

DRAFT

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For May 16th, 2024, at 4:15 pm

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Jackie teRiele, Kaitlyn Kulp, John Burke, Margaret Haggard

Board Members Excused: Adam Cook (Vice-Chair), Patrick Smith (Treasurer)

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 4:18 pm
- II. **Agenda** (Attachment A)-addition to go into executive session at the end of the meeting.
- III. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting: *Motion* to approve the April 18, 2024 minutes, made by Burke, seconded by Haggard **approved by all.****

A. Treasurer's Reports: Melissa Woods

1. Woods stated that she attended her first Envirothon, and helped gather donations, and hand out thank you cards to those who donated.
2. Woods talked to the county highway department and got the gas fob and new truck number all set for the new truck, the old truck is now listed on Auctions International and will end May 29.
3. Woods attended a NYS Retirement seminar in Lewis County, was very beneficial and got good information on what we need to offer the interns when they start.
4. Woods ordered and received all the supplies for the safety kits and is working on putting them together for each vehicle.
5. Woods stated that a landowner is having issues with getting in contact with their assessor, Andrews stated to reach out to Bruce Green and let him know the situation.
6. ***Motion* to allow Woods to transfer up to \$40,000 from Money Market Savings Account to the Checking account to pay for May expenses, and to transfer up to \$40,000 from Money Market Savings Account to the Checking account to pay for June expenses made by Haggard, seconded by Kulp, **approved by all.****

Motion* to approve the April 2024 Treasurers Report, made by Kulp, seconded by Haggard **approved by all.*

IV. Reports

A. Board of Legislators –John Burke and Margaret Haggard

1. Burke and Haggard reported that they spoke to the legislatures about Barrigar's county forest management plan, no real objections to what was stated, need a resolution on what the next steps will be.
2. Haggard spoke about the Deer River issue the legislator for that area believes it is coming from North Country Dairy in Brasher Falls, they are working with DEC to get the issue taken care of.
3. Haggard stated that probation officers will now be armed if they chose, any new hire probation officers do have to carry.
4. There will be a public hearing on the new surcharge for cell phones, doesn't have a date yet.

B. Ag and Farmland Protection Board – Bob Andrews

1. Andrews reported that they are still working on combining Ag District 1 and 2 into 1 district.
2. AFPB has submitted their comments on Rich Road Solar.
3. Andrews stated there is a new proposal for a 3,000 Acre solar facility in Norfolk/Brasher.
4. Andrews spoke about the new Methane Digester in West Potsdam, stated that around 10K cows manure will go through this facility. Breaking ground this summer.
5. Andrews stated they have a new board member on their board and looking forward to new input and ideas.

V. SWCD Reports:

A. Technician Report- Jevonnah Foster

1. Foster stated CRF round 8 grant has been released
2. **Resolution to apply for the CRF grants for the farms**, made by Burke, seconded by Haggard, **approved by all.**
3. Foster also needs the farms ranked, had sheets for the BOD to rank, farms are anonymous so there isn't any biased. Tract 3A Farms Ranked Respectively 1, 3, 2
4. **Motion to approve the ranking for the CRF farms**, made by teRiele, seconded by Burke, **approved by all.**
5. Foster is working on AEM plans, have more to start working on as well.
6. Foster has submitted the second revision for CNMP.
7. Foster stated AgNPS won't be released until the fall, but has had some inquiries about this program.
8. Discussion on Cover Crop Program and may be able to increase acreage based on the increase to Part C money available.
9. **Motion to start 2024 Cover Crop Program with Part C money up to \$25,000**, made by Kulp, seconded by teRiele, **approved by all.**

B. Forester's Report – Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar has been working on AEM Forest Management Plans and Part B Forest Management plans.
2. Barrigar attended and help with the Envirothon.
3. Been working on mapping for county ROW, hopes to start next week.
4. Barrigar went through the county parcels to see which ones would be good for the TNC program. Found 11 parcels around 492 acres that look to be a good match and meet the criteria. BOL state to reach back out to the planning department to see what the next steps will be in getting this land into the program.
5. Barrigar also has been working on landowner assistance and site visits.

C. Technician Report- Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc reported that she's been working on AEM and Part B Forest Management Plans.
2. Knafelc helped set up and attend the Envirothon.
3. Knafelc attended the close out for an EQIP project in Franklin county.
4. She has been working on inventory maps with Barrigar.
5. Knafelc went to WRP training in Lowville.
6. Knafelc helped do interviews and hire the 2 new interns.

D. Manager Report- Cayce Salvino

1. Salvino reported that the NACD article about forestry has been posted.
2. Salvino stated that we have hired 2 interns and will start working on paperwork next week.
3. Salvino stated the first week of June will be busy with the interns starting, conservation field days at Indian Creek Nature Center, and manager meeting in Ray Brook.
4. WFA training is set for June 13 and 14. We did receive the IDA grant to cover the training.
5. Salvino has been working with Louisville on DWSP2 Plan dealing with drinking water, and trying to map areas of concern with pollutants.
6. Salvino attended a meeting with SRMT on AOC BUI Removal Plan, which the DEC, SRMT, US Fish and Wildlife, and USGS are trying to get BUI removed from part of the St. Lawrence River near Massena.
7. Salvino and Knafelc will be attending the NYS Envirothon next week, national one is in NY this year in July, unsure if planning to attend.
8. Salvino contacted Garden Share to have a booth at the Farmers Market every so often, she went opening day in Canton and gave out mosquito dunks, had over 40 people stop. She mentioned it may be a good idea to get a table cloth with SLCSWCD on it so people know who we are.
9. Salvino met with SLC Youth Bureau and talked about partnering to do some kind of conservation activity.
10. Salvino also met with a lady from head start and they are interested in partnering and maybe have a talk with parents.
11. Salvino asked for permission to sign agreement with Franklin County SWCD to work together on AEM, the BOD stated not to sign seems one sided and instructed Salvino to look to see if we have an agreement to send to them or if this needs to be revised.

VI. Old and New Business:

- A. Salvino stated we would like to look into getting our own website separate from the counties website. BOL said they would talk to county see if that is an option.

Motion to enter into Executive Session at 5:20 pm, made by Haggard, seconded by Burke, **approved by all.**

Exited Executive session at 7:26 pm.

Salvino resigned from her position of District Manager.

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

VIII. Announcements: Andrews stated June 7th from 10am to 2:30pm is the managers meeting in Ray Brook and BOD members are welcome and encouraged to attend, goes towards our Part C performance measures. Get information and report back to the BOD.

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

X. Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn at 7:27 p.m. **approved by all.**

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Melissa Woods, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date