



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 19th, 2008 at the Dormann Library, Bath, NY

In Attendance:

Chemung County

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

Ontario County

Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors, Rep

Schuyler County

Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep
Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large Rep

Seneca County

Frank Sinicropi, Board of Supervisors Rep
Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep

Steuben County

Velynda Risley, Member @ Large Rep (Alternate)
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep
Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large
Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep. (Alternate)

Yates County

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

RC&D Staff

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

Introduction of Guests

Meeting called to order by Vice President, Kenneth Bush at **1:04 P.M.**

Approval of Minutes of January 16th, 2008 Council Meeting.

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of January 16th, 2008.

**** We intended to ask the Council to amend the last meeting minutes that Amy Dlugos was not a guest but a Legislator Rep (alternate) for Greg Heffner. Greg Heffner replaced Lola Tears as Legislator Rep**

Treasurer's Report:

Reviewed the financial statement dated February 29th, 2008. *Ernie Swift moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.*

Tom Tomsa recommended the Council change the wording from **approve** to **accept** the Treasurer's Report. *Tom Tomsa moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to change the wording from approve the Treasurer's Report to accept the Treasurer's Report.*

Communications:

- Resolution from the Steuben Co. Legislature to appoint Amy Dlugos (Steuben Co Planning Department) as the Legislative alternate for a 1 yr term to our Board of Directors, as a replacement for Lola Tears
- Lola Tears is at home now recovering from her fall
- IRS reported an increase in the mileage rate from \$.485 to \$.505
- Resignation of Lola Tears, Council President & Wayne Dimmick, former Council Secretary both due to health reasons

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to approve the resignation from both Lola Tears and Wayne Dimmick.

Nominating Committee's Report: (Elaine Dalrymple, Tom Tomsa, Velynda Risley)

Tom Tomsa presented the following slate of officers for 2008:

Ken Bush – President, Elaine Dalrymple – Vice President, Velynda Risley – Secretary, Greg Heffner – Treasurer

Ernie Swift moved to have the secretary cast one ballot for the Slate of Officers, Seconded by Tom Tomsa, carried.

Election of Officers:

Sam Casella moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to approve the Election of Officers for a 1 year term.

Presentation of Annual Plan of Operations:

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to approve the Annual Plan of Operations.

Tom Tomsa mentioned Pocono Northeast RC&D doing a pilot for grass pelleting.

County Reports:

None

Coordinator's Report:

NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant Applications – On behalf of the Steuben County SWCD, the Council has prepared and submitted a \$262,395.00 grant application through Round 14 of the NYSEPF program. The application entitled "Southern Tier Prescribed Grazing" has identified 25 livestock farms in Chemung & Steuben Counties who will be eligible to receive up to \$8,800.00 in cost-sharing toward the implementation of the BMPs associated with prescribed grazing. Each participant will be required to contribute a minimum of 30% of their total project's costs in the form of cash, labor, materials &/or use of equipment. The Council has also assisted Seneca County SWCD with the preparation and submission of a \$228,264.50 grant through the NYSEPF Round 14 Non-point Source Pollution Abatement Control program. The project's, state dollars will be used to assist 12 grape farms within the Seneca and Cayuga Lake Watersheds with the installation of agrichemical mixing facilities. The State's contribution toward these agrichemical mixing facilities will range from \$5,250.00 - \$19,500.00. Funding from NRCS' AMA program will be contributed toward 5 of the individual projects. The participating farms will be contributing a minimum of 23% of the overall project costs. **The NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee has approved both applications. Our office is currently assisting the Districts with preparing the required plans of work.**

Venison Donation Program – Since April 1, 2007 74,041 pounds of venison has been processed & distributed, this equates to 296,164 meals served. The Venison Donation Coalition is pursuing a new five year agreement with NYSDEC, when enacted will provide supplemental funding to the VDC for processing venison as well as promoting and administering the program state wide.

Temporary Services Agreement – The Finger Lakes RC&D Council and the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee have developed a cooperative agreement. The agreement will secure the services of the Council’s secretary, Cheryl Faucett, for the purpose of collecting information from completed NYS Environmental Protection Fund projects that are located within the Council’s six county region (Chemung, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben & Yates) and downloading the data to NRCS’ reporting system.

Toolkit serves as a retrievable data base where information regarding completed Best Management Practices is stored by farm. Cheryl has already started on entering data from Steuben County. The formal agreement will officially be between the Finger Lakes RC&D Council and Schenectady Co. SWCD, which is serving as the NYSSWCC’s agent in regards to this project.

Targeted Small Watershed Grant – In cooperation with the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, Central NY RC&D and Binghamton University, the Finger Lakes RC&D Council has prepared and submitted a grant application to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation’s Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Program. The \$200,000.00 grant application is entitled “Targeting Small Watershed for Prescribed Grazing Systems”. The project will develop a screening process for watersheds to maximize the implementation of BMPs associated with prescribed grazing systems. In addition the project intends to gain a better understanding on the patterns and mechanisms of nutrient export from the Upper Susquehanna River Basin in New York to the Chesapeake Bay.

Renewable Energy Workshop – The Finger Lakes RC&D Council has been asked to co-sponsor with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Steuben County a workshop entitled *Renewable Energy for Rural America*. Scheduled for Friday, March 28, 2008 in Bath, NY, the workshop’s topics include: Growing Grass for Hay & Biomass; Small-Scale Bio-Diesel; Solar and Wind Power for Home & the Farm as well as Micro-Hydro Power Technology.

NRCS Report:

- Dick Winnett handed out the new NRCS map set up by 7 different watersheds teams.

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
- **Annual Newsletter** – Printed and sent out approximately 725 newsletters, total cost was \$515.00
- **Ethics Policy** – Tim Hicks reported that the policy needs to be reviewed by the Ethics Committee and presented to the Council at the May meeting for approval.

New Business:

- **Change of officers on signature cards** – at the Council’s Financial Institutions to reflect the new elected officers. Add Velynda Risley as Secretary, Kenneth Bush as President and Greg Heffner, Treasurer

Ernie Swift moved to approve, seconded by Sam Casella and carried to add Velynda Risley/Secretary and to change elected officers’ titles on the Financial Institutions’ signature cards.

- **President’s proposed 2008 National RC&D Budget** –the 2008 proposed budget calls for eliminating all the RC&D Councils entirely. Farm Bill recommends a RC&D Coordinator for every RC&D in the Country.
- **Memo of understanding (MOU) with NRCS** – working on an example of an (MOU) provision that could be written for the RC&D employee to ride in the government vehicle.
- **Carbon Trading Workshop** – Set up a downlink in Canandaigua/CCE for training on Carbon Trading. Involves building facility to capture methane to keep the pollutants out of the air. Only 1 site available for this training in all of Western NY. Asking Council to sponsor this training.

Sam Casella moved to approve, seconded by Taylor Fitch and carried to sponsor up to \$300.00 for the training at the Canandaigua CCE building.

Barb McGuffie mentioned about getting in touch with an RC&D Coordinator in Albany to inquire about a program for the purpose of providing fresh fruits & vegetables to local schools.

Other Business:

- **Workers Compensation Policy** – Presented to the BOD the issue regarding the Workers Compensation penalty which resulted in a penalty reduction from \$10,000 to \$1,000 for not having a WC policy in place.
- **Agreement between FL RC&D & Schenectady Co SWCD** – updated the Board on the progress of the final stages of the agreement to have the Council provide temporary services to the NYSS&WCC.
- **Annual Federation of RC&D Council Meeting** – Dick Winnett & Ken Bush attended the meeting in Syracuse. Reported the current President resigned and the Federation elected Judy Wendt from the Black- River St. Lawrence RC&D Council as President, Ken Bush, VP, Tom Goodwin, Secretary, Shelagh Baily, Treasurer
- **Area Plan Update** – This is a strategic plan that is due every 5 years. It covers geography, resources and demographics. In order to complete this plan, the Council sent out over 200 surveys so the Council can combine results to see what areas of resource, conservation and development need to be addressed.

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):

- **Alternative Energy Powered Livestock Watering System (using wind) Project** - to be submitted to CIGs (Conservation Innovation Grants) Program
- **Renewable Energy Workshop** – scheduled for 3/28/08 co-sponsored with CCE of Steuben Co

Motion to accept the Alternative Energy Powered Livestock Watering System and Renewable Energy Workshop/CCE was made by Velynda Risley and seconded by Ernie Swift and Carried. Tom Tomsa abstained.

Next meeting is scheduled for Noon on May 21st, 2008 for the Annual Luncheon held in Chemung County, at the Wings of Eagle Discovery Center, Elmira-Corning Regional Airport, 17 Aviation Dr. Horseheads, NY 14845 www.wingsofeagles.com

Velynda Risley made a motion to adjourn at 2:30pm and was seconded by Tom Tomsa and Carried.