Days.
9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 3:00pm. Motion for meeting adjournment by Garlanda, Seconded by Bartow at 4:18pm.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Kaitlyn H.J. Bemis, Secretary

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

March 2023

- AG. Assessments
 - All staff attended annual training
 - Attended State Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting
 - LAP visit to check if cleanup after a fire may contaminate fields and water
 - Tree and Shrub work continues.
 - 4-hour erosion class held in Ballston Spa
 - Cover crop statewide grant zoom meeting
 - AEM 4 conservation plans for Saratoga Plan
 - AEM irrigation grant
 - AEM wildflower habitat establishment
 - AEM irrigation/grazing questions
 - 2023 Truck Bids
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