

MINUTES

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

April 11, 2012

10:00 A.M.

1. ROLL CALL:

<u>Directors</u>	<u>Staff</u>	<u>OLWI</u>
S. Barski	R. Podolak	K. Jakaub
D. Kehoe	D. Kierst	
R. Lockwood	S. Huey	<u>NYACD – Division II</u>
	M. Riley	Robert VanLare
Absent: S. Nemec	W. Jakaub	

2. MINUTES – Approval of the minutes for the meeting of March 13th, 2012.
Motion by J. Young, seconded by C. Roberts. Carried.

3. FINANCIAL – -Approval of the March financial statements (see tab)
Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe. Carried.

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

12-19 Motion by J. Young, seconded by C. Roberts, to approve the following transfers:

FROM	TO	AMOUNT	REASON
State Grant Account	County – General	\$30,000.00	Performance Measures – Part A – 50% Reimbursement
Federal Grant Account	Anaerobic Digester	\$140.00	Close out remaining fund balance – Valesky Grant Account
OLWI	State – AEM	\$85.84	Vehicle Usage – March 2012
OLWI	Earned Income – WWM	\$194.25	Vehicle Usage March 2012
OLWI	County – General	\$11.10	Vehicle Usage – March 2012
Anaerobic Digester	Energy Billing – Checking	\$338.61	March 2012 – Energy Billing
Earned Income – Rent	Energy Billing – Checking	\$955.84	March 2012 – Energy Billing
Energy Billing – Checking	Energy Billing – Savings	\$809.60	March 2012 – Distribution Maintenance Charges

Carried.

Discussion: It was explained per J. Young’s request that the energy billing transfers are for electric only and do not include natural gas.

4. CORRESPONDENCE AND PUBLICATIONS

- Cayuga County Regional Digester – Blue Electron
- Farming Magazine – January 2012 Issue – “Manure Power” article.

5. RESOLUTIONS

12-20 Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe to approve the following resolution for the authorization to appoint Lisa Miller, Senior Typist to serve on the County of Cayuga Health Insurance Consortium Board of Directors as a representative for the Cayuga County Soil & Water Conservation District to replace Ron Podolak, Executive Director. This will be a one year term effectively immediately through December 31, 2012. Carried.

6. REPORTS

NYACD – Robert VanLare – Division II Rep

- Legislative Days in Albany, February 6-8th, were very successful for the NYACD. Met with legislators and found them to be very receptive, supportive and responsive to the concerns of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The Governor and the state Legislature agreed to appropriate more funds - \$500,000.00.
- State Environthon will be held May 23th and 24th in Geneva, N.Y. Volunteers are needed this year. Also looking for more judges.
- Attended the 2012 Lake Ontario Watershed Basin Forum held this year at SUNY Brockport in Brockport, N.Y. which included presentations and roundtable discussions. Topics covered were lake level regulation, aquatic habitat projects and opportunities, Marcellus shale, invasive species that are wreaking havoc, restoring habitat and other water quality concerns.
- Attended the 2012 Water Quality Symposium held March 13-16th at the Holiday Inn in Auburn, N.Y. Took part in classes regarding “Environmental and Ecological Principals” and “Helping the Board Conduct an Audit”. Found the presentations to be very informative.
- J. Young expressed concern that Soil and Water Districts would be made primarily responsible for the control of invasive species. Does not think Districts should be the lead agency. The funding is not available. Feels that should be left to the NYS DEC.
- B. VanLare agreed that Districts are informative agencies not policing organizations.

NRCS – Katie Schor

- Was not present at the meeting, but submitted the following report.
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP)
 - Site visits, application rankings and cost estimates have been completed for 19 new applications; including 3 forestry, 7 cropland, 1 grazing and 8 livestock waste applications. The ranking cutoff deadline for this round is Friday, April 13th.
 - 2 Applications for the high tunnel initiative and 1 application for the ag energy initiative have been selected for funding. Contracts are in the process of being developed.
 - I have been working with Aaron Weiss, Dana Chapman and Bill Gallinger to address an issue that was identified during the design phase of a waste storage facility. Some

questions were raised regarding the size of the storage being planned which will need to be answered before a design can be completed and approved.

- Jason Cuddeback has assisted Shannon with the layout and construction check of a WASCOB and UGO system in the Owasco Lake Watershed. Jason also completed the design for this project.
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
7 CSP applications have been selected for funding. Shannon and I are in the process of conducting field verifications for these applications so that contract development can begin.
- Food Security Act (FSA)
Steve Stroka has completed the mitigation plan for a 0.8 acre violation in the Owasco Lake Watershed. An appointment will be scheduled with the producer to review the plan. Once they have agreed to the contents of the plan it will be sent to the NRCS & FSA State Office for review and approval.
- Miscellaneous
Don Pettit has been selected as the new State Conservationist for NYS. He will report to duty on May 21st.

OLWI – Katie Jakaub

- Please see attached report.
- P. Pinckney mentioned the matting procedure being performed in Lake George to control the Asian Clam infestation. It was explained that the matting procedure is very expensive and that the Lake George community has much more funding opportunities than Cayuga County currently has.

P. Pinckney arrived at 10:23 a.m.

Digester – Michael Riley

- As of Monday, April 10, 2012, we had 106 truckloads of manure loaded in the digester. We are at 43 feet, with another 12 truck loads needed to reach 46 feet / 14 meters. (about 5 trucks / foot). Our best day of hauling took place last week when we were able to bring in 12 loads (6 / truck) from both farms. This was over 50,000 gallons of manure.
- We have met with the new County Codes Officer and Sennett Fire Chief. The Emergency Management Plan is complete and will be signed soon. The Sennett and Auburn Fire Departments and scheduled to make a site visit on April 16th at 7pm.
- Tuesday, April 10th, we started the genset to begin warming the manure in the digester. Once we get warming, we will start the production of methane and then begin the final commissioning. We have noticed a manure smell around the campus as we are loading the digester. I think this is from the low tank levels and the amount of splashing that is occurring as a result of the tank loading. As we get the levels up, this should go away. If not, we may need to look into filters for the top of the buffer tanks. As of Tuesday afternoon, we have closed the vent on top of the digester, and opened the gas line to the wet gas holder. This should also help reduce the smell.
- Overall, things are working well. We have been challenged by certain pieces of equipment and the computer programming. The Vogelsang Rotacutter has been very problematic for us in dealing with the hay bedding from Hourigan's Farm.

We have had the wholesalers representative on site a few times dealing with these problems. And we continue to deal with programming bugs. GBU is scheduled to be on site the week of the 23rd, and we hope to resolve most of these issues.

- We installed heat loop piping to the maintenance shop. We had this piping on-hand and decided to get it buried while we had the time. This can be tied into the old fire-boiler hot water system fairly easily and cheaply before next fall.
- I think all will be surprised at the amount of water the digester is going to consume. We use water to clean the truck unloading port and floor each load. We also have had to wash the floor several times after unclogging the rota-cutter. We do have a fairly good shallow well on-site and may wish to make use of this free water fairly soon. All this wash water is collected in the buffer tank and is returned to the farms.
- We had a very successful day of bus tours on March 27th as part of the Got Manure Conference in Syracuse. About 150 people came through in three buses.
- M. Riley commented that a lot of contacts were made as a result of the Got Manure Tour.
- R. Lockwood questioned loading at the farms. It was explained that District employees are performing the loading using the farmers' equipment as stated in the contracts. S. Barski questioned liability issues that could arise and also the bio-security issues as a result of the same tanker truck loading at different farms. R. Podolak stated he will review the contracts.
- P. Pinckney questioned the timing of the deliveries. M. Riley explained that on the best day 12 loads can be delivered.
- D. Kehoe questioned whether any construction contracts were still uncompleted. It was explained that Ridley Electric still needed to finish up. O'Connell will be paid this week. Danforth will be paid as soon the NYSERDA grant funds are received. Also, we are seeing progress in the Dept. of Energy grant funds.
- R. Podolak stated that George Pond, a specialist with Hiscock & Barclay is handling the Power Purchase Agreement. Ron stated that he would like to insert a terminable clause with a 30 day notice in the agreement. Was advised that the revised agreement will be sent to the District in a few days.
- R. Podolak commented that the hot water line to the Sheriff's Dept. is still not connected and that the matter was tabled at the last meeting. J. Young stated that he understood that the Sheriff's Dept. would save up to 50% per year on the cost of natural gas within 2 years.
- R. Podolak reported that he was informed by T. Squires that the County would like a 5 year study done on how much county appropriations could be reduced by the savings on the digester. P. Pinckney questioned whether it would be cost effective to pay K. Zadeh to complete the study. T. Squires offered his assistance to R. Podolak.
- M. Riley mentioned that every farm in the area offered seed manure if we need it.

District Field Manager – Doug Kierst

- Please see the attached report.

Executive Director – Ron Podolak

- AVC – Weber Hydraulics reported that the parts needed to repair the harvester are still on schedule and should arrive by June 6th.
- J. Young questioned whether any study has been done lately regarding the condition of algae and weeds in the lakes. K. Jakaub commented that Owasco Lake has lots of algae.

R. Podolak has not received any calls regarding Cayuga Lake.

- On May 3rd a joint meeting between the District Board and the County Planning and Economics Committee will take place at the District. A tour of the District will be given along with a power point presentation from district staff explaining what each employee duties are. Also, a representative from the State Committee will be present to give a presentation on Districts.
- Ron Podolak received a plaque from the NYS Conservation District Employees Association commemorating 40 years of service.

Watershed Program Manager - Sandy Huey

- State Grants - The draft ranking list is out for Round XVIII ag nonpoint grants. Seventy-seven proposals were submitted. Cayuga SWCD submitted five. They were ranked 3, 4, 6, 20 and 21. The proposals were for 12 farms. Two of the farms are CAFOs and the other 10 are small farms including one sheep operation. The proposal ranked number 3 is for cover crops.
- Tree Sale - The tree sale is doing very well. This year fruit trees are being offered for sale.

8. ADJOURNMENT: 11:18 a.m. *Motion by J. Young, seconded by D. Kehoe.*

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

Wanda Jakaub
Asst. Secretary

Raymond Lockwood Jr.
Chairman of the Board