



Finger Lakes
Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
CHEMUNG, ONTARIO, SCHUYLER, SENECA, STEUBEN, AND YATES COUNTIES, NEW YORK
415 West Morris Street, Bath, New York 14810
(607) 776-7398 Ext. 5 Fax: (607) 776-7487
Email: fingerlakesrcd@infoblvd.net

The Finger Lakes RC&D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, January 19, 2005 at the Schuyler County Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.

In attendance:

Chemung Co.

Ken Bush, S&WCD Rep.

Ontario Co.

Tom DeRue, S&WCD Rep.

Schuyler Co.

Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large

Wayne Dimmick, S&WCD Rep.

Charlie Fausold, Schuyler Co. Legislature Rep.

Glen Larison, Schuyler Co. Legislature, Alternate

Jim Ochterski, Guest

Seneca Co.

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep.

Frank Sinicropi, Member @ Large

Steuben Co.

Greg Heffner, Alternate Legislature Rep.

Jeff Parker, S&WCD Rep. Alternate

Ernie Swift, S&WCD Rep.

Lola Tears, Legislature Rep.

Yates Co.

Marion Balyszak, Member @ Large

Taylor Fitch, Legislature Rep.

Barb McGuffie, Alternate Member @ Large

RC&D Staff

Joyce Baxter

Dick Winnett

Meeting called to order by President Lola Tears @ 1:00 P.M.

Dick introduced Jim Ochterski from Schuyler Co. CCE as a new Board member who will be replacing Charlie Fausold upon approval of the Schuyler County Legislature..

Approval of Minutes – *Taylor Fitch moved and Ernie Swift seconded to accept minutes as written. Carried.*

Treasurer's Report – Greg Heffner reviewed treasurer's report. *Glenn Larison moved and Ken Bush seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as presented. Carried.*

Wayne Dimmick moved and Tom DeRue seconded to officially close out and transfer (\$2,000.00) from Seneca Forest Grant and SARE (\$1,565.00) funds to general account. (Total amount \$3,565.00) Carried.

Communications

- a) In late December we received official notification from National Rifle Assoc. that they have awarded the Council a grant of \$1,700.00 for the Venison Donation Program (processing of venison).
- b) Grassland Bird Habitat grant application (Nat'l. Fish & Wildlife Assoc. \$60,000.00) has been approved. A quarter of that will be used for Jim Ochterski to conduct a study on farms within the Chemung River Basin on how grazing has impacted nesting birds. The remaining 75% of the grant dollars will be used to retain Grazing Advocates John Wickham and John Wildeman for approximately another 1 ½ yrs.
- c) Grant application to Fish America for Steuben Co. S&WCD re: streambank stabilization Cohocton River north of Kanona, NY. Application was turned down because we were not restoring habitat for marine and andromedeus (shad) species. Fortunately that same project was funded earlier this year by a grant the Steuben Co. S&WCD had submitted to DEC for erosion and sediment control (EPF).

Dick updated the Council on the status of the RC&D budget (funding).

County Reports

Chemung: Ken Bush reported that FEMA reviewed the Town of Elmira flood continuation projects that had been completed as well as Southport and some of the wetland projects that Mark Watts had been involved with. Been having a lot of flood problems. Rockland Township looking for ideas/resolution for the flood problems that they have been having.

Ontario: Tom DeRue reported the following:

1. 2005 budget
2. *Ag. Programs*
 - a) Maggie Atkins now VP of NACD, Inc. and another Director, Mary Beth Goodwin is becoming more involved in the State Assoc.
 - b) Administering 8 grants ranging from Round VIII to Round XI. In the process of closing out one of Round VIII grants.
 - c) Ontario is part of two grants administered by Yates County which Yates is in the process of closing out one of the two.
 - d) Will be working on scope of services for Round XI projects.
 - e) Working on AEM strategy under base funding concept. Strategy deliverables is due March 1, 2005.
3. *Onsite Wastewater Treatment Programs*
 - a) Existing System Inspections – 213
 - b) Deep hole/Perc Tests – 119
 - c) Waiver (Alternative Systems) – 15
 - d) Final Inspection on Installations – 45
4. Working with municipalities to streamline engineering services to meet the NYSDOH policy for system designs.
5. District Educator worked 1-2 days/week in the Seneca Lake Watershed, meeting with and educating the many municipalities on the need to deal with septic as a priority non-point source.
6. *Stormwater Management Activities:*
 - a) Under contract with 4 municipalities to provide plan review and technical inspection on construction sites

- b) Under the trial NYSDEC/State Committee MOU for referrals received and serviced 19 referrals during 2004
- 7. Due to increased demands and in anticipation of increased emphasis on stormwater management, we now have 4 individuals on staff that are certified as CPESCs.
- Continuing to make progress on our three roadbank grants and will not enter final construction season.
- 8. Recently submitted mini-grant proposals and a SARA Grant proposal to upgrade our GIS capabilities.

Schuyler: Elaine Dalrymple reported the following:

1. An AEM Strategy Development Committee consisting of 5 farmers, NRCS, Cooperative Extension, Water Quality Coordinating Committee reps and SWCD has been formed and is working on developing the strategy for Schuyler County.
2. Designs for agricultural mixing facilities and barnyard runoff management systems are being developed this winter in conjunction with NRCS for Environmental Protection Funds Project.
3. Grant proposals to the State Committee Mini-Grant program were submitted by the Schuyler County Water Quality Coordinating Committee for three projects” development of a septic system inspection program for Lamoka and Waneta Lakes (in cooperation with Steuben Co. Water Quality Committee); a rural township stormwater management gap analysis; and development of a watershed management plan. Schuyler and Steuben SWCD are both assisting this group.
4. SWCD continues to work with the Meads Creek Watershed Citizens Committee to brainstorm ideas for watershed management and outreach. The group is considering applying for grant funds to help support the development of a watershed management plan. Schuyler and Steuben SWCDs are both assisting this group.
5. SWCD received grant funding through an EPA watershed grant obtained by Tompkins SWCD to purchase a plotter so that larger maps can be produced to assist farmers and others with watershed management projects.
6. SWCD has been providing assistance to landowners and municipalities with meeting the requirements of the Phase II stormwater regulations.
7. The County is working with various county agencies including WCD to develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan to alleviate problems that might be caused by natural “disasters.”
8. Round X1 grant submitted to NYSEPF with Tompkins Co. S&WCD for 3 farms. 1 in Schuyler and 2-Tompkins Co. Ranked 20th.

Seneca: Jim Malyj reported the County has finished a road bank stabilization project completed in early December. This project was funded by the Environmental Protection Fund and included stabilization work on 4 different roads in the Cayuga Lake Watershed in the Town of Romulus and Covert.

2. Working on bulkhead and dock permit surveys.
3. Working on Ag value assessments soil group work sheets
4. Working on on-site waste water disposal surveys and designs. There is a very heavy demand for service.
5. Heavy demand for drainage problem resolution from home owners.
6. Preparing FLOW-PA program funding request. FLOW-PA is again requesting an allocation of \$1.5 million. This would give each member county \$55,000.00.
7. The 2007 Canon National Envirothon will be held at Hobart and William Colleges in Geneva, NY July 28-August 4. Sponsors, funding and volunteers are being sought for this event.
8. Seneca Lake Watershed Prescribed Grazing project grant work has been completed on the 3 Seneca County landowners who participated.
9. Ben Uticone has been hired to fill the position of Account Clerk that is being vacated by Eileen Dyson that is retiring at the end of January.

Steuben: Jeff Parker reported on the following:

1. Home Mitigation Grant
2. Ag Non-Point Source – Round X “Chemung River Basin Phase III Implementation “proposal ranked 35 out of 95. Possibly be funded.
3. Non-Point Source – “Town of Pulteney Stormwater Control Project” and Cohocton River Streambank/Aquatic Habitat Restoration were approved and we should be receiving the contract anytime. Construction will begin this year.
4. Senator Initiative Program 2 canoe launches built last year remaining 3 will be built this year.
5. Working Agreements – have entered into two agreements (a) With NRCS for clerical/technical assistance. (b) S&WCD has entered into an agreement with former NRCS intern Angela Wright to work on deliverables outlined in agreements.
6. FEMA Public Assistance Program
7. Cooperators Luncheon –SWCD Board of Directors selected the Lent Dairy Farm for 2005.
8. Appreciation Award
9. CEM (Community for Environmental Management) Working with Meads Creek Citizens in completing CEM for their watershed.

Yates: Marion Balyszak reported on the following:

1. Partnered with Ontario Co. on the Flint Creek Roadbank Project (\$200K) to work with town and county highway departments
2. SWCD new hydro seeder up and running (original destroyed in Town of Barrington Barn Fire)
3. Flint Creek-Central Lowlands – partnered with Ontario County SWCD – ranked high for EPF funding.
4. Onsite Wastewater – joint Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative (KWIC) and Seneca Lake Uniform Onsite Wastewater Project will provide voluntary training to onsite installers. Two workshops will be held (1) January 25th Bellhurst Castle in Geneva and January 26th Esperanza Mansion – Penn Yan. Workshops are free. An exam will be given at the end of workshop and Onsite Training Network will provide certification number. Senator Kuhl funded another year of SLW.
5. Stormwater Management – Contractors attending the On-site training will receive copies of contractors workbook developed as part of joint Seneca and Keuka Lake Watershed as well as copies of the Design Manuals
6. Seneca Lake Pure Waters completed and released its Partnership with Industry Report to Industrial Operations. Two meeting have been held with another 4 to be scheduled.
7. Hobart and William Smith Colleges will begin testing in Seneca Lake Watershed this spring for environmental estrogens, using new equipment purchased through grants to the Finger Lakes Institute.
8. Jim Balyszak was officially named District Manager of Yates Co. S&WCD in December.

Coordinator’s Report (Dick reviewed and highlighted handout - available upon request)

- a) Fluvial Geomorphology Workshops – very successful.
- b) Venison Donation Program – waiting for the final approval of the 501C application. To date 65,000 pounds of venison have been processed statewide.
- c) Aid to Localities – Before his departure Senator Kuhl and Assemblyman Bacalles awarded us a grant of \$18,000.00 for the processing of venison. Working on Contract with the Office of Children & Family Services
- d) Round 11 Application– Grazing Grant was ranked 26 out of 48. Probably will be funded.
- e) National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant was approved and the RC&D office will be working with Jim Ochterski and Charlie Fausold from Schuyler Coop. Extension.

NRCS Report – No Report

Old Business

- a) Financial Responsibility - D. Winnett updated the Council on the contract with Wheat, Lehman, & Fitzpatrick
- b) Federation Meeting, Jan 11, 2005. Ken Bush and Dick attended the meeting in Syracuse. Main topic of conversation was the Annual Meeting will be held in September 20 -23 (tentative date), at West Point. Lower Hudson-Long Island RC&D looking for assistance. Looking for sponsorship to help offset cost for the meeting. Will consider and take action at a later date.

New Business

- a) Semi-Annual Federation meeting will be held in March 28, 2005. Ken Bush, Lola Tears, and Dick will be attending.

Other Business

Nominating Committee (for officers) – Appointed Marion Balyszak, Frank Sinicropi, and Jim Malyj.

Budget Committee – Appointed Taylor Fitch, Greg Heffner, and Dick Winnett

Approval/Cancellation of Measures – No new measures

Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting – **Wednesday, March 16, 2005 at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.**

Tom DeRue moved and Ken Bush seconded to adjourn meeting at 2:08 p.m. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Baxter

rRed mtg.11.10.04.