

## DRAFT

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District  
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES  
For February 17, 2021, 10:00 AM

**Board Members Present:** Adam Cook (Vice-Chair), Becky Allen (Treasurer), Mark Matthews, Patrick Smith, Kevin Acres, and John Burke.

**Board Members Excused:** Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson)

**Staff Present:** Raeanne Dulanski (Manager), Aaron Barrigar (Forester), Jevonnah Foster (Technician), and Liz Gallup (Secretary/Treasurer).

**Guests Present:** Ryan Cunningham - NYS SWCC, Glen Bullock – FSA, and Kent Frary – NRCS.

### I. Call to Order: Agenda (Attachment A)

### II. Reports

#### A. NRCS – Kent Frary (Attachment B)

1. Frary updated the status of the existing programs and gave an explanation of Conservation Security Program.
2. Frary informed the Board that he has asked about the possibility of a new contribution agreement. He will not be able to absorb the activities that the District has done for NRCS if there isn't one. He is waiting to hear back.
3. There have been a number of changes to staffing within NRCS. Frary provided an update.
4. Frary said Canton Field Office is still in phase 1 for COVID.

10:21 Allen joined the meeting.

#### B. FSA – Glen Bullock

1. Bullock gave an update on the various programs within FSA including in the COVID relief package. More relief may be coming in the future.
2. Staff is preparing hay crop reporting for the spring.
3. Bullock reported that there is still has a seven year, low interest loan available to assist farmers with the purchase of commodity storage facilities.

#### C. SWCC – Ryan Cunningham

1. Cunningham reported that all reports due to the State by February 15<sup>th</sup> have been received.
2. Grant funding is still held up due to COVID but is expected to start moving forward soon. AEM Round 17 is being worked on and will start January 1, 2022.
3. Cunningham said the blackout period for processing payments starts soon.

**III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** *Motion to approve the January 21, 2021 minutes*, made by Matthews, seconded by Acres **approved by all**.

**IV. Treasurer's Reports:** Gallup related details on deposits received and other financial items. *Motion to approve January 2021 Treasurer's report*, made by Matthews, seconded by Acres **approved by all**.

10:29 Burke joined the meeting

## V. Reports

### A. BOL – John Burke, Kevin Acres

1. Acres reported that the Resolution on sales tax did not pass so sales tax distribution rules will be modified.
2. Bridge projects in the County were discussed.
3. Public Health will need to find a new director since the current director, Dana McGuire, has resigned.

### B. Grange - Mark Matthews

1. Matthews said things are still in a holding pattern due to COVID.

### C. AFPB – Raeanne Dulanski

1. Dulanski reported on the meeting that took place the beginning of February. A solar project update was provided. A summary of a presentation provided by National Grid was given.
2. Cornell Climate Smart Farming’s gave an interested webinar titled, “Implication of Large Solar Installations and Leasing on Farmland”. Dulanski will email a link to the training to the Board for those that might be interested in viewing it.

## VI. Board of Director’s Training

### A. SWCC – Ryan Cunningham – **Topic: Freedom of Information Law (FOIL)**

1. Training provided an overview of the requirements that need to be met when dealing with a request for information from the public. Cunningham went through what these were and provided some suggestions on how to handle certain requests. He also informed that Board that SWCC and NYS Ag & Markets would be available for assistance, and in some cases, will handle the request for certain types of information for Districts.

## VII. SWCD Reports

### A. Secretary/Treasurer – Elizabeth Gallup

1. **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 2021 made by Allen, seconded by Acres **approved by all.**
2. Gallup informed the Board that the bill for the 2021 SLC Chamber of Commerce dues for \$135.00 has been received and that it is within budget. **Motion** to approve the payment of the SLC Chamber of Commerce dues of \$135 made by Matthews, seconded by Burke **approved by all.**

### B. Forester’s Report – Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar continues to mark the County’s forest boundaries and working on the Hazard tree data.
2. Barrigar has been providing assistance to a variety of landowners.

### C. Technician’s Report – Jevonnah Foster

1. Foster continues to complete Ag-Value Assessment Soil Group Worksheets as they come in and to work on her AEM plans. She has finished one plan and is arranging to present it to the farmer.
2. Foster is completing various aspects of her certified planner training as they become available.

**D. Manager’s Report – Raeanne Dulanski (Attachment C)**

1. Dulanski updated the Board on the status of our truck purchased last year. It is out of production and should be delivered next Tuesday.
2. Dulanski reported on the inquiry raised last month about a possible use of Ag NPS grants to update or replace a farm’s existing fuel storage system. She spoke to Jefferson and Essex County’s SWCD. Essex’s obtained funding through another grant funding source (not Ag NPS). After discussion with other SWCDs, it is determined that Ag NPS is a hard match for the proposed project idea here, due to the need to address a water quality resource concern. This is difficult to prove unless the fuel system is on or by a water source or primary aquifer in a broad sense. A fuel tank replacement might be an appropriate for a farm that we are working through the planning process for, but we aren’t going to get a blanket Ag NPS grant to replace tanks. Discussion followed.
3. Dulanski informed the Board that the County Attorney will be meeting with the Snowmobile Association and clubs that have been having problems. She is hopeful that she will get some guidance on how things will be handled in the future.
4. The annual meeting of the NYS CDEA will be held virtually this year. Dulanski said she will share the link and that it would count towards the meeting requirements needed to meet performance measures.
5. Dulanski reiterated why all board members are now required to fill out disclosure forms and asked them to return the forms to the office as soon as possible.
6. There is a new requirement that all NYS Public Employers have a Health Emergency Plan must be accepted by April 1<sup>st</sup>. Dulanski is working on a plan and hopes to present it at the March meeting. Allen offered to assist if needed and Dulanski accepted.

**VIII. Old and New Business:**

- A. Allen wanted to share there is a Forestry Assessment training being offered as part of the Master Naturalist program. She was wondering if it would fit as one of the trainings required for the performance measures. Cunningham said it could be reviewed to determine if it would qualify.
- B. Dulanski asked the Board how they wanted to handle her performance review. It was decided to wait until March when Andrews would be available.

**IX. Correspondence:** None

**X. Announcements:** None

**XI. Time and Date of Next Meeting:** March 25, 2021, 7:00 PM.

**XII. Meeting Adjourned:** 11:10 a.m.

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Adam Cook, Vice Chairperson

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Date

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Elizabeth J. Gallup, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Attachments: A-C**