



**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, January 20, 2010 as a teleconference call.

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  
Brett Chedzoy, Member @ Large

### **Seneca County**

Kristin White, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)

### **Steuben County**

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

### **Yates County**

Jim Balyszak, SWCD Rep

### **RC&D Staff**

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

**Absent from Meeting** – Glenn Larison, Schuyler Co., Jim Malyj, Seneca Co., Frank Sinicropi, Seneca Co., John Keidel, Member @ Large

### **Introduction of Guests**

None

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

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

*Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by P.J. Emerick and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009.*

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

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

### Communications:

- Tim Hicks, Schuyler Co Legislature Rep to the Council has been reappointed. Taylor Fitch, Yates Co Legislature Rep is now a Chair of the Legislature and has appointed Rick Willson as a Legislature Rep to our Board. Deborah Flood an Alternate on our Board was not reelected to the County Legislature.

### Appointment of Nominating Committee:

- Appointed as the nominating committee are: Karen Tillotson, Tim Hicks, Jim Balyszak

### Appointment of Budget Committee:

- Appointed as the budget committee are: Greg Heffner & Velynda Risley. Dick Winnett to assist

### RC&D Coordinators Report -

The following NYS Environmental Protection Fund grants have been concluded. The closeout reports are presently being prepared for submission to the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee.

**Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing #4** – 18 of the 21 participating farms earned the maximum reimbursement of \$8,800.00 or the equivalent of 70% of their respective total project costs. The 3 remaining participants earned at least \$6,290.00 of their allocated reimbursement. Total value of this grant including landowner contributions = \$368,133.60. The landowners are located in Steuben, Chemung & Schuyler Counties.

**Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing #5** – 17 of the 19 farms participating in this \$194,625.00 have completed their respective projects and earned their maximum \$8,800.00 reimbursement. One of the two remaining participants didn't complete any of his project while the other participant earned \$5,500.00 of his total reimbursement. Unfortunately, the project sponsor and partners only earned \$180,834.00 or 93% of the total eligible reimbursement. Total value of this grant including landowner contributions = \$337,174.00. The participants were located in Steuben & Chemung Counties.

**Finger Lakes Grazing Grant** – 16 of the 20 participating livestock farms in the \$192,300.00 completed their respective projects and earned at least \$6,346.00 in reimbursements of the \$8,800.00 they were eligible to earn. The remaining four participants didn't complete any of their projects. Total value of this grant including landowner contributions = \$229,957.00 The participants were from Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca & Cayuga Counties.

**Nutrient & Sediment Reduction in the Upper Susquehanna Basin** – March 31, 2010 marks the completion deadline for this National fish & Wildlife Funded Grant. As of December 1, 2009, 30 of the 33 grazing participants have completed their respective grazing resulting in 1,722 acres of prescribed grazing installed as well as 157,490' of fencing; 40 acres of wetlands restored; 17 acres of riparian buffers; 7 stream crossing & 430 acres of improved grassland nesting bird habitat.

### County Reports:

- **Future of County Reports** – It has been suggested when presenting the County reports, please present anything that involves the RC&D 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> would be other issues or information that the Counties would like to report.

### NRCS Report:

- **NRCS/Dave Mortensen report from Bath Service Center** – Sign up for several NRCS programs' deadline is January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2010.

### Old Business:

- **NY Federation of RC&D Council's board member training comments** – Comments were made by the attendees (Ken Bush, Amy Dlugos, Velynda Risley, Cheryl Faucett) about how worthwhile the training was and that it would be recommended that most board members attend if given the opportunity. A brief summary was prepared and given to the Board Members of their responsibilities as a Board Member.
- **NY Federation of RC&D's President** – Sharon Ruggi, President of the NY Fed of RC&D's announced in December of 2009 that she resigning effective March 2010. At this time the 8 RC&D's are trying to recruit a nominee to fill the NY Federation President position.
- **Appointment of 2<sup>nd</sup> Representative to the NY Federation of RC&D Council's Board** – Velynda Risley has been appointed to serve as a representative for the FL RC&D Council.
- **Renewal of Circle of Diamonds Certification** – This is an evaluation process that the National Association of RC&D's adopted. It is a methodology that each Council should go through to demonstrate it is an active Council. The Council is working on the renewal but we are trying to upgrade to the enhanced level. If approved (certified) the FL RC&D Council would be one of two Councils nationwide to be in the enhanced level.
- **Conflict of Interest Policy** - Previously presented to the Board. *Karen Tillotson moved to approve seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy as of 1/20/10.*

### New Business:

- **Sexual Harassment Policy** - Presented to the Board prior to the meeting. *Velynda Risley moved to approve seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to adopt the Sexual Harassment Policy as of 1/20/10.*
- **Acceptance of Resignation** – Received a letter of resignation from Jeff Parker, Dist Mgr, Steuben Co SWCD, from the FL RC&D Council Board. *Dick Gunderman moved to approve seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to accept the resignation of Jeff Parker to the FL RC&D Council, Inc.'s board.*

### Other Business:

- **Leadership Forum\Washington, DC 3/1-3/2/10** – Opportunity to meet with elected officials in Washington, DC. The early registration deadline is February 15, 2010 at a cost of \$235.00 (registration).

### Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):

- **NFWF – Sediment a Nutrient Management Project** – Preproposal for the NFWF Chesapeake Bay Stewardship Fund, directed toward grazing and barnyard management in the Chemung River Basin. The tentative budget is \$225,000.00. Approximately 15 participants mostly in the Steuben/Chemung Co. area. The electronic version of the preproposal will be submitted on February 5, 2010. *Velynda Risley moved to approve seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to allow the Council to continue the work on this preproposal.*
- **Resubmission of Livestock Exclusion** – Although this proposal did not get funded, via the NYSEPF, the Council is hopeful to resubmit this grant later this year with a few changes.

Next meeting is scheduled for *Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at the Schuyler Co SWCD Shared Services Bldg @ 910 Decatur St. Watkins Glen, NY 14891 @ 1:00pm..*

*Meeting adjourned at 1:47pm*

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