



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 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

ATTENDING: James Murphy, Chair - Excused Amanda Barber, District Manager
Linda Jones, Vice-Chair - Excused Melissa Rutter, Fiscal Officer
Tracey Evanick, Treasurer Stacy Russell, Natural Resource Program Specialist
William McGovern, Director Shawn Murphy, Natural Resource Conservationist
John Phelps, Director

A. MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER by Evanick – 11:07 a.m.

B. CRF PROPOSALS - Barber gave an update on the status of various proposed CRF projects previously discussed at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on 6/11/24.

Two of the projects discussed previously have been placed on hold – the Miller project and the Preble Hill project. More information is required for the Miller project to progress – the District recommended soliciting input from a forester and updating their stewardship plan. The landowner for Preble Hill requested more time to research and decide the appropriate course of action for their project.

New Hope View initially requested assistance with manure storage, which they understood would require a cover and flare for grant funding. They are not fully committed to separation which is required in order to use manure storage with a cover (cannot agitate). At this time, they have decided to postpone this project.

The remaining three projects are: Barber buffer planting, Mikochick planting/fencing project, and Villnave cover crop project. Project descriptions and GHG/carbon sequestration savings for the remaining three proposed projects were distributed. Barber briefly explained each project, explained the project tracks, then acknowledged her conflict of interest and subsequently recused herself from the meeting.

****Barber recused herself from the meeting at 11:20 a.m. ****

****Murphy and Russell joined the meeting at 11:21 a.m. ****

Murphy and Russell answered questions about the three proposed projects, including those regarding the COMET-Planner benefits.

****Murphy and Russell left the meeting at 11:33 a.m. ****

Motion by McGovern to approve the Barber buffer planting project for submission as a priority project to CRF Round 8 Track 4 Forestry. Seconded and carried 3-0.

Motion by McGovern to approve the Mikochik planting/fencing project for submission as a priority

project to CRF Round 8 – Track 3A Soil Health. Seconded and carried 3-0.

Motion by McGovern to approve the Villnave cover crop project for submission as a priority project to CRF Round 8 – Track 3B Soil Health: Federal funding. Seconded and carried 3-0.

Motion by Evanick to approve Resolution 2024-03 (attached) to submit the Villnave and Mikochik projects to Round 8 of the Climate Resilient Farming grant program and appoint Barber as the District representative. Seconded and carried 3-0.

Motion by Evanick to approve Resolution 2024-04 (attached) to submit the Barber project to Round 8 of the Climate Resilient Farming grant program and appoint McGovern to act as the District representative in relation to the project. Seconded and carried 3-0.

- C. STAFFING** - Prior to recusing herself, Barber requested approval to hire Delta Barber on a part-time, temporary basis this summer in order to assist with various office projects and activities, including the Annual Report.

Motion by McGovern to hire Delta Barber as a Conservation Aide on a part-time, temporary basis to assist with various programs and activities. Seconded and carried 3-0.

****Barber rejoined the meeting at 11:37 a.m. ****

- D. ADJOURNED at 11:40 a.m.**

Melissa Rutter, Secretary to the Board