St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District

1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES

For February 21, 2018, 11:10 AM

**Board Members Present:** Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Ben Stauffer (Vice-Chair), Chad Colbert (Treasurer), Mark Mathews, and Adam Cook.

**Board Members Excused:** Greg Paquin, Becky Allen

**Staff Present:** Raeanne Dulanski (Manager), Matt Brown (Forester), Cheynne Youngs (Technician), and Liz Gallup (Secretary/Treasurer).

**Guests Present:** Scott Fickbohm - NYS SWCC, Lisa Ward - FSA, Kent Frary – NRCS.

1. **Call to Order: Agenda (**Attachment A)

**II. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** *Motion to approve the January 18, 2018 minutes,* made by Stauffer, seconded by Cook **approved by all.**

**III. Treasurer’s Reports:** *Gallup related details on deposits received and other financial items.*

*Motion to approve January 2018 Treasurer’s report, made by Stauffer, seconded by Colbert approved by all.*

**IV. Training**

1. **SWCC** – Scott Fickbohm – **Partners in Conservation Training**
   1. Training provided an overview of a variety of partners available to ensure conservation practices and education are an important part of District activities.

Break for lunch @ 12:00 p.m. Meeting resumed @ 12:30 p.m.

**V. Reports**

1. **FSA** – Lisa Ward
   1. Ward provided an overview of the MPP Insurance program. It has been modified to make it more likely to receive payments under the program. FSA is not expecting many to sign up.
   2. Ward explained that currently FSA is short staffed due to promotions, leave and retirement.
2. **NRCS –** KentFrary
   1. Frary explained that they are in the process of pre-obligating the applications that have been pre-approved. There are fifteen within the three Counties. Deadline is 3/30/18 and is a lengthy process. Staff is trying to brainstorm ways to streamline. Dulanski has been dealing with ToolKit issues.
   2. NRCS has entered into a statewide contract with a private land trust to perform all WRP monitoring except for the sites located in St. Lawrence County. SLC SWCD still has a contribution agreement for SLC sites.
   3. Frary informed the Board that a reorganization of USDA is being discussed. The thought is to cross train across organizations to create a “One USDA”. The hope is that it will allow each organization to service anyone coming in with questions or needing help. They have a goal of one supervisor for ten employees in the future.
   4. Frary is working with a producer on a project that the District is also involved in. There is a new requirement of a NRCS Geologist review of a geology report for the site that is holding up the final design. He hopes that it will be solved soon so the project may move forward. It looks possible that construction may start this summer.
3. **SWCC** – Scott Fickbohm
   1. Fickbohm reported that Part C monies should be able to be calculated next week. Districts will be notified of the amount they should receive shortly.
   2. Climate Resiliency Farming grants are due February 26th and is another cost share arrangement.
   3. Fickbohm said that the Bridge NY program is available and may be something to look into. Another opportunity to explore is the NOA Wetland Creation grant.
   4. New York is creating its’ own Erosion and Sediment Control Certification (NYS ESCCP) program since the nationwide program can be difficult to get certified and is costly.
   5. Ag NPS Round 24 should be released in March with applications due in June.
4. **BOL** – None
5. **Farm Bureau** – None
6. **AFPB** – Bob Andrews
   1. Andrews reported that the February meeting was cancelled due to sickness. They are working on arranging a presentation with the American Farmland Trust in the fall and coordinating another Guidance Counselor awareness day with the possibility of inviting our Legislators and other Representatives to attend.
7. **Grange -** Mark Mathews
   1. Mathews reported that the Grange had a table at a FFA fundraiser at the Canton High School to encourage enrollment.

**VI. SWCD Reports**

1. Secretary/Treasurer – Elizabeth Gallup
2. Gallup has been busy finishing taxes and other beginning of the year activities. She has already received a number of tree orders and it looks like it may be a good year.
3. Gallup completed her documentation of how to complete page 8 of the Annual Report to the Treasurer after working with OSC. She shared it with SWCC who distributed it to all Districts. She has been getting a number of calls from different Districts and has been able to help them complete their page 8.
4. *Motion to authorize a transfer from the Money Market Account to the Checking Account to cover operational costs in an amount not to exceed $20,000 for March 2018* made by Cook, seconded by Stauffer **approved by all.**
5. *Motion to authorize payment of the balance of $24,500 remaining to be paid for the new District truck from the Money Market Account* made by Stauffer, seconded by Cook **approved by all.**
6. Forester’s Report – Matt Brown
   1. Brown informed the Board that the trees for the Part C CA Educational Orchard Grant have all been ordered. The fencing and tools have already been received so the only thing we will have to order is protection for the trees once they are planted.
   2. Brown attended the Maple Expo in Gouverneur which was pretty busy. Paul Hetzler of CCE said the Forest Tent caterpillar may be active this year and to keep an eye out for defoliation of leaves.
   3. Brown went to the SAF Convention and training in Syracuse and attended a number of interesting classes. He reported that DEC has a proposal in the NYS Budget to implement a grant similar to the EQIP Forestry Program. They may also set aside monies for local governments to be able to buy back forests from private landowners. The forests would be made available to the public. He also reported that DEC is looking into implementing a Harvest Notification System that would require landowners to inform the DEC whenever logging 10 acres or more.
   4. Brown shared a brochure that he created on how to plant an effective windbreak. He has had a number of questions on the subject and felt it would be helpful to have one to hand out.

Andrews said that he wanted to share how impressed he was with the new tree brochure and annual report this year. He feels it really makes the District look professional.

1. Manager’s Report – Raeanne Dulanski (Attachment B)
2. Dulanski informed the Board that she met with the NYS Ag NPS Round 23 producer and has signed District – Landowner contracts. The producer hopes to complete the project this year but it depends on the NRCS project moving forward.
3. Dulanski reported that she had met with the producer for NYS Ag NPS Round 20 that is set to expire 12/31/18. This project has not been started and does not have an engineering design. She explained how problematic it would be to try to complete the project with so little time remaining and what the consequences may be but the producer is still interested in trying. She hopes to meet with him again soon but would like to send a letter detailing her concerns. The Board concurred that would be a good next step.
4. Dulanski reported that we had received a bill from CCE for facilities fees for 2018. *Motion to pay the CCE Facilities fees for 2018 of $100.00* made by Stauffer, seconded by Cook **approved by all.**
5. Dulanski said that the District is trying to arrange Manure Application training with Carl Zinek. CCE facilities were not available so she would like to hold it at the Madrid Community Building. There is a $100 security deposit that would be returned and there may be a building fee of up to $200.00. *Motion to pay the Madrid Community Building security deposit and building fee in an amount not to exceed $300.00* made by Cook, seconded by Stauffer **approved by all.**
6. *Motion to pay the Morse Agronomic bill for 2018 of $1,034.00* made by Stauffer, seconded by Cook **approved by all.** Dulanski mentioned that Morse will be going to another farm so another bill will be coming.
7. Dulanski informed the Board that the total of the insurance bills for 2018 was approximately $100 less than 2017.
8. Dulanski said that she has been busy with Division 3 representative duties. She is responsible for putting together the Division 3 silent auction contribution.
9. Dulanski reported that she has received the signed F/Y 2018 NRCS Contribution Agreement which is effective through 9/30/2020.
10. Technician Report – Cheynne Youngs
11. Youngs reported that the CAFO Waste Storage & Transfer System Program Round 1

Grant – SLC Waste Storage G paperwork has been submitted.

1. She has been busy with ag values which are due to assessors by March 1st. She has completed over 60 ag values and has 27 still to do.

3. Youngs and Brown did the District’s first NYS Grown and Certified site visit.

**VII. Old and New Business:**

Invasive Pest PowerPoint presented by Brown detailed information on two of the invasive species most likely to affect SLC in the coming year. Brown detailed information on the Emerald Ash Borer such as where it has currently been found and possible treatments available. He provided the same information for the Hemlock Wooly Adelgid. He said hemlocks are considered an important tree for habitat since they cool creeks to keep water at a temperature needed by fish and other species.

**VIII. Correspondence:** Mail was available for the Board’s review. (List of items in Attachment C)

**IX. Announcements:** None

**X. Time and Date of Next Meeting:** March 29, 2018, 7:30 PM at the SWCD Office.

**XI. Meeting Adjourned:** 2:15 PM

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Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson Date

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Elizabeth J. Gallup, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer Date

Attachments: A-C