



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

Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, January 17, 2007 as a Teleconference.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Ken Bush, S&WCD Rep
Dick Gunderman, Legislature Rep
Karen Tillotson, Member @ Large

Ontario County

Doris Kenny, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)
Tom DeRue, S&WCD Rep
Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors

Schuyler County

Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large Rep
Glenn Larison, Legislature (Alternate)
Jim Ochterski, Legislature Rep

Seneca County

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep

Steuben County

Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large
Ernie Swift, S&WCD Rep
Lola Tears, Legislative Rep
Velynda Risley, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)

Yates County

Barb McGuffie, Member @ Large Rep
Jim Balyszak, S&WCD Rep

RC&D Staff

Dick Winnett, Coordinator, Finger Lakes RC&D Council
Cheryl Drehmer, Finger Lakes RC&D Secretary

Meeting called to order by President, Lola Tears at **1:00 P.M.**

Approval of Minutes of November 15th, 2006 Council Meeting.

Doris Kenny moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of November 15th, 2006.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated December 31st, 2006. **Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Kenneth Bush** and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Communications:

- Received a cover letter and an attached resolution from the Chemung Co. Legislature identifying Dick Gunderman and Ken Bush as being reappointed as representatives from Chemung County to the RC&D Council. Will need to revisit the other counties to see who else we might need to contact regarding the appropriate County governing bodies.
- Received a letter from the Office of Children and Family Services who is the administrative Agency handling the Senate Member Item Initiative Program for the Venison Program in the Finger Lakes advising us the contract has been fully executed and the final step is to submit a voucher for the \$9,000.00 awarded.

County Reports:

None

Coordinator's Report:

Venison Donation Program – As of 12/11/06 the Venison Donation Program throughout New York State has processed & distributed 10,778 lbs of venison. Also, as of 12/11/06 New York State's DECALS program has received approximately \$20,000.00 in donations when individuals have bought their licenses.

National Fish & Wildlife Grant – The grant proposal entitled “Analyzing the Impact of Prescribed Grazing on Water Quality” which was submitted to the Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Foundation on 11/20/06 was not accepted by the Foundation.

Some discussion took place regarding the rejection of this grant proposal.

Chemung River Basin Grazing Project #3 – This Round 10 grant funded through the NYS Environmental Protection Fund in 2004 for \$180,720.00 has been approved for a no cost extension through 12/31/07. This grant provides cost sharing to 19 livestock producers in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties at a rate of \$8,800.00/farm to install BMPs associated with prescribed grazing systems. To date \$111,165.10 or 61.5% of the total grant has been expended.

Solar Powered Livestock Watering Project – This \$81,894.00 grant from the NYS Energy Research & Development Authority has been completed. The final report & request for final reimbursement were submitted to NYSERDA on 12/14/06. Ten livestock operations from across NY's Southern Tier received financial assistance to install these solar powered pumping systems. The participating farms contributed \$44,241.76 in cash &/or in-kind services toward the successful completion of this project. The project's consultant, Four Winds Renewable Energy, Arkport, NY conducted 11 workshops throughout New York State which promoted the benefits/advantages of Solar Powered Livestock Watering Systems. Also, as a result of this project “Guide to Solar Powered Pumping Systems in New York State” was written by another project consultant, Chris Sinton, Alfred, NY and published by NYSERDA. The guide was distributed to all of New York's NRCS Field offices, Soil & Water Conservation Districts and Cooperative Extension offices.

NRCS Report:

- The RC&D/NRCS is still operating under a continuing resolution which is the same budget as last year at approximately \$51,000,000. Associated with the intended fiscal year 2007 budget for RC&D, no funding will be available for the secretarial position.

Old Business:

- **Upper Susquehanna Grazing/Monitoring Project** – As reported under the Coordinator's report as "National Fish & Wildlife Grant"

New Business:

- **NY Federation of RC&D Councils annual Meeting 3/21 – 3/22/07, White Eagle Resort, Hamilton, NY** – Authorized 2 persons to attend from the Board – **Velynda Risley moved to Approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to approve the authorization**, Ken Bush will be attending, tentatively Dick Gunderman.
- **New District Conservatoinist** – Introduced the name of Jenifer Coleson, DC Steuben County.

Appointment of nominating Committee – Sam Casella, Ontario Co., Elaine Dalrymple, Schuyler Co., Tom Tomsa, Steuben Co.

Budget Committee –Greg Heffner, Steuben Co., Velynda Risley, Steuben Co. Dick W. will provide technical support.

Other Business:

- **Jim Ochterski, Cornell Cooperative Extension Agent** – Informed the BOD that Jim is relocating from Schuyler Co. to Ontario Co. Discussion took place for the need to contact the Schuyler County Legislature to fill Jim's position on the BOD. The BOD thanked Jim for his many contributions on behalf of Schuyler County and looked forward to working with Jim when he gets settled in Ontario County.
- **Nancy O'Connor** – Retiring as of 1/27/07. Mentioned getting a new alternate on BOD.

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):

Managing Labor Risks, in cooperation w/Cornell's Northwest NYS Dairy, Livestock & Fields Crops Team – Seek to enhance farm business owner's capacities to manage human resource risks through better people management and improve problem solving. Farm business owners responsibility to successfully address the quality and quantity of labor available, owners would be involved in workshops to help improve their ability to manage human resources. *Motion to accept the Managing Labor Risks Project by Ernie Swift and seconded by Ken Bush, Carried.*

Chesapeake Bay Small Watersheds Grant – Select 2 -3 small watersheds that would have an adequate number of producers willing to participate in prescribed grazing, once identified a planning process would begin and this would lead into a larger grazing grant through the NF&WF bringing Binghamton back into the picture to do some water quality monitoring. This project is in the very early stages at this time. *Motion to accept the Chesapeake Bay Small Watersheds Grant by Glenn Larison and seconded by Dick Gunderman, Carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled on March 21, 2007, @ 1:00pm at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY

Doris Kenny made a motion to adjourn at 1:26 and was seconded by Greg Heffner, carried.