

MINUTES

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

MAY 11, 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. Reinhart | K. Zadeh |
| R. Lockwood C. Roberts | D. Kierst | | B. Moreland |
| R. Mills J. Young | S. Huey | <u>NRCS</u> | <u>Seeler Engineer</u> |
| <u>Absent:</u> S. Nemec | W. Jakaub | K. Schor | T. Seeler |
| | | | |
| <u>Cayuga County Legislator</u> | <u>The Citizen – Newspaper</u> | <u>Landowner</u> | |
| A. Petrus | J. Murphy | C. Allen | |

2. MINUTES – Approval of meeting minutes for April 2011.
Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by C. Roberts. Carried.

3. FINANCIAL – -Approval of April’s financial statements (see tab)
Motion by J. Young, seconded by C. Robert. Carried.
-Approval of accounts payable (see tab)
Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe. Carried.

11-27 Motion by J. Young , seconded by P. Pinckney , to approve the following transfers:

| FROM | TO | AMOUNT | REASON |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|---|
| Federal – Graze Acct. | State – AEM | \$12,274.00 | To pay salary and expenses of Conservation Grazing Technician |
| First Niagara – Digester – Working Capital | Anaerobic Digester Acct. | \$425,000.00 | To pay J.W. Danforth Co. and Fisher Tank Co. |
| State – AgNp – CNMP | Digester – Energy Billing | \$20,739.85 | Start up funds for Energy Billing Account |
| Anaerobic Digester | Digester – Energy Billing | \$1,178.30 | Energy Charges for March 2011 |
| Earned Income - Rent | Digester Energy Billing | \$925.00 | Energy Charges for March 2011 |

Carried.

C. Allen arrived at 10:07 a.m.
P. Pinckney arrived at 10:08 a.m.

4. C. Allen – Landowner

- Culvert pipe on property behind house floods after every rainstorm. The pipe backs up.
- Basement floods as a result. Extensive damage during heavy rainstorm on 4/20/11. Basement flooded with @ 4' of water.
- Prior owner signed off on ditch maintenance where property owner is responsible for the maintenance of the ditch. Nothing in current landowner's contract at time of purchase.
- D. Kierst stated there is no funding to fix problem.

5. RESOLUTIONS

11-00 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 was not acted upon. Tabled until next meeting of June 8th.

11-28 Motion by J. Young , seconded by D. Kehoe, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to appoint Ron Podolak, Executive Director and Wanda Jakaub, Principal Account Clerk to serve on the County of Cayuga Health Insurance Consortium Board of Directors as a representative for the Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District. This will be a one year term from January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011. Carried.

11-29 Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by P. Pinckney, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to pay the following customers the refunds listed below due to a nursery shortage at the District tree program:

| Customer Name | Amount | Item Purchased |
|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Steve Bramble | \$40.00 | Norway Spruce |
| Paul Kelley | \$25.00 | Blueberry |
| John Malenick | \$12.00 | Sycamore |
| Rosemarie Romano | \$10.00 | Crabapple |

Carried.

11-30 Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to dispose of all remaining trees from the tree sale. Carried.

6. DOCUMENTS

- **Proposal for Transport of Manure for Cayuga County Digester Facility**
- **Letter from Suzanna Randal, AICP, Environmental Facilities Corporation**

R. Mills arrived at 10:36 a.m.

7. DIGESTER REPORT

Blue Electron – Kamyar Zadeh
Seeler Engineering – Tim Seeler

- Progress report distributed.

- Gas Conditioning Unit - Delivered on-time and on budget. Blue Electron personnel assisted District in installation and assembly. Installation is almost complete with work remaining which includes some piping, installation of control panel and its integration with system and site wirings.
- NYSEG Electrical Aggregation - Complete in all buildings. The first billings were issued in April.
- The NYSEG PPA – Is under review by the Attorney.
- Transportation RFP – Responses to RFI information was very useful to improve transportation business model. New business models are being discussed.
- Renewable Energy Credits – Discussions with Sterling Planet underway. Marketing agreement was received by Blue Electron. Environmental Capital is preparing a proposal. Contacts have been initiated with Terrapass, 3 Degrees, Native Energy and Standard Carbon.
- Integration of heat into Public Safety Building – Conceptual design is complete. Work is underway to develop costs and integration approach.
- Solids – Revenue potential in progress.
- Business plan update is in progress.
- EFC Grant – T. Seeler provided the EFC with substantial transformation reformation paperwork. EFC's suggested comments were positive. One more review is scheduled and possible results are expected by the end of the week.

Comments by Board:

- Roger Mills – As the District will always be subject to an audit, cost should be allocated in the budget.
- Dale Kehoe – After sign off of the EFC grant, how long before the District is not subjected to the buy American clause? Advised as to possibly 6 months.

8. REPORTS

NRCS – Katie Schor

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
 - We conducted a peer review of all high priority EQIP applications within the Finger Lakes team. A few minor issues were identified which will need to be addressed before the applications can be officially preapproved. Cayuga County has 5 high priority applications for the 2011 program; 4 livestock waste and 1 erosion control on cropland.
 - Shannon continues to work with our Area Engineer on a complicated design for a concrete manure storage structure. This has been a valuable training exercise for Shannon in the use of AutoCAD. She is working on final revisions to the design. This project is partially funded with money from the SWCD and we will need to follow appropriate SWCD procurement policy before construction can begin.
- **Agricultural Management Assistance Program (AMA)**
Quality assurance reviews will need to be conducted on all high priority applications. Cayuga County has 2 applications for the high tunnel pilot program.
- **Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)**
Shannon worked with the Area Civil Engineering Technician to complete a GPS grade survey on a 64.6-acre permanent easement. Once we receive the results back from this survey, we will be able to develop an accurate cost estimate for restoration. Steve Stroka is currently working with the producer to write the required WRP plan of operations.

This will need to be submitted to the State Office so that money can be obligated for all construction activities.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

Field Verifications and Quality Assurance reviews have been completed on all 4 applications for the 2011 program. Contracts and stewardship plans are in the process of being developed and will need to be finalized by the May 23rd obligation deadline. These 4 contracts represent 12,000 acres and approximately \$787,000 in cost share assistance.

- **HELWC/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 facilitate this process. An on-site investigation will be conducted in June by a team of specialists including ACOE & NRCS biologists, and a NRCS soil scientist. A representative from the Field Office will also be present.
- In addition, I have received 3 FSA-569 forms from Farm Service Agency. I have submitted specialist assistance request forms to the appropriate Biologist and Soil Scientist so that we can begin tackling this workload.
- Shannon and I were given field training on our upland delineation procedure. This process allows us to upload the hydric soils information into GPS and lay out this boundary in the field without the presence of a soil scientist or biologist. We can flag out the boundary of the hydric soils area in the field and if the landowner is in agreement they can proceed with proposed clearing of any upland areas.
- As a result of my in-depth experience with the numerous challenges presented by workload, I have been asked to represent the area on a team that has been formed specifically to address Food Security Act issues. The first meeting occurred on April 26th in the Auburn Field office.
- 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

- Consent orders have been completed by NYS DEC for two farm incidents. These two incidents are the Twin Birch spill in August, 2010 and the Allen spreading incident in March, 2011. Consent orders outline fines charged against the farm, actions that will be taken to address the issue, other BMPs to be installed, and a timeline for completion.
- NYS DEC has met with Tidd farm, Skaneateles Lake Watershed Agricultural Program, and the Cayuga County SWCD. SWCD proposed several options for solving leachate issue. NYS DEC has accepted one of the plans. Work to begin on addressing this and other concerns on the farm as the weather permits.
- The Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council has approved hiring two seasonal employees for the summer and early fall. Currently in the process of advertising and interviewing for the positions.

District Field Manager – Doug Kierst

- Erosion and Sediment Control training was held at the Natural Resources building on April 27th for the Cayuga County Highway Dept.
- Current projects:
 - Kavern Farms – Silage Leachate Collection System
 - Ag Museum – Expansion project

- Village of Moravia – West Ave. Stormwater Piping Project - Is currently in the planning phase.
- An electronics recycling event was held at the BOCES campus on Saturday, May 14th.
- The tire recycling program will be held Saturday, June 11th in the parking lot at the Natural Resource building.
- Ag Plastic Baler – Currently contacting farmers and marina owners.

Executive Director – Ron Podolak

- Carpets at the east end of the Natural Resource building will need to be replaced. The carpet in the FSA office became wet because of leakage from a smashed drain pipe on the outside of the building. Carpets are currently 17 years old.
- Attended a meeting on April 29th at the State Fair grounds. Commissioner of Ag and Markets Dale Aubertine was in attendance. Discussed budget cutbacks and delivery of programs regarding next farm bill.

9. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe, to enter into executive session at 11:17 a.m. to discuss pending litigation. Carried

Motion by P. Pinckney, seconded by C. Roberts, to come out of executive session at 12:10 p.m. Carried

9. ADJOURNMENT: 12:10 p.m. *Motion by C. Roberts, seconded by R. Mills. Carried.*

10. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 8, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.