



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 21st, 2008 at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, Horseheads, NY

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Ken Bush, SWCD Rep
Dick Gunderman, Legislature Rep

Ontario County

Schuyler County

Glenn Larison, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
Elaine Dalrymple, SWCD Rep
Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep

Seneca County

Jim Malyj, SWCD Rep
Frank Sinicropi, Board of Supervisors Rep

Steuben County

Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep. (Alternate)
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep
Jonathan Barter, Steuben Co SWCD, Member @ Large (Alternate)

Yates County

RC&D Staff

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

Guests

Phil Palmesano, Rep/NYS Senator Winner
Don Pettit, NRCS, Acting State Conservationist
John Pastrich, Chemung Co Legislature
Mark Alger, Steuben County Administrator
Chris Wager, Farm Service Agency
Doug Donner, Farm Service Agency
John Wickham, Grazing Consultant, Schuyler Co
Erin Peruzzini, Seneca Co SWCD
Kathy Mastellar, Farm Service Agency
Nancy Glazier, CCE, NW NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team
Tom Hauryski, USDA Rural Development
Marge Evaneck, USDA Rural Development
Sandy Faucett, USDA Rural Development
John Wildeman, Grazing Consultant, Steuben Co
Brett Chedzoy, CCE, Schuyler Co
Les Travis, NYS S&WCC
Lola Tears, Retired Finger Lakes President

Meeting called to order by President, Kenneth Bush at 12:45p.m.

Introduction of Guests:

Ken B. asked everyone to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes of March 19th, 2008 Council Meeting:

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of March 19th, 2008.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statements dated March 31st & April 30th, 2008. *Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Tim Hicks and carried to approve both Treasurer's Reports.*

Communications:

- Received a letter of apology from Congressman Kuhl and Assemblyman Bacalles stating that they would not be able to attend the meeting due to prior commitments.
- Received a letter from the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, Inc. a non-profit organization that provided technical oversight to the Seneca Watershed, informing the Council that they have dissolved effective April 30, 2008.
- Congratulated Ken & Virginia Bush on receiving the Chemung County Youth Bureau's 2008 Daniel J. Donahoe Award. This award established in 1984 is given annually to an adult(s) to honor outstanding service to the youth and families of the community.

Presentation of 2008-2009 Budget:

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to approve the 2008-2009 Budget

Recognition of Members-Length of Service

- Sam Casella – 10 years
- Elaine Dalrymple – 15 years
- Al McGuffie – 15 years
- Barb McGuffie – 15 years
- Lola Tears – 14 years (Presented a clock) (Resigned in March due to health issues)

County Reports:

- None (Annual Luncheon)

Comments from Federal & State Legislators:

- Phil Palmesano, Representative from NYS Senator Winner's office complimented the Council on its successes over the years and stated the Senator is always available to provide assistance whenever he can

NRCS Report:

- Don Pettit, Acting State Conservationist for NRCS congratulated the Council on its efforts over the years and noted how the Council was able to obtain outside funding to do such a wide array of projects. Don also updated the Council on the status of the 2007 Farm Bill specifically that both Houses had passed the Farm Bill although the President had proposed a veto. He also noted that the current administration had zeroed out the RC&D program in the FY 2009 budget. However, Congress has demonstrated strong support for the RC&D program nationwide and we will just have to wait and see how the new budget develops. Don Commented that 20 years ago most RC&D work was funded thru the former Soil Conservation Service now NRCS and the Council now epitomized how a Council could serve as a catalyst to getting work done.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association sponsorship for the 2008 annual meeting in New Jersey – *Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to sponsor the meeting with a donation of \$500.00*

Other Business:

– None

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures): 2008-2009 Venison Donation Program;
Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Tim Hicks and carried.

Review of Finger Lakes RC&D Council's accomplishments – Power Point by Dick Winnett

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on July 16th, 2008, Schuyler Co. Human Resource Center,
Montour Falls, NY

Dick Gunderman made a motion to adjourn at 1:36pm and was seconded by Greg Heffner, Carried.

Tour of the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center