



Cortland County Soil and Water Conservation District

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www.cortlandswcd.org

SWCD...established to promote the conservation and wise use of our county's natural resources

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

ATTENDING:

Eugene Wright, Chairman	Linda Jones, Director
James Murphy, Treasurer	Beau Harbin- Excused
Tracey Evanick, Vice Chair	Emily Olsenwik, Secretary
Amanda Barber, Manager	Cody Wilk, Conservation Aide
Melissa Rutter, Fiscal Officer	Shawn Murphy, Nat. Res. Conservationist

A. MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER by Chairman Wright- 1:04 p.m.

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion by Murphy to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on May 15, 2023 as written. Seconded and carried 3-0.

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS: Including income and expenses for May. Presented for payment Abstract 5-23 for Vouchers 98-23 to 127-23. Fiscal Officer Rutter commented that the net from tree sales was approximately \$17,000.00.

Motion by Murphy to accept the May 2023 financial reports and approve the payment of bills presented on Abstract 5-23 in the amount of \$115,393.63. Seconded and carried 3-0.

****Tracey Evanick entered the meeting at 1:07pm****

D. REPORTS:

- 1. NRCS-** No report submitted.
- 2. SWCD-** Report was presented by Barber and is appended to minutes.
- 3. SLWAP –** No report submitted.
- 4. NYSWCD-** Report was presented by Barber and is appended to minutes.

****Shawn Murphy entered the meeting at 1:13pm****

E. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 1. NYACD:** Annual Meeting information, Stream C bill update and NYS Envirothon results.
- 2. United States Forest Service:** Barber submitted letter in support of USDA's proposal, "Regional Urban and Community Forestry Planning, Implementation, and Capacity Building for Disadvantaged Communities in Central New York."
- 3. NYS DEC:** Climate Smart Communities Grants program information.
- 4. NYS Ag & Markets:** Announcement of CFA funding.

5. NYS DEC: Announcement of “Regenerate NY” a forestry cost share grant program.
6. NYS DEC: Press Release from Finger Lakes Hub announcing Request for Proposals for Finger Lakes Grants Program.
7. Legislator Harbin: August meeting of the APE Committee will be a 2024 budget workshop.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Policy Review-

Proposed modification to Policy for Employees Use of District Cell Phones: Section A to read: *District cell phones, which are defined as government property, are issued for the purpose of conducting official District business and shall be used in accordance with this policy and any operational instructions pursuant to this policy that may be issued by the District Manager.*

Proposed addition of new Section I: Content and Confidentiality to read:

Any communications, photographs, or recordings made on a District phone becomes property of the District. Therefore, any content housed on a District phone shall meet the District’s professional standards. Additionally, employees must exercise reasonable care to insure that confidential matters are not improperly disclosed to a third party through the use of District cell phones (i.e., overheard, or, in the case of texting-viewed).

Motion by Murphy to accept the policy revision and accept adding a new Section I to the Policy for Employees Use of District Cell Phones. Seconded and carried 4-0.

2. Little York Lake Management and District Administration-

Herbicide application will not occur so funding will be used for weed harvesting. Barber commented that the review of the lake management plan to validate priorities will also be completed this year.

3. Personnel/ Staffing Update-

Barber thanked the Board for approving her time off for her daughter’s wedding. Barber, in trying to fill positions, realized that while she was approved to canvass for an engineer at last month’s meeting, Cortland SWCD does not technically have a Civil Service position on the roster for an engineer, thus needs authorization from the Board to create an engineer position prior to trying to hire one.

Barber introduced Cody Wilk as Cortland SWCD’s summer Conservation Aide.

Motion by Murphy to authorize Barber to create an engineer position. Seconded and carried 4-0.

4. Stream C Bill Update and Letter of Opposition-

Barber explained that while the bill was vetoed in 2022, some amendments were made and the bill has been re-submitted. Shawn Murphy presented the letter of opposition to the Stream C Bill to the Board. Barber asked the Board to authorize Chairman Wright to sign the letter to Governor Hochul.

Motion by Murphy to authorize Chairman Wright to sign and send letter of opposition to the Stream C Bill to Governor Hochul. Seconded and carried 4-0.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. AIS Blitz Grant-**Barber asked for authorization to enter into an agreement with the Great Lakes Commission for a project pertaining to aquatic invasive species spread prevention and education from June 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023 with expenses not to exceed \$5,360.00.

Motion by Evanick to authorize Barber to sign contract to enter into an agreement with the Great Lakes Commission for a project pertaining to aquatic invasive species education and spread prevention from June 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023 with expenses not to exceed \$5,360.00. Seconded and carried 4-0.

- 2. Cover Crop Contract-**

Barber asked for authorization to sign the Cover Crop Contract with USC in the amount of \$115,500, for work to be completed by November 30, 2023.

Motion by Evanick to approve Barber signing the USC Cover Crop agreement with USC for 2023 in the amount of \$115,500. Seconded and carried 4-0.

- 3. AGNP Application Discussion and Ranking**

Nine applicants are under review for AGNP grant funds – the applications are predominantly for manure storage. At present, the applicants are as follows in no particular order: East River Dairy, Dairyland, Randall, Finch, Phillips, Murray, Park, Preble Hill, VanPatten. Staff utilized the state scoring criteria to rank projects, and points were also deducted for projects previously treated, associated with new expansion or facilities, or considered a CAFO enhancement. The staff recommended ranked list was provided to the board for discussion.

Motion by Murphy to approve ranking as presented. Seconded and carried 4-0.

Motion by Jones to approve Resolution 2023-2 authorizing participation in the grant program and Barber to be the District representative. See attached. Seconded and carried 4-0.

I. NEXT MEETING: June 11, 2023, 1:00 pm.

J. ADJOURNED at 2:05pm.

Eugene E. Wright, Chairman of Board