



**Finger Lakes**  
**Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.**  
CHEMUNG, ONTARIO, SCHUYLER, SENECA, STEUBEN, AND YATES COUNTIES, NEW YORK  
415 West Morris Street, Bath, New York 14810  
(607) 776-7398 Ext. 5 Fax: (607) 776-7487  
Email: [fingerlakesrcd@earthlink.net](mailto:fingerlakesrcd@earthlink.net)

## Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Dormann Library, Bath, NY

In Attendance:

### **Chemung County**

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

### **Ontario County**

None

### **Schuyler County**

Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep  
Elaine Dalrymple, S&WCD Rep  
Brett Chedzoy, Member @ Large

### **Seneca County**

Kristin White, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)

### **Steuben County**

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

### **Yates County**

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

### **RC&D Staff**

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

### **Introduction of Guests**

**Meeting called to order** by President, Kenneth Bush at **1:01 P.M.**

### **Approval of Minutes of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 Council Meeting.**

*Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009.*

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009. ***The Treasurer's report was filed for audit. Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to transfer the remainder of the AEM Grant (\$415) to the general fund.***

**Communications:** None

**Appointment of Nominating Committee: 2/12/09 via telephone:**

*Jim Balyszak; P.J. Emerick; Tim Hicks*

**Nominating Committee's Report: (Jim Balyszak, P.J. Emerick, Tim Hicks)**

**Tim Hicks** presented the following slate of officers for 2009:

Ken Bush – President, Elaine Dalrymple – Vice President, Velynda Risley – Secretary, Greg Heffner – Treasurer  
***Dick Gunderman moved to have the secretary cast one ballot for the Slate of Officers, Seconded by Velynda Risley, carried.***

**Election of Officers:**

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

**Appointment of Budget Committee:**

Velynda Risley, Greg Heffner, Dick Winnett to assist

**Presentation of Annual Plan of Operations:**

***Tim Hicks moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to approve the Annual Plan of Operations.***

**County Reports:**

– None

**Coordinator's Report:**

**Chemung River Basin Grazing Grant #3** – This Round 10 NYSEPF grant has been closed out as of February 17, 2009. This \$180,720.00 grant has provided a maximum of \$8,800.00 to nineteen livestock farms which are located in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties. The participants contributed \$112,270.00 of cash, labor, materials &/or equipment toward their shares of the projects. Resulting from this grant was the installation of 947 acres of prescribed grazing; 139,787 feet of fencing; nineteen grazing plans; 1,050 feet of pipeline and 2 livestock watering facilities installed.

**Venison Donation Program** – As of 3/17/2009 a total of 75,972 pounds of legally harvested venison has been donated to and distributed by New York's eight regional foodbanks. The Venison Donation Coalition in cooperation with the New York Farm Bureau and the New York Association of Food Banks is pursuing \$.50/license of the proposed license fee increase being circulated through Albany.

**Hydro-Seeding Grant Application** – Working in collaboration with the Schuyler and Steuben County SWCDs, the Finger Lakes RC&D Council has prepared and submitted a grant application to the Great Lakes Commission's Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Program. The purpose of this \$27,733.00 grant is to demonstrate the effectiveness of the Earth Guard Fiber Matrix Tackifier. The Fiber Matrix is incorporated into hydro-seeding mixture to be applied to approximately 7 miles of road ditches & roadbanks in the Seneca and Keuka Lakes Watersheds.

**Economic Stimulus Package** – Following up on a request from NRCS in Syracuse the Finger Lakes RC&D Council has assembled a list of shovel ready projects that will be forwarded onto NRCS in Washington. The list of proposed projects total 6 projects dealing with alternative and renewable energy, streambank stabilization and agricultural waste management. The projects totaled more than \$6million.

**Chemung River Basin Grazing Grant #4** – Twelve of the 21 grant participants have completed their respective projects. Five participants have partially completed their work, while 4 farms have yet to start their projects. The total value of this Round 11 NYSEPF grant is \$207,040.00. As of 2/28/09 \$150,272.00 has been expended. The participants have contributed \$92,872.00 in the form of cash&/or in-kind services. 692 acres of prescribed grazing; 110,844' of fencing; 19 livestock watering facilities as well as 3,450' of pipeline have been installed through this contract.

### NRCS Report:

- RC&D funding for Fiscal Year 2009 is still the same as last year's \$51million budget.
- President Obama has proposed to zero out the RC&D program in the 2009 budget

### Old Business:

- **Presentation of Annual 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 700 newsletters, total cost was approx \$515.00
- **Marcellus Shale – NYSDEC Scoping Document** – Elaine D. reported a brief summary of the recently released Scoping Report prepared by the NYSDEC regarding horizontal hydro-fracing gas drilling
- **Marcellus Shale** – Brett Chedzoy clarified up coming committee meeting on 4/6/09 which is planning Marcellus Shale summit meeting.
- **RC&D Website** – Dick W. reported that the RC&D website had been under maintenance (changing host) through the CCE of Steuben. It is now up and running.
- **Northeastern Forest Products Expo Educational Seminars** – Brett Chedzoy spoke about Northeastern Forest Products Expo that will take place at the Watkins Glen International Speedway:  
*Invasive Species and their Impact on Our Forests on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 1:30 – 4:30pm*  
*Business Skills for the Woods on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2009 10:00 – 12:30pm*

### New Business:

- None

### Other Business:

- **Annual Federation of RC&D Council Meeting** – Dick Winnett & Ken Bush attended the meeting in Syracuse on 2/5/09. Reported the current officers are: Sharon Ruggi as President, Ken Bush, VP, Neil Cheney, Secretary, Shelagh Baily, Treasurer. Ken B. also reported that Sharon Ruggi is proposing to pay dues directly to the Nat'l Association of RC&D Councils in place of the Mid-Atlantic Assoc. By doing so the Council would likely receive more benefit for the dues paid. The next NY Federation meeting will be 4/15/09 in Syracuse.
- **Nat'l RC&D Conference** – New Mexico 6/14 – 6/17/09. Total cost for a council member to attend would be approx. \$2,000.00. *Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to approve up to \$2,500.00 for a Council member to attend the Nat'l RC&D Conference in New Mexico.*
- **Annual Civil Rights Review** – Dick Winnett presented a power point program on Board Diversification.
- Finger Lakes RC&D Council's 5 Year Area Plan which was originally accepted by the RC&D Council Board on 7/16/08 needed to be revised and signed again by President Ken Bush. This was authorized by consensus.

### **Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):**

- **Finger Lakes Sustainable Ag Conference – 2 day conference at the Inn on the Lake, Canandaigua, NY August 2009**

*Tim Hicks moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to approve a \$500.00 contribution toward the Finger Lakes Sustainable Ag Conference.*

Next meeting is scheduled for Noon on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 for the Annual Luncheon held in Schuyler County, at the Logan Ridge Estates, 3800 Ball Diamond Rd., Hector, NY 14841 [www.loganridge.com](http://www.loganridge.com)

*Dick Gunderman made a motion to adjourn at 2:26pm, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried.*