



***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@earthlink.net](mailto:fingerlakesrcd@earthlink.net)

## Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Schuyler County Human Resource Complex, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

### **Chemung County**

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

### **Ontario County**

P.J. Emerick, S&WCD Rep  
Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors Rep

### **Schuyler County**

Elaine Dalrymple, S&WCD Rep  
Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep

### **Seneca County**

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep  
Frank Sinicropi, Board of Supervisors Rep

### **Steuben County**

Velynda Risley, SWCD Rep (Alternate)  
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep  
Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep (Alternate)  
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep

### **Yates County**

John Keidel, Member @ Large

### **RC&D Staff**

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

### **Introduction of Guests**

**Meeting called to order** by President, Ken Bush at **1:00 P.M.**

### **Approval of Minutes of September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Council Meeting.**

*Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008.*

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

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. *The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.*

## Communications:

- Received a very nice thank you card from Melissa Ford (Lola's daughter) and an acknowledgement from the Southern Tier Hospice for the donation in the amount of \$50.00 in memory of Lola Tears.
- Schuyler County S&WCD was presented with a Bronze Award from the NYS Soil & Water Committee which dealt with the AEM program. Congratulations to them!
- Received a request for a donation to the NYS Envirothon Committee that will be held at the Keuka College in 2009. *Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by P J Emerick and carried to make a donation in the amount of \$100.00 to the NYS Envirothon.*

## County Reports:

### Chemung: (Karen Tillotson)

- **Chemung County Stormwater Team** – Diane Fiorentino (Stormwater Educator) was a presenter at FL-LOWPA's workshop on November 7<sup>th</sup> discussing how Chemung County is working with stormwater issues. She is also putting in for a "Special Project" grant through FL-LOWPA to do rain barrels and rain gardens. Diane has contact with the local Coca Cola plant and is receiving barrels from the plant and the barrels are then retrofitted into rain barrels. With the grant funds if approved the plans are to make rain barrels available to homeowners.
- **Grants** – The District had a grant for streambank stabilization on Halderman Hollow Road. This grant was in the amount of \$75,000.00 and the final payment is in the processing stage.
- Through the Chemung Valley Conservancy, a grant was received to build a boat access site in the Town of Chemung. This grant was for \$8,000.00 and closeout papers were sent out 11/18/08. The ramp is in and seeding was complete. Still some touch up work needed.
- Addition to District Office for Stormwater Team is coming along and hopes are to have this completed by the end of the year. Funding came through a state grant and is for \$70,000.00.
- **Equipment** – Mark Richer is working to get all equipment winterized and put away for the year.
- **District's Annual Christmas Luncheon** – This will be held on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009 with Hors D' Oeuvres at 11:00, District Program at 11:15 and lunch at noon. This will be held at the Big Flats Legion. All are invited, please call the District to RSVP.

### Ontario: (P.J. Emerick)

- **AEM Strategic Plan** – During the past 2 months our District has been busy updating our AEM strategic plan. The strategic plan will be used as a guideline to outline agricultural related issues that need to be addressed within Ontario County. Furthermore, the strategic plan will be used to leverage funding under the Ag Non-Point Source Grant program and implement several different BMP's.
- **Contractor Training Course** – The District staff has started to organize the 4-hour contractor training course which is a requirement under the Phase II Stormwater regulations. The training will be held at the Ontario County Safety Training Facility on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at 9:00am. Additional details will be provided in December. The cost to attend the training will be \$75.00 per person.
- **Round 15 Ag Grant Application** – District is cooperating with the Yates County SWCD to submit a Round 15 Ag Non-Point Source Grant application. We will hold joint meetings in the near future with the Ag Advisory Committees in the Flint Creek, Canandaigua, and Seneca Lake Watersheds.

### Schuyler County: (Elaine Dalrymple & Tim Hicks)

- **AEM Tier 3A Plans** – Development of these has been the focus of much staff time in the past few months.
- **Petro-hopper** – New petro-hopper for improved petroleum storage, a milkhouse waste system and a silage leachate collection system have been completed on two different farms in the last two months, cost shared with EPF funds.
- **Grazing Walk** – 20 farmers attended this walk that was held in Chemung Co. that focused on marketing and beef cattle grazing. This walk was sponsored by Cooperative Extension with assistance from the Chemung/Schuyler grazing technician.
- **Emergency Stream Work** – done in the Meads Creek Watershed as a result of a "microburst" that dropped 3 inches of rain in 24 hours on a subwatershed. Steuben Co assisted with advice. This subwatershed will require further stabilization work to prevent future damage to homes that are located near the stream.
- **Rain Garden** – The first rain garden in Schuyler co is being installed near the Montour Falls Village Hall.
- **AEM Strategic Plan** – Being updated with assistance from a committee of farmer and other local agencies.

- **Accredited Realtor Workshop** – Held at the Human Resource Complex Center, Montour Falls, presented by all Ontario Co. SWCD staff. 30 realtors from Tompkins, Cortland, Chemung and Alleghany Counties were in attendance. The workshop dealt with Stormwater Septic Systems and Water Wells (?).
- **Schuyler Co CCE receives Grant** – Received \$30,000.00 in funding for Ecological Design options for waste water disposal treatment. Also, taking a look at design options for the relocation of the Watkins Glen treatment plant off Seneca Lake waterfront. Looking at submitting the proposals in the middle of January.

**Seneca County:** (Jim Malyj)

- **Grant Applications** – working on
- **Manure Storage** – dairy farm in the Cayuga Lake Watershed
- **FL-LOWPA** – through special projects submit application to purchase small fuel storages
- **Graze NY Program** – working with Cayuga Co, projects being submitted

**Steuben County:** (Velynda Risley)

- **Water Quality Projects** – Two contracts were closed and funds have been received. Finishing one project this week and we are seeking no cost time extension on the remaining two contracts.
- **FL-LOWPA** – Closed out FY 2007-08 contract waiting for the retainage funds to come and waiting for the FY 2008 -09 contract and have submitted our 2009-10 narrative waiting for approval.
- **Senate Initiative Program** – SWCD received \$7,000.00 from the Senate Initiative program to purchase a four wheeler to use in conjunction with our hydro-seeding program. The purchase will take place by the end of December with closeout to follow.
- **District Streambank** – Seventeen projects have been completed this year totaling \$116,466.88. The 2009 program year has 27 projects totaling \$310,175.00 – most of these are carry over from this year.
- **Awards** – Steuben Co SWCD received a Bronze award for AEM and Velynda Risley received an Appreciation Award for promoting and advancing NY Association Conservation District at the annual meeting of NYACD.
- **Budget** – Jeff Parker presented our 2009 budget with an increase of \$4,000.00 to AIP committee which was approved and the budget was forwarded to the finance committee. The 2009 budget was approved as presented.
- **Ag Grants** – Implementation is being made on the grazing contracts. Received RD 14 contract and funds, landowners will begin implementation in the spring. SWCD will be submitting another grazing grant thru Round 15 with emphasis on livestock exclusion from water bodies. Implementation also being made on a manure storage facility which Schuyler Co SWCD is the contract administer.
- **AEM** – Jonathan Barter is working on meeting the goals set in our strategic plan and to date he has completed 22 - Tier 1; 20 – Tier 2; and 20 Tier 3A. Jonathan and Jeff are working on updating our strategic plan for submittal by December 1.
- **Tributary Strategy** – Jody Applebee continues to enter best management practices into the Upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC) GIS database.
- **Carbon Credits** – Dick Winnett passed around a news article pertaining to Steuben Co. Legislature agreeing to sell Carbon Credits from the County landfill to Google.

**Yates County:**

- None

**Coordinator's Report:**

**Seneca-Cayuga Pesticide Mixing Facilities** – The Round 14 NYSEPF grant for \$228,264.00 has been fully executed by NYS Ag & Markets. Twelve vineyards, 10 of which are located in Seneca County, will receive financial assistance to install pesticide mixing & storage facilities. The state cost-sharing will range between \$5,250.00 and \$19,500.00 with some participating vineyards receiving financial assistance from NRCS' Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program. The following Seneca County vineyards are participating in this grant: Hosmer Winery (Romulus); Lucas Vineyards (Covert); Sheldrake Point Vineyard (Ovid); Thirsty Owl Wine Co. (Romulus); Button Grove Winery (Romulus); Cobble Stone Farm Winery (Varick); Three Brothers Winery (Fayette); Zugibe Vineyards (Fayette); Standing Stone Vineyards (Lodi); Knapp Winery (Varick). The two participating wineries from Cayuga County include: King Ferry Winery (Genoa) & Long Point Winery (Ledyard). The Seneca County SWCD is the project's official sponsor while the Finger Lakes RC&D Council is the project administrator.

**Finger Lakes Grazing Project** – Three of the nineteen NYSEPF Round 12 grazing participants have completed their projects. Another 6 farms' projects are underway. The current project deadline is 12/31/09, although a project extension is a possibility. Each participant can receive a maximum reimbursable payment of \$8,800.00 but they must contribute a minimum of \$3,773.00 of local match in the form of cash, labor, materials &/or use of equipment.

**Venison Donation Program** – Due to New York State's financial crisis NYSDEC is only going to be able to provide the Venison Donation Coalition with a \$75,000.00 grant this year instead of the original \$100,000.00. To help offset this deficit the following Regional Food Banks have agreed to pay 50% of the processing costs associated with the venison which is donated in their respective regions. These Food Banks include the Food Bank of Western NY; The Food Bank of Central NY; The Regional Food Bank of Northeastern NY; The Food Bank of Westchester County & Long Island Cares. The Food Bank of the Southern Tier and Foodlink (Rochester) already have long standing financial commitments with the VDC. The VDC is still waiting for a fully executed contract from NYSDEC. Since April 2008 5,138 lbs of venison has been processed and distributed throughout New York State.

**AEM Reporting Project** – This cooperative project amongst NRCS and the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee is coming to a close (12/31/08). Cheryl Faucett, RC&D Program Assistant has entered into NRCS' reporting program "Toolkit" numerous planned and installed Best Management Practices that have resulted from Round 12, 13 & 14 NYS Environmental Protection Fund grants sponsored by SWCD's within the Finger Lakes RC&D area. This pilot project has served as demonstration of how an outside consultant can collect and report data which is normally not included in NRCS's reporting system. This one year process had a long steep learning curve. Issues such as obtaining access to each NRCS field office's plan files, having equipment to operate the Toolkit system and receiving regular updates to toolkit were some but not all of the problems Cheryl had to cope with. Currently Cheryl is assembling a final project report which will be shared with NRCS and NYSSWCC.

**Chemung Grazing Grant: Phase 3** – This Round 10 NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant sponsored by the Steuben County SWCD and administered by the Finger Lakes RC&D Council is coming to an end (12/31/08). This \$180,720.00 grant has provided cost sharing in the amount of \$8,800.00 to nineteen livestock producers in Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben Counties for the purpose of installing Best Management Practices associated with each farms prescribed grazing systems. These participants to date have contributed in excess of \$108,700.00 in the form of cash, labor, materials &/or use of equipment. One farm is currently in the process of completing its project while the remaining 18 livestock operations have completed their respective BMPs. Typical BMPs have included interior & exterior fencing; pasture seedings; livestock watering facilities & pipeline. A total of 872 acres of prescribed grazing systems applied have resulted from this project.

#### **NRCS Report:**

- **Continuing Resolution** – Currently operating on the same budget as 2007, expected to continue to 03/09.
- **State Conservationist** – Ron Alvarado accepted a position in Oregon and will be starting that as of 12/7/08.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association meeting** – September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Northern New Jersey. Ken Bush and Virginia Bush attended along with Dick Winnett and Velynda Risley. Ken stated that even though the attendance was down it was a good meeting. Velynda R. thanked the Council for letting her attend this meeting. Velynda mentioned that Joan Smith Freeman, President of the National Association of RC&D Council's was in attendance and presented facts and figures about the RC&D program. During the conference it was emphasized the importance of each Council having and maintaining a strategic plan (which the Council had approved in August, has been approved at the Syracuse level and has gone onto Washington). Velynda and Ken both attended a variety of concurrent sessions. One of which pertained to fiduciary responsibilities of our RC&D Board. Both Ken & Velynda attended the Mid-Atlantic RC&D business meeting, the following slate of officers were elected: President – Howard Coffield; Vice President – Olga Walter; Treasurer – Pat Pinnell
- **Silent Auction Donations** – The silent auction at the Mid-Atlantic meeting raised a total of \$2,257.00.
- **Grassland Evaluation Contest Results** – Held in Big Flats, 25 students in total 1 team from Penn Yan Central School, 1 team from Norwich Central School, 3 teams from Bellville Henderson School who took 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The individual award went to Elizabeth Martins from Penn Yan Central School.
- **Latest on gas line resolution** – Elaine mentioned that 2 other groups, the NYS Association of Conservation Districts and the NY Farm Bureau are considering the letter that was recently written to Commissioner Peter

Grannis. The Upper Susquehanna Coalition decided to develop their own letter, while working with the NYSDEC.

- **Public Hearing (Marcellus Gas: EIS Comment Period)** – The hearing was held in Bath, and there were approximately 100 people. Dick Winnett and Ernie Swift both attended this meeting. The purpose of the hearing was for the public to participate and voice their concerns regarding the supplemental generic environmental impact statement. This was a supplement to a current generic EIS which was prepared back in 1992. The 1992 GEIS had no provisions for withdrawal of water nor disposal of water which are 2 major issues for hydrofracing. Dick mentioned approximately a dozen individuals made statements at the Bath meeting regarding the proposed SGEIS.

**New Business:**

- **NY Federation of RC&D Council's Annual Meeting** – Meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn – Auburn, NY on 12/11/08. Richard W. & Ken B. will be attending this meeting.

**Executive Session:**

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*Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to pay the monthly insurance premium for Cheryl Faucett, Secretary*

**Other Business:**

- None

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

- **Demonstrating Natural Stream Design**
- **Livestock Exclusion Chemung River Basin**

*Motion to accept the approved projects was made by Velynda Risley and seconded by Greg Heffner and carried.*

*Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 as a Teleconference. Call in number and password will be available in December.*

*Meeting adjourned at 2:19pm*

*Motion to adjourn was made by Greg Heffner and seconded by Velynda Risley and carried.*