

DRAFT

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For March 21st, 2024, at 4:15 pm

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Adam Cook (Vice Chair), Becky Allen, John Burke, Kaitlyn Kulp, Margaret Haggard

Board Members Excused: Patrick Smith (Treasurer)

Guest Present: Jackie teRiele

Staff Present: Cayce Salvino (Manager), Melissa Woods (Secretary/Assistant Treasurer), Heidi Knafelc (Technician), Jevonnah Foster (Technician) and Aaron Barrigar (Forester)

I. Call to Order: at 4:20 pm

II. Agenda (Attachment A)

Introductions of Board and Staff to potential new Board member

Burke entered at 4:30 pm

III. Minutes of the Previous Meeting: *Motion to approve the February 15, 2024 minutes*, made by Cook, seconded by Haggard **approved by all.**

Motion to approve the February 2024 Treasurers Report, made by Cook, seconded by Burke **approved by all.**

IV. Reports

A. Board of Legislators –John Burke and Margaret Haggard

1. Burke reported that the county is recruiting for Director of financial position, HR & Public Health
2. Burke and Haggard state there are a lot of open positions in the county.

B. Ag and Farmland Protection Board – Bob Andrews

1. Andrews reported they are still working on combining Ag District 1 and 2.
2. Andrews stated there is a proposal for a solar farm in DeKalb and Hermon which would be the biggest in the county, waiting for more information.
3. NYS public service and National Grid are doing upgrades, looking for around 2000 people to hire, hoping to hire 1000 local people. Will result in increased pressure for more solar farms.
4. Discussion on Solar Farms. Final public hearing for Rich Road solar project is May 7th.
5. Methane digesters in the county are being geared to make hydrogen as long as methane.

V. **SWCD Reports:**

A. Treasurer's Reports: Melissa Woods

1. Woods talked about her QB training class, and about the new library of classes offered to everyone in our SWCD office.
2. **Motion to purchase QB library of training classes** made by Cook, seconded by Allen, **approved by all.**
3. Woods still working on Annual Treasurers report, should be submitted next week.
4. Woods finished up trees sale things, all set for Barrigar.
5. Woods reported that we received the rest of the Paychex refund.
6. Woods reports Part A and Part C money have been deposited into our account and moved to our NY CLASS MM account.
7. **Motion to allow Salvino/Woods to transfer up to \$35,000 from Money Market to Checking account to pay for April expenses** made by Allen, seconded by Haggard, **approved by all.**
8. **Motion to accept the lowest bid for the purchase of a Silverado meeting the specifications, and complete necessary paperwork** made by Allen, seconded by Haggard, **approved by all.**
9. Discussion on what we think we can sell Foster's truck for, **Motion to put on marketplace and sell White F-150 with a minimum of \$30,000 once we receive the new truck** made by Allen, seconded by Burke, **approved by all.**

B. Technician Report- Jevonnah Foster

1. Foster finished crop management course and got certification.
2. Foster did some outreach at OFA. Presented to students what she does at SWCD and gave a soil erosion demo and also brought her chicken to talk about hatching chicks.
3. Foster attended WQS and helped teach the AEM class.
4. Has spent most of her time working on AEM and finished one CNMP working on a second. Working on a couple nutrient management updates for previous plans, grazing plan is completed. Also working on pasture improvement plan and farmstead plan as well. Should have budget ready for next board meeting.
5. CRF round 6 contract is good to go waiting for engineer, round 7 we have 3 grants for 4 farms waiting for contract to come back from the state, round 8 is coming at the end of the month. She has 1 rewrite and there are a couple holding off on their plan for now.
6. AgNPS no funded projects in Round 29, Round 28 is moving forward , next round is pushed to the fall.
7. CAFO grant did get an extension, waiting on engineer to get back with updates.
8. Have 3 EQIP plans going through review and should know soon.

C. Forester's Report – Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar continues boundary marking on county forests.
2. Finished draft of County Forest Management Plan, would like to have BOD review and come back with feedback.
3. Continue working on AEM Forest Management plans and Part B Management plans.
4. Helping Woods do tree sale prep.
5. Attended WQS
6. Did a bark peeling project with APHIS and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe for EAB IPM.
7. Continue with Landowner Assistance and site Visits.
8. Discussion on what to do with the County Forest Management Plan.

Kulp left at 5:16 pm

9. Discussion on how much money is left and the plan for the rest of the ARPA money.

D. Technician Report- Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc reported that she's been working on Envirothon things which take place on April 25th.
2. Working on boundary marking, Ag Values, attended WQS.
3. Worked with APHIS project with Barrigar
4. Been working on maps for AEM forestry.

Burke left at 5:40 pm

E. Manager Report- Cayce Salvino

1. Salvino reported she has been working on EQIP high tunnel contracts and finishing up other contracts with NRCS.
2. Salvino has been working on test current issue questions for Envirothon.
3. Will be working on Conservation Field Days which are June 4th and 6th, teaching 5th graders about soil horizons by doing soil pits.
4. Discussion on hiring 2 interns to do wetland monitoring and free Knafelc up to work more with Barrigar.
5. **Motion to allow Salvino to advertise and hire up to two interns for summer 2024 made by Allen, second by Cook approved by all.**

VI. Old and New Business:

- A. CCE Orchard report, and letter from Patrick Ames for the HT agreement
- B. DEC wetland changes, existing maps we have won't be regulatory come 1/1/25
- C. Rich Road Solar in person comments May 7th, written comments due by May 10th
- D. Discussion on strategic plan that we found, have BOD do SWOT analysis, use this plan to guide the board. We should reach out to other counties and Ryan Cunningham to see if they have strategic plans for guidance.
- E. Save the River will be reaching out at some point to discuss septic grant.

VII. Correspondence: Mail was available for the Board's review.

VIII. Announcements: None

IX. Next Meeting: April 18th, 2024 4:15 p.m.

X. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn at 6:20 p.m. made by Cook seconded by Allen **approved by all.**

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Melissa Woods, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date