

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa
Planning Room
Minutes of Regular Meeting 08/16/2023

In Attendance:

District Directors:

Janet Bartow – Grange
Victoria Garlanda – At Large
Kevin Veitch – Legislator
Jay Matthews – At Large Farmer
Steven Ropitzky – Chairman
Mike Smith - Legislator

District Staff:

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

Regrets: Jennifer Koval, Kate Girard

Meeting called to order at 3:04 PM by Chairman Ropitzky.

1. **Minutes of July 2023 Meeting:** Motion to approve by Bartow, seconded by Garlanda, carried unanimously. Smith entered meeting.
2. **July 2023 Financial Reports:** Bemis reported on the following:
 - a. **Income Report, Expense Report, Bank Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers:** Motion to approve made by Veitch, seconded by Matthews, carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Girard emailed an update: we signed 2 Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contracts for invasive control. Certified 3 high tunnels and 3 instances of cover crops.
 - b. **FSA:** No Report.
 - c. **RC&D:** No Report.
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Lewis reported attending a meeting about state aid. There are expected updates for the performance measures starting in 2024.
 - e. **NYACD:** sent correspondence: the annual meeting is open for enrollment.
 - 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 – Waiting on the program to be finalized, to begin reviewing practices.
 - ii. Septic – A couple active projects waiting for completion.
 - iii. Roadside Assistance Grant – The funds from the grant are being reallocated to the Town of Edinburgh with the Town of Day's permission.
 - iv. Micro Irrigation Grant – The grant will be closed out following a sight visit by a regional AEA.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **T&S Program 2024:** A motion was made to hold a T&S Program in 2024 was made by Garlanda, seconded by Veitch, carried unanimously.
 - b. **Auction of 2021 Chevy Silverado:** A bid of \$34,200.00 was received for the truck, the board chose to decline, but offer a counter for \$36,200.00.
7. **Correspondence:** NYACD: the annual meeting is open for enrollment.
8. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 3:00pm. Meeting adjourned at 3:41 PM.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Kaitlyn H Bemis, Secretary

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

August 2023 Field Report

- Hydro seed Town of Wilton
 - Hydro seed Town of Greenfield
 - Saratoga County Fair
 - Dry hydrant Town of Galway (Galway)
 - AEM Saratoga Orchard fuel storage facility
 - AEM no-till Saratoga County Farm.
 - Drone flight Saratoga Lake
 - AEM Sprayer update
 - AEM round 17 projects
 - Site visit to Edinburg storm damage (Edinburg)
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