

MINUTES

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

April 13, 2011

10:00 A.M.

1. ROLL CALL:

<u>Directors</u>		<u>Staff</u>	<u>OLWI</u>	<u>Blue Electron</u>
D. Kehoe	P. Pinckney	R. Podolak	J. Miles	K. Zadeh
R. Lockwood	C. Roberts	S. Huey		B. Moreland
R. Mills	J. Young	W. Jakaub	<u>Seeler Engineering</u>	<u>Citizen - Newspaper</u>
S. Nemec			T. Seeler	J. Murphy

2. MINUTES – Approval of meeting minutes for March 2011.

Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by R. Mills. Carried.

3. FINANCIALS – -Approval of March’s financial statements (see tab)

Motion by R. Mills, seconded by D. Kehoe. Carried.

-Approval of accounts payable (see tab)

Motion by C. Roberts, seconded by R. Mills. Carried.

4. ANNOUNCEMENT

- Ray Lockwood announced that evaluations for the Executive Director are due in the county Civil Service Office.

5. RESOLUTIONS

11-20 Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by R. Mills, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to appoint S. Nemec to serve on the Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District Board as a representative for the Watershed Agricultural Program Review Committee (WAPRC). This will be a two year term from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012. Carried.

T. Seeler arrived at 10:08 a.m.

P. Pinckney arrived at 10:08 a.m.

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

11-21 Motion by S. Nemec, seconded by C. Roberts, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to award Zimmerman Construction as per written quote concrete work for Kavern Sileage Leachate Collection System project at \$11,900. Carried.

11-00 Motion by, seconded by, to approve the following resolution to authorize the Executive Director to sign the contract extension with the City of Auburn, Town of Owasco and Cayuga County for the Owasco Lake Inspection Program.

Resolution not acted upon. Tabled until next meeting of May 11th.

11-22 Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by C. Roberts, to approve the following transfer:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
State Grant Acct	County – General	\$30,000.00	50% Reimbursement – Part A – Eligible Expenditures

Carried.

11-23 Motion by P. Pinckney, seconded by R. Mills, to approve the following transfer:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
Federal - EPA-12	State – Rnd 14 – Cayuga Lake Watershed	\$17,289.64	To Pay Zimmerman Construction for Work on Lockwood Manure Storage
Federal - EPA-12	Earned Income – Project	\$30,944.13	District’s Labor, Equipment Usage, Materials for Lockwood Manure Storage Project

Carried. R. Lockwood Abstained.

11-24 Motion by R. Mills, seconded by C. Roberts, to approve the following transfer:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
Federal - EPA-12	Earned Income - Project	\$17,798.93	District’s Labor, Equipment Usage, Materials for Whitcomb Manure Storage Project

Carried.

11-25 Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by S. Nemec, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to approve the following change order:

- **Change Order #5 – Contract 6 – Digester Tank – Fisher Tank Company.**

Carried.

**6. DIGESTER REPORT -
Seeler Engineering – Tim Seeler**

- Regarding resolution 11-25, the change order includes the following:
 1. Addition of flange – Will allow digester to take in food waste in the future.
 2. Extension on stainless steel nozzles – Will allow for better connection on outside of tanks.
 3. Mixer support assembly – Labor to put up tank shell – Welding.
 4. Sealant around base of tank.
- The generator is complete with exception of testing.
- Plant electrical work is 70% complete.
- General contractor is 90% complete.
- The large flexible dome will be up in the next 2 to 3 weeks.
- Fisher Tank project is done except for testing and internal touch ups.

- Insulation contractor – Digester and wet gas holder tanks left to complete. Will be complete in late June. Will not delay startup.
- Mechanicals – Stainless steel being put up. Compressor is scheduled for the end of next week.
- Generator room will be done by the end of next week.
- Desulph Unit – The gas cleaning system is scheduled to arrive next Friday.
- The tower is scheduled to be assembled next Tuesday.
- The startup for May is on schedule.

- EFC Payments:
The buy American clause of the contract is causing issues. The project has had 3 audits so far and have been in compliance on all. This is considered to be a very stellar project and the technology is being imported from Germany. As the hardware and software must be compatible, the problem resides in the fact that GBU of Germany will provide and integrate the software and associated hardware into the system. This was negotiated in the contract with the EFC in the beginning of the project. The contract was then submitted and approved by the EFC at that time. The EFC is now challenging the agreement because of the buy American clause. The engineers of the digester project are now in negotiations and preparing the original documents to readdress the case. Until the matter is settled the EFC is refusing to continue to finance the project.

- Trucking:
 1. Have had an informational meeting on trucking of the manure to and from the digester site. During the meeting, a tour was conducted of the digester site and contracted farms.
 2. Trucking firms attending suggested vacuum tankers were the best option.
 3. Plans to schedule another informational meeting to involve trucking firms who were not able to attend previous meeting. Will advertise and have available Request For Information packets ready to be picked up. Packets must be returned by April 22nd.
 4. Currently have 10 year contracts with 3 farms. Would like to revise contracts to add snow removal, etc. on farms.
 5. Is stated in the contracts that testing be done for consistency in manure.
 6. Product becomes responsibility of trucking firms when it is picked up and transported.
 7. Whitcomb Farms will not be receiving liquid back. It will go to other farms on contract.

T. Seeler left at 11:08 a.m.

7. REPORTS

NRCS – Katie Schor

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
We received 3 applications for the EQIP Forestry Initiative. Applicant information was forwarded to John Graham, DEC Forester, so that the ranking could be completed and a cost estimate could be generated. This information must be entered into Protracts no later than April 15th.

Rankings and cost estimates for all high-priority applications are currently in the process of being completed. After completing the Eligibility & Prioritization worksheets, it was determined that 1 cropland, and 4 livestock waste applications are considered high priority. These rankings and cost estimates will need to be entered into Protracts no later than COB April 15th.

- Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)
Eligibility and Prioritization worksheets have been completed and 2 applications have been considered high priority. Rankings and cost estimates were completed and entered into Protracts by the April 1st deadline.
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)
Shannon has been working with our new Biologist, Steve Stroka, to finalize the conservation plan for a 64.6-acre permanent easement which officially closed in December 2010. In addition, a Final Certificate of Inspection and Possession has been completed.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
Interviews have been conducted for all 4 applications received for the 2011 program. Two were received from livestock operations and two from cash crop operations. The conservation measurement tool was completed to document the current level of stewardship for each operation. In addition, each producer chose at least 1 enhancement that they are willing to incorporate into their operations. All eligible applications have been preapproved and Shannon and I will now focus our attention on completing the required field verifications.
Payments have been processed for all prior year contracts for a total of approximately \$128,000 in financial assistance.
- HELC/WC
I received a complaint from a whistleblower regarding some land clearing being conducted within the county. Army Corp of Engineers is also involved because it appears that the area in question is on the National Wetlands Inventory. I am currently working with a case manager in the enforcements division of ACOE in Buffalo to determine how to proceed. Technically, ACOE is the regulatory agency and we will have to accept their determination. However, we are working together in hopes that we can limit the amount of site visits required to conduct this investigation. I have spoken with the landowner and also sent him a letter indicating that I received the complaint and have requested the FSA-569 from Farm Service Agency. As per policy, a certified wetland determination cannot be conducted until after the start of the 2011 growing season, a requirement that has been made clear to the landowner.
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.

OLWI – Jessica Miles

- Attended the Agricultural Forum hosted by American Farmland Trust. Meeting was attended by Owasco Lake Watershed producers and agencies. Some good information was shared, but no further follow up has been done. AFT is planning to host one to two community-wide forums.
- Attended Asian Clam Task Force meetings. Working to establish the extent of Asian clam infestation by shoreline and in lake samples and looking at options that may be available to suppress further establishment.

- Continue to work with farm in the Town of Owasco under consent order from NYS DEC. Met with SWCD, Skaneateles Lake Watershed, and farmers to discuss options for addressing silage leachate issue.
- Also continue to work with NYS DEC on farm issue in the Town of Scipio. NYS DEC will be fining and requiring changes to spreading schedule. Farm and planner are working on addressing these issues and incorporating these changes into their Nutrient Management Plan.

Executive Director – Ron Podolak

- Expressed support for Katie Schor – NRCS. Satellite imagery is detecting violation problems in the field. This is not favorable with the farmers. Wetlands are being cleared for farmland as the price of commodities increases. Issues detected are presented to Katie to address as they arise. In meetings with landowners some verbal abuse is involved. Katie’s supervisors are aware of the situation and District employees have become attuned to any shouting that may arise during meetings she may have with landowners.
- Finishing 2nd step of review with the Civil Service Commission. All staff members have completed forms as to what job duties entail. Forms were reviewed by immediate supervisor and Executive Director. Will then be returned to Civil Service Office.
- Will be starting on KaVern Farms silage leachate project. Must be completed within 2 weeks.
- Work is continuing at Ag Museum.
- Work is continuing at Digester Project. Scheduled to start up in May.
- Work is continuing for the tubgrinder.
- Receiving calls for conservation mowing this season.
- Workshops are scheduled for erosion and sediment control training Friday, April 27 and Thursday, May 3rd. The workshop on April 27th is for highway superintendents.
- Doug Kierst attended a meeting for the West Ave. project in Moravia.
- A response letter to Mr. Balyczak’s column regarding the District is appearing in the Citizen newspaper today.
- Received email from Mary Menapace informing of a workshop being scheduled in Auburn regarding leases with gas companies asking the District to co-sponsor.

11-26 Motion by S. Nemeč, seconded by D. Kehoe, to approve the following resolution that the District not co-sponsor the gas companies lease workshop on April 25th at 7:00 p.m. Carried.

Board of Directors – Roger Mills

- Inquired about work being done at Emerson Park – Ag Museum.
- Reviewed process for work being acquired through inter-municipal agreements.
- Discussed D8 dozer purchased from military surplus website. Will first go to IDA site.
- Inquired about sharing of equipment with County Highway Dept., City of Auburn, municipalities and fire depts.
- Discussed AVC program. The State may cut program of FLOWPA funds.

8. ADJOURNMENT:

11:48 a.m. *Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by S. Nemeč.*

9. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, May 11, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.