



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, May 17th, 2006 at the Glenn H. Curtiss Museum, Hammondsport, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Ken Bush, SWCD Rep
Dick Gunderman, Legislature Rep
Karen Tillotson, Member @ Large

Ontario County

Tom DeRue, SWCD Rep
Doris Kenny, SWCD Rep (Alternate)

Schuyler County

Suzanne Learn, SWCD Rep

Seneca County

Jim Malyj, SWCD Rep
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, Coop Ext, Member @ Large

Yates County

Taylor Fitch, Legislature Rep

RC&D Staff

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

Guests

Joe Hamm, Rep for Senator Charles Schumer
John Wickham, Grazing Consultant
Bill Henning, Cornell University
John Wildeman, Grazing Consultant
Mark Alger, Steuben County Administrator

Meeting called to order by President, Lola Tears at **12:55 P.M.**

Lola asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes of March 15th, 2006 Council Meeting.

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of March 15th, 2006.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statements dated March 31st & April 30th, 2006. **Taylor Fitch moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman** and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Communications:

- Seneca Trail RC&D sent a letter of Thanks for the \$200.00 contribution I.E./Grassland Evaluation Contest
- FL-LOWPA funding, received letters of support from Senators Winner & Nozzolio
- Nat'l Assoc RC&D Council/raffle tickets/council sold 10 total

Presentation of Budget:

Taylor Fitch moved to approve, seconded by Ken Bush and carried to approve the 2006-2007 Budget

Recognition of Members-Length of Service

- Wayne Dimmick – 25 years
- Nancy O'Connor – 10 years

County Report:

There were no county reports:

Presentation on Stream Management/Protection:

- Karen Tillotson, Chemung Co S&WCD provided a power point presentation on Stream Management and erosion control

Comments from Federal & State Legislators:

- Joe Hamm/Rep from Senator Schumer's spoke and thanked the Council for the invitation, he also left business cards.

NRCS Report:

- Bob Hartwick (Area Conservationist of Batavia) spoke regarding Ronald Alvarado/State Conservationist who has replaced Joe DeVecchio.
- Discussed various NRCS programs and their current status in New York.

Coordinator's Report:

- Handout provided to Council.

Old Business:

- **Update on National RC&D Budget** - On behalf of Lola Tears, Dick Winnett provided a Legislative Update –May 16, 2006 from the *House of Representatives* stating "For RC&D's, the Committee provides an appropriation of \$50,787,000, the same as the amount available for fiscal year 2006 and an increase of \$24,854,000 above the budget request by the President. The recommendation includes funding for each of the 375 RC&D Councils to have a Federal coordinator. The committee notes that no pilot test or cost analysis was conducted to determine the feasibility of such an action, or the potential effect on Council performance. This is a concern, considering that the coordinator plays an important role in leveraging Federal funding to meet local needs. According to data provided by NRCS for the Record, Federal funding to Councils is matched by non-Federal funding at an eight-to-one ratio; in fiscal year 2005, Federal funding to councils totaled \$51,641,000; non-Federal assistance totaled \$416,027,000". **Joe Hamm** stated "he would ask Senator Schumer to write a letter of support to the Senate Appropriation Committee".
- **Status of the RC&D Secretary:** No change – still hiring through Kelly Services
- **Nat'l RC&D conference 6/18/06-6/20/06 in Savannah, GA:** Ken & (Virginia) Bush and Jim Ochterski will be attending, due to budget cuts, attendees are very limited. Submitted a success story by Jim Ochterski regarding "*Compatibility of Grassland Nesting Birds Habitat with Grazing*" and this was accepted for presentation.

New Business:

– None

Other Business:

– None

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures): Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing-Phase 6 & Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Project #2 *Motion to accept the 2006 Project was made by Taylor Fitch and seconded by Greg Heffner, carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on July 19, 2006, Schuyler Co. Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY

Greg Heffner made a motion to adjourn at 1:40pm and was seconded by Dick G. Carried.