

# MINUTES

County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Natural Resource Center  
7413 County House Road  
Auburn, NY 13021

March 9, 2011

9:57 a.m.

## 1. ROLL CALL:

<u>Directors</u>		<u>Staff</u>	<u>OLWI</u>	<u>Blue Electron</u>
D. Kehoe	C. Roberts	R. Podolak	J. Miles	K. Zadeh
R. Mills	J. Young	D. Kierst		B. Moreland
S. Nemec		S. Huey	<u>NRCS</u>	<u>Seeler Engineering</u>
		W. Jakaub	K. Schor	T. Seeler

## 2. MINUTES – Approval of meeting minutes for February 2011.

*Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by C. Roberts. Carried.*

## 3. FINANCIAL – -Approval of February’s financial statements (see tab)

*Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by C. Roberts. Carried.*

-Approval of accounts payable (see tab)

*Motion by C. Roberts, seconded by D. Kehoe. Carried.*

*11-11 Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by C. Roberts, to approve the following transfers*

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
Federal Grant Account	Anaerobic Digester	\$1,428,379.71	EFC Grant – 6 <sup>th</sup> Drawdown Request
Fed – EPA-12	EI-Project	\$33,992.63	Dickman Farms Project
OLWI	County-General	\$33.52	Postage – December 15 to February 14, 2011

*Carried.*

S. Nemec arrived at 10:40 a.m.

## 4. DIGESTER REPORT

**Blue Electron – Kamyar Zadeh**

**Seeler Engineering – Tim Seeler**

- Distributed reports:
  - Cayuga County Regional Digester Project Progress Report
  - Explanation of Blue Electron Charges To Date
  - Transportation Options
  - Sterling Planet – Supply Services for Renewable Generators
- Discussed renewable energy credits. Sterling Planet has contacted Kamyar. They have shown an interest in purchasing energy credits from the Digester.
- Reviewed construction progress and schedule status. Projected substantial construction completion date is now May 30.
- Interconnection schedule update is now April 5.

- Discussed electrical aggregation. The Nursing Home is scheduled for March 18.
- Reviewed engineering costs. Tasks 4 and 5 not completed yet. See attached document.
- Discussed engineering budget. Finding opportunities for cost reduction when available to use for change orders that need to be implemented such as:
  - GenSet had to be redesigned as component was not available in US.
  - Integrated existing construction into new construction.
  - Engineering plans put together with limited time, therefore change orders need to be made.
- Reviewed and discussed cost overruns for Blue Electron and Seeler Engineering. Estimated costs for Blue Electron to finish the project are projected to be \$76,000.00 not to exceed rate of \$10,000.00 per month. Estimated costs for Seeler Engineering to finish the project are projected to be \$80,000.00. See attached document.
- Discussed business and marketing:
  - BRU (Bedding Recovery Unit). Possibility of leasing in the beginning.
  - Composting.
- Discussed transportation system. Reviewed all four options:
  - Contract to outside trucking firm to provide all transportation and related services.
  - Contract to outside trucking firm to drop and hook tankers and provide transportation services.
  - Contract to outside trucking firm to provide transportation services only.
  - SWCD staff to provide all transportation and related services.

***11-12 Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by S. Nemec, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to approve the change orders as follows:***

- ***Change Order #4 – Contract 5 - Lighting Protection – Bouley Associates***
  - ***Change Order #4 – Contract 8 – Spiral Heat Exchange – J. W. Danforth & Co.***
- Carried.***

***11-13 Motion by S. Nemec, seconded by C. Roberts, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to grant the Executive Director permission to sign contract extensions with Blue Electron and Seeler Engineering. Carried.***

K. Zadeh, B. Moreland and T. Seeler left at 11:25 a.m.

## **5. DOCUMENTS**

- Mission Statement
- Soil and Water Conservation District Law
- Open Meetings Law
- Performance Evaluation Report
- 2010 Annual Work Plan
- 2011 Annual Work Plan
- Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District 2010 Annual Report
- Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program 2010 Annual Report
- Conservation Highlights – Spring 2011

## 6. RESOLUTIONS

*11-14 Motion by S. Nemec, seconded by D. Kehoe, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to approve the completed 2010 Annual Work Plan as presented. Carried.*

*11-15 Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to approve amendments to be made to the 2011 Annual Work Plan regarding work and assistance to support the OLWI program. Carried.*

*11-16 Motion by R. Mills, seconded by S. Nemec, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to review and approve the 2011 Annual Work Plan as amended. Carried.*

*11-17 Motion by S. Nemec, seconded by C. Roberts, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to award the bid for equipment and materials for a manure irrigation and silage leachate collection system at KaVern Farms to Cuff Farm Services in the amount of \$70,497.25. Carried.*

*11-18 Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by S. Nemec, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to pay Ellis Ward of Preservation Acres Farm the amount of \$2369.10 for his prescribed grazing management practice fencing project from the State Grant - Round 14 Ag Non-Point account. Carried.*

## 7. REPORTS

### NRCS – Katie Schor

- **Farm Bill Program Update**

Eligibility and Prioritization worksheets are in the process of being completed for all 2011 Farm Bill programs. We have 15 EQIP livestock waste, 3 EQIP forestry, 1 WHIP shrubland, and 6 AMA high tunnel applications. At this time, high priority applications are the only ones that will move forward in the ranking process. These worksheets are new for this year's programs and were created to reduce the number of full rankings that need to be completed on applications that have no chance of being funded.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

4 applications have been received for the 2011 program. Two were received from livestock operations and two from cash crop operations. To date, 2 out of 4 interviews have been completed. Deadline for completing interviews on the remaining applications is March 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- **HELC/WC**

Wetland mitigation plans for 2 separate landowners (addressing a total of 2.5 acres of violation area) were officially approved by FSA and NRCS State Offices. Approved plans were presented to and signed by the producers. FSA was then able to issue good faith determinations and benefits for both parties were reinstated. Producers have one year to fully implement the agreed upon mitigation plans.

Shannon and I continue to work on 1026 requests for land clearing, ditching, tiling, drainage, etc. We are working to complete any and all requests that do not require a site visit by the NRCS Soil Scientist.

- **Miscellaneous**

Participated in the Owasco Lake Ag Forum on March 2, 2011. Representatives from Cayuga County SWCD, NRCS, FSA, Tompkins County SWCD, SLWAP, State Committee were present and were able to interact with potential and existing customers from the Owasco Lake Watershed. Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

#### **OLWI – Jessica Miles**

- Working with homeowners at Koenigs Point in the Town of Owasco. Previously installed stormwater catch basins have always had very high fecal coliform levels. Property owners with system's outlet on their beachfront want to manipulate pipe to redo concrete ramp for their boat hoist. NYS DEC has stated that they cannot do anything with the pipe because of the high fecal coliform levels. Due to the significant fecal coliform levels, property owners would have to apply and maintain a SPDES permit. Working to help property owners understand NYS DEC point of view and work towards other options to achieve the installation of their boat ramp. Also, spoke with the Cayuga County Health Department to be sure that there were no known reasons why the fecal coliform would have been high when the samples were taken (i.e. a known failing septic system).
- Investigated report of turbid/foaming stream. Found runoff from field where manure had been spread and had reached the stream. Working with NYS DEC to resolve because the farm is a large CAFO. Also, a related incident came about through this investigation. A property owner that lives adjacent to the impacted stream claims that his well became contaminated by the manure. NYS DEC and the Cayuga County Health Department are both involved in remediation of the situation and are having the well tested for fecal coliform.
- Noted forested area being cleared near cropfields. Area in question is just outside the Owasco Lake Watershed and is located in the Seneca River Watershed. Forest is a mapped federal wetland. Passed information onto Army Corps of Engineers, but NRCS will be handling the proceedings because the wetland is connected to agricultural land.

#### **District Field Manager – Doug Kierst**

- Distributed report.

#### **Executive Director – Ron Podolak**

- Reviewed listed documents (see item 5 above).
- Discussed performance evaluation for Executive Director. Will be delivered to County Civil Service department by Directors.
- Discussed 2011 Water Quality Symposium being held March 15-18, at the Holiday Inn, Auburn. Director's were invited to attend.

**8. ADJOURNMENT:** 12:40 p.m. *Motion by R. Mills, seconded by D. Kehoe. Carried*

**9. NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.