



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 on Wednesday, November 17, 2010 @ 1 PM at the Schuyler County Human Services Complex, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

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

Ontario County

PJ Emerick, S&WCD Rep
Sam Casella, County Board of Supervisors Rep

Schuyler County

Glenn Larison, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
Elaine Dalrymple, S&WCD Rep
Tim Hicks, Legislature Rep
Brett Chedzoy, Member @ Large

Seneca County

Jim Malyi, S&WCD Rep
Erin Peruzzini, Guest

Steuben County

Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep
Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
Velynda Risley, Member @ Large
Ernie Swift, S&WCD Rep
Dave Mortensen, NRCS (Guest)

Yates County

John Keidel, Member @ Large
Jim Balyszak, S&WCD Rep

RC&D Staff

Dick Winnett, Coordinator, NRCS

Meeting called to order: President, Ken Bush called the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.

Introduction of Guest: Dick introduced Erin Peruzzini, Seneca County District Technician and Dave Mortensen, NRCS District Conservationist for Steuben County.

Approval of Minutes of September 8, 2010 Council Meeting:

- *Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of September 8, 2010.*

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated October 31, 2010. *The treasurer's report was filed for audit.*

Dick stated its time to renew the auditor agreement with EFP & Rotenberg in Elmira. EFP & Rotenberg has prepared a letter of commitment for a 3 year period starting at \$3700 and ending at \$3900.

- *Sam Casella moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried authorizing Ken Bush to sign the 3 year letter of commitment with EPF& Rotenberg.*

Communications:

- Velynda reviewed a letter from Sandy Huey, Chairperson of NYS Envirothon, seeking \$125 sponsorship for the 2011 NYS Envirothon competition which will be held at Hobart & William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY. The sponsorship would include being listed on the T-shirts, 24" & 36" laminated sign at one of the testing stations and in the award program.
 - *Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by PJ Emerick and carried to authorize the \$125 sponsorship to the 2011 NYS Envirothon competition.*
- Thank you note from Cheryl Faucett for the fruit basket the Council sent to her.
- Thank you note from Prattsburgh Historical Society for the donated copier.

County Reports:

Chemung County (Karen Tillotson)

- Purchased new sawmill with funds that came from sale of the old sawmill and Chemung County.
- Stormwater Symposium was held on November 4 with 60 participants and 11 vendors. The evaluation received suggested hosting the Symposium every two years with training being offered in between.
- Two open grants from Round 8 for road ditch stabilization and wetland construction which have been extended to December 2011.
- County has developed a Task Force with sub-committees on gas drilling.
- Extended an invitation to the RC&D Council members to attend the District's annual Christmas luncheon.

Ontario County (PJ Emerick)

- Work continues on NPS Ag grants for Round 15 & Round 16.
- Received award for Round 10 WQIP.
- AEM Base Year 6 is ongoing.
- Pursuing joint permit with Army Corp and DEC on a general permit for stream work with Wayne and Monroe Counties.
- Holding a 4 Hour DEC contractors training on December 3 at cost of \$85 per person.
- A joint NYSCDEA Division II & Division IV on November 19 at Yates County Office Building on SHPO as it relates to grants.

Sam asked Dick what can the Ontario County Board of Supervisor do in regards to the Venison Donation program or is it too late in the deer season to have an impact. Dick stated it's never too late to promote the program. The frustrating dilemma is that the program faces is finding financial assistance. The VDC is looking at the possibility of submitting a grant proposal to the NYS Department of Health. The Executive Director of New York Food Bank Association has been approached by the Health Department to submit a proposal that would help for paying the processing fee. The TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) is a federal program through the State and down to the County under the Department of Social

Services and most of the Counties don't have extra funds are available at the County level. Dick suggested sharing with the Board of Supervisor that the Venison Donation program is active; the RC&D is strong advocate of the program and works closely with Food Link.

Schuyler County (Elaine Dalrymple)

- 200 feet of riprap, a cross vein and two J-Hooks were installed on Jackson Creek, to alleviate stream bank erosion. This was part of our local stream program and two towns assisted by providing equipment through Shared Services.
- NYSEPF Round 15 funded silage leachate collection system is being installed and is nearly completed except for the high flow collection system.
- USC grazing specialist has been doing grazing plans, helping to get systems installed and recently attended the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's Chesapeake Bay Agricultural Networking Forum.
- Several WQIP grants were funded, a couple for road ditch stabilization in the Chemung River Basin.
- Upgraded our GIS software with ArcGIS 10 for mapping and in the spring of 2011. Schuyler County will be flown by the State Cyber security Office for new digital orthoimagery. This is usually done every 4 years or so.
- Gas wells, pipelines and power lines are being digitized in Tioga, Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben counties to establish a baseline of existing infrastructure.
- AEM Tier 2 and Tier 5B work continues and Round 17 EPF grant applications are being prepared.
- An educational program for 6th graders was conducted on a dairy farm in cooperation with Farm Bureau. SWCD covered soil types and erosion using a soil pit to show soil horizon.

Seneca County (Jim Malyj)

- Placed a notice in newsletter regarding Round 17 ag grant applications and received little response; however, will be collaborating with Yates and Cayuga counties.
- Completed an 8 acre hydro-seeding project on the Sampson State Park at the Veterans Cemetery
- Work continues on implementing the ag mixing facilities.

Steuben County (Velynda Risley)

- Submitting a Rd 17 application for barnyards, silage leachate, and grazing systems for 14 landowners.
- Completed two National Fish & Wildlife Foundation projects on Bennetts Creek and Col Bills Creek.
- Two WQIP project were award – one for the local WQCC and Keuka Lake Streambank Stabilization
- Will be working with Schuyler on implementation for 3 road ditch stabilization projects under WQIP in the Waneta Lake Watershed and Smith Pond Watershed.
- Jeff took the certification exam for Water Quality/Water Quantity
- Received County increase
- Work continues on Round 14 & Round 15 manure storages

Yates County (Jim Balyszak)

- Working on two multi-county grant applications for Round 17 on promoting cover cropping, improvements on existing spraying equipment.

NRCS Report:

Dick updated the Council on the National RC&D budget. The federal government is still working on continuous resolution which is in effective until December 3. The RC&D's are operating at the same

level as the past fiscal year. With the new Congress coming in January, there is a new push for balancing the budget on trying to reduce the deficit. It's unclear how this will impact the RC&D budgets at this time. Before the elections, both the House and Senate Ag Appropriation Committees have voted to keep the RC&D budget at the same level of \$51 million nationwide. It had not gone to the floor of both Houses yet – it will be interesting to see how Houses will react to it. There is speculation that there will be another continuous resolution which will mean the RC&D's will be operating at the same level again.

RC&D Coordinators Report:

Alternative Energy Field Day – A field day co-sponsored by the Finger Lakes RC&D Council & Cornell's Small Farms Program was held on Thursday, September 9 at Jonathan Barter's farm near Branchport, NY. Approximately 35 people were in attendance the field day which provided individuals the opportunity to see a livestock watering system powered by wind & solar energy.

Managing Financial Risks of Organic Dairies – In cooperation with the Cornell Cooperative Extension the Finger Lakes RC&D is administering a \$20,000 NY Farm Viability Institute grant which is encouraging organic dairy farms in western New York to utilize Cornell's Dairy Farm Business Summary. Program manager, John Hanchar of Cornell's Northwest Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team has noted that the goal of this project is to reduce financial barriers faced by organic dairy producers. Participating organic dairies will utilize Dairy Farm Business Summary to make peer to peer comparisons of their respective operations while identifying areas of potential improvement. Due to New York State's financial problems many of the NY Farm Viability Institute's projects have been terminated. Fortunately, this project has been reinstated.

2010 Venison Donation Program - Even though funding for New York's venison donation program which is administered by the Venison Donation Coalition has been severely reduced, the program will still operate for the 10th straight year. New York's 8 regional food banks are helping pick up the financial slack by paying the initial \$1.00/pound of processing costs. Typical processing costs run from \$1.25 - \$2.00/pound across the state, Long Island being the highest. The VDC has received a grant from the NYS DECALs program (\$10,000) and is currently awaiting a legislative member item grant sponsored by NYS Senator George Winner (\$20,000). Since its inception NY's venison donation program has processed & distributed 373 tons of venison which has resulted in approximately 2,984,000 meals being served to individuals in need.

2010-2011 GLCI Grant – the Council has signed a new GLCI contract with NRCS and has entered into agreements for services with Steuben County SWCD and Cornell's Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops team. Nancy Glazier, small farm specialist with NWNYS will be available to develop grazing plans in Ontario, Seneca & Yates Counties. The Council's sub-contractors will be responsible for preparing 16 prescribed grazing plans, conducting 2 grazing workshop and/or pasture walks and performing 45 follow-up visits.

Natural Stream Design Grant – The work on the project sites are currently in the planning stage as well as obtaining permits stage. Two of the Schuyler County sites of this \$399,995 grant have been completed, resulting in \$35,208.08 of improvements being installed along Coon Hollow and Switzer Hill Road. Two sites along Bennetts Creek (Steuben County) totaling \$26,072.68 have been completed. To date \$61,280.76 of total eligible expenses have been reimbursed.

Old Business:

Invasive Species Project – Dick stated there is considerable interest in the six counties to try to use local funds. Jeff Parker, Steuben District Manager; Brett Chadzoy and Dick met to formalize a plan to move this project forward. Dick met with Ontario, Yates, Seneca, Chemung & Steuben Counties to discuss the project. Brett has decided to be the lead on developing an outline and the goal to have a draft copy ready

for the review committee by early next year with printing by late January or early February. We are looking at this document to be practical useful tool for highway department, planning & conservation organizations to use in the field. Looking at pocket guide on laminated paper clip with a ring which focuses on poisonous hemlock, giant hogweed, wild parsley, Japanese Knotweed and poison ivy. The guide would include easy identification, habitat, first aide, risk management, control and ratification methods, and online resources to additional information on plants along with some major forest pests. An outreach effect will take place once the guide has been printed. Dick commented when the time gets closer to the printing, the Board may need to discuss on how many can be printed with funds on hand. It may come to a difficult decision that if some district because of the budget constraints they are faced with may not be able to appropriate any funds to discuss how the Board wishes to distributed them. Dick proposed the Council to allocate \$1000 towards the printing of the project. To date there is a commitment of \$5,500 not including the proposed \$1000 from the Council.

- *Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to allocate \$1,000 towards the printing of the project.*

Update on Cheryl Faucett's Medical Condition - Dick stated Cheryl was diagnosed with rare form of cancer. She received surgery to remove the cancer and the long term prognosis is still unclear at the moment. He is anticipating Cheryl coming in January. She is extremely appreciative of what the Council has done in the terms of paying for the health insurance.

Temporary Replacement for Program Assistant – Dick mentioned that due to using government computers, a background check is needed. Diane Miller was hired through Kelly Services for 30 hrs/week and has started today. She will continue to work with Dave Mortensen on contribution agreement with NRCS. It's anticipated she will have access to computer next week.

New Business

Finger Lakes Permaculture Institute – Dick stated Tim Hicks asked Elaine and himself to meet with two gentlemen out in the Mecklenberg area who operate the Finger lakes Permaculture Institute. Tim asked the Council for sponsorship to participate in a workshop. He asked the Council members if they had heard permaculture being used a design principle. He explained it as being sustainable ecosystem base practices for design for property, small scale agriculture. Finger Lake Permaculture Institute is pursuing a 501(C) 3 certification at the interim they hold routine workshop primarily at their Center. He continued to mention that every year holds permaculture design course which is a two week long training session. The workshop schedule for February consisting of 9 sessions for 2.5 hrs per session. The cost for participation in the workshop is \$200. He further discussed the possibility of offering scholarships for participation in the workshop. The scholarships amount would be for \$500 for 5 individuals to participate in the class. The goal is to have 25 participants.

- *Elaine moved to approve, seconded by Brett and carried to allocate \$500 towards scholarships for individuals within the Council boundaries.*

NY Council of Non Profits – Dick mentioned the Council is a member of NY Council of Non Profits. NY Council of Non Profits is an umbrella group out of Albany. They give all types of advice both free and for a fee. They offered an opportunity for any of their members to have their By-Laws reviewed for accuracy, content or any personnel policy. This can be done independently – By-Law review \$500, Personnel Policy review is \$700 and combined review is \$1000. Dick brought the opportunity available if the Council wishes to take advantage of this.

Other Business

Greg Heffner moved, seconded Velynda Risley and carried to move into executive session to discuss a personnel issue.

Velynda Risley moved, seconded by Jim Balyszak and carried to move back regular session.

Greg Heffner moved, seconded by Tim Hicks and carried to continue health insurance coverage with a cost increase for the Council employee.

Approval and/or Cancellation of Projects

Velynda Risley moved, seconded by Jim Balyszak and carried to adopt Steuben County Water Quality Implementation project to Council list of projects.

Date, Time, Place of next meeting – Dick discussed holding a teleconference in January. The next meeting will be teleconference for Wednesday, January 19.

Meeting adjourned at 2:28 PM.