

DRAFT

St. Lawrence County Soil and Water Conservation District
1942 Old DeKalb Road, Canton, NY 13617
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
For March 20th, 2025, at 5:00 pm

Board Members Present: Robert Andrews, Jr. (Chairperson), Adam Cook (Vice Chair), Patrick Smith (Treasurer), Kaitlyn Kulp, Jackie teRiele, and John Burke

Board Members Absent: Daniel Fay

Staff Present: Alivia Bleau (Manager), Melissa Woods (Secretary/Assistant Treasurer)

- I. **Call to Order:** at 5:01 pm
- II. **Agenda** (Attachment A)
- III. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** *Motion to approve the February 20, 2025 minutes, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele approved by all.*
- IV. **Discussion on purchasing a 4-Wheeler**
 - A. Follow up questions for next meeting where a decision will be made.
- V. **Invasive Species presentation about water chestnut was postponed till April 17th Meeting at 5 pm**
- VI. **Reports**
 - A. **Board of Legislators** –John Burke
 1. Burke stated that community services that are provided through the county are supporting themselves for the first time in a many years.
 2. Burke reported that the cost of rabies sample testing has almost doubled after not increasing in price for approximately 15 years. According to public health if you are sleeping in a room and find a bat flying in the room you have to be vaccinated since a bat bite is so small.
 3. Burke stated social services numbers are very high but commissioner is trying to bring that number down.
 4. Burke reported that county attorney did provide some legal advice for CO's who were on approved leave before the strike.
 - B. **Ag and Farmland Protection Board** – Bob Andrews
 1. Andrews reported no update on date for Ag Tour yet.
 2. Andrews stated their next meeting is in April, so no new updates from last month.
- VII. **SWCD Reports:** (Attachment B)
 - A. **Treasurer's Reports:** Melissa Woods
 1. Woods has been continuing working on tree sale and adding sales to QuickBooks.
 2. Woods worked on updating governmental shutdown process.
 3. Woods opened CRF Grant bank accounts and put in QB.
 4. Received 2024 Part C money.
 5. Woods attended Water Quality Symposium (WQS).
 6. *Motion to allow Woods to transfer up to \$40 ,000 from Money Market Savings account to the checking account to pay for April expenses, made by Burke, seconded by Smith, approved by all.*

Motion to approve the February 2025 Treasurers Report, made by Cook, seconded by Kulp approved by all.

B. Forester's Report – Aaron Barrigar

1. Barrigar continues to work on AEM and Part B Forest Management Plans.
2. Barrigar did a couple landowner assistance and site visits.
3. Barrigar has been working on ARPA/Hazard Tree project.
4. Barrigar submitted grant for invasive species work through SLELO PRISM.
5. Barrigar has been working on EQIP applications.
6. Barrigar did a Tree workshop with CCE Master Gardner class.
7. Barrigar also attended WQS.
8. Undersold on Tree Sale compared to prior years, will advertise we have extra trees after pick-up and we have actual numbers.

C. Technician Report- Heidi Knafelc

1. Knafelc reported she has been very busy with Ag Value Assessments.
2. Knafelc attended WQS.
3. Knafelc continues studying for the Pesticide Certification Exam.

D. Technician Report- Jevonnah Foster

1. Foster reported she continues to work on AEM plans and T4 projects.
2. Foster stated AgNPS Round 30 grant is submitted.
3. CAFO extension was granted.
4. Foster reported CAFO ENMP plan of work was submitted.
5. Foster attended/spoke at Manure Roadshow put on by Pro-Dairy and CCE.
6. Foster also spoke at a Vegetable Workshop held by CCE.
7. ***Motion to pay Dale Morse for \$2,346 for services in January and February of 2025, made by Cook, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.***

E. Manager Report- Alivia Bleau

1. Bleau worked on Kravitz contract, has signed contract will start and complete what he can by May 31st, sent addendum to Covell to end his contract.
2. Bleau attended CDEA managers meeting, Manure Roadshow with Foster and WQS.
3. Bleau helped Barrigar finish and submit SLELO PRISM grant.
4. Bleau and Barrigar met with Ben Hull, Legislator to talk about our programs and what we offer to our county.
5. ***Motion to allow Bleau to sign the term contract with Jefferson County SWCD, made by Smith, seconded by Kulp, approved by all.***

VIII. Old Business:

- A. BOD discussed apparel and are happy with the shirts we received. Would like to reach out to a business that can do embroidery and see what prices are for a few items and then set a limit for each employee to order more apparel.
- B. Bleau has continued to receive emails from landowner. BOD stated to provide names, roles and appointment dates of BOD members.
- C. Discussion on Internship and IRA funding pertaining to paying for our EQIP work we do with NRCS. ***Motion to hire intern for 250 hours at a pay rate of \$16 - \$17 an hour to be determined by district manager, made by Burke, seconded by teRiele, approved by all.***

IX. New Business:

- A. Discussion on signing Verizon Wireless paperwork, BOD decided to take no action at this time.

teRiele left at 6:27 pm

- B.** Discussion on sending a letter of support for a forestry bill to NYS which will add additional funding to St. Lawrence County’s existing forestry program, create a new forestry program, and benefit foresters and loggers operating on private lands. ***Motion to allow Bleau to send a letter to Governor Hochul supporting \$2.75 million for SFY 2025-26 as proposed in the assembly one-house-bill, made by Cook, seconded by Smith, approved by all.***

Motion to enter executive session at 6:31 pm, made by, Cook, seconded by Smith, approved by all.

- X. Correspondence:** Mail was available for the Board’s review. (Attachment C)
- XI. Announcements:** Invasive Species presentation next month
- XII. Next Meeting:** March 20th, 2025 5:00 p.m. starting with Invasive Species presentation
- XIII. Meeting Adjourned:** Exited executive session and ***Motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m., made by Cook, seconded by Burke, approved by all.***

Robert Andrews, Jr., Chairperson

Date

Melissa Woods, Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

Date