



***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 Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 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

### **Schuyler County**

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

### **Seneca County**

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep

### **Steuben County**

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

### **Yates County**

John Keidel, Member @ Large  
Jim Balyszak, SWCD Rep

### **RC&D Staff**

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

**Absent from Meeting** - Sam Casella, Ontario Co., Glenn Larison, Schuyler Co., Frank Sinicropi, Seneca Co., Taylor Fitch, Yates Co.

### **Introduction of Guests**

Dave Mortenson, NRCS, Steuben Co  
Larry Lewis, SWCD, Yates Co  
Suzy Daubert, NRCS, Tioga Co  
Pat Flynn, SWCD, Yates Co

**Meeting called to order** by President, Ken Bush at **1:02 P.M.**

### **Approval of Minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Council Meeting.**

*Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.*

### Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated October 31, 2009. *The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.*

### Communications:

- National Association of RC&D Councils published a Forest Service Fact Sheet packet which was handed out.
- Senator Schumer – Press Conference, trying to pass legislation to provide tax incentives for venison processors and donators of deer to the participating processors. Handed out a press release from this conference.

### County Reports:

#### Chemung: (Karen Tillotson)

- **AG Tour** – Ag Tour for the Co Legislators on September 26<sup>th</sup> was well attended.
- **Farm City Day** – Held in Windsor Park, Elmira, Dist had a display and the Ag Plastic Baler
- **Aerial Photography** – Updated every five year which is coming up. The cost is approx \$60,000. Requested financial support from municipalities. District, Stormwater Team and Millennium have pledged \$6,000 each toward the upgrade.
- **Round 10 (Non-Ag )Grant** – Four applications are being submitted by the District for approx \$325,000.00. One is a Retrofit Project to install rain gardens and two impervious pavements. One is for composting countywide which will include workshops for homeowners. Water Quality was another project submitted to upgrade the Water Quality Strategy and the final was for Public Awareness to produce two television commercials on MS4 Stormwater.
- **DEC P2 Intern** – Saraita, a student from Cornell University was hired to work on composting issues and as part of her duties she had to do a final report for DEC. The report was passed around the table.
- **Sullivanville Dam** – Work completed and trees were removed in the spillway and then seeded. The High School uses the dam for their canoeing and kayaking classes. Mark Richer, Dist Tech and BOCES students worked on making a trail out of Geo-Web and crushed limestone.
- **Employee Handbook** – Worked with Public Sector consultants and the District updated the District's Employee Handbook, up to date on all issues.
- **Employee Luncheon** – Annual luncheon will held on December 7<sup>th</sup> @ 11:00, Big Flats American Legion.

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

- Submitted WQIP Round 10 Applications, submitted 3 proposals that hope to be funded
- Closing out an old grant
- Submitted and received a Round 13 grant for Watershed program
- Audit of books which came out fine
- Received NYS Dept of State grant for Honeoye Lake Watershed

#### Schuyler County: (Elaine Dalrymple)

- **WQIP** – 6 grant proposals were submitted 4 of which are road ditch stabilization grants in cooperation with surrounding counties.
- **AEM** – Year 5 work continues and another “Working with the Media” training session was attended which was very informative.
- **SWCD** – sponsored a booth at the Fall Festival in Montour Falls focusing on our work with municipalities and farmers.
- **Contractor Stormwater Training** – 3 of the 4 sessions have been held in Chemung and Steuben Counties. The fourth session is December 2<sup>nd</sup> in Montour Falls. All the sessions are sponsored by the Rural Stormwater Coalition and Chemung Co. Stormwater Coalition
- **Schuyler Co Energy Task Force** – The District is active in this program trying to gather relevant information to assist our municipalities.
- **Assistance** – 3 landowners received assistance in tile drainage layout.
- **Critical Area Seedings** – Several have been done to reduce erosion on disturbed sites.
- **Upper Susquehanna Coalition** – A post pounder has been purchased for use by all counties in the Western Susquehanna Basin who have received training on its use.

#### Seneca County: (Jim Malyj)

- **Hydro Seeder** – Demand for this has been very good.
- **Weather Stations** – Purchased for grape growers.
- **Silage Leachate Project** – Completed this grant.

**Steuben County:** (Velynda Risley)

**Budget** – Submitted SWCD budget to County, was approved with a \$3,000.00 increase.

- **FL-LOWPA** – No word yet as to when the contract is coming. 2 contractors will be laid off
- **WQIP** – Submitted 3 applications for Steuben Co totaling \$200,000.00. Submitted 2 apps with Schuyler Co for \$160,000.00 to improve Road Ditch Stabilization. 1 app submitted for WQIP Coordination Committee.
- **Round 15** – Awarded manure storage grant and will be working on plan of work in January, February.
- **WQIP** – Completed both Round 9 projects for December 21, 2009.
- **Training** – Contractor training 43 in attendance.

**Yates County:** (Jim Balyszak)

- Brief update on Ag grants. Some money has moved for EPF. Initial contracts for Keuka & Seneca Lakes agricultural rotational grazing for next year.

**NRCS Report:**

- **National RC&D Program Budget** – House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committees have agreed to reinstate the National RC&D budget at \$50.7 million nationwide. NRCS appropriations funding increased by \$40,000,000 from last year.
- **Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative** – Additional funds for the general EQIP program. \$1.1million this year, 2.2 million next year, 4.4million next year. Sign ups – on-going, early spring sign up cut off.

**RC&D Coordinators Report -**

- **Natural Stream Design Grant** – May 2009 the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation awarded the Finger Lakes RC&D Council a grant totaling \$399,995.00. This grant will be used to demonstrate the effectiveness of natural stream design practices in stabilizing stream bank erosion. Practices such as “J” hooks, channel weirs and deflecting barbs will be installed to protect approximately 7,300' of channel in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties. The RC&D Council will work with the Soil & Water Conservation Districts of these respective Counties in protecting 1.4 miles of fish habitat. As of 10/1/09 natural stream design work has been completed on Coon Hollow & Switzer Hill Road in Schuyler County. Material & services have been reimburse by the grant for a total \$14,975.48.
- **Chemung Grazing #4** – 17 of the 21 project participants have fully installed all the BMPs associated with their respective grazing systems. Three livestock producers have partially completed their projects. A total of \$168,721.23 of the grant's \$207,040.00 has been earned with the landowners contributing another \$121,222.49 in cash, materials, labor &/or in-kind equipment. The deadline for completing this grant is December 31, 2009. To date 809.8 acres of prescribed grazing has been applied as well as 130,079' of fencing; 20 watering facilities; 64 acres of pasture seeding and 3,450' of pipeline in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties.
- **Chemung Grazing #5** – 17 of the 19 livestock producers involved in this grant have totally completed their projects. One livestock producer has partially completed their project. Of the grant's \$194,625.00, total landowners have earned \$155,024.29 while the local match equals \$122,783.09. Resulting from the project 128,492' of fencing; 62 acres of pasture seeding; 6 watering facilities and 1,199 acres of prescribed grazing has been installed in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties. This project deadline is 12/31/09.
- **Chemung Grazing #6** – 3 of the 21 livestock producers involved in this grant has totally completed their projects. Eight livestock producers have partially completed their project. Of the grant's \$216,910.00 total, landowners have earned \$59,843.15 while the local match equals \$36,898.53. Resulting from the project 25,998' of fencing; 105 acres of prescribed grazing; 143 acres of pasture seeding; 2 watering facilities; 157' of pipeline as well as 268' of laneway has been installed in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties. This project deadline is 7/31/10.
- **Finger Lakes Grazing Grant** – 6 of the total 20 participants in this Round 12 NYSEPF grant have completed the installation of the BMPs associated with their respective prescribed grazing systems. Five other farms have partially completed their BMP installation under this \$192,300.00 grant which has a completion deadline of 12/31/2009. No extensions will be granted. To date 612 acres of prescribed grazing has been applied; 45,477' of fencing; 436 acres of pasture seeding/management; 140' of animal walkway and 1 livestock watering system.

- **Venison Donation Program** – Things had been looking pretty bleak for the program's 2009 season. The Venison Donation Coalition has approximately \$40,000.00 in its bank account which includes funding from NYSDEC in the amount of \$20,000.00, the VDC is anticipating a financial deficit of more than \$75,000.00 this year. However, through the efforts of John Evers, executive director of the NY Assoc. of Food Banks, the eight regional food banks in NY have agreed to pickup 100% of the processing cost associated with the donated venison in their respective regions. This is a short term fix with hope that additional funding will be provided for next year's program.

#### **Old Business:**

- **Contribution Agreement between NRCS & Finger Lakes RC&D** – Cheryl Faucett has been working 20 hrs per week for NRCS which was executed middle of September.
- **Marcellus Shale** – Elaine Dalrymple – A hearing in Corning is being held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Brief summary about the DEC Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Cornell is sponsoring a Marcellus Shale Natural Gas Education Summit on Monday November 30, Owego, NY. Also a handout from the Farm Bureau entitled "DEC Releases Marcellus Shale Drilling Impact Statement."
- **Natural Gas Tour-Fortuna Energy, Troy, PA, September 23, 2009** – Toured 4 sites, pressing station, active drilling site, very informative tour.
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – ideas for possible projects?** – Wondered if there are any roles for RC&D Council to become involved in supporting this.
- **Envirothon – Sponsorship** – Velynda spoke about the sponsors for this Envirothon at Keuka College, June 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. Asked that each RC&D Council sponsor a station for \$125.00.  
*Dick Gunderman moved to approve seconded by PJ Emerick and carried to approve a \$125.00 contribution to the Envirothon on behalf of the Finger Lakes RC&D Council.*

#### **New Business:**

- **Amendment to Document Retention & Disposal Policy & Whistle Blower Policy** – Presented both of these policies to the Board. *Greg Heffner moved to approve seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to adopt of both of these policies on 11/16/09.*
- **Conflict of Interest Policy** – sent all Board Members the Conflict of Interest Policy to be reviewed by each, signed and returned. Will be presented at next Board Meeting.
- **USDA, Value Added Grant (possible funding opportunity)** – Through the Rural Development Agency, looking at loans and grants for capital improvements as well as planning.

#### **Other Business:**

- **NY Federation of RC&D Councils meeting/training** – November 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> in Hamilton, NY at the White Eagle. Three Board Members will attend as well as the FLRC&D Council's Program Assistant & FLRC&D Coordinator.

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

- None

#### **Executive Session:**

- *Greg Heffner moved to approve seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to go into an Executive Board session.*
- Due to an increase in the Excellus BC/BS medical insurance premium for the FL RC&D Council's Program Assistant, it was voted on that the Council would cover the amount of the increase in the insurance premium. *Velynda Risley moved to approve seconded by Greg Heffner and carried that the Council pay for the \$335.64 medical insurance premium which had a \$47.82 increase for 2010.*

Next meeting is scheduled for *January 20, 2010 as a Teleconference at 1:00pm.*

*Meeting adjourned at 2:20pm*

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