

# Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District

Knight's Orchard

325 CR-57

Burnt Hills, NY 12027

## Minutes of Regular Meeting 10/18/2023

### In Attendance:

#### District Directors:

Janet Bartow – Grange  
Mike Smith – Legislator  
Jay Matthews – at Large Farmer  
Steven Ropitzky – Chairman  
Kevin Veitch – Legislator

#### Guest

Crystal Peck

#### District Staff:

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

#### Outside Agencies

Kate Girard - NRCS  
Toni Daino - NRCS  
Scott Ryan - NYACD

Regrets: Victoria Garlanda, Jennifer Koval

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

1. **Minutes of September 2023 Meeting:** Motion to approve made by Matthews, seconded by Bartow, carried unanimously.
2. **September 2023 Financial Reports:**
  - 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 Reported on taking on two new staff members in the Saratoga County Office. The current ongoing projects are: Invasive control, cover crop and one pollinator plot. The deadline for signing up for programs this year is 11/03/23.
  - b. **FSA:** No Report.
  - c. **RC&D:** Lewis reported that Washington County SWCD has an attorney assisting with the shutdown of this 501(c)(3) organization.
  - d. **NYSSWCC:** Fickbohm emailed report, which was distributed.
  - e. **NYACD:** Scott Ryan attended the meeting and gave updates about NYACD activities, a discussion was had about the board of directors' future involvement.
  - f. **CCE:** No Report.
5. **Old Business:**
  - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** Lewis reported on the recent meeting. There was discussion about Ballston Lake, beginning first with finding funding for a hydrological study.
  - b. **Grants:** Lewis reported on the following:
    - i. Agricultural Environmental Management
      1. Resolution 2023-02: **(Attachment B)**, Motion to approve made by Matthews, seconded by Smith, carried unanimously.
      2. Final Payment of \$3,750 to Ariel's Farm: **Motion** for final payment for AEM project by Bartow, seconded by Veitch, carried unanimously.
    - ii. Septic –2 payments were approved at the board of supervisors meeting and 2 more projects are to be completed soon.
    - iii. Roadside Erosion – Submitted an invoice for reimbursement.

- c. **Building Bid Selection:** The district received a bid for the site work, from Gailor Ground and Earthworks for \$17,200.00. Motion for bid approval by Veitch, seconded by Bartow, carried unanimously.
  - d. **Part C Performance Measures 2023:** Lewis reported needing one more board member to attend an outside meeting.
6. **New Business:**
- a. **Annual Plan of Work 2024 – Approval of Plan:** A **motion** was made by Matthews, seconded by Veitch to approve the proposed 2024 annual plan of work, carried unanimously.
  - b. **Part B 2024 – Approval of Project:** A **motion** was made by Smith, seconded by Matthews to approve the proposed 2024 Part B proposal, carried unanimously.
7. **Executive Session:** A **motion** was made to move into executive session at 4:03 PM
- a. **Executive Discussion:** regarding pending litigation. A **motion** was made to move out of executive session at 4:55 PM by Smith, seconded by Matthews, carried unanimously. No action was taken.
8. **Correspondence:** Available on request.
9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15, 2023, at 3:00pm in the Planning Room at 50 West High Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020. Meeting adjourned by at 4:56 PM

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kaitlyn Bemis – Secretary                      Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

October 2023 Field Report

- Hydro seed Town of Edinburg
  - Hydro seed Town of Day
  - Hydro seed Town of Charlton
  - Hydro seed Town of Ballston
  - Hydro seed Town of Wilton
  - Conservation skills training
  - DEC general permit meeting
  - Ag assessment (Charlton)
  - AEM – Round -18 Annual Action Plan
  - AEM – Farm sprayer delivery
  - AEM No-till, 5 Farms
  - AEM – Conservation plans (Saratoga Plan)
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**ATTACHMENT B:**

**RESOLUTION  
of the  
Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Resolution No.: 2023 - 02**

**Date: 10/18/2023.**

*Authorizing participation by the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District in the AEM Base Program.*

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued an application inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit action plans for funding under Round 18 of the AEM Base Program; and

**WHEREAS** funds are available for projects that consist of activities that will reduce, abate, control, or prevent nonpoint source pollution originating from agricultural sources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District has determined that certain work, as described in its application and attachments, (the "Project") is in the public interest and consists of activities that will reduce and/or prevent nonpoint source pollution from agricultural sources.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

1) That **Dustin Lewis, District Manager**, or such person's successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the district's governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under the AEM Base Program. The representative is authorized to make applications, execute the contract for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the district governing body in all matters related to the Project.

2) That the District agrees to fund its portion of the cost of the Project as provided in the application.

3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the application for funding under Round 18 of the AEM Base Program.

4) That this resolution takes effect immediately.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District at a meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> day of October in the year 2023.