

**ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**July 21, 2021**  
**Minutes**

**\*\*\*Meeting held in-person at the Cornell Cooperative Extension (District Office)\*\*\***

**PRESENT:**

**DIRECTORS:** Vice Chairman Ken Livermore, Ed Jackson, Jim Peck, Rich Russell, Amanda Button, Mark Venuti

**STAFF:** Tyler Ohle, Megan Webster, Diana Thorn

**USDA/FSA:** Joann Rogers

**NRCS:** None (*report submitted via email*)

**ABSENT:** Chairman Sam Casella

**CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING**

Vice Chairman Livermore called the regular meeting to order at 4:01pm and Amanda led the pledge to the flag.

**MINUTES**

Vice Chairman Livermore asked for any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes. The following motion was offered:

**Motion that the minutes of June 16, 2021 be accepted as submitted.**

**Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Amanda Button.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-01*

**BILLS**

**Motion to approve Abstract #7 in the amount of \$61,717.32.**

**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Amanda Button.**

**Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.**

No invoice was received from CCE for rent.

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-02*

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Diana reviewed her treasurer's report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for June 30, 2021. Megan has reviewed and signed off on payrolls #13, #14, and #15, the June bank statements, and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through June 30<sup>th</sup>. A spreadsheet was provided that shows the bills that appear in the

Abstract listed with more detail and in their current status. There is one Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force bill this month.

Diana reported that the Special Projects Certificate of Deposit matured and was rolled over per your Resolution #20200617-03. It matured with \$101,059.34.

Diana reported that Alaina needs to purchase supplies for the July 27<sup>th</sup> rain barrel workshop shop in the Town of Victor. This workshop is sponsored by the OWSC. Diana recommended the following budget amendment to cover the purchase of the supplies.

Amount	From Budget Line	To Budget Line
\$688.00	Intern	Rain Barrels

**Motion to approve the budget amendment and the purchase of the rain barrel supplies.**

**Motion made by Ed Jackson, seconded by Rich Russell.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-03*

**Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and June Financial Statements.**

**Motion made by Jim Peck, seconded by Ed Jackson.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-04*

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Ed Jackson:**

1. Ed said good job on Key Events and good job on the recent newsletter. He also stated that he appreciated seeing additional advertising in the newsletter.
2. Ed inquired about a recent list of engineers distributed by SWCC. Megan explained that the District uses engineers for some projects and the cost is built into the related grant. The document was provided to Districts for internal informational purposes.

## **USDA/FSA**

*Joann Rogers*

- **Pandemic Assistance:** for certain eligible livestock (swine, chickens and turkeys) that were depopulated and for timber harvesters and haulers; visit: <https://www.farmers.gov/pandemic-assistance> for specifics
- **Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP):** CFAP 2 signup was reopened as of April 5, 2021 for anyone missed the signup last fall then you can file an application at this time. No deadline has been set but should be announce soon so please have them contact our office. More information about CFAP 2 can be found here: <https://www.farmers.gov/>
- **Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):** General CRP signup deadline is on 07/23 and the CRP grassland sign up deadline is 08/20. There have been many updates to the conservation programs so have any interested participant contact the office.
- **Disaster programs:** FSA has a variety of weather related disaster programs; visit the website at: <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/programs-and-services/disaster-assistance-program/index> Please report any weather related incidents to the FSA office.

- **County Committee: Local Administrative Area (LAA) 1: Bristol-Richmond-Canadice, East and West Bloomfield, Naples-South Bristol and Canandaigua is up for elections this year. The nomination period runs from 06/15/2021 to 08/02/2021.**
- **Farm Program Loans: Farm Storage Facility Loans-FSFL (interest rate ranges from 0.375% to 1.750%); the FSFL has a variety of loan options from bulk tanks, hay barns, grain bins/driers, telehandlers and storage coolers just to name a few.**
- **Farm Loan has a variety of loans available and funding is still available.**

County Committee meeting: next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27th, 2021 at 9AM. These meetings are open to the public BUT will need to call in advance for meeting details.

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

Farm Loans: For specifics on any of the farm loan programs please contact the Farm Loan team at 585-394-0525 ext. 2. Karen Rugenstein, Farm Loan Manager, Peter Stoep, Farm Loan Officers, Abbey Allison, Farm Loan Officer Trainee and Kim Weykman, Program Technician.

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 and Alexis McDougal.

We are open by appointment only, please call FSA at 585-394-0525 ext. 2. NOTE: this is subject to change and is a very fluid situation with the COVID-19 virus, so please always call in advance.

## **NRCS**

*Dan Weykman – report submitted via email*

- **EQIP**
  - Round 1 Contracts have been obligated (except 1 in review):
    - All Cropland and Pasture Applications: ~\$156,615
      - Paid out: \$66,823, mostly High Tunnel
      - Some paid as 'Advanced', available to Socially Disadvantaged participants for 50% of payment rate up front
    - Farmstead Applications (manure storage)
      - \$1.13M requested
      - **NONE** preapproved in first run through—potential for maybe 1 to be funded late in FY21
  - 2021—Field work underway: livestock pipelines, high tunnels, forestry work
  - 2022—no sign up deadline yet, taking applications continuously
- **AMA**
  - New Urban Initiative,
    - 1 contract obligated, \$4289.
    - FY2022. Sounds like focus area will continue, Outreach ideas welcomed.
- **CSP**
  - "Classic" CSP:

- 7 FY21 applications submitted:
  - All Cropland: Dairy, Cash Crop, Xmas trees
  - 3 pre-approved, ~900 acres, \$78,162
- **EQIP CIC**
  - New program to be offered, supposedly a mix of EQIP and CSP
  - Still on hold in NY in FY21; no recent news
- **Program Info:** I have been providing website to customers. Please feel free to share: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ny/programs/farmland/>
- **Food Security Act Determinations**
  - On-site determinations continue (potential violations included).
  - Backlogged as we shifted to program priorities last 2 months

\*\*Reminder—AD-1026 to be completed for cropland boundary change activity with FSA staff for NRCS assessment. Call with Questions.

## **STAFF REPORT**

*Tyler Ohle, Watershed Inspector*

Tyler reported that he is feeling much more comfortable after 2 years on the job. He reported that he has built up a good rapport with the engineers, pumpers, and realtors that he deals with on a regular basis.

Tyler stated that he is still finding cesspools on properties in the watershed.

Tyler reported that Middlesex is adopting new code expected to take effect in 2022. Under this new code, the Watershed Inspector will be required to do the first inspection on any property within the watershed for which the Watershed Office does not have existing records. For general inspections on properties that records already exist, either the Watershed Inspector or any OTN registered provider can do the inspection.

Megan explained that the Watershed Inspector position has many facets and she commended Tyler for the job he is doing and for his efforts to learn as much as he has as quickly as he has.

The Board thanked Tyler for his efforts.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Correspondence was distributed.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

*Megan Webster, District Manager Report*

### **Canandaigua Lake Watershed Inspection Program/UPP- OWTSIT update:**

Megan shared that the OWTSIT program is a database tied to GIS data that is used to track septic inspections, sewer availability, known septic system issues, as well as three and five year inspection data. It was originally developed for the Canandaigua Lake Watershed. We have since had a database developed for the UPP program that covers the portion of the County that is outside the Canandaigua Lake Watershed. We would like to combine the two into one system that is more easily updated as GIS updates. The District housing such a data clearinghouse would be very valuable to the County and municipalities as Code Enforcement Officers change and as municipalities move away from a single source inspection provider model.

Megan worked with the County to develop an RFP for the work that would be needed to merge and upgrade the two databases to meet this goal. Bergman submitted a quote of \$59,400. Megan asked the Board if they support moving forward to look for funding assistance and partners to develop this valuable resource. Discussion was had and the Board agreed that Megan should continue to pursue this.

### **COVID Update**

Megan attended the County Leadership meeting and the County Health Department shared the following: the delta variant is increasing in prevalence in Ontario County. It is now at 60% of cases. Currently the number of cases is on the rise in the County and 40% of the reported cases were in vaccinated individuals. Hospitalizations, as with the national average, are predominantly from unvaccinated individuals. Although cases in vaccinated individuals tend to be mild, quarantine would still be required for positive cases if symptoms are present. If it is just contact with a positive individual, quarantine is not required. Our policy remains in place regarding leave and the ability to work from home when necessary. It is recommended that staff who are in contact with the public indoors in crowded areas be masked. This currently is not mandatory for vaccinated staff but we will be following federal, state, and local guidelines as we move forward.

### **2022 Budget**

The Budget Committee will be meeting August 11<sup>th</sup> to review the District's Draft 2022 Budget.

### **Grants & Projects**

#### **AgNPS Rd 23:**

Half Dutch is still under construction. Concerns have been raised over the amount of soil needed. Discussions between the owner, the contractor, and the engineer are ongoing.

#### **AgNPS Rd 25:**

The Heifer Haven storage is complete and we are waiting on final stabilization and engineering approvals. SWPPP inspections for the barn construction will continue for a fee.

The EL-VI project is under construction and work continues.

The Will-O-Crest project continues to work through the Town's process for approvals. The Town of Manchester Planning Board held another meeting on 7/20 to review Will-O-Crest's request for a variance on the manure storage. The variance has already passed in the Town Zoning Board of Appeals with a 3-2 vote. After considerable discussion, the Planning Board's vote was put on hold until the August meeting while questions are submitted to the project engineer and NYS Ag & Markets. The District has spent considerable time fielding questions and communicating with the farm, NYS Ag & Markets, the Ontario County Planning Department, Cornell and various Town of Manchester representatives to relay information regarding this Best Management Practice.

**FOLLOWPA:**

The Fishers streambank stabilization project should begin construction in August. The electroshocking with NYS DEC went very well with a high number of trout counted.

**FLX EBM:**

Rockefeller final report has been submitted and approved, and the claim for payment has been submitted. The District is waiting on final paperwork from Joel Bay for that project closeout.

**NESARE:**

The interseeding trial took place on Mike Goodman's farm. Seeding took place when the corn was at a later stage than anticipated due to weather conditions. Penn State will be following up with the farm as the trial continues.

**Conservation Kick Program:**

Tucker has been coordinating with the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) regarding reporting requirements. The Town of Geneva, GLC, and Cornell are in the contract phase. GLC requested an extension to 2022 in case we are unable to install the practice this autumn. The District received the stipend from GLC for the assistance being provided.

**WQIP:**

Katie has been working on the application for the roadside stabilization project with Town of Canadice and it should be ready to submit by the July 30<sup>th</sup> application deadline.

**2021 Part B Project:**

Megan and Katie attended drone flight training in early July. They tested various drones, and per the approved resolution #20210519-12, purchased the drone and accessories through SkyOp. An iPad mini was purchased through the County contract. These purchases were well within the approved budgeted amount. Once all of the components have arrived, SkyOp will assist with equipment set-up and additional flight training.

**Soil Health Workshop:**

Planning for the 2022 event has begun. We will be partnering with Yates County SWCD again for this event.

**Upcoming events:**

July 27<sup>th</sup> - Rain Barrel Workshop

July 29<sup>th</sup> - Ontario County Fair Ag Day (Alaina and Megan will staff the booth)

August 8<sup>th</sup> - Tire Recycling event @ Town of Geneva.

August 24<sup>th</sup> Grazing Workshop - two sessions, one in each county (Ontario/Yates). OCSWCD expenses to be reimbursed by AEB.

**Motion to approve the purchase of an advertisement in the Flame, necessary supplies, and speaker travel reimbursement not to exceed \$600.00 for the Grazing Workshop.**

**Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Jim Peck.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-05*

**Needs:**

We would like to schedule another Realtor Workshop. Before we can do that, we need to re-apply for the educational credits. The application fee is \$25.

**Motion to approve submitting the application for educational credits for the Realtor Workshop including paying the \$25 fee.**

**Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Mark Venuti.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-06*

We would like to purchase District Promotional Materials. We are interested in dry bags as the higher priced item to use for speaker gifts, staff, and give-aways, and a lower priced option for passing out at large events (i.e. pens or carabiners).

**Motion to approve purchase of District Promotional Materials not to exceed the budgeted amount of \$1,000.**

**Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Amanda Button.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-07*

**Ontario County Board of Supervisors Project Tour:**

Megan met with the County Administrator and the Deputy County Administer to plan this tour. They are trying to set a date later in September. Megan suggested a trip around Honeoye Lake were she can show ag projects and water quality projects such as shoreline stabilization work, the inlet project, and streambank stabilization work. It will be important to highlight all the work that we do. Information will be shared with the Board when the date is finalized.

Work is being done to develop an interactive map to show projects from the last 5 years. This map will be used with the Board of Supervisors, municipalities, and in other marketing work.

**OCSWCD Board Meetings TIME CHANGE:**

**Motion to change the time of the regular meeting to 4pm on the third Wednesday of the month.**

**Motion made by Rich Russell, seconded by Ed Jackson.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-08*

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion to adjourn at 5:08pm.**

**Motion made by Amanda Button, seconded by Mark Venuti.**

**All in favor, motion approved.**

*Resolution #20210721-09*

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**Diana Thorn, Secretary/Treasurer to the Board**