



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, March 15th, 2006 at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Ken Bush, SWCD Rep
Dick Gunderman, Legislature Rep
Karen Tillotson, Member @ Large

Ontario County

Tom DeRue, SWCD Rep

Schuyler County

Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large Rep
Wayne Dimmick, SWCD Rep

Seneca County

Jim Malyj, SWCD Rep
Frank Sinicropi, Board of Supervisors Rep

Steuben County

Lola Tears, Legislature Rep
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
Velynda Risley, Member @ Large Rep (Alternate)
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep

Yates County

Jim Balyszak, SWCD Rep
Al McGuffie, NRCS Rep
Barb McGuffie, Member @ Large Rep
Taylor Fitch, Legislature Rep

RC&D Staff

Dick Winnett, Coordinator, Finger Lakes RC & D Council

Introduction of Guests

Cheryl Drehmer, Finger Lakes RC&D Secretary

Meeting called to order by President, Lola Tears at **1:00 P.M.**

Approval of Minutes of January 18th, 2006 Council Meeting.

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of January 18th, 2006.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated February 28th, 2006. **Taylor Fitch moved to approve, seconded by Ken Bush** and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Communications:

- Ontario Co. Board of Supervisors has appointed Sam Casella to continue serving as a representative of Ontario Co.
- Council of Community Services of NYS is having free workshops titled *Cash Flow Management for Non-Profit Organizations*, and *Getting Down to Basics, Board Roles and Responsibilities*, April 4, 2006 at Three Rivers Development Corp., Corning, NY.
- Nat'l Assoc RC&D Council/raffle tickets distributed among the counties.

Nominating Committee's Report:

Dick Gunderman moved to approve that the secretary cast 1 ballot for the following slate of officers:
Lola Tears – President, Ken Bush – Vice President, Wayne Dimmick – Secretary,
Greg Heffner – Treasurer

Seconded by Taylor Fitch and carried to approve the Nominating Committee

County Report:

Chemung:

- The "Stream Guide Book" received through a grant from FL-LOWPA is in draft form at the printers.
- Mark attended an MS4 Educational meeting to be in compliance by January 2008. Mark will be attending another Stormwater meeting.
- The District's tree sale is on, with approximately 19,230 seedlings sold.

Ontario:

- Beginning plan of work for two NYSEPF Ag Round XII Grants.
- Mild weather has allowed for some progress in the Honeoye, Hemlock, Canadice Road Bank Grant.
- The District will serve as a sponsor for an MS4 proposal. The proposal will be jointly among municipalities in both Ontario and Wayne Counties.
- The NYS DOH has begun review of revised rules and regulations for the Canandaigua Lake Watershed that began in 1992.

Schuyler County:

- Working to get the AEM plan of work done, getting the Tier 1 and Tier 2 surveys done with farmers.
- Finished a draft of a Septic Law, part of a mini grant the State committee offered for just the cottages around Lamoka and Waneta Lakes, to cut down on the nutrients going into the lakes. Public hearing in April for towns of Wayne, Tyrone, Orange and Steuben County. Septic systems will need to be inspected every 5 years.
- Provide county-wide GIS coverage and try to better coordinate the system for other agencies.
- Received a call from George Winner Jr.s' office regarding a landowner with property on Meads Creek Rd, Coopers Plains, met in the field with DEC, landowner and a rep from the Senators' office to discuss alternatives for corrective action.
- Pertaining to the Marks Farm disaster and MS4, there was additional discussion about how much regulation will be impacting all counties.

Seneca County:

- In the process of trying to recruit all Seneca County farmers into the AEM program, through mailings. Also, Cooperative Extension and Seneca Co. received a grant to hire a retired Extension agent to engage the Amish farmers and get them involved into this beneficial program.
- Trying to receive a FL-LOWPA budget increase for this year.
- Working on the Non-Ag point request for some road banks that are mostly located in the vicinities of Covert, Romulus, and Ovid that are in need of stabilization.
- Sent Legislative letters to two US Representatives in support for the RC&D Councils.
- Water Quality Control has named a sub-committee to review and update the 1968 Seneca County Watershed regulations.
- Extensive discussion took place regarding the proposed Ethanol Plant in Seneca Falls and then Frank Sinicropi reported that the Seneca Town Board has yet to make a commitment to accept the proposal.

Steuben County:

- **Non-point Source Grant:** Cohocton River Streambank Stabilization (Kanona Site) has been closed out and final payment has been received from NYS DEC. Total cost of project was \$39,163.51. The engineering for the Town of Pulteney Stormwater project has been completed by Bergman Associates. The project will consist of 3 concrete drop inlets structures with stone centered waterway. Construction will begin this year.
- **NRCS Programs:** Staff members assisted 28 landowners with EQIP applications on 6,627.95 acres. The Peer Review has been completed, waiting to hear how many have been approved. Staff members assisted 71 landowners with AMA applications totaling \$349,435. The total application acreage is 847.6 of this 553.4 acres are considered livestock acres.
- **Support Letters:** Swift Farms and SWCD sent support letters to our US Congressman and US Senators regarding the 50% cut to the RC&D budgets.

Yates County NRCS:

- **AMA Program:** Due to lack of funding the sign-up only took place in the Susquehanna and Lake Champlain watersheds in NYS this year. Most of Yates County was not eligible for the program.
- **Grasslands Reserve Program:** There will not be any sign-ups in NYS this year due to lack of funding.
- **Conservation Reserve Program:** Qualified landowners having an existing, older CRP contract will be given the chance to extend their contracts from three to ten years based on the environmental ranking of each contract. Sign-ups will take place between March 27th & April 14th. There are thirty-nine contracts in Yates Co. that may be eligible for extensions. There is emphasis now to enroll more landowners in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The goal for NYS is to have 40,000 acres in the program by 2010 and there are only 4,000 acres at this time.

Yates County SWCD:

- **Non-Ag Grant:** Gearing up for the 1st year implementation of the Flint Creek Watershed project which involves about 5.2 miles of road ditch stabilization in Yates and Ontario Co.
- **NYS EPF AG Grant:** Continuing both the implementation and AEM planning phases.
- **Non-Ag Grant RFP's:** In the process of completing four salt storage facility applications by the end of March for Yates Co.
- **Stormwater Erosion Control:** Issues with residential development along the lake. Documentation that was provided, proved to be helpful in a decision making matter. A member of the staff was called as an expert witness.

Coordinator's Report:

- Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing, Phase 2 and Seneca Lake Watershed Prescribed Grazing Projects are both closed out.
- Updates were given on the Venison Donation Program and the Enhancing Grassland Birds Habitat.
- Handout provided to Council.

NRCS Report:

- Ronald Alvarado/State Conservationist previously from Oregon is replacing Joe DeVecchio and will begin his tenure starting April 16th. Steve Macovech will also be retiring this year.
- Brought attention to the letter received regarding the RC&D Councils' budget cuts.

Old Business:

- **Presentation of Budget:** The auditors like to see the budget directly coincide with the fiscal year April 1st – March 31st. With the March meeting in the middle of the month it leaves about 2 weeks worth expenditures which are left unaccounted for. Therefore, the Council is proposing to present the budget at May meeting and act on it at that time.
- **Status of the RC&D Secretary:** The position has been filled for 20 hrs per week on a temporary basis through an employment agency. Still have funds from a few of the grants will continue to pay for the position. In regards to the previous secretarial situation, Dick has phoned the State office and was told that nothing has changed.
- **Update on NY Federation of RC&D Councils' activities:** On 3/23/06 Ken and Lola will be attending the annual meeting of the Federation, which will include elections of officers and review of by-laws, etc., at the May meeting there will be an update of what was accomplished at this meeting.
- **Nat'l RC&D conference 6/18/06-6/20/06 in Savannah, GA:** Ken & (Virginia) Bush and Jim Ochterski will be attending, due to budget cuts, attendees are very limited.
- **Status of donated copier:** RC&D Council did receive the copier that was donated by the Steuben SWCD and it has been a welcomed addition. It does have a maintenance agreement which includes unlimited toner.

New Business:

- **Request from 2007 Envirothon organizing committee:** In 2007 the National Envirothon will be hosted at Hobart College/Geneva, the Council received a letter from the Chairperson from the host committee requesting a financial sponsorship. The Council is proposing to donate a \$500.00 contribution. **Tom Derue moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman** and carried to approve the \$500.00 donation.
- **Request for funding from Grassland evaluation contest:** Statewide competition held in Catteraugus County on evaluating Grasslands, giving some insight on grassland conditions, soil evaluation, wildlife habitat and plant identification. Open to high school students. Proposing to donate \$200.00 from the Council. **Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner** and carried to approve the \$200.00 donation.
- **FL-LOWPA:** Sent letters of support to the State Legislators to increase the annual appropriations by \$500,000.00.

Other Business:

- **Review of Civil Rights Policy:** Presented the Civil Rights Policy adopted 7/21/04, and reviewed.
- **Short Term Plan/Annual Plan of Operations:** Summarizes all the projects that the Council is currently engaged in and is intending to provide assistance for. **Greg H. moved to approve, seconded by Dick G.** and carried to approve.

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures): 2006 Aide to Localities Project

Motion to accept the 2006 Aide to Localities Project was made by Jim B. and seconded by Ken B. Carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for Noon on May 17, 2006 for the Annual Luncheon held in Steuben County, at the Glenn Curtis Museum, 8419 Route 54, Hammondsport, NY 14840.

Dick G. made a motion to adjourn at 2:16 and was seconded by Ken B. Carried.