

DRAFT

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For February 23rd, 2023

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Adam Cook (Vice-Chair), Becky Allen (Treasurer) - via. zoom, John Burke, Patrick Smith - via. zoom , and Kaitlyn Kulp.,

Board Members Excused: Margaret Haggard

Guest Present: Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC

Staff Present: Raeanne Dulanski (Manager), McKenzie Church (Secretary/Asst. Treasurer), Heidi Knafelc (Technician), Jevonnah Foster (Technician) - via zoom and Aaron Barrigar (Forester)

I. Call to Order

II. Agenda (Attachment A)

III. Training provided by Ryan Cunningham- How to have an Effective Board Meeting

IV. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: *Motion to approve the January 19th, 2023 minutes*, made by Cook, seconded by Allen **approved by all**

V. Treasurer's Reports: McKenzie Church

Motion to approve all the financial reports in the January 2023 folder, made by Burke, seconded by Cook **approved by all**.

VI. Reports

A. Board of Legislators –John Burke

1. Burke spoke about the State's budget and the proposal to divert Federal Medicaid dollars into the State coffers which has always been sent to the counties to offset , in part, the local share of the State's Medicaid program. If the proposal were to be adopted it would cost local taxpayers in excess of 3 million dollars. The other item in the budget would change the way the counties handle the proceeds from tax foreclosed properties, which again would cost county taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.
2. Burke discussed that the St. Lawrence County legislators expressed our objections to our State representatives seeking the removal of these items from the budget.

B. Ag and Farmland Protection Board – Bob Andrews

1. Andrews reported a resolution was adopted that authorizes the County Planning staff to submit the County Planning Board's Notices of Action to the Department of Ag and Markets for solar projects that are proposed in an agricultural district.
2. The last AFPB meeting was a joint meeting with the County Planning Board, it went well.
3. Solar talk continues

VII. SWCC Report: - Ryan Cunningham

1. Cunningham reported the state budget has been presented for the same amount as last year. With a proposed increase in State aid to Districts. Having an increase to State Aid, will result in an increase to Part C. This allows Districts to pick their own Part C project and what to use the increased funding on.

VIII. SWCD Reports:

A. Technician Report- Jevonnah Foster

1. Foster reported that she has been working on AEM plans
2. Foster continues to study for her CCA test.
3. Foster has finished another CMNP
4. Foster has been working on CRF grants

B. Forester's Report – Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar continues to working on forestry plans.
2. Barrigar has been assisting landowners.
3. Barrigar reported he has been ta

C. Technician Report- Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc has been working on County Parcel Trial maps.
2. Knafelc reported she has been learning and working on doing Ag values for landowners.
3. Knafelc reported she assisted Dulanski with snowmobile trail maps.

D. Secretary/Assistant Treasurer's Report –McKenzie Church

1. Church reported that after looking at the expected expenditures for the month of March, she would need the board approval to be able to transfer up to \$35,000.00 from the Money Market account to the Checking account. **Motion to approve Church to transfer up to \$35,000 from the Money Market account to the Checking account made by Cook, Seconded by Kulp approved by all**
2. Church reported she received an invoice in the mail from the Chamber of Commerce. In past years we have used the bulk mailing license through the Chambers. As we no longer have a use for the bulk mailing license Church asked if it was necessary to still pay for it. The board came to consensus that they no longer think it is necessary to continue to pay the \$135 fee.
3. Church reported that we also got an invoice from New York Association of Conservation Districts. Last year we paid \$750, and budgeted to pay \$750 this year. **Motion to pay New York Association of Conservation Districts \$750, made by Cook Second by Allen approved by all**

E. Manager Report- Raeanne Dulanski (Attachment B)

1. Dulanski updated the board with the 2022-HM1, and the 2022-O1 Contracts.
2. Dulanski asked the board for permissions to allow a transfer of funds from the ARPA and Hazard tree bank accounts to the Checking account and pay the contractor for the work that has been completed. **Motion to allow the transfer to pay the invoice for the 2022-HM1 bid of \$74161.00 with \$56,013 coming from the ARPA account and \$18,148 Hazard account. Allow the transfer to pay the invoice for the 2022-O1 Bid of \$72,977.92 with \$64,230.36 coming from the ARPA account and \$8,474.56 coming from the Hazard Tree account, made by Cook seconded by Burke approved by all.**

3. Dulanski reported to the board that all staff will be away to WQS training from March 14th to March 17th.

IX. Old and New Business:

- A. Annual Reports – all reports were filed prior to the deadline.
- B. Proposed changes to the District Law were discussed. Dulanski shared a letter that Orange County SWCD Board of Directors sent to their State Representatives. Andrews suggested this Board send a letter to our Representatives as well. Consensus of the Board was to send a letter to our State Senate and Assembly Representatives with our concerns over the proposed changes. Andrews to work with Dulanski on the letter.

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

XI. Announcements: None

XII. Next Meeting: March 23rd, 2023 at 3:30pm

XIII. Meeting Adjourned: *Motion to adjourn at 5:18 p.m.* made by Cook seconded by Burke approved **by all**.

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

McKenzie Church, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date

Attachments: A – C