

MINUTES

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

March 13, 2012

9:58 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL:

<u>Directors</u>		<u>Staff</u>
S. Barski	P. Pinckney	R. Podolak
D. Kehoe	C. Roberts	D. Kierst
R. Lockwood	J. Young	W. Jakaub
S. Nemec		M. Riley

2. MINUTES – Approval of meeting minutes for meeting of February 8th, 2012.

Motion by S. Barski, seconded by C. Roberts. Carried.

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

Motion by D. Kehoe, seconded by S. Barski. Carried.

-Approval of accounts payable (see tab)

Motion by J. Young, seconded by C. Roberts. Carried.

12-16 Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe, to approve the following transfers:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
OLWI	Cty-General	\$65.00	Postage – Jan. 15 to Mar. 14, 2012
OLWI	EI-WWM	\$141.52	Vehicle Usage – Feb. 2012
OLWI	State-AEM	\$37.74	Vehicle Usage – Feb. 2012
Earned Income – Rent	Energy Billing – Checking	\$2,024.82	January & February Energy Billing
Anaerobic Digester	Energy Billing – Checking	\$744.11	January & February Energy Billing
Energy Billing - Checking	Energy Billing - Savings	\$1,728.53	January & February Energy Billing
State Grant Account	Earned Income – Misc. Projects	\$6,589.35	Final Retainer – Owasco Inlet Project
Skan. Lake Watershed Program	County – General	\$6,000.00	2011 SLW Stipend – Executive Director

Carried.

Discussion: Energy Billing Transfers:

Explanation followed as to how energy billing is configured when energy comes off the grid.

The energy from NYSEG passes through the main meter on the drive next to the road. Also each separate entity that is billed has its own meter at the outside of their respective buildings.

NYSEG bills the District for the total usage. Each meter is read to get the individual usages which are then billed to the separate accounts.

Discussion also followed regarding setting meter rates to charge the county agencies for energy off the digester while at the same time paying off the loan to the county when the Digester is running on a regular schedule.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from R. Podolak to W. Hutson of Centro Bus regarding the farm tour with Congresswoman Burkle.
- Letter to Chairman S. Cuddeback regarding AVC program funding.
- Conservation Highlights – Spring 2012.

P. Pinckney arrived at 10:11 a.m.

5. RESOLUTIONS

12-17 Motion by C. Roberts, seconded by D. Kehoe to approve the following resolution for the authorization to pay NYS Agriculture and Markets the amount of \$58,810.00 plus interest for money received for the Round XIV AgNp grant for the Cuddeback Farm reception waste storage facility. Carried.

Note: Last month a resolution was passed to return the 25% advance payment. A 65% was also received and must also be returned.

Discussion: This money must be returned as it cannot be used for any other projects per new laws passed by the state. If the money is not used by the certain grant that it was obtained through it cannot be transferred between farms and/or different rounds.

Municipal Resolution

Water Quality Improvement Projects and
Nonagricultural Nonpoint Source
Projects Municipal Resolution

12-18 Motion by J. Young, seconded by P. Pinckney to approve the following resolution authorizing the items listed below pursuant to the Bond Acts enacted in 1965, 1972 and 1996 and the Environmental Protection Fund, as well as federal grant awards available for such projects.

WHEREAS, Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District
(Legal Name of Municipality)

herein called the "Municipality", after thorough consideration of the various aspects of the problem and study of available data, has hereby determined that certain work, as described in its application and attachments, herein called the "Project", is desirable, is in the public interest, and is required in order to implement the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Conservation Law ("ECL") authorizes State assistance to municipalities for water quality improvement projects by means of a contract and the Municipality deems it to be in the public interest and benefit under this law to enter into a contract therewith;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY Board of Directors
(Governing Body of Municipality)

1. That Ronald Podolak, Executive Director
(Name and Title of Designated Authorized Representative)
or such person's successor in office, is the representative authorized to act in behalf of the Municipality's governing body in all matters related to State assistance under ECL Articles 17, 51 and 56 and/or any applicable federal grant provisions. The representative is also authorized to make application, execute the State Assistance Contract, submit Project documentation, and otherwise act for the Municipality's governing body in all matters related to the Project and to State assistance;
2. That the Municipality agrees that it will fund its portion of the cost of the Project and that funds will be available to initiate the Project's field work within twelve (12) months of written approval of its application by the Department of Environmental Conservation;
3. That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and sent to the Albany office of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
4. That this Resolution takes effect immediately.

CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

That the attached Resolution is a true and correct copy of the Resolution, as regularly adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Board of Directors

(Name of Governing Body of Applicant)

duly held on the 14 day of March, 2012; and further that such Resolution has been fully recorded in the Minutes Book in my office.

In witness thereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 14 day of March, 2012.

Signature of Recording Officer

If the Applicant has an Official Seal, Impress here.

Title of Recording Officer

Carried.

7. REPORTS

NRCS – Katie Schor

- Was not present, but the following was submitted.
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
All information gathered during the Local Working Group process was compiled and presented at the Marcy Area Team meeting on 2/9/12. We worked as a team to develop the local questions that will be included in the ranking process for grazing, cropland erosion and livestock waste subcategories. The local questions are worth a total of 500

points in the ranking process. 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.

- **Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)**

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. 6 interviews have been processed to date with 7 more scheduled for the weeks of March 12th & March 19th. In addition, due to a potential conflict of interest, I will be working in Livingston County to complete one additional interview. All interviews take approximately 2-4 hours to complete and must be finalized by the March 22nd deadline.

OLWI – Katie Jakaub

- Was not present, but the following report was submitted.

- **Seasonal Workers:**

Two seasonal workers have been hired (since March 5) and are currently working on stream segment analyses of Dutch Hollow Brook. The stream segment analyses are an extension of the water sampling work completed by Dr. Halfman. By using this water sampling data (from both Dutch Hollow and the Owasco Inlet) certain stream segments were identified that suggested closer inspection.

- **Asian Clams**

The Asian clam task force had its first meeting on March 6, 2012. Discussions of the lake level were touched upon which led to further discussion of alternate methods of eradication. These methods included:

Dust pan dredging

- Laying benthic mats
- Conducting another density survey

- **OWN-It Workshop**

Participated in a four hour workshop on March 3, 2012 entailing several guest speakers whom outlined different topics regarding current issues, sampling efforts, and public education and awareness within the watershed.

- **Other Tasks**

- Completed an eco-talk article for The Citizen; will be published on Friday, March 16.
- Worked briefly with Cayuga County Engineer, Bruce Natale on pre-survey work on the Owasco Flats wetland complex. March 7, 2012.
- Visited the Moravia Waste Water Treatment Plant; a full tour will be scheduled later this month.
- Presented the watershed model to the Cato-Meridian girl scouts for their Women in Careers activity night.

Digester – Mike Riley

- Report distributed and attached.
- **PPA Agreement** - The agreement is currently in the office of Hiscock & Barclay. The Board has suggested that Hiscock & Barclay be contacted frequently on a regular basis to get this matter resolved as quickly as possible as the Digester needs to be in operation soon. Discussed running the Digester at 60% of capacity so as not to produce extra power to avoid conflicts with NYSEG.
- **Contracts** – M. Riley, T. Seeler and Danforth & Company plan to meet to discuss plans to finish up the contract. Ridley Electric is expected to be onsite tomorrow, March 14th.

- **Operating Permits** - Discussed the possibility of obtaining permits for making power. On the advice of Scott Cook of NYS DEC we must be careful what is accepted at the Digester to be processed.
- **Gen-Set** - Discussed the need for a gen-set backup.

District Field Manager – Doug Kierst

- Report distributed and attached.
- **Ontario Lake Shoreline** – Erosion control is next to impossible on the shoreline of Ontario Lake due to the tides.
- **ESC Training** – The Erosion and Sediment Control Training Program is doing well financially. Also discussed the possibility of informing contractors of the need for SPEDES permits.
- **Tire Day** – Will be held during the week of June 10th.

Executive Director – Ron Podolak

- **Manure Management Tour** – Will be on March 27th. Digester needs to be in operation and will be running on natural gas during tours. Cornell University will lead the tours. Plan is to have 3 buses visit during the day. There will be handout brochures for the tour explaining the digester process in flowchart form. Also, will have a sign in list present during tours.
- **Shared Services** – The District hosted an inter-agency meeting Monday, March 12th with the Cayuga County Highway Dept., Cayuga County Water and Sewer Authority and the District to discuss the sharing of services in the hopes of saving county tax dollars.
- **Brutus Waterline** – Discussed the waterline project in the Town of Brutus. Bids are due in soon. Possibly the District can do some of the work on the project.
- **CCPUSA** - R. Podolak discussed selling excess power from the Digester to the agency for @ .06/kh.
- **Water Quality Symposium** – District staff are attending training classes this week at the NYS CDEA Water Quality Symposium held March 13-16 at the Auburn Holiday Inn.
- **Aquatic Weed Harvester** – Parts have been ordered. The longest time to receive parts could be as much as 12 weeks.
- **Planning & Economics Committee Meeting** – A joint meeting has been planned on May 3rd at 5:00 p.m. A tour of the Digester has been scheduled before the meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to educate the legislators on the programs and functions of the District. The Earned Income program will be discussed as the program purchases equipment needed and generally supports itself. It will also be explained that the District is a contractual agency to the County and not a Department. Possibly bring in M. Latham from the state office in Albany to explain the purpose and function of soil and water districts. Also, it will be noted that the NYS DEC often refers many citizens to the District for questions on streambank stabilization and assistance with sewer and water line breaks. The District also provides technical assistance to outside agencies. The District also continues to harvest weeds in Hoopes Park and cuts the lawn at the landfill for the City of Auburn.

S. Barski and P. Pinckney - Have suggested that because money is appropriated to the District from the County the District must keep the legislature informed of current matters and keep communication open between the County and the District.

J. Young – Stated that the County appropriation received is used to help leverage state and federal grant funds. Also the Earned Income program cannot lose any more personnel.

R. Lockwood – Feels that the District mission has changed. The focus is on serving the whole community and not just the farmers.

- **AVC Program** – If the County does not fund the AVC program in the future, there is a need outside of the County whereas the harvester could be sent out of county for hire in order to fund the program.

D. Kehoe – Questioned the availability of any grant funds to repair the equipment.

R. Lockwood – Feels that the harvester is just a public relations program and does not benefit the whole community.

8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:38 a.m. *Motion by P. Pinckney, seconded by S. Nemeč. Carried.*

9. NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.

Wanda Jakaub
Asst. Secretary

Raymond Lockwood Jr.
Chairman of the Board