

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Planning Room
Minutes of Regular Meeting 09/20/2023

In Attendance:

District Directors:

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

District Staff:

Dustin Lewis– District Manager
Kaitlyn Bemis – Office Manager

Outside Agencies:

Regrets: Mike Smith, Dan Palemire, Scott Monica

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

1. **Minutes of August 2023 Meeting:** **Motion** to approve made by Matthews, seconded by Veitch, carried unanimously.
2. **August 2023 Financial Reports:** Bemis reported on the following:
 - a. **Receipts/Disbursements Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers:** **Motion** to approve made by Veitch, seconded by Bartow, carried unanimously. Koval and Garlanda entered the meeting.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** No Report. Lewis reported that another staff member joined the NRCS office recently, making a total of a three-member team.
 - b. **FSA:** No Report.
 - c. **RC&D:** No Report.
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Fickbohm emailed his monthly report.
 - e. **NYACD:** No Report. The board expressed interest in inviting a representative to a future meeting. The board agreed to make a partial \$375 payment for 2023 dues. **Motion** to approve made by Koval, Seconded by Bartow.
 - f. **CCE:** No Report.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** No Meeting.
 - b. **Grants:** Lewis reported on the following:
 - i. Agricultural Environmental Management – The district expects to make the final selection of practices for the next round.
 - ii. Septic – One project is finished with the installation, waiting for documentation to complete.
 - iii. Roadside Erosion – The project is complete, waiting for cancelled checks and match sheets.
 - iv. Micro Irrigation Grant – Complete, just waiting for final payment.
 - c. **Approval of truck bid:** Winning bid was \$36,400.00, **Motion** to approve Garlanda, seconded by Matthews, carried unanimously.
 - d. **Part B Project Discussion:** Lewis recommended the Part B fund be used for Hydroseeding materials as it has been used for in the past. The board agreed to move forward with Hydroseeding as the proposed project.
6. **New Business:**
 - i. **Culvert Installation Training:** Lewis reports that a staff member from the State Parks has approached the district to hold a training on proper culvert installations, according to DEC standards. It will be arranged for Spring 2024 in Saratoga State Park, waiting to hear back about who the training will be open to.
 - ii. **Outlet to Ballston Lake:** There is an ongoing discussion with residents about potential maintenance to the outlet, staff members will be attending a meeting with the DEC to better understand the permits required.
 - iii. **Sexual Harassment Training:** Lewis reports that the board members and district staff are required to undergo the training or provide proof certification. There will be an email sent out with a form for those who have already received training or a link for the training for those who have not yet completed the training. This needs to be conducted annually.
 - iv. **Grange:** Lewis will be a guest teacher for the Grange, October 14th, 2023. There are a series of classes being hosted by the Grange at the Brookside Museum focusing on homesteading. There has been a great response so far.
7. **Other Business:** None.

8. **Correspondence:** Available on request.
9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 18, 2023, at 3:00pm. Meeting adjourned by at 4:05pm.

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

ATTACHMENT A:

September 2023 Field Report

- Hydro seed Town of Wilton
- Hydro seed Town of Greenfield
- Dry hydrant Town of Northumberland
- AEM no-till Saratoga Springs Farm
- AEM round 17 projects
- Site visit to Edinburg storm damage (Edinburg)
- Pond site and trails visit to HOA (Clifton Park)
- Mohawk Watershed Coalition meeting to discuss Invasive species grant opportunity.
- Conservation Skills Workshop Training
- Site visit to review settling ground in Geyser Crest neighborhood (Saratoga Springs)
- Residential erosion visit on Hill Rd (Saratoga)
- 4 Hour private training in Colonie
- Home visit in Stillwater to check on erosion issue (Stillwater)
- Septic System grant paperwork for completion of one project (Clifton Park)
- AEM No-till to Gansevoort Farm
- AEM No-till to Schuylerville Farm