



Finger Lakes
Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
CHEMUNG, ONTARIO, SCHUYLER, SENECA, STEUBEN, AND YATES COUNTIES, NEW YORK
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Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, November 15th, 2006 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)

Schuyler County

Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large 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

Yates County

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 September 20th, 2006 Council Meeting.

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of September 20th, 2006.

Treasurer's Report:

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

Communications:

- Previously submitted a request for additional funds of \$150,000.00 from the Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Foundation in addition to the \$500,000.00 grant previously awarded. The Council received a letter of rejection from the NFWF.
- Received a letter from Senator Winner/Assemblyman Bacalles informing the Council that it had been awarded \$9,000.00 from the Senate Member Item Initiative Program for the Venison Program in the Finger Lakes Region. The contract is with the Office of Children and Family Services and will be submitted November 17, 2006.

- Received a cover letter from Seneca County S&WCD that accompanied an agreement for the Round 12 Environmental Protection Fund Grant which is the “Finger Lakes Grazing” in the amount of \$192,300.00. Seneca County has signed the contract and forwarded that on to Albany so hopefully by the end of the year we will have the first 25%.

County Reports:

None

Coordinator’s Report:

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant – The Council has signed the contract with the NF&WF for this \$500,000.00 grant. The initial invoice for an advance of funds has been forwarded to NF&WF. Working in cooperation with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), the Council will be contracting with USC partners to develop 33 prescribed grazing plans, install associated BMPs including riparian buffers, livestock exclusion, as well as enhancing grassland nesting bird habitat and constructing wetland/riparian complexes. I participated in the Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grant Programs’ 2006 Project Round Table. I was asked to summarize the Council’s project along with nine other grant recipients. The Round Table discussion was held on October 12th & 13th at Camp Hill, PA (near Harrisburg).

Round 12 NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant(s) – The Steuben Co. SWCD has signed the contract with the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee for the \$194,625.00 project entitled **The Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing Grant #5**. This grant will be administered by the Finger Lakes RC&D Council and will provide financial incentives to 19 livestock producers in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties who will install BMPs associated with Prescribed Grazing Systems. Seneca County SWCD is awaiting its Round 12 contract for \$192,300.00, **Finger Lakes Prescribed Grazing** that will assist 20 livestock producers in Cayuga, Chemung, Schuyler and Seneca Counties.

Senate Member Item Initiative -- The Finger Lakes RC&D Council has just been notified by NYS Senator George Winner that the Council has been awarded a \$9,000.00 grant for the purpose of off setting venison donation processing costs in the Finger Lakes region of New York. The funding is made available to the RC&D council via the NYS Aid to Localities Program

Round 13 NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant – Steuben County SWCD has been notified that this \$216,910.00 grant will be funded. The project will provide financial incentives to 21 livestock producers in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties who will install BMPs associated with Prescribed Grazing Systems.

NRCS Report:

None

Old Business:

- **Crime Insurance** – Voted on by the Board and decided to purchase the \$25,000.00 worth of the Insurance. The annual premium will cost \$139.00. **Greg Heffner moved to approved, seconded by Tom Tomsa** and carried to accept the purchase of a Crime Insurance policy.

New Business:

- **Carbon Credits** – Dick W. brought up a discussion regarding further investigation into the topic of Trading Carbon Credits.
- **CCE/Keuka Lake Grant** – Cooperative Extension of Yates County is looking into submitting a grant to prepare an Inter Municipal Land Use Action Plan for Keuka Lake. Extension would like to get a resolution from the Council supporting this action at no financial obligation to the Council. **Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner** and carried to approve the resolution from the Council.

Other Business:

None

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures): Upper Susquehanna Grazing/Monitoring Project – Approached by the Upper Susquehanna Coalition to assist on writing another grant to the NFWF through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed program. The total value of the grant is \$680,220.00. If funded, administrative fees in the amount of \$37,000.00 would come back to the Council. *Motion to accept the Upper Susquehanna Grazing/Monitoring Project by Ernie Swift and seconded by Ken Bush, Carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on January 17, 2007, @ 1:00pm as a Teleconference. **Ken Bush moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman** and carried to conduct a teleconference meeting at least one time per year.

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