



Finger Lakes Resource Conservation & Development Council
415 W. Morris Street
Bath, NY 14810
(607) 776-7398, Ext. 5
www.fingerlakesrcd.org

Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC&D Council meeting was held on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 @ 1 PM via tele-conferencing.

Chemung County

Ken Bush, President
Dick Gunderman, Legislature Rep.
Karen Tillotson, Member at Large

Ontario County

PJ Emerick, SWCD Rep.

Schuyler County

Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep.
Elaine Dalrymple, Vice President
Brett Chedozy, Member at Large

Seneca County

Jim Malyj, SWCD Rep.

Steuben County

Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep.
Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep. Alternate
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep.
Velynda Risley, Secretary

Yates County

John Keidel, Member at Large

RC&D Staff

Richard Winnett, Coordinator

Called to Order - Ken Bush, President called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM followed by Velynda conducting roll call.

Introduction of Guest - None were present.

Approval of Minutes

- *A motion was made by Greg, seconded by Karen to approve the November minutes as presented. Carried.*

Treasurers Report – Greg reviewed the Treasurers report and the report was filed for audit.

Communications:

- A. **Passing of RC&D Member** - Dick mentioned he learned just before Christmas that Jeannett Pfeiff had passed away. She was the Seneca County SWCD Rep to the Council several years ago. She also was a great advocate for the Council and its programs. She will be missed.

- B. **Resignation of RC&D Coordinator** - Dick stated after the New Year he learned the RC&D Coordinator for Greater Adirondack RC&D Council had resigned his position due to family hardship.

Nominating Committee – Ken requested 2-3 volunteers to serve on the nominating committee. Karen, Ernie and Amy stated they would serve on the nominating committee.

- *A motion was made by Velynda, seconded by PJ to appoint Karen, Ernie and Amy to the nominating committee. Carried.*

Budget Committee – Ken asked for 2-3 volunteers are to serve on the nominating budget committee. Greg and Velynda stated they would serve on the budget committee.

- *A motion was made Dick G., seconded by Karen to appoint Greg and Velynda to the budget committee. Carried.*

NRCS Report – Dick stated NRCS is still working Under a continuing resolution until March 18th. With new Congress especially in the House of Representatives, discussions of balancing the budget are being voiced. The RC& D Council are looking at level funding at \$51 million. He further commented that Astor Boozer, State Conservationist, is on an extended detail as the Regional Conservationist of Western United States. Dennis DeWeese will be serving as Acting State Conservationist in his absence. The Assistant State Conservationist, Don Pettit, has accepted a position of State Conservationist in New Jersey.

Old Business

- A. **Federation of RC&D** – Dick mentioned that Ken is not seeking re-election to Federation of RC&D Council. According to the By-Laws of the Federation, two RC&D Council members seats on the Board. Discussion took place. Elaine is willing to serve on the Federation of RC&D Council.
 - *A motion was made by Velynda, seconded by Ernie to appoint Elaine to the Federation of RC&D Council.*

- B. **Invasive Species Guide** – Dick stated he received a draft version of the guide this morning. The guide will be 4x6 with 20 pages total and each plant will have 4 pages each. The final guide form will be ready by early February with training to highway departments to follow. Dick will send out copy of the guide to the full Council in February. Brett Chedzoy gave an over view of the draft field guide.

- C. **Update on Cheryl** – Dick mentioned that Cheryl received her first treatment. She would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers. She is still planning to return to work after her treatments. Dick will forward Cheryl’s home address to everyone in case they wish to send a card.

New Business

- A. **Cooperative Agreement** – Dick mentioned that NRCS is reaching out to all RC&D Council nationwide regarding carry-over RC&D funds. These funds will be distribute back to the Council’s nationwide in 2 categories – 1) Circle of Diamonds Councils and 2) Councils that are not part of Circle of Diamonds. The Councils of Circle of Diamonds funds will be used for projects while the Councils that are not will use the funds for capacity building for their respective Councils. He has contacted couple of the Counties to see what type of projects can be completed. Ontario County is looking at installing porous pavement at Finger Lake Community College and this could serve as demonstration project. Another project mentioned was embedded culverts which will allow fish passage.
- A motion was made by PJ, seconded by Dick to accept the funding from NRCS. Carried.*
- B. **NRCS Organic Producers** – Dick stated a notice was received that NRCS is taking applications for NY Organic Producers through March 4.
- C. **NRCS** – Dick stated NRCS is taking applications for Conservation Innovation Grants on innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gases and carbon sequestration with a deadline of February 11.

Other Business

- A. **Leadership Forum** – Dick stated the Leadership Forum will be held on February 14 & 15 in Washington, DC. The registration is \$295/per person with the hotel at \$210/night. If anyone is interested in attending, let Dick know.
- B. **Venison Donation Program** – Dick mentioned that shifting of the administration of the venison donation program in New York. The NY Association of Food Bank is looking at applying for a grant with NYS Department of Health on a 5 year proposal for funding for processing of venison.

Approval/Cancellation of Projects – none

Date/Time/Place of Meeting – Wednesday, March 23 @ 1 PM at Schuyler County Shared Service Building, Watkins Glen, NY.

A motion was made by Dick G., seconded by Greg to adjourn at 1:50 PM.