



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, April 9, 2024

ATTENDING: James Murphy, Chair
Linda Jones, Vice-Chair
Tracey Evanick, Treasurer
John Phelps, Director
William McGovern, Director
Amanda Barber, District Manager
Melissa Rutter, Fiscal Officer
Brandan Aschmutat, Conservation Assistant
Jake Lynch, Conservation Assistant

A. MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER by Chair Murphy – 1:02 p.m. Aschmutat and Lynch introduced themselves to the Board.

B. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Motion by Jones to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting held on March 12, 2024 as written. Seconded and carried 5-0.

C. FINANCIAL REPORTS: Including income and expenses for March. Presented for payment Abstract 03-24 for Vouchers 35-24 to 52-24.

Motion by Evanick to accept the March 2024 financial reports and approve the payment of bills presented on Abstract 03-24 in the amount of \$61,028.96. Seconded and carried 5-0.

D. REPORTS:

1. **SWCD-** Report was distributed and is appended to minutes.
2. **SWCC** – Report was distributed and is appended to minutes.

E. CORRESPONDENCE:

1. **NYS DEC** – Award letter for Freetown Salt Storage Improvement Project.
2. **NYACD** – Legislative Days follow-up, Annual Meeting, Senate Bill #S7854.
3. **YWCA Cortland** – Thank you note for participating in Girls' Day Out.
4. **NYSFOLA** – Newsletter.

F. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **2023 Annual Report of the Treasurer** – Report is complete and was reviewed by auditor. Report needs to be signed by Board Treasurer for submittal to NYS OSC and the SWCC.

Motion by Phelps to approve the 2023 Treasurer's Report for signature by Evanick and subsequent distribution to the NYS OSC and SWCC. Seconded and carried 5-0.

2. **LYLPRD** – Barber is still awaiting a response regarding the weed harvester grant. The Central New York Community Foundation has indicated that they are in the process of scheduling applicant

interviews for the grant. Barber said that the District may have to issue an RFP to contract out the harvesting should the District become unable to purchase a harvester this year. Barber briefly discussed the progress on the existing work plan.

3. **ARP Funds** – Jones, McGovern, Barber and Corpora met after March’s Board meeting to discuss the District’s ARP funds. It was determined that the funds will need to be allocated by June of 2024. Barber said that some of the ARP funds may be allocated to the Brackel, Brown, and Freetown culvert replacement projects.
4. **Engineer Position** – Barber stated that she has not received any further applications for the position. She mentioned contacting some Districts in larger metro areas to inquire whether they would be willing to post the position on their social media platforms, in the hopes that doing so would generate more interest and applications.
5. **Grange Lease** – Barber received a new 5-year lease agreement from the Grange. The rent will remain the same until April 1, 2025, at which time it will go up to \$2592/month for the remainder of the lease contract.

Motion by McGovern to approve and authorize Barber to sign the new Use and Occupancy Agreement (Lease) with the NYS Grange for 5 years, commencing April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2029 with a rate of \$2,400/month for the first year, and \$2,592/ month for the remaining 4 years. Seconded and carried 5-0.

G. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Water Festival** – Barber requested approval for expenditures for the June 1st event.

Motion by Evanick to authorize up to \$2,000 for Water Festival expenses. Seconded and carried 5-0.

2. **AEM Base Year 18 Plan** – Funding in the amount of \$200,000 is available through 2025. All landowner requests have been evaluated for available programs and eligibility. Staff recommends approval of three projects for the AEM Base cost-share funds:
 - a. Jason Tuning – Waste Storage and Transfer System. Stafford Road, Town of Cincinnatus.
 - b. Trinity Valley Farm – Barnyard Runoff Management System. Project located on NYS Route 13, Town of Homer.
 - c. New Hope View Farm – Silage Leachate Collection and Treatment System. Project located on NYS Route 90, Town of Homer.

Motion by Phelps to include Jason Tuning’s Waste Storage and Transfer System, Trinity Valley Farm’s Barnyard Runoff Management System, and New Hope View Farm’s Silage Leachate Collection and Treatment System as projects under **Cortland County’s Round 18 AEM Tier 4 Cost Share Program**. If any landowner(s) should withdraw from the program, the funds will be redistributed to the remaining farm(s), within program limits. Seconded and carried 5-0.

H. NEXT MEETING: May 7, 2024, 1:00 pm.

I. ADJOURNED at 1:50 pm.

Jim Murphy, Chairperson