



**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 Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009 at the Logan Ridge Estates, Hector, NY

In Attendance:

### Chemung County

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

### Ontario County

P.J. Emerick, SWCD Rep

### Schuyler County

Brett Chedzoy, Member @ Large  
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

### Yates County

John Keidel, Member @ Large

### RC&D Staff

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

### Guests

Erin Peruzzini, Seneca Co SWCD  
Kathy Mastellar, Farm Service Agency  
Nancy Glazier, CCE, NW NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team  
John Hanchar, CCE, NW NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team  
Dennis DeWeese, NRCS, Asst State Conservationist, Syracuse, NY  
Jim Ochterski, CCE, Ontario Co

**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 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Council Meeting:

*Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009.*

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

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statements dated March 31<sup>st</sup> & April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009. *The Treasurer's reports were filed for audit.*

*P.J. Emerick moved to approve, seconded by Tim Hicks and carried to transfer the remainder of the AEM Grant (\$415) to the general fund.*

### **Communications:**

- Received a letter of apology from Assemblyman Bacalles and an e-mail from Senator Gillibrand stating that they would not be able to attend the annual RC&D luncheon meeting due to prior commitments.

### **Presentation of 2009-2010 Budget:**

*Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to approve the 2009-2010 Budget*

### **Recognition of Members-Length of Service**

- Greg Heffner – 10 years
- Jeff Parker – 10 years
- Ken Bush – 15 years
- Jim Malyj – 20 years

### **County Reports:**

- None (Annual Luncheon)

### **Comments from Federal & State Legislators:**

- None (None in Attendance)

### **Comments from USDA-NRCS Representatives:**

- Dennis DeWeese, Asst. State Conservation for NRCS spoke on behalf of Astor Boozer, the new State Conservationist and Astor's regrets for not being able to attend the meeting
- Dennis spoke a little about the 2007 Farm Bill, RC&D Program, and NRCS' Organic Initiative through EQIP. Also, the RC&D's were asked for a list of "shovel ready" projects that could be funded through the stimulus program.

### **Presentation on Finger Lakes Sustainable Ag Center - Jim Ochterski**

- Jim's power point presentation described the activities of the Finger Lakes Sustainable Ag Center over the past 3 years. The center is virtual center being located on the internet. Jim highlighted activities such as annual summer tours, workshops the center has sponsored &/or co-sponsored, as well as this summer's 2 day conference on Sustainable Ag being held August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at the Inn on the Lake, Canandaigua, NY. The presentation was well received with some questions generated by Jim's presentation. The Finger Lakes RC&D Council is a co-sponsor of this summer conference.

### **Old Business:**

- **Marcellus Shale Update** - Brett Chedzoy shared with the Council & guests a power point presentation regarding a tour, he took in Northern Pennsylvania earlier in April, of a number of horizontal drilling sites which would be similar to what gas exploration companies would be installing within the area where the Marcellus Shale reservoir is found. The photos that Brett shared were certainly thought provoking. The Council's position continues to be one of education, not a position of for/against the Marcellus drilling.
- Dick W. spoke about the Venison Donation Program, 85,140 pounds for the 2008 season. Groups lobbying on the \$.50 license increase to be used for the VDC program to help offset the processing costs. With the NYS budget cuts, the VDC program funding from the DEC has been cut substantially.

### **New Business:**

- **NFWF: Natural Stream Design Grant** – Dick W. reported that this grant that was written on behalf of the FL RC&D Council in the amount of \$399,000.00 was approved. This grant involves the Steuben, Chemung & Schuyler Co Soil & Water Conservation Districts.

**Other Business:**

- **Nat'l RC&D Conference** – New Mexico 6/14 – 6/17/09.

*Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Tim Hicks and carried to approve John Keidel as the Council's representative while attending the Nat'l RC&D Conference in New Mexico.*

**Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures): 2009-2010 Venison Donation Program;**

*Frank Sinicropi moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled for 12:00pm on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Chemung Co. Conservation Bldg (County Fairgrounds, Horseheads, NY). The meeting will be preceded by a summer picnic consisting of hotdogs, cold salad, potato chips, drink.

*Greg Heffner made a motion to adjourn at 2:45pm and was seconded by Dick Gunderman, Carried.*