



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: flrcd@infofld.net

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Friday, May 20th at Knapp Winery and Restaurant, Romulus, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Ken Bush, SWCD Rep.

Ontario County

Tom DeRue, SWCD Rep

Doris Kenny, Alternate SWCD Rep

Schuyler County

Wayne Dimmick, SWCD Rep

Jim Ochterski, Legislature Rep

Suzanne Learn, Member at Large, Alternate

Seneca County

Jim Malyj, SWCD Rep

Ron Vanacore, NRCS

Nancy O' Connor, Alternate SWCD Rep

Frank Sinicropi, Seneca Co. Board of Supervisors, Rep.

Steuben County

Greg Heffner, Alternate Co. Legislature

Lola Tears, Legislature Rep.

Jeff Parker, SWCD Rep

Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep

Yates County

Marion Balyszak, Member at Large

RC & D Office Staff

Dick Winnett, RC & D Coordinator

Guest

Karen Tillotson, Temp. Secretary

John Wickham, Grazing Advocate

John Lewkowitz, Foodbank of Southern Tier

Bill Henning, Cornell University

Elisabeth Freier, Seneca Co. SWCD

Tom Brace, NYSSWCC

John Wildeman, Grazing Advocate

Erin Peruzzini, Seneca Co. SWCD

Patsy Amidon, Seneca Co. Board of Supervisors

Velynda Risley, Steuben Co. SWCD

Meeting called to order by President Lola Tears @ 12:35.

Introduction of Guest: All present introduced themselves and told which County they represented.

Approval of minutes: Gregg Heffner made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Seconded by Ken Bush. Carried

Treasurer's Report: Gregg Heffner presented the Treasurer's report. Ernie Swift made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Wayne Dimmick. Carried.

Fluvial Geomorphology Workshop Funds: Dick Winnett explained that there was a balance of \$174. This grant has been closed out and Dick Winnett recommended to transfer this to the general funds. *Doris Kenny made a motion to transfer funds from the Fluvial Geomorphology account into the general funds. Seconded by Nancy O' Connor. Carried*

The meeting was postponed at 12:45 for lunch and reconvened at 1:10.

2005-2006 Budget: Gregg Heffner presented the 2005-2006 budget. There were no questions on the budget. *Gregg Heffner made a motion to accept the 2005-2006 budget as presented. Seconded by Ken Bush. Carried*

Recognition of Length of Service:

Dick Winnett explained that the Council honors those that have been involved with the Council in five year increments. The following three were honored at today's meeting.

Dave Dupont of Steuben Co. for 20 years of service
Mark Watts of Chemung Co. for 15 years of service
Ernie Swift of Steuben Co. for 5 years of service

Presentation by Bill Henning:

Dick Winnett introduced Bill Henning. Bill worked with the Council for two years as a Grazing Advocate. Bill then was hired by Cornell University as a Small Farms Specialist. Bill Henning presented a PowerPoint Presentation on Finger Lakes Grazing Practices.

Comments from Federal/State Legislators:

Not present.

NRCS Comments:

Not present.

Coordinator's Report:

Dick Winnett had a hand out of what activities took place. This will be on file in the book of minutes.

Old Business:

A. Mid Atlantic RC & D meeting 9/20-9/23/05 @ West Point NY:

New York will be hosting this meeting this year. At the March meeting it was approved to contribute \$500 for this meeting. The council was billed \$100.00 and sent this money in. The Finger Lakes RC & D was asked to supply some wine. Letters have gone out to wineries asking for donations. *A motion was made by Gregg Heffner to allow spending up to \$2,000 for Ken and Lola to attend the Mid Atlantic meeting. Seconded by Jeff Paker. Carried*

B. Update on National RC & D Budget:

At the last meeting, Dick informed the committee that President Bush recommended that all RC & D's that are twenty years in service or older have their funding eliminated. In NY there are eight RC & D's with five of them fitting into that category. As of yesterday, an e-mail from Washington was received stating that the House of Representative's Ag Appropriation Committee had recommended that the RC & D budget be set at 51.6 million which is about the same as last year. The word from the state office is that by June or July they should know where RC & D will stand.

C. Report on NY Federation of RC & D Council meeting March 28th, 2005:

Lola, Ken and Dick attended this meeting. Dick did informed the council that the RC & D Coordinator of Technical Support for the Hudson-Mohawk RC& D, Mark Grennan, has accepted a promotion as the Area Conservationist position just North of New York City. The technical support position is now open. Shelia Bailey, President of the NY Federation gave an update on the National Leadership Conference, which was held in February in Washington. People from all over the U.S. visited congressional leaders in their offices. Shelia Bailey was re-elected as president, and Tom Goodwin was elected secretary. One hundred dollars was allocated to help sponsor the National Soil & Water Conservation Society.

D. Secretary Position:

At the last meeting it was approved to hire a temporary secretary due to Joyce Baxter being on an extended medical leave. As of last Thursday Joyce is still on medical leave indefinitely. NRCS will not provide a secretary through this fiscal year, which is until the end of September. Dick would like to propose the following: **Current grant money contracted with Snelling, Employment Agency in Corning, has about \$600 left in it for personnel. There is another grant coming on line with \$1,300 for personnel services. Dick would like to be authorized to use this funding to hire a temporary secretary to work no more than twenty hours a week.** *A motion was made by Gregg Heffner to authorize funds from grants to be used to hire a temporary secretary. Seconded by Ernie Swift. Tom DeRue stated that he had concerns that this was a full-time federal position for many years and that the federal government should fill this position. Carried*

New Business:

National Soil & Water Conservation Society Annual meeting, Rochester, NY 7/30-8/4/2005:

Dick would like the Board to appropriate \$100 towards this meeting. This would get the Finger Lakes RC & D name on the Banner. *A motion was made by Ken Bush to appropriate the \$100. Seconded by Doris Kenney. Carried*

Other Business:

None

Approval/Cancellation of Measures:

The Finger Lakes RC & D has been approached by an RC & D Council in Pennsylvania to collaborate on a grant that they are working on to submit to SARE. They would like to do a demonstration project on animal walkways and or animal trails. Dick would like to get approval to put this on the books. It is entitled "Animal Walkway Demonstration Project" and has no cost to it. *A motion was made by Gregg Heffner to work with the Pennsylvania RC & D on this project. Seconded by Ernie Swift. Carried.*

Date, Time & Place of next meeting-July 20, 2005:

This will be held at the Schuyler County Rural Urban Center at 1:00 pm.

Gregg Heffner made a motion to adjourn at 2:07pm. Seconded by Doris Kenny. Carried

RCDminutes5.20.05