

ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
November 15, 2023
Minutes

Meeting held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension (District Office)

PRESENT

DIRECTORS: Chairman Sam Casella, Vice Chairman Jim Malyj, Ken Livermore, Rich Russell, Mark Venuti, Ed Jackson (left meeting at 5:15pm), Amanda Amadon (arrived at 4:34pm)

ABSENT: None

STAFF: Megan Webster, Diana Thorn

USDA

FSA: Joann Rogers

NRCS: None

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Casella called the regular meeting to order at 4:30pm and Jim led the pledge to the flag.

MINUTES

Chairman Casella asked for any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes from October 18, 2023. The following motion was offered:

Motion that the minutes of October 18, 2023 be accepted as submitted.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Ed Jackson.

All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)

Resolution #20231115-01

BILLS

A spreadsheet was provided that shows the bills that appear in the Abstract listed with more detail and in their current status.

Motion to approve the bills as submitted and Abstract #11 in the amount of \$92,167.52.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Jim Malyj.

Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.

All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)

Resolution #20231115-02

TREASURER'S REPORT

Diana reviewed her Treasurer's Report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for October 31, 2023. Megan has reviewed and signed payrolls #21 and #22; the October bank statements; and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through October 31st.

Motion to approve a budget amendment to move \$700.00 from the Motor Vehicles line to the Office Supplies line.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Rich Russell.

All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)

Resolution #20231115-03

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and the October financial statements.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved. (Amanda Amadon not present yet)

Resolution #20231115-05

Amanda Amadon arrived at 4:34pm

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Ed Jackson

1. Ed asked Megan about the NYSFOLA Conference. Megan shared that it was a good event. She attended a presentation given by Robert Call, NYS DEC Region 8 Permit Administrator.
2. Ed asked about Alaina presenting at Honeoye Elementary School. Megan shared that Alaina is going to speak to the Second Graders.

FSA

Joann Rogers

County Committee (COC): The next COC meeting is on Thursday, 12/07/2023 at 9AM; current County Committee members are: Billy Rockefeller, Kelley Jensen and Frank Fessner, if interested in attending the COC meeting please contact the office at 585-394-0525 ext. 2.

County Committee (COC) Elections: Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3, which includes the towns of Geneva-Seneca, Gorham and Hopewell is up for elections this year. Ballots have been mailed to eligible voters with a deadline of 12/04/2023 to return ballots. The following candidates will appear on the ballots: Kelley Jensen and James (Jim) Malyj.

Primary Secretarial Natural Disaster Designation: Ontario County for flash flooding and excessive rain from mid-June to end of July; emergency loans available [Disaster Assistance Programs \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/programs/disaster-assistance)

Emergency Relief Program (ERP) 2022: provides financial assistance for agricultural producers impacted by wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, winter storms and other eligible disasters occurring in calendar year 2022. [Emergency Relief Program \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/programs/emergency-relief-program)

Farm Program Loans:

- **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL):** interest rates range from 4.750% to 4.875% for terms from 3 years to 12 years; the FSFL program has a variety of loan options from bulk tanks, hay barns, grain bins/dryers, telehandlers and storage coolers just to name a few; [farm storage facility loan programs fact sheet july 2022.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/programs/farm-storage-facility-loan-programs-fact-sheet-july-2022)
- **Market Assistance Loans (MAL's)** are short-term commodity loans with interest rate of 6.500% for grain stored in bins. [mal ldp fact sheet.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/programs/mal-ldp-fact-sheet)

Farm Loan: has a variety of loans available and funding is still available. Peter Stoep, Farm Loan Officer; Abbey Combs, Farm Loan Officer; and Kim Weykman, Program Technician. Denise Buisch assists with new farm loan inquiries and can be reached by email at denise.buisch@usda.gov or by telephone at 315-946-9912 ext. 112.

Farm Record updates: please report any changes in shares of members, change in members of entities, land changes, such as purchases, new leased ground or ground no longer being leased and any banking changes.

Fall crop reporting crop year 2024:

- 477 fields of cover crop for 6546 acres
- Fall small grains: 2555 acres triticale 1128 acres rye 7680 acres wheat

Reminder to complete the AD-1026 form PRIOR to any clearing or tiling projects.

Please feel free to refer any inquiries on any FSA programs or what programs we have to offer by contacting our office. In addition to myself there are Program Technicians: Courtney Kautz, Alexis McDougal and Sarah Potter. Please call FSA at 585-394-0525 ext. 2 for information on any FSA programs or to learn more about FSA, we encourage participation from all types and sizes of farm operations, whether you are an Urban or Rural producer/farmer

NRCS

No report

Diana shared an email from Dan reporting that over the 3 county region, 89 applications for EQIP and CSP were received during the last sign up period. Open NRCS positions are posted on USAJobs.gov.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was shared during the meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Megan Webster, District Manager Report

Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition

This coalition of SWCDs is being formed to share resources. The agreements have been finalized and all of Ontario County except the Honeoye Lake Watershed (which is already included in the Genesee River Watershed Coalition) will be included. This is encouraging because our northern watersheds are often excluded from other funding opportunities. Megan will attend the next Coalition meeting in Ithaca on November 17th.

Motion to approve the Chairman signing the resolution to authorize participation in the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-06

Grants & Projects Updates

Base AEM Round 17

The remaining implementation project in this round is the project at the Canandaigua Stockyard. This should be starting soon and will finish by the end of the year.

AgNPS Round 24

The project at F & W Farm is underway.

Ag NPS Round 25

Will-O-Crest is working on installing the manure transfer line. Work is currently underway after several equipment related delays, and completion is still expected by the end of the year.

Ag NPS Round 28

The Livestock Heavy Use Area at Tamberlane Farms is complete. We would like to pay out on this portion of the project and plan to pay out on the roof runoff system and animal walkway when they are completed in the spring.

Motion to approve reimbursement to Tamberlane Farms for the Livestock Heavy Use Area Runoff Management System and engineering not to exceed \$211,250.00.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Ed Jackson.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-07

NYS Grown and Certified

Fa-Ba Farms should begin installation of the manure transfer line soon. This transfer line will go under NYS Routes 5 & 20.

CRF Round 6

EL-VI Farms is ready for the Flare to arrive and be installed. This is expected to occur any day now. Once the flare is installed, the project should close out quickly.

CRF Round 7

Megan reported that she received the award letters for all 3 of the applications we submitted. The funded projects include: Hilton Farms Cover and Flare and Solid Separation, Lawnhurst Farms Manure Transfer System, Duncan/Pedersen Water Management.

GLC Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program 2023

Work was completed on two water management projects, one for Bruce Reed and one at Hemdale Farms. The project at Hemdale's is actually part of an FLX-EBM grant that went over budget. We are able to use these GLC-SNRP funds to assist with this overage.

Motion to approve reimbursement to Reeds for \$6,4160.60 and to Hemdale for \$14,617.89 based on NRCS unit rate costs.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Ken Livermore.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-08

FLX-EBM

Hemdale Farms has finished this project.

Motion to approve reimbursement to Hemdale for \$22,000.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-09

GLC Cover Crop Funding

This grant is with Seneca and Yates Counties. Yates County is administering it. We need to reimburse the farms and then Yates County will reimburse us.

Motion to approve reimbursement for cover crop acreage at the contracted GLC cost share rate of \$40.50 per acre to Blowers, Fox, Hemdale, Lawnhurst, Minns, Hansen, and Reed not to exceed the contracted amount for each farm.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-10

FLX CC 2

The cover crop acreage is contracted for this DEC grant funding. The acreage is focused in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed.

Motion to approve reimbursement at the State cost share rate of \$60.00/acre for single species and \$72.00/acre for mixed species to Schumacres, Schenk, Fa-Ba, and Burke not to exceed the contracted amount for each farm.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-11

AEB

These funds are allocated for cover crops in Ontario County.

Motion to approve reimbursement at the County cost share rate of \$25.00 per acre to Rogers, Pritchard, and Rockefeller not to exceed the contracted amount for each farm.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Rich Russell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-12

WQIP Round 17

The signage has been installed by the Town of Canadice and the closeout materials are being prepared. The video on Flexamat installation is complete and is being shared on our website and through social media.

FOLLOWPA

The contract is set for the work on Wells Curtice Rd. The Town of Canandaigua will do the work before the end of the year, and the FOLLOWPA funds will be used for materials.

Motion to approve reimbursement to the Town of Canandaigua for the materials for the contracted work on Wells Curtice Rd not to exceed \$3,427.12.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-13

GLRI HWA #2

A second GLRI HWA grant was submitted to continue treatment of the invasive species in the Honeoye Lake and Canandaigua Lake watersheds.

Flexamat

Megan played the video for those in attendance. She reported that she and Katie presented to a meeting of Highway Superintendents and shared the video. They hope to do another presentation specifically focused on the installation process in the near future in an effort to get more interest in this approach to roadside stabilization.

Soil Health Workshop 2024

Planning is underway for the 2024 Soil Health workshop. We are partnering with the Yates County SWCD and CLWA for the event.

Motion to approve funds for speaker fees and incidentals for this event not to exceed \$3,000.

Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Jim Malyj.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-14

Motion to approve payment for a Staff/Board training luncheon in December.

Motion made by Jim Malyj, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20231115-15

Ed Jackson left the meeting.

CRF Round 8

Megan reported that the State has proposed changes to the next round of CRF funding. Specifically, for projects in tracks 1 or 3, the farms receiving funding will need to follow federal funding requirements meaning that they will need to be fully compliant with NRCS/FSA paperwork and procedures. This will create a significant workload for local NRCS and FSA offices and will significantly reduce the number of farms eligible for this funding. Megan is joining several other Districts in expressing concerns about this change and the fact that District input was not sought before it was made. The SWCC will be forming an advisory committee to work on communication with Districts going forward.

General Updates

NYClass

Megan attended a presentation about this investment opportunity at the recent Admin Conference.

Ontario County Human Resources

Megan reported that she attended a session on Civil Service at the recent Admin Conference. She learned that NYS is working toward hiring more positions based on technical skills and experience rather than outdated tests. She also learned that if three years pass after the request for a test and the test is not offered, the employee can be hired in a non-competitive permanent class. If a test is offered after that the employee can take the test and be reclassified in a competitive class without the loss of the noncompetitive position. Locally, Megan is meeting with Ontario County HR to discuss existing District related Civil Service positions and possible promotional opportunities.

National Envirothon

The District has been asked by the National Envirothon committee to organize a tour for teachers and chaperones attending the National Envirothon next year. Megan is working with Fox Run Vineyards and Lawnhurst Farms to organize tour stops. She will also include a few conservation practice site visits.

Town of Farmington Code change

Megan and Tad will be meeting with the Town of Farmington regarding a change in the language in their town code regarding septic inspections. Farmington will be updating their code to list OCSWCD as the sole provider for septic inspections.

Upcoming Events

- ✓ 11/16/2023: NYSDEC 4 Hour Training
- ✓ 11/16/2023: Honeoye Elementary 2nd grade presentation on landforms and learning about the watershed model

Next meeting: December 20, 2023

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:39pm.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Rich Russell.

All in favor, motion approved. (Ed Jackson not present)

Resolution #20231115-16

Diana Thorn, Secretary-Treasurer to the Board