



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

Monday, May 15, 2023

ATTENDING:

Eugene Wright, Chairman	Linda Jones, Director
James Murphy, Treasurer	Beau Harbin, Legislator
Tracey Evanick, Vice Chair	Emily Olsenwik, Secretary
Amanda Barber, Manager	Chad Hill, Conservation Assistant
Melissa Rutter, Fiscal Officer	Jack Fox, Conservation Assistant

A. MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER by Chairman Wright- 1:05 p.m.

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion by Murphy to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on April 11, 2023 as written. Seconded and carried 5-0.

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS: Including income and expenses for April. Presented for payment Abstract 4-23 for Vouchers 81-23 to 97-23.

Motion by Murphy to accept the April 2023 financial reports and approve the payment of bills presented on Abstract 4-23 in the amount of \$79,096.69. Seconded and carried 5-0.

D. REPORTS:

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

E. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **NYACD:** Letter about upcoming annual meeting.
2. **Cortland Youth Program:** Letter asking if Cortland SWCD would like to participate this summer.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Policy Review-

Proposed modification to the Sexual Harassment Policy to broaden and clarify that the term “employee” applies to all people. The following statement will be added: *For the purposes of this policy, the term “employee” encompasses all employees, volunteers, interns (paid or unpaid), contractors, consultants, vendors, and all other persons conducting business with the Cortland County SWCD.*

Motion by Murphy to approve the policy revision and definition of the term “employee” in the Sexual Harassment Policy. Seconded and carried 5-0.

- 2. Little York Lake Management and District Administration-**
Contract has been drawn up and is ready to sign.

Motion by Evanick to authorize Barber to sign contract between the county and SWCD for the Little York Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District administration. Seconded and carried 5-0.

- 3. Personnel/ Staffing Update-**

Ally Stout resigned from the Conservation Aide position. Barber interviewed a new candidate and pending reference checks, would like approval to hire new candidate.

Motion by Murphy to authorize Barber to offer the position of conservation aide to the new candidate pending reference checks. Seconded and carried 5-0.

- 4. Landfill Monitoring Update-**

McGrath met with Sudbrink, Aiken and B&L, Landfill consultant, to review current monitoring and potential changes. Given the considerable increase in the cost of landfill testing, it seemed prudent to investigate previously discussed modifications that could cut costs. Dropping testing at the Towslee site for one quarter and refraining from sampling for PFAS at locations where there hasn't been a history of PFAS have been discussed. The consensus was to include the reduction in Towslee monitoring in the application for the new permit next year, and proceed with the request to reduce PFAS immediately. McGrath also presented data regarding trigger values which have been exceeded, but wells not put into contingency monitoring due to various reasons, including lack of waste present. B&L will evaluate the data further for possible modifications to the triggers and contingency monitoring recommendations. Barber attended the Solid Waste Committee meeting and the county has approved increasing the contract amount.

Motion by Jones to authorize Barber to enter into and sign new landfill contract with Cortland County once it has been received. Seconded and carried 5-0.

- 5. AGNP/CRF Application Process and Dates-**

Individuals interested in AGNP funding need to apply by June 2, 2023. Individuals interested in CRF funding need to apply by July 7, 2023. Barber would like to advertise for the programs to encourage people to apply.

Motion by Harbin to authorize Barber to advertise the dates and deadlines for the AGNP and CRF programs. Seconded and carried 5-0.

H. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Weed Harvesting Billing Rate-**

Barber mentioned that a rate needs to be established to charge the Lake Preservation Society for labor associated with the weed harvesting work on Little York Lake. Discussion occurred around what rate would be fair to the Lake Preservation Society as well as to SWCD. A rate of \$50/hr was

agreed upon. This rate will only be inclusive of labor. Mileage, insurance and any other direct costs will be billed separately.

Motion by Jones to approve charging \$50/hr to the Little York Lake Preservation Society for the labor portion of weed harvesting on Little York Lake and to bill direct costs like mileage and insurance separately. Seconded and carried 5-0.

Motion by Harbin to enter into Executive session at 2:06pm to discuss the employment of a particular person or persons. Seconded and carried 5-0.

Motion by Murphy to resume regular session at 2:27pm. Seconded and carried 5-0.

Motion by Harbin to accept Kathleen McGrath's resignation letter, with regrets. Seconded and carried 5-0.

Motion by Harbin to canvass for an engineer and water quality specialist. Seconded and carried 5-0.

I. NEXT MEETING: June 13, 2023, 1:00 pm.

J. ADJOURNED at 2:29pm.

Eugene E. Wright, Chairman of Board