



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 21st, 2007 at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Ontario County

Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors, Rep
Doris Kenny, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)

Schuyler County

Glenn Larison, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large Rep
Wayne Dimmick, SWCD Rep

Seneca County

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
Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large

Yates County

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

RC&D Staff

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

Introduction of Guests

Timothy Hicks, Schuyler Co. Legislature Rep. (replacement for Jim Ochterski)

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

Approval of Minutes of January 17th, 2007 Council Meeting.

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of January 17th, 2007.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated February 27th, 2007. *Taylor Fitch moved to approve, seconded by Tom Tomsa and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.*

Motion to closeout 2 Grants (Risk Management & Seneca Grazing #2 (listed on Treasurer's Report:

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to approve the closeout of 2 Grants.

Communications:

– Resolution from the Schuyler Co. Legislature to appoint Timothy Hicks (Schuyler Co. Watershed Protection Agency) for a 1 yr term to our Board of Directors, as a replacement for Jim Ochterski (who has transferred to Ontario Co.)

Nominating Committee's Report: (Elaine Dalrymple, Tom Tomsa, Sam Casella)

Elaine Dalrymple presented the following slate of officers for 2007:

Lola Tears – President, Ken Bush – Vice President, Elaine Dalrymple – Secretary, Greg Heffner – Treasurer

Election of Officers:

Taylor Fitch moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to approve the Election of Officers for a 1 year term.

Presentation of Annual Plan of Operations:

– Discussion took place regarding the 2007-2008 Annual Plan of Operations. Tom Tomsa suggested that under objective E a goal be added regarding the Council assisting with development of Bio-mass opportunities, such as grass based technologies for potential alternative energy.

Tom Tomsa moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner addition proposed by Tom Tomsa and carried to approve the Annual Plan of Operations.

County Reports:

Chemung:

None

Ontario: (Doris Kenny)

- New Employee: William Hershey, Water Resource Technician, replacing Kathy Bachowski
- Staff attended Water Quality Symposium last week, attending courses and instructional sessions
- Currently processing tree orders.
- Awarded WQIP (Water Quality Improvement Program) Round IX Grant via NYSDEC
 - 2nd Phase MS4 Implementation ongoing
 - Ontario/Wayne Counties Stormwater Coalition
- Sam Casella attended the Farm Bill session in Syracuse, NY earlier this year some key points were:
 - Proposing to spend a lot less money on the programs
 - Questions regarding Organic support/Environmental issues
 - Basing a lot of the issues on ethanol/value of corn

Schuyler County: (Elaine Dalrymple)

- Applied for grant in Round IX, for County Hwy Dept to stabilize 3 problematic road ditches which was funded
- Tim Hicks wrote a grant which was funded to continue the inspection program for the septic systems on Waneta/Lamoka lakes (2nd yr)
- Jerry Verrigni has been writing grants for stormwater education and more road ditch stabilization
- Trying to fund a hydro seeder
- Meads Creek Grant – Synoptic Water Measurements with US Geological Surveys (spring runoff measurements)
- AEM Surveys
- Glenn Larison – NYACD BOD concerns for budget/closure of NRCS offices/focus should be how to serve the people not how to save \$
- Tim Hicks – early stage of a possible waste water treatment system to help a portion of Waneta Lake is being explored

Seneca County: (Frank Sinicropi)

- Bio Fuel plant didn't work out in Seneca Falls, however looking at Romulus/Army Depot proposal of 800 + 4500 acres devoted to switch grass and raising the willows, concern about the white deer herd has arisen

Steuben County: (Velynda Risley)

- **Water Quality Projects** – SWCD completed an EPF project entitled Town of Pulteney Stormwater Project. All close out documents have been submitted to DEC for review. Total cost \$58,640.52. Working on plans for 2 EPF projects that were approved for Round 8. The 2 grants will be submitted to DEC by the end of March. Total cost \$159,300. Received word that 3 grants (streambank stabilization) under Round IX were approved (2/Meads Creek 1/Bennetts Creek). Total cost \$182,186. Bennetts Creek and 1 Meads Creek projects have been completed and will receive reimbursement.
- **Hazard Mitigation Program** – Phase I of the Vieley Rd Stormwater project has been completed and reimbursement received. Phase II has been approved work beginning in 2 months, completion by August 30th.
- **Tree Program** – Received 119 orders for 34,440 seedlings
- **Fish Program** – Trout and catfish orders are being received
- **District Steambank** – County appropriations for this program was increased. There are 24 participants totaling \$210,858. Rented an excavator with County Hwy and they are supplying us with one of their operators to complete these projects.
- **Personnel** – SWCD hired Jonathan Barter as our Grazing Specialist
- **Award** – Finger Lakes RC&D Council presented a Partner Appreciation Certificate and Clock in February for recognition of valuable contribution to USDA NRCS
- **Greg Heffner** – Spoke about the DEC Regs on transferring of fish from one body of water to another

Yates County: (Jim Balyszak)

- **Round IX Non-Ag** – Application declined/Shoreline restoration at Red Jacket Park/Penn Yan
- **District Clerk** – Retiring after 9 yrs.
- Signed contract for Ag Non-point source grant for Vineyard Erosion Control (1100 acres)
- Completed 1st yr of the Flint Creek Roads project. Design and rock + vegetative stabilization of a little over 5 miles of severely eroding road banks in Ontario and Yates County. Completed over half the project trying to finish in 2007
- Rick Ayers (Dist Technician) - was successful in securing a grant from Senator Winners to purchase a bale mulching equipment to compliment the hydro-seeding program

Yates County: (Al McGuffie)

- EQIP Applications are sent in, WRP/WIP Apps (Yates 15 apps/\$320,000 cost-sharing)
- No AMA funding 2007, No CRP sign-up for 2007/2008
- NRCS management Team in NY has been discussing a reorganization of field offices according to watersheds

Coordinator's Report:

Growing Energy on the Farm Workshop – The RC&D Council is co-sponsoring this workshop along with CCE of Steuben County and the American Corn Growers Assoc. The workshop will be held on Friday, 3/16/07 at the Civil Defense Center in Bath. Topics will include: *2007 Farm Bill – Recognizing the Importance of American Farmers; Growing Warm Season Grasses; Grass Pelletization update; Biodiesel- Renewable Fuel with Great Potential and Cultivating the Renewable Fuel Industry in WNY.*

Venison Donation Coalition – As of today 79,739 pounds of venison has been processed & distributed from the 2006 season. This equals 318,956 meals served to individuals in need.

Managing Labor Risks – The Northeast Center for Risk Management, which is located at the University of Delaware, has requested the Finger Lakes RC&D Council submit a final proposal to the Center's 2007 Risk Management Education Grant Program. The \$47,567.00 proposal entitled "Managing Labor Risks via Improved Human Resources Management and Problem Solving" is in collaboration with the Finger Lakes RC&D Council, Cornell's Northwest NY Dairy, Livestock Fields Crop Team; CCE Lake Ontario Fruit Program; Cornell's Migrant Program and Cornell's Dept. of Applied Economic & Management. The grant wants to address a greater uncertainty as to whether labor will be available in Western New York, as well as an insufficient quantity and quality such that farm business owners will be able to achieve desired results. The project will provide training opportunities to farm business owners regarding human resource management.

Finger Lakes Sustainable Farming Center – The RC&D Council is collaborating with the Cooperative Extension offices of Ontario, Seneca & Yates Counties on a three year \$80,000.00 grant from CCE Director's office in Ithaca, NY. The FLSFS is a new information and outreach center that will provide support for farmers who are increasing their sustainable practices to protect natural resources, enhance local economies and improve farm viability. The center will network Cornell University faculty, CCE agricultural and natural resource specialists as well as other cooperating organizations that are committed to developing sustainable principles and practices in the Finger Lakes region.

RC&D and the 2007 Farm Bill – The National Association of RC&D Councils is encouraging RC&D Council members and Council partners to contact their federal legislators and request they contact their respective House Ag committees to request that the 2007 Farm Bill:

- Reemphasize that RC&D is a locally led USDA program
- Make RC&D funding mandatory
- Acknowledge the role of the local federal Coordinator in the law
- Define the role of the local federal Coordinator

NRCS Report:

None

Old Business:

- **Presentation of Budget** - In the process of finalizing and will be reviewed by the Budget committee and then presented to the Board at the May meeting
- **Newsletter** – Printed and sent out approximately 750, total cost was around \$400.00

New Business:

- **President's proposed 2008 National RC&D Budget** – 2007 RC&D budget was approved for \$51.3 million which funds 375 RC&D Coordinators, the 2008 proposed budget calls for 1 Coordinator per state cutting budget to \$16million.
- **Revised Travel Policy** – (Attached) Change pertains to driving round trip and limits the cost per mile to 500 miles

Taylor Fitch moved to approve, seconded by Sam Casella and carried to approve the Travel Policy.

- **Request for funding to Grassland Evaluation Contest** – Agreed on \$200.00 (Contributor) donation.

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Tom Tomsa and carried to approve a \$200.00 donation to the Grassland Evaluation Contest.

Other Business:

- **Civil Rights Policy** - Presented the Civil Rights Policy adopted 7/21/04, and reviewed.
- **Sample letters to send to legislators** - pertaining to the Farm Bill

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):

- **Finger Lakes Sustainable Farming Center**
- **Growing Energy on The Farm**

Motion to accept the Finger Lakes Sustainable Farming Center Project and Growing Energy on The Farm Project was made by Greg Heffner and seconded by Sam Casella and Carried.

The regular meeting of the RC&D Council was adjourned at 2:30pm to go into executive session regarding personnel issue.

RC&D meeting was reconvened at 3:15pm by President Tears.

Next meeting is scheduled for Noon on May 16, 2007 for the Annual Luncheon held in Ontario County, at the Steamboat Landing, 205 Lakeshore Drive, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Taylor Fitch made a motion to adjourn at 3:17pm and was seconded by Greg Heffner and Carried.