



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

Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, March 17th, 2010 at the Schuyler Co Shared Services Building, Watkins Glen, NY

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Karen Tillotson, Member @ Large
Dick Gunderman, Legislative Rep

Ontario County

P.J. Emerick, S&WCD Rep
Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors Rep

Schuyler County

Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep
Elaine Dalrymple, S&WCD Rep
Brett Chedzoy, Member @ Large
Glenn Larison, Legislature Rep (Alternate)

Seneca County

Kristin White, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)
Frank Sinicropi, Board of Supervisors Rep

Steuben County

Velynda Risley, Member @ Large Rep (Alternate)
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep
Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
David Mortensen, NRCS

Yates County

Jim Balyszak, S&WCD Rep
Rick Willson, Legislature Rep

RC&D Staff

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

Absent from Meeting – Ken Bush, Chemung Co., Jim Malyj, Seneca Co., Ernie Swift, Steuben Co., John Keidel, Yates Co.,

Introduction of Guests

Rick Willson, Yates Co Legislature (replaced Taylor Fitch)

Meeting called to order by Vice President, Elaine Dalrymple at **1:02 P.M.**

Approval of Minutes of January 20, 2010 Council Meeting.

P.J. Emerick moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of January 20, 2010.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated February 28th, 2010. *The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.*

Communications:

- Venison Donation Coalition received a letter from Senator George Winner that a Member Item has been approved for \$20,000.00
- Received notice of appointment for Glenn Larison, Schuyler Co Legislature
- Received notice of appointments for Greg Heffner, Steuben Co Legislature & Amy Dlugos, Steuben Co Legislature Rep
- National Association of RC&D Councils has elected a new President, James Sipperly. James is from Connecticut and has been involved with RC&D's since 1994.
- NYS Council of Non-Profits is offering the following workshops for our Council Board Members at a reduced rate:
 - April 8th, Binghamton – Legal Aid for Board Members*
 - April 8th, Binghamton – Human Resource Issues for Board Members*
 - April 9th, Binghamton – Non-profit accounting basics for Board Members*
- Received copies of Resolutions that were presented at the Employees Association meeting those were as follows:
 - Asking NRCS to provide funding to the Districts for each hour of assistance that the Districts provide on planning, surveying, designing and making site visits for federal projects. NRCS agreed upon a 75% reimbursement.*
 - NYS District Employees Association to development Civil Service Study Guides for technical aspects of testing.*
 - Pursue funding for SWCD's for services provided to assist with monitoring and mitigating of natural gas exploration.*

Board Members Nominating Committee's Report: (Jim Balyszak, Karen Tillotson, Tim Hicks)

Karen Tillotson presented the following slate of officers for 2010:

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

Presentation of Annual Plan of Operations:

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

County Reports: None

Coordinator's Report:

Great Lakes Basin Grant – A \$29,500.00 grant application has been prepared & submitted to the Great Lakes Basin Program's Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Initiative. The grant application is requesting funding to install BMPs on three livestock operations within the Keuka Lake Watershed for the purpose of excluding livestock from water courses which drain into Keuka Lake.

Contribution Agreement w/NRCS – The Finger Lakes RC&D Council is approximately halfway through this contract having earned \$6,210.00 since September 16, 2009. Cheryl Faucett, RC&D Program Assistant has been providing technical support to the NRCS office in Bath. Cheryl's assistance has included preparing EQIP participants' files; preparing HEL determination maps; preparing maps in toolkit; mailing & filing EQIP applications; scanning documents for processing payments and other duties as requested.

NFWF Grant Application – A pre-application entitled "Agricultural Environmental Management Planning Process" has been submitted to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation's 2010 Chesapeake Bay Innovative Nutrient & Sediment Reduction program. The pre-proposal is requesting \$230,000.00 to install BMPs in the Chemung River Basin that will exclude livestock form tributaries that drain into the Chemung. The proposal

expects to use the AEM planning process to prioritize the order in which BMPs will be installed on 15 livestock farms in the Chemung Basin.

Understanding Insurance Services Office Workshop – We are still attempting to set up a one day workshop in the northern portion of the Finger Lakes RC&D area at which training will be to provide fire districts a better understanding of ISO ratings and how insurance premiums can be lowered. Although details have yet to be finalized, we are looking at the workshop being held this fall.

NRCS Report:

- RC&D funding for Fiscal Year 2010 is still the same as last year's \$51million budget. President Obama has proposed to zero out the RC&D program in the 2011 budget. Council members sent out letters to their local officials for support.
- Dick Winnett provided a power point regarding the evaluation of all 375 RC&D's. The process is based on performance and is overseen by NRCS's "Program Improvement Team".

Old Business:

- **Circle of Diamonds/Enhanced Application** – Upon approval of the Council's Annual Plan we will receive the Enhanced Status.
- **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 mailed out approximately 800 newsletters, total cost was \$940.73.

New Business:

- **NY Federation of RC&D Council's Update** – Velynda R. and Dick W. participated in a teleconference in February. There has been a change in leadership in the NY Federation:
Brian Zimmerman, President (DM, Nassau Co SWCD) from Lower Hudson-Long Island RC&D Council.
Ken Bush, Vice President from Finger Lakes RC&D Council
Brian Wohnsiedler, Treasurer (DM, Jefferson Co SWCD) from Black River-St. Lawrence RC&D Council
Rochelle Bell, Secretary (Monroe Co Dept of Planning) from Lake Plains RC&D Council.
Debbie Hawkins, Bookkeeper from Central NY RC&D Project
- NY Federation board members did not accept the financial report due to some errors that were found, it will be reviewed on the next teleconference that is scheduled.
- **Mid Atlantic Association of RC&D Council's Annual Meeting** – Annapolis, MD, September 14-17, 2010
- **Enhanced Circle of Diamonds** – one of the requirements was to demonstrate that we had a Fund Raising Program. So the Council has in place a Fund Raising Initiative. ***Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Sam Casella and carried to approve the Fund Raising Initiative.***

Other Business:

- **Annual Civil Rights Review** – Dick Winnett presented a power point program on Board Diversification.

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):

- **Livestock Exclusion in Keuka Lake Watershed**
- **Growing and Using Perennial Grasses for Biomass – Workshop, Friday 3/26/10.**

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to approve the Livestock Exclusion in Keuka Lake Watershed and the Great Lakes Basin Grants.

Next meeting is scheduled for Noon on May 19th, 2010 at the Fox Run Winery, 670 Route 14, Penn Yan, NY.

Dick Gunderman made a motion to adjourn at 2:16pm, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried.

