

DRAFT

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For March 24, 2022, 3:00 p.m.

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Adam Cook (Vice-Chair), Becky Allen (Treasurer), and Patrick Smith

Board Members Excused: John Burke, and Kevin Acres

Staff Present: Raeanne Dulanski (Manager), Liz Gallup (Secretary/Asst. Treasurer), and Jevonnah Foster (Technician)

I. Call to Order

II. Agenda (Attachment A): An addition of an Executive Session was added to the agenda after Old and New Business and was approved by consensus of the Board.

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: *Motion to approve the February 23, 2022 minutes*, made by Cook, seconded by Smith **approved by all**

IV. Treasurer's Reports: Gallup discussed items relevant to the financial information provided to the Board. *Motion to approve February 2022 Treasurer's report*, made by Cook, seconded by Allen **approved by all**

V. Reports

A. BOL –None

B. AFPB – Bob Andrews

1. Andrews said that the next meeting will be April 7th and the eight year review for Ag District #2 will be discussed. Solar project updates will be provided.

C. SWCC – Report attached (**Attachment B**)

1. Dulanski went over some items in the report.

VI. SWCD Reports:

A. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer's Report – Liz Gallup

1. Gallup explained that a motion had been missed in the March 25, 2021 official minutes and that she would like to add it retroactively:
 - i. **Motion** made by Smith, seconded by Cook, *The Board recognizes that they had authorized Dulanski at the March 25, 2021 SLC SWCD board meeting, to hire up to two Forestry interns, complete all necessary paperwork and to dismiss intern if needed and understands that there was an error that omitted this motion in the official March 25, 2021 minutes that were adopted by the Board at the May 20, 2021 board meeting. **Approved by all.** (Attachment C to be added to March 24, 2021 minutes)*

2. **Motion** to approve a transfer from Money Market to Checking for April and May 2021 to cover operating costs up to \$30,000 for April and up to \$20,000 for May made by Cook, seconded by Allen **approved by all.**

B. Forester's Report – Aaron Barrigar – absent

1. Dulanski explained that Barrigar was in a Water Quality Symposium (WQS) class so could not attend the board meeting. She provided a brief update on the timber theft issue.

C. Technician's Report – Jevonnah Foster

1. Requests for Ag values have slowed down.
2. Foster has been working on projects for EQIP.
3. Foster continues to work on plans and handling soil samples for AEM.
4. Foster attended classes for WQS and felt they were worthwhile.
5. Foster explained that the District needs a motion for AEM to approve each individual farm that may be participating. **Motion supporting implementation of AEM Round 17 Cost-Share projects on the following farms Keystone Dairy, Latimer Dairy, Zufall Farm, and Maple Shade Farm** made by Cook, seconded by Allen **approved by all.**
6. Foster explained that there are soil samples ready to be analyzed for the AEM program but funds have not been received. She would like to get started sending the samples out to be tested since it is unclear when the monies will be received. **Motion to approve reimbursing farms for any soil test fees paid by the farm from AEM Round 17 monies when received** made by Allen, seconded by Smith **approved by all.**

D. Manager's Report – Raeanne Dulanski (Attachment D)

1. Dulanski reported that she has been busy with her WQS duties as the Division 3 CDEA representative. Dulanski received her fifteen year and Gallup her ten year service achievement certificate.
2. Dulanski has also been working on arranging this year's North Adirondack Regional Envirothon. It is scheduled for May 12th in person at Paul Smith's. Thirteen schools have shown interest to attend in person.
3. Dulanski provided a grant update on the work she has been doing to assist the Town of Madrid with their WQIP application.
4. Dulanski said that there are two farmers that are interested in the NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 6 which means the Board will have to rank them as to the merits of their proposed projects. She provided a handout with the details for each project for Farmer A & Farmer B (**Attachment E**) – Farmer A under the Cover and Flares Track and Farmer B under the Healthy Soil of NY Track. **Motion to rank the two farms applying for the NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 6 as follows: Farmer A – first, Farmer B – second with any additional applicants to be ranked by the date received,** made by Smith, seconded by Cook, **approved by all.**
5. Dulanski told the Board that she had provided letters of support for Brad Baldwin's application for two grants to help with invasive weeds in Black Lake. One of the grants has been approved.
6. NYS Snow Grant update: 70% monies have been received and the District has received their technical assistance monies. She will be working on the next phases soon.
7. Dulanski reported that the SWCD summer internship announcement has been shared.

8. WRP planning is all complete and ready to go as soon as the weather permits. There are six EQIP applications, one is turning out to be challenging.
9. Dulanski informed the Board that all 2022 Part C monies have been fully earned and the District has received their award in the amount of \$122,005.26 today. If the 2022 NYS Executive Budget is adopted that amount could bring next year's amount to around \$180,000. 2022's Performance Measures to earn 2023's Part C monies remains the same as last year.
10. Dulanski updated the Board on what the District would like to do for Part C projects this year:
 - i. Part C CA – general catch all of assistance provided by staff
 - ii. Another year of the Part C SLAM project - Using Part C monies to fund the Reducing Outlier Populations of EAB and the Progression of Ash Mortality as outlined by the project description (*Attachment F*)
 - iii. Dulanski had Foster present this year's cover crop program that she would like the District to do - Cover Crop project as outlined in the project description (*Attachment G*)
 - iv. **Motion to approve using Part C monies to fund the Part C projects as described above made by Allen, seconded by Smith, approved by all.**
11. Dulanski provided each board member with their training plan and asked what the board would like to do about the vacant board seat. It was agreed that suggestions would be forwarded to Dulanski to be looked into.

VII. Old and New Business:

- A. Dulanski provided an update on the drone liability insurance and said she accepted the \$31 coverage. **Motion to approve adding drone liability insurance.** made by Cook, seconded by Allen **approved by all.**
- B. Workload prioritization and planning update: Dulanski met with Patrick Ames, CCE about increased landowner assistance requests and said that she is meeting with his staff and Aaron on April 6th. Matilda Larson, Planning has agreed to meet with the District to discuss possible plans to implement going forward to prioritize District goals and objectives. Dulanski meets with Larson on April 13th and the entire staff will meet with her on the 20th. Larson would like to meet with the Board separately.

VIII. Executive Session – entered at 4:27 p.m.

Motion to enter Executive session to discuss personnel issues made by Cook, seconded by Smith **approved by all.**

Exited Executive Session at 4:38 p.m. Motion to exit Executive session by Cook, seconded by Smith **approved by all.**

It was decided to do personnel evaluations at a later date.

- IX. **Correspondence:** Mail was available for the Board's review. (List of items in **Attachment H**)
- X. **Announcements:** None
- XI. **Time and Date of Next Meeting: May 19, 2022**

XII. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn at 4:46 p.m. made by Cook seconded by Smith approved by all

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Elizabeth J. Gallup, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date

Attachments: A – H