

MINUTES

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

February 8, 2012

1. ROLL CALL:

<u>Directors</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>OLWI</u>	<u>Seeler Engr.</u>
S. Barski	P. Pinckney	R. Podolak	K. Jakaub
D. Kehoe	C. Roberts	S. Huey	T. Seeler
R. Lockwood	J. Young	W. Jakaub	<u>The Citizen</u>
Absent: S. Nemec	M. Riley		J. Murphy

2. **MINUTES** – Approval of meeting minutes for meetings of January 11th and 17th, 2012.
Motion by J. Young, seconded by C. Roberts. Carried.

3. **FINANCIAL** – -Approval of January’s financial statements (see tab)
Motion by J. Young, seconded by S. Barski. Carried.

-Approval of accounts payable (see tab)
Motion by J. Young, seconded by P. Pinckney. Carried.

12-10 Motion by J. Young, seconded by S. Barski, to approve the following transfers:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
OLWI	Cty-General	\$31.06	Vehicle Usage – Jan. 2012
OLWI	EI-WWM	\$53.84	Vehicle Usage – Jan. 2012
OLWI	State-AEM	\$52.07	Vehicle Usage – Jan. 2012
Federal – EPA-12	Earned Income – Mizro Project	.10	To close out EPA-12 Account

Carried.

4. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS

- Letter from Stephen Lynch of the Cayuga County Industrial Development Agency.
- Letter from Jeff Larsen, Northeast Energy Systems.
- Letter from Thomas Giunta, John W. Danforth Company.
- Weber Hydraulics – Quotation.
- 2011 SWCD Annual Report.
- 2011 OLWI Program Annual Report.

J. Murphy – The Citizen - arrived at 10:05 a.m.

D. Kehoe - arrived at 10:10 a.m.

T. Seeler – Seeler Engineering - arrived at 10:11 a.m.

5. REPORTS

Digester – Mike Riley

- Report distributed.
- Ray Lockwood, Chairman of the Board, signed off on the commissioning of the Jenbacher as Ron Podolak, Executive Director, was out of town.
- Fire alarm system – Tim Seeler is working with Ridley Electric.
- Tracking of manure – Have been advised to operate in manual mode. Questions as to who is tracking incoming manure in manual mode.
- Paul Pinckney - Questioned as to why there is no power purchase agreement yet? The agreement is with the attorney, Andy Leja of Hiscock & Barclay and is being negotiated between NYSEG, Kamyar Zadeh-Blue Electron and Andy Leja.
- Jim Young – Stated that CCPUCA could purchase power, but is not registered as a buyer yet. Will know more at next CCPUCA meeting on Feb. 14th.

OLWI – Katie Jakaub

- Seasonal Workers - Interviews are scheduled for February 15, 16. Hired candidates will start their 12 week position on March 5th, 2012.
- Annual Reports - Have been published and circulated to all town, county and state officials as well as other local environmental groups and homeowner's associations.
- Auburn Water Filtration Plant - On January 19th, met with Anthony DeCaro, Chief Water Plant Operator who took me on a detailed tour throughout the entire facility and also throughout some problem areas of the watershed. We plan to make this a monthly routine.
- Updates:
 - Owasco "Junkyard" - A court hearing was scheduled for 1/31 but was cancelled after 2 follow up inspections (1-12, 1-27) showed drastic improvement of the site. All junk vehicles and other materials have since been removed.
 - Locke "Oil Field" – Several (hundreds) of leaking containers of vegetable oil were found located within close proximity to the Owasco Inlet and a small tributary (12-9). All containers have since been removed or stored properly.
 - Since January 1, 2012 – Covered 304 miles inspecting the watershed reporting on complaints, violations and follow-up inspections. Logged a total of 30 hours and 25 total inspections.

NRCS – Katie Schor

- Did not attend meeting, but submitted the following report.
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
2 applications for the first round of the Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative and 1 application for the first round of the On-Farm Energy Initiative were accepted and ranked by the 2/6/12 deadline. Quality Assurance is currently being completed so that the list of eligible applications can be submitted to NHQ for approval.

We were unable to organize a formal meeting of the Local Working Group in Cayuga County within the 2 week timeframe due to schedule conflicts, vacations and illness. Therefore I asked several members of the Cayuga County SWCD, USDA FSA, Cornell Cooperative Extension, USDA NRCS as well as technical service providers and farmers to complete the worksheet individually. I compiled all the suggestions from those who responded and will be presenting this information at the Marcy Area Team meeting on 2/9/12.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

Payments for 3 CSP contracts have been completed and processed after January 1st, as requested by the producers.

A cancellation request for a 2010 CSP Forestry contract was approved by the NRCS State Office.

Applications for Round 1 of the 2012 CSP Program were accepted until January 27, 2012. We received 14 applications which is the highest number of any county within the state. Once the measurement tool is released by the State office, Shannon and I will be conducting interviews with all eligible applicants.

- **HELC/WC**

The final technical determination on a pending violation site was sent to the producer by the acting State Conservationist. The producer has been given their appeal rights and they have 30 days to act accordingly. If they do not move forward with any appeal, the FSA-569 will be marked final and returned to FSA for processing. At that time, the producer will have the option to request in writing for NRCS to complete the wetland restoration plan for the 0.7 acre violation site.

Shannon is currently working on revisions to 2 Food Security Act HEL plans, as requested by producers.

Executive Director – Ron Podolak

- Distributed report.
- Received notification that Congresswoman Buerkle of the 25th district will not be able to take part in the tours planned for Friday, February 24th. Will send staff representatives in her place instead.
- The emergency management response plan for the digester has been completed and forwarded to Brian Dahl of the Cayuga County Emergency Management Office. Plan includes Auburn Fire Dept., Sennett Fire Dept. and the Cayuga County Sheriff's Dept. and uses many components of the County's current plan.
- Discussed plans to install a fence around the Digester complex and a gate on the access road to the Digester.
- Updated the Board on the status of the harvester and needed repairs. Received quote from Weber Hydraulics of Buffalo for approximately \$40,000.00 to make repairs and put the harvester back in functioning service. Work would include switching over all valves from German made parts, which are no longer available, to American made parts. Will need approximately 20 weeks to order valves before repairs can be made. SWCD staff will assist in repairs so as to cut costs. Harvester is currently 8 years old.

Suggestion was made to possibly purchase a used harvester, but at \$150,000 to \$170,000 would not be cost effective. It was also suggested to possibly hire another county to do the weed harvesting, but Cayuga County has the largest harvester in the northeast area.

Decision was made to notify the Cayuga County Planning Committee of the situation at their next meeting. The Executive Director will research the cost of valves needed to be ordered ahead of time and restocking charges if needed to be returned.

- IDA Road Project – Paul Pinckney stated that he was notified that the Town of Aurelius is not satisfied with the base of the IDA road. The Town was directed to contact the District regarding the issue, but Ron Podolak said the District has not received any notification of the problem.

6. RESOLUTIONS

12-11 Motion by J. Young, seconded by P. Pinckney to approve the following resolution for the authorization to grant the Executive Director authority to appoint district staff and allow all board members to attend the 2012 Water Quality Symposium, March 13-16, 2012 at the Holiday Inn, Auburn, New York. Carried.

Water Quality Symposium agendas and registrations forms were distributed to the Directors at the meeting.

12-12 Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe to approve the following resolution for the authorization to approve the 2012 Annual Work Plan. Carried.

12-13 Motion by J. Young, seconded by P. Pinckney to approve the following resolution for the authorization to promote Bruce Purdy and Paul Herrling, currently MEO seasonals, to MEO permanent part-time to be effective immediately. The rate of pay will remain the same. Carried.

12-14 Motion by J. Young, seconded by P. Pinckney to approve the following resolution for the authorization to award to We Cover Structures, Inc. of Thamesville, Ontario, Canada the low bid of \$224,069.27 for the materials and installation of a fabric truss structure on the Fessenden Dairy, LLC farm. Carried.

Four bids were received. One bid was disqualified as they did not attend the informational meeting. This will be a 220' by 85' structure to cover a bunk silo for protection against the weather.

12-15 Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe, to approve the following resolution for the authorization to return to the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets the 25% advance payment of \$26,297.50 plus interest earned for the Round XIV, Contract C700882, Cuddeback Reception Waste Storage Facility due to contract expiration and no implementation. Carried.

This was for a concrete waste storage facility to store return effluent from the digester. Because of complaints from neighbors the plans were changed.

7. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by J. Young, seconded by P. Pinckney to enter into executive session at 11:00 a.m. to discuss possible litigation. Carried.

Motion by J. Young, seconded by P. Pinckney to exit out of executive session at 11:28 a.m. Carried.

8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:30 a.m. *Motion by J. Young, seconded by S. Barski. Carried.*

9. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.