

ONTARIO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
March 20, 2024
Minutes

Meeting held at the Cornell Cooperative Extension (District Office)

PRESENT

DIRECTORS: Vice Chairman Jim Malyj, Ken Livermore, Mark Venuti, Dale Stell, Amanda Amadon

ABSENT: Chairman Sam Casella, Ed Jackson

STAFF: Megan Webster

USDA

FSA: Joann Rogers

NRCS: None

CALL TO ORDER REGULAR MEETING

Vice Chairman Malyj called the regular meeting to order at 4:34pm and led the pledge to the flag.

MINUTES

Vice Chairman Malyj asked for any comments, changes, or corrections to the minutes from February 21, 2024. The following motion was offered:

Motion that the minutes of February 21, 2024 be accepted as submitted.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved. (Mark Venuti not present yet)

Resolution #20240320-01

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 #3 in the amount of \$49,986.00.

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

Ken Livermore reviewed and signed the bills earlier today.

All in favor, motion approved. (Mark Venuti not present yet)

Resolution #20240320-02

TREASURER'S REPORT

Megan reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the Board, which includes the financial statements for February 29, 2024. Megan has reviewed and signed payrolls #4 and #5; the February bank statements; and the reconciliation reports from QuickBooks. All bank accounts are reconciled successfully through February 29th.

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

Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved. (Mark Venuti not present yet)

Resolution #20240320-03

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

None

FSA

Report presented by Joann Rogers

County Committee (COC): The next COC meeting is on Tuesday, 03/26/2024 at 9AM

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP):

- Continuous CRP reopened on 01/12/2024: inquires can be directed to Courtney Kautz or Joann Rogers; [Conservation Reserve Program \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/conservation-reserve-program)
- General CRP Sign Up 62 enrollment is from 03/04 to 03/29/2024: is for producers to submit offers for environmentally sensitive agricultural land to be devoted to a conservation benefit. [Conservation Reserve Program General Signup 62 Period \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/conservation-reserve-program-general-signup-62-period) and [Conservation Reserve Program: 62nd General Signup Period Environmental \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/conservation-reserve-program-62nd-general-signup-period-environmental)

Dairy Margin Coverage (DMC): 2024 enrollment began on 02/28/2024 and ends on 04/29/2024.

[Dairy Margin Coverage Program \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/dairy-margin-coverage-program)

Farm Program Loans:

- **Farm Storage Facility Loans (FSFL):** interest rates range from 4.125% to 4.250% 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/farm-storage-facility-loan-programs-fact-sheet-july-2022.pdf)
- **Market Assistance Loans (MAL's)** are short-term commodity loans with interest rate of 5.875% for grain stored in bins. [mal ldp fact sheet.pdf \(usda.gov\)](https://www.usda.gov/mal-ldp-fact-sheet.pdf)

Farm Loan: has a variety of loans available and funding is still available. **Farm Loan staff:**

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.

Farm Bill: The 2018 Farm Bill that expired on 09/30/2023 has been extended for 1 year.

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 at 585-394-0525 ext. 2. In addition to myself there are Program Technicians: Courtney Kautz, Alexis McDougal and Sarah Potter. We encourage participation from all types and sizes of farm operations, whether you are an Urban or Rural producer/farmer.

NRCS

Report submitted via email by Dan Weykman

EQIP o Existing Contracts: • Payments: o \$8766 – High Tunnel

o Applications: • FY24: Nov 1, 2023 batching deadline o 24 of 31 applications fully planned and ranked, awaiting funding selection □ High Tunnels, Forestry, Pollinator Habitat, Erosion Control, Waste Storage

o Over \$1.4M requested (majority in waste storage applications)

o IRA \$\$ will be used for eligible practices in these applications

o 3 High Tunnels obligated through ACT-NOW expedited process for higher ranking applications for ~\$73,500

□ **CSP** o Existing Contracts: • Payments o Complete for this cycle

o Implementation underway

o FY24 Applications • Round 1: 2 Cropland/Pasture, preapproved ~\$68k

• Round 2: 4 applications to be ranked by 3/22. Cropland & Forestry

□ **Food Security Act Determinations** o All wetland determination requests are now being completed by 2 Area (15 counties) staff, 80%+ of their job duties

o HEL determination requests: 350+ in the queue to be completed; Soil Survey staff assisting with older ones, approx.. 200

o **Reminder—AD-1026 to be completed for cropland activities (tiling, clearing) with FSA staff for NRCS assessment.

□ **Staffing** o Livingston-Ontario-Yates Field Team

• District Conservationist: Julie Miller selected as permanent as of 3/11/24

• Natural Resource Specialist, Canandaigua: Delicia Crippen; started 3/11/24

• Soil Conservationist, Canandaigua: Angelina Van Camp; started 3/11/24

o Statewide postings will be recurring, large push to fill IRA positions over next few years, 1-2 more on LOY field team potentially.

□ **Outreach**

o Feel free to reach out if any farm or partner group events are happening that may have interest in our programs or direct them to me.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was shared.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Megan Webster, District Manager Report

Vehicles: Megan shared the Chevy Colorado and Silverado have been ordered and we are waiting on delivery date.

Mark Venuti arrived at 4:50pm

Federal Audit Due to the amount of federal grant funding the District is projected to receive, Megan and Diana will be reviewing requirements for financial audits and procuring quotes from vendors.

Performance Measures: 2023 Annual Reports were reviewed and performance measures were achieved. The Part C allocation of \$207,832.85 has been received by the District.

Megan reported that she attended Legislative Days and had very positive response from Senators and Assembly members on District activities.

The 6th annual Soil Health Workshop was well attended with very positive feedback received.

Grant and Project Updates

AEM: Base AEM Round 17 Final Report was submitted and approved. The Base AEM Round 18 contract has been received and the District is waiting to voucher until implementation projects have been finalized. In addition, to keep accounting clear, we will not voucher for technical assistance funds until earned by the District. The District has lined up eight projects for the Cost Share / Implementation Track for AEM Round 18.

Motion to approve each of these eight AEM Base Round 18 Tier 4 Cost Share Track Implementation projects:

1. Brock Acres LLC, Erosion & Sediment Control
2. Catalpa Farms, Erosion & Sediment Control
3. Rogers Farms LLC, Erosion & Sediment Control
4. Grimble Hill Farm, Erosion & Sediment Control
5. Hickory Lane Farm, Erosion & Sediment Control
6. Wesche Farm, Erosion & Sediment Control
7. Tate Reifsteck, Compost Barn
8. Amberg Grapevines LLC, Ag Chemical Mixing Facility

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Dale Stell.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240320-04

AgNPS 24: The extension request was approved by NYS SWCC.

AgNPS 25: The extension request was approved by NYS SWCC. Will-O-Crest project has been completed and we are waiting on PE certification for reimbursement.

WQIP 18: Katie and Megan met with Town of Bristol to discuss Egypt Road design. Construction is imminent on the Ganyard Hill project.

WQIP 19: Permits have been submitted for Naples Creek Aquatic Connectivity project.

FLLOWPA: The project on Wells Curtice Road has been completed and the District is waiting on the paperwork from the Town of Canandaigua for reimbursement of materials costs.

**Motion to Approve Payment of \$3,427.12 to the Town of Canandaigua for reimbursement for materials costs associated with the FLOWPA project on Wells Curtice Rd.
Motion made by Ken Livermore, seconded by Amanda Amadon.**

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240320-05

Upcoming events:

Tire Recycling: Working on Tire Recycling events and on-line registration set-up with Ontario County. Events are May 4th- Town of Seneca, July 20th- Town of Richmond, September 7th – Town of Farmington

Realtor Workshop has been set for April 11th

Naples Green Fest- April 13th

NYS DEC 4hr Course April 18th

Tree & Shrub Sale- April 19th- 20th

Geneva Green Fair, Rain Barrel Workshop- April 27th

Roadside Drainage Workshop May 8th with Cornell Local Roads Program currently has 15 registered, will have another push for registration in the next few weeks.

Motion to approve purchase of materials not to exceed \$50 for upcoming Cornell Cooperative Extension recognition event.

Motion made by Mark Venuti, seconded by Amanda Amadon.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240320-06

Next meeting: April 17th, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 5:33pm.

Motion made by Amanda Amadon, seconded by Mark Venuti.

All in favor, motion approved.

Resolution #20240320-07

Megan Webster District Manager