

**Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
Cornell Room
Minutes of Regular Meeting 12/21/2023**

In Attendance:

District Directors:

Janet Bartow – Grange
Steven Ropitzky –Chairman
Jennifer Koval – At Large Farmer
Jay Matthews – At Large Farmer

District Staff:

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

Regrets: Kate Girard, Victoria Garlanda – At Large, Kevin Veitch – Legislator, Tina Williams

Meeting called to order at 3:12 PM by Chairman Ropitzky.

1. **Minutes of November 2023 Meeting:** Motion to approve made by Matthews, seconded by Bartow, all others approved.
2. **December 2023 Financial Reports:**
 - a. **Income Report, Expense Report, Bank Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers.:** Motion to approve made by Matthews, seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Girard submitted a report via email: Practice installation: 1 high tunnel certified (Gansevoort), 1 in progress (Schuylerville). Secondary fuel containment project completed. Made payment on grade stabilization project. Conservation planning: continuing to work on applications. Had engineer out to irrigation project (Gansevoort) and erosion control (Stillwater) for assessment. Tom Bielli, District Conservationist for Fulton, Montgomery, Hamilton, Warren, Washington, and Saratoga Counties is retiring Dec. 29. No replacement has been announced.
 - b. **FSA:** Williams submitted a meeting report via email which reviewed available services.
 - c. **RC&D:** No Report. Waiting to hear about the shutdown.
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Fickbohm emailed monthly report, Lewis will continue to send out reminders about attending the meetings via zoom.
 - e. **NYACD:** Legislative days is approaching, Lewis discussed contributing to the booklet that will be distributed to all the legislators. Bartow and Ropitzky plan on attending.
 - f. **CCE:** No Report.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** Lewis reported on the regular meeting run by Neils: a discussion about distributing a donation request letter for the Regional Envirothon through the WQCC was had.
 - b. **Grants:** Lewis & Palemire reported on the following:
 - i. Agricultural Environmental Management – Round 17 is wrapping up. Beginning the application process for the next two years of Round 18.
 - ii. Septic – Round 4 is expected to be rolling out, the funding and targeted region is expected to grow. There was a discussion about the scale of the project and what would be required to manage it. The last round is being completed and Lewis will be submitting for approval of a disbursement in January at the board of supervisors meeting.
 - iii. Roadside Erosion –funds were given to the town of Edinburg.

- c. **Part C Performance Measures 2023:** Lewis reported that performance measures for 2023 have been met and discussed a recent survey conducted in regard to the update of the 2024 performance measures.

6. **New Business:**

- a. **Board member position:** Matthews and Koval positions expire at the end of 2023, both wish to continue.
- b. **Storage Building Bid, review and selection:** A motion was made to authorize the District Manager to enter into and execute a contract with Morton Buildings Inc. to construct the Saratoga County SWCD storage building as submitted by Morton Buildings Inc. for Bid # 03-2023 with a total bid amount of \$125,982.00 Motion made by Bartow, seconded by Koval, passed unanimously.
- c. **2024 National Envirothon Request:** A motion was made to authorize the District to donate \$3,000 to the National Envirothon. Motion made by Bartow, seconded by Koval, passed unanimously.

7. **Other Business:**

- a. **Groundwork for storage building:** Lewis reported that the groundwork is completed for the storage building site and provided ariel photos for review.
- b. **DEC presentations:** Looking for assistance setting up presentations in the next couple of months around the Champlain canal area about the Round Goby.

8. **Correspondence:** Available by request.

9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 3:00pm in the Planning Room at 50 West High Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020. The meeting adjourned at 3:56 PM. Motion made by Bartow, seconded by Matthews, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Kaitlyn Bemis, Office Manager

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

December 2023 Field Report

- AEM Saratoga fuel storage
 - AEM Galway Farm Fuel storage
 - AEM round 18 tier 4 implementation projects
 - AEM tier 3 conservation plans (Saratoga Plan)
 - AEM Buffer planning and stock ordering (Saratoga Springs)
 - 4 Ag assessments
 - Pond site visit (Greenfield)
 - Work on extension to the Septic System Replacement Grant
 - Drone survey of Saratoga Lake (Stillwater)
 - Site visits for septic system replacement grant (Clifton Park)
 - Pond site visit (Ballston Spa)
 - Attended CDEA Division meeting in Johnstown.
 - Attended SWCC meeting|
 - Layout and construction oversight of new storage building site work
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