

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
Planning Room, 50 W High Street, Ballston Spa
Minutes of Regular Meeting 05/15/2024

In Attendance:

District Directors:

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

District Staff:

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

Outside Agencies

Kate Girard

Regrets: Jennifer Koval, JD Arnold

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

1. **Minutes of April 2024 Meeting:** Motion to approve by Bartow, seconded by Garlanda, carried unanimously.
2. **April 2024 Financial Reports:**
 - a. **Income & Expense Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers:**
 - b. Motion to approve made by Matthews, seconded by Bartow, was carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Girard reported applications are still being reviewed. 5 finalized contracts: 4 forest management and 1 high tunnel. 6 approved applications: Livestock exclusion, Tree & Shrub Planting, Manure Injection, Invasive Control & Pollinator Habitat. 3 more applications are waiting for approval.
 - b. **FSA:** No Report.
 - c. **RC&D:** No Report.
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Fickbohm sent an email report. Lewis reported that a meeting will be held on May 21st, a zoom link will be sent out for any board members to attend.
 - e. **NYACD:** Lewis reported he would be working with NYACD on a grant involving cover crop. The contract is pending and will be held by NYACD.
 - f. **CCE:** No Report.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** No meeting this month. After some consideration the WQCC is requesting an increase on the purchase allowance of a flow meter. Motion to approve the purchase of a flow meter up to \$550.00. made by Garlanda, seconded by Bartow, was carried unanimously.
 - b. **Grants:** Lewis reported on the following:
 - i. Agricultural Environmental Management – Lewis reported on progress being made on the new contracts.
 - ii. Septic – Lewis reported that we are waiting for the new contract from the county to get started on the next more expansive grant for failing septic near targeted waterbodies.
 - iii. Roadside Assistance Grant – No Action.
 - iv. Cover Crop Grant Contract – Waiting on the contract.
 - c. **T&S 2024:** The program is complete and was a success.
Veitch Entered the meeting at 3:31 PM
 - d. **Envirothon 2024:** Was held on May 1st at the Saratoga Spa State Park. A total of 7 teams participated. The Schuylerville Duck Snatchers won. They will be competing at the NYS competition on May 22nd & 23rd. Lewis reported that there is an expectation of more schools participating next year.
 - e. **Fish Stocking 2024:** Was held on May 2nd, the amount of fish stocking improved from last year's program.
 - f. **Part C requirements:** Lewis reported that the State Committee Regional District Managers Meeting will be on June 6th in Fultonville, NY. He encouraged members of the board to attend to meet the Part C requirements.

g. **Storage Building:** The materials were delivered last week, there was a discussion about when the project will be completed.

6. **New Business:**

a. **4-hour Class:** Lewis reported that Blue Niles from the Saratoga County Stormwater Program requested that the District be contracted to conduct one training exclusively for municipal staff.

7. **Other Business:**

a. **Bird & Bat Boxes:** Lewis reported that the District has been receiving bird boxes and bat boxes made by the Conservation Department students at WSWHE Boces School.

8. **Correspondence:** None.

9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 19, 2024, at 3:00 pm. Meeting adjourned by Chairman at 3:53 pm. **Motion** to adjourn by Garlanda, seconded by Bartow, carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Kaitlyn Bemis, Secretary

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

May 2024 Field Report

- T&S distribution, cleanup
- Fish stocking distribution.
- Kobor Rd dry hydrant permit (Northumberland)
- Envirothon State Park
- Myers Lane drainage (Schuylerville)
- Hydro seed Town of Wilton
- ag drainage (Charlton)
- ag drainage (Saratoga)
- Hydro seeding supplies (Fulton County, EJP)
- AEM no-till Ellms tree farm
- AEM No-till
- AEM- No-till
- AEM round 18 tier-4 projects documents submitted.
- AEM Grant project review/drainage
- Cover Crop Grant meeting.
- Drone flights for Moreau State Park
- 10 pollinator program site visits