

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY
AGRICULTURAL AND FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD
48 Court St. Canton, New York 13617-1169
Tel: (315) 379-2292 • Fax: (315) 379-2252

MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 6:00 PM
Second Floor Conference Room, Human Service Center
80 State Highway 310, Canton, NY 13617

I. Call to Order

A. Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum. Andrews called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm.

Members present: K. Gugin (*Cornell Cooperative Extension*) R. Andrews, (*Chair*); M. Bowdish; L. Denesha, (*BOL Liaison*); M. Finen; B. Green, (*Real Property*); K. Gugin, (*CCE*); S. McKnight; J. Pfothauer, (*Planning Office*); J. TeRiele. **Absent:** D. Fisher; J. Greenwood; S. McKnight. A quorum was established.

Staff present: S. Joseph *Planner II*; **Others present:** C. Salvino, *SWCD*; B. Ashfeld *IDA*;

B. Adoption of the Agenda. Intros added to agenda. Motion to adopt agenda (TeRiele / Denesha) Agenda was adopted

C. Approval of the Minutes. The February 1, 2024 meeting minutes was accepted

II. New Business

A. Eight-Year Review Agricultural District 1 Staff presented the proposed changes for agricultural district 1 undergoing an eight year review, the requested for additions in Agricultural District 2, and the proposed consolidation of the two agricultural districts into Agricultural District 1. Motion to approve proposed additions and removals for Agricultural District 1; and the proposed additions to Agricultural District 2; and the proposed consolidation of Agricultural District 1 and Agricultural District 2 into Agricultural District 1; and bring proposal to the Board of Legislators for approval (TeRiele / Denesha). Passed unanimously.

III. Old Business:

A. Definition of Prime Soil. USDA print out of prime soils so unified definition so there are not discrepancies between SWCD and SLC Planning Office.

IV. Reports

- A. J. TiRele.** Discussion on a community biodigester on corner of State Hwy 310 and Morley-Potsdam Road. The biodigester will take in manure via truck from several dairies in the area. Also mention of possible hydrogen production through biodigester
- B. R. Andrews.** Milk prices are depressed, but new milk plants being built across the state.
- C. Real Property:** Prepping for a busier time with tax mailings and assessments
- D. SWCD:** Tree and Shrub sale coming up, mosquito dunks available for free to the public, Environthon at Paul Smith April 25 for high school students. Working with NRCS on EQIP application. Working with CCE on high tunnel. Forester finalized a forest management plan. Next round of Ash marking on county right of ways starting in Brasher moving along route 11. CRF climate Resiliency Funding.
- E. IDA:** Provided 2023 annual report to committee.
- F. Planning:** Discussion on some of the major industrial solar facilities including Rich Road in Canton, Boralex in Massena / Brasher, Moss Ridge near Richville. Environmental Facilities Corporation that funds a septic repair program is expanding eligible water bodies. Work on some comprehensive plan, for Heuvelton, Hammond. App for transit called Passio. Eclipse planning with emergency planning.
- G. L. Denesha, SLC BOL.** Emergency Operations Center up and running for eclipse. Expect lot of traffic. Open house at Potsdam highway outpost. Three new highway outpost in Russell, Lisbon, and Potsdam. Emergency Service Renovation Project progressing well. Lazy River Bridge closed April 2 – November 1 for construction between Hermon and Russell. Discussion on Moss Ridge Solar array on best farmland in the area, and it does not go before planning board. Resolution passed urging Governor Hochul to make appointments to the vacant seats for Hermon Town Board.
- H. CCE:** CCE Boards for Jefferson, Lewis, and St. Lawrence county approved MOU for the creation of the three county regional ag team. Jefferson will house the soil specialist, Lewis will house the dairy specialist, and SLC will house the ag business specialist, but they will cover all three counties. Approved high tunnel grant with SWCD. Tractor maintenance and safety workshop in April, Farm Credit financial management workshop in April and accounting workshop in May.
- I. M. Finen:** Maple syrup season has been low and discouraging.
- J. M. Bowdish:** Greenhouse up and running for planting season

V. Other Items

- A. Correspondence.** None
- B. Announcements.**

- 2. Adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm (TeRiele / Finen).**

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel Joseph