



**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 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the new Schuyler County Human Resource Bldg, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

### **Chemung County**

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

### **Ontario County**

Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors Rep

### **Schuyler County**

Lloyd Weatherbee, Member @ Large (Alternate)  
Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep

### **Seneca County**

### **Steuben County**

Velynda Risley, SWCD Rep (Alternate)  
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep (Alternate)  
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep  
Jenifer Coleson, NRCS

### **Yates County**

Colby Petersen, SWCD Rep (Alternate)  
Barb McGuffie, Member @ Large Rep  
Al McGuffie, NRCS

### **RC&D Staff**

Dick Winnett, Coordinator, NRCS  
Cheryl Faucett, Finger Lakes RC&D Secretary

**Meeting called to order** by Vice President, Ken Bush at **1:04 P.M.**

### **Approval of Minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Council Meeting.**

*Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007.*

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007. *Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report of October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007.*

### **Communications:**

- Update on the condition of Lola Tears, it was reported that she seems to be having a little slower recovery than anticipated.

## County Reports:

### Chemung: (Karen Tillotson)

- **Wetland Construction** – The two wetlands that were constructed under the USC are complete. The cost for the two was \$57,390. These were constructed in the Town of Southport and Big Flats. A third was completed in the Town of Big Flats at a cost of \$6,660.00. The District utilized the excavator to assist with construction of the third wetland and also did the seeding and mulching of this site.
- **Fish Program** – There were 58 pounds of minnows ordered, 50 walleye, 325 perch and 100 crappie. The program went very well.
- **Dam maintenance** – Finger Lakes Industrial was down and did go up the pipe at Hoffman Dam to try and repair cracks by welding. Due to heavy rust spots the job was not 100% complete. There was also a leak at the bottom of a joint that was patched with hydraulic cement, however this was unsuccessful too. The plan now is to check after storm events to see that the water is running clear and have a camera take pictures inside the pipe every other year.
- **Manure Storages** – The construction is on going with these two units. The one is on the Mann Farm and the other on the Seymour Farm.
- **Christian Hollow Road** – Mark Watts has worked with the County regarding this road. Back in September it was hit with 6” of rain and erosion took place in the stream. Together they are working with landowners on ways to help with streambank stabilization.
- **MS4 Stormwater Team** – Mark is working with the County on the startup of a Countywide Stormwater Team to work with all municipalities on being in compliance with the MS4 Laws. Mark is working on a formula to help with the cost of funding for this team where each municipality would pay a share. The team would be stationed at the District Office.
- **Annual Christmas Luncheon** – The District’s Annual Christmas Luncheon will take place on Monday December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at 11:00am. All are welcome.

### Ontario: (Sam Casella for PJ Emerick)

- The Ontario County SWCD has partnered with Yates County SWCD to submit a Round 14 Agricultural Grant request. The grant will provide cost share assistance for BMP implementation on 11 different farms in Ontario and Yates County.
- AEM is continuing to move forward.
- The District has been working with SLAP-5, the Finger Lakes Institute, Yates County SWCD and Genesee/Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council to move forward with implementing a watershed management plan for Seneca Lake.
- Sam Casella reported that he is now serving as a Government Relations Specialist for Inphotonics a company that deals with new and innovative uses for Micro-chips by the Dept of Defense on the Commercial Manufacturing sector.

### Schuyler County: (Lloyd Weatherbee)

- Busy trying to close out grants
- Completed 7 out 12 Ag mixing pads 5 of them should be completed soon.

### Seneca County:

None

### Steuben County: (Velynda Risley)

- **Water Quality Projects** - Still waiting for contracts from DEC on our streambank stabilization projects.
- **FL-LOWPA** - To date 50 acres of critical area seeding have been completed.
- **Senate Member Item Initiative Program** - Contract is in the State Comptroller’s office will be another two weeks before we can begin the close out documentation.
- **District Streambank** - Fifteen projects have been completed totaling \$82,249.39 with 11 remaining to do.
- **Awards** - Steuben SWCD nominated Jeff Parker and Dick Winnett for awards thru the NYACD which they were recipients of. Jeff received the Commendation award and Dick received the Special Service award.
- **Budget** - Jeff presented our 2008 budget to the AIP committee which was approved and forward to the Finance committee. The Board asked for a \$10,000 increase to our county appropriations waiting to hear if finance approved the budget with the increase.

- **Ag Grants** -We worked the Schuyler, Chemung & Yates Counties on Round 14 grants for manure storages & rotational grazing. With the help of Dick, Steuben with Chemung submitted another rotational grazing grant.
- **EQIP** - Steuben has received over 100 applications. 80% are grazing, 15% cropland and 5% ag waste. The staff is in the process of assembling folders with documentation along with entering them into protracts.

**Yates County:** (Colby Petersen & Al McGuffie)

- Applied for a Round 14 grant with Ontario/also one grant with Yates County/and one with Schuyler County
- Continuing the watershed inspections, a lot of stormwater work, working on vineyard mapping(?) from Cayuga (?) Lake to Canandaigua Lake
- Soils maps are now digitized on computer
- Closures of offices State-wide FSA (3) which includes Yates Co.
- 2008 EQIP cost-sharing program ended November 9<sup>th</sup>. Other programs won't begin until new Farm Bill is passed.

**Coordinator's Report:**

**NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant Applications** – On behalf of the Steuben County SWCD, the Council has prepared and submitted a \$262,395.00 grant application through Round 14 of the NYSEPF program. The application entitled “Southern Tier Prescribed Grazing” has identified 25 livestock farms in Chemung & Schuyler Counties who will be eligible to receive up to \$8,800.00 in cost-sharing toward the implementation of the BMPs associated with prescribed grazing. Each participant will be required to contribute a minimum of 30% of their total project's costs in the form of cash, labor, materials &/or use of equipment.

The Council has also assisted Seneca County SWCD with the preparation and submission of a \$228,264.50 grant through the NYSEPF Round 14 Non-point Source Pollution Abatement Control program. When the project is funded, state dollars will be used to assist 12 grape farms within the Seneca and Cayuga Lake Watersheds with the installation of agrichemical mixing facilities. The State's contribution toward these agrichemical mixing facilities will range from \$5,250.00 - \$19,500.00. Funding from NRCS' AMA program will be contributed toward 5 of the individual projects. The participating farms will be contributing a minimum of 23% of the overall project costs.

**Venison Donation Program** – Since April 1, 2007 6,295 pounds of venison has been processed which equates to 25,180 meals served.

**Temporary Services Agreement** – Since Cheryl Faucett, Finger Lakes RC&D Council's Program Assistant is employed 20 hours/week an opportunity has presented itself to perform administrative duties which will benefit NRCS. Cheryl has been contracted through Staffworks (a temporary employment agency) from Norwich, NY to provide services for NRCS for 20 hours/week between October 1, 2007 and December 31, 2007. Cheryl's new duties consist of entering data from grazing plans developed by the Council's grazing advocates into NRCS computers. Information includes number of units of various BMPs planned and installed on farms located in Steuben County. Time permitting Cheryl will be available to enter similar data from Chemung, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca & Yates Counties. Between 11/9/07 – 11/16/07 Cheryl will be assisting NRCS staff assigned to Steuben County with assembling farm folders for more than 100 EQIP applications which were received during the fall 2007 sign up period.

**Conservation Innovative Grants** – Eight livestock farms have been signed up as participants under this \$48,000.00 grant awarded to the Council by NRCS. The farms are located throughout Western and Central New York State. The project's consultant Four Winds Renewable Energy has already prepared two cost estimates with installation of one Solar Powered Livestock Watering System to begin in December 2007.

**Mid Atlantic RC&D Conference/Hershey, PA** – Donations of 1 ½ cases of wine for the silent auction thanks to Velynda Risley & Sam Casella yielded \$150.00 as a fund raiser for the Mid-Atlantic Assoc of RC&D Councils.

### **NRCS Report:**

- Continuing resolution which expires on 11/17/07 which means NRCS is operating under last year's budget. House recommending \$52.3million, Senate recommending \$53.1million. This is all a part of the Agriculture Appropriation Bill.

### **Old Business:**

- **Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association meeting in Hershey, PA** – September 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Ken Bush reported that it was a good meeting and that there was a lot of discussion about increasing the dues for the Mid-Atlantic or they would be without money at the end of 2 years. Ken voted against this until he received more information. Also went on a couple of tours, one of which involved a grass pelletizer the other tour involved a no-till planter.
- **S.T.O.R.E** – “Southern Tier Outdoor Recreation Exposition” which took place in Bath on October 6-7, 2007 for the first year at Wilkins RV location on Route 415. For the 1<sup>st</sup> year it seemed to be a success with approximately 3,000 people attended.
- **Civil Rights Compliance Review** – Overall the State Office was pleased with the report, it has not been finalized yet.

### **New Business:**

- **Additional Signer on Bank Accounts** – Proposed to add Ken Bush to all the bank accounts as an additional signer.

*Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to approve to add Kenneth Bush as an additional signer on all Bank Accounts.*

- **Add Tom Tomsa as assistant treasurer on a couple of the bank accounts with Community Bank.**

*Ernie Swift moved to approve, seconded by Sam Casella and carried to approve adding Tom Tomsa as assistant treasurer on accounts with Community Bank.*

- **Move the Chemung Grazing #4 account from Five Star Bank to Community Bank**

*Karen Tillotson moved to approve, seconded by Sam Casella and carried to approve to transfer monies from the Chemung Grazing #4 account at Five Star Bank to Community Bank, NA.*

- **Changed e-mail address per Information Boulevard to [fingerlakesrcd@earthlink.net](mailto:fingerlakesrcd@earthlink.net)**

### **Other Business:**

- Barb McGuffie mentioned that a radio station was promoting some of the Venison Processors in Yates Co. They mentioned Shirks Meats who are no longer in business. There are currently 2 processors in Yates Co., Zimmerman's and Log City Meats. She has contacted the Radio Station to inform them of the change.

### **Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):**

- **Technical support for NRCS's reporting**
- **NYSEPF Round 14-Seneca/Cayuga Pesticide Management Project**
- **Part-time project for Cheryl Faucett via NRCS**

*Motion to accept the three proposed projects was made by Velynda Risley and seconded by Ernie Swift and carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Human Resource Bldg, Room 120, Montour Falls, NY

***Meeting adjourned at 2:04pm***

***Motion to accept was made by Greg Heffner and seconded by Sam Casella and carried.***