



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 19th, 2010 at the Fox Run Vineyards, Penn Yan, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

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

Ontario County

P.J. Emerick, SWCD Rep
Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors 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
Kristin White, SWCD Rep (Alternate)

Steuben County

Velynda Risley, SWCD Rep
Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large
Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep. (Alternate)
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep
Dave Mortensen, NRCS, Steuben Co

Yates County

John Keidel, Member @ Large
Jim Balyszak, SWCD Rep

RC&D Staff

Dick Winnett, Coordinator, Finger Lakes RC&D Coordinator
Cheryl Faucett, Finger Lakes RC&D Program Assistant

Guests

Bobbie Harrison, CCE-Seneca Co
John Hovanesian, Lake Plains RC&D Council, Albion, NY
Carol Culhane, Lake Plains RC&D Council, Chair, Albion, NY
Nancy Glazier, CCE, NW NY Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team
Jonathan Barter, Steuben Co SWCD
Dennis DeWeese, NRCS, Asst State Conservationist, Syracuse, NY
Mark Alger, Steuben Co Administrator
Jessica Verrigni, Chemung Co SWCD
Diane Fiorentino, Chemung Co SWCD
Tim O'Hearn, Schuyler Co Administrator
John Wickham, Schuyler Co SWCD

Guests – (continued)

Les Travis, NYS Ag & Markets
Larry Lewis, Yates Co. SWCD, Chair

In the absence of Council President Ken Bush, who is still recovering from surgery, but is doing better the Meeting called to order by Vice President, Elaine Dalrymple at **12:50p.m.**

Introduction of Guests:

Elaine D. asked everyone to introduce themselves. Dick Winnett spoke about the passing of one of our long term Board Members' Wayne Dimmick who served on the Board for over 27 years, he will be missed.

Approval of Minutes of March 17th, 2010 Council Meeting:

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of March 17th, 2010.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statements dated March 31st & April 30th, 2010. *The Treasurer's reports were filed for audit.*

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to transfer the Certificate of Deposit that matured on May 5th, 2010 to the general fund.

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to close out the Finger Lakes Grazing-NYSEPF Round 12 Grant.

Communications:

– None

Presentation of 2010-2011 Budget:

– *Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to approve the 2010-2011 Budget*

Recognition of Members-Length of Service

– Ernie Swift – 10 years
– Mark Watts – 20 years

County Reports:

– None (Annual Luncheon)

Comments from Federal & State Legislators:

– None (None in Attendance)

Comments from USDA-NRCS Representatives – Dennis DeWeese/NRCS, Syracuse

- Dennis DeWeese, Asst. State Conservationist for Conservation Operations/NRCS brought the Council up to date on the National level. As a result of the last appropriation to the RC&D program, a Performance Improvement Team has been formed which is administered by NRCS. The House and Senate appropriation language tasked the Dept of Agriculture to perform criteria which will help identify performing and non-performing RC&D Councils. Dennis stated “there are no non-performing RC&D Councils in New York State at this time”. The NRCS agency developed the criteria, which have been discussed with the Senate and the House appropriations committees and are in concurrence with the following 7 criteria which are the standards to be a Performing Council: *Area Plan, Annual Plan, Annual Report, NRCS Quality Assurance Review, Financial Outside Audit, Non Profit Status, Achieve 1:1Leverage with the Federal Assistance.* Dennis stated that Finger Lakes RC&D Council has met the 7 criteria.
- Dennis mentioned the FY 2011 part of the 2010 appropriation language, President Obama has zeroed out the RC&D program in the budget. Several Councils have contacted Federal Legislators to return the 2011 budget to FY 2010 levels.
- Dennis also mentioned that there are a lot of things going on in the Agency with the Farm Bill, including the Energy Audits, Organic, Initiatives in NY for High Seasonal Tunnels (Hoop Houses) through AMA programs. New funding through the Environmental Protection Agency through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, NRCS entered into an agreement with EPA transferring some funding to NRCS to go into the Farm Bill Program using that program to fund activities to benefit the Great Lakes.

Presentation on Rural Stormwater Coalition – Jessica Verrigni & Diane Fiorentino, Chemung Co

- Diane Fiorentino & Jessica Verrigni provided a power point presentation on the Rural Stormwater Coalition and the Chemung County Stormwater Committee, they both did an exceptional job.

Old Business:

- **Authorization to attend the Mid-Atlantic RC&D Meeting** – The meeting will be held in Annapolis, MD 9/14/10-9/17/10 at the Double Tree Inn. The cost is approximately \$800.00 per person for room and meals. *Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to approve up to 3 people to attend the Mid-Atlantic meeting in Maryland.*
- **Annual Audit** – EPF Group will conduct the annual audit and hopefully it will be presented at the meeting in July 2010.
- **Annual RC&D Assessment Checklist** – This is the checklist that has the 7 criteria that the Council has met. This checklist has been sent to NRCS/Syracuse for approval. The Council has a 10:1 ratio for Federal leverage vs. the 1:1 that is required.
- **Circle of Diamonds** – Member since 2004 at the basic level. The Council has pursued the Enhanced Level and are one of the 4 in the Country to be approved for this level.
- **Proposed Livestock Exclusion Grant** – This proposal was submitted under Round 15 Grant, unfortunately this did not get funded. Resubmitted under Round 16 with some changes, have not heard funding status as of 5/19/10.

New Business:

- **Contribution Agreement w/NRCS** – The Council has an agreement now with NRCS at a 50%-50%. The Council is hopeful that a new agreement will be in place at the end of the present one (September 2010) at 25%(Council) -75% (NRCS).
- **Surplus Food Program** – *Brett Chedzoy* – Food Bank of the Southern Tier approached Brett about possibly starting a program that allows farmers to donate their surplus foods to the local Food Banks and then in turn the Food Banks would pass that surplus onto the Food Pantries and/or soup kitchens in the area. The Council would be willing to make a donation to help with a brochure to get this program started. *Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to approve \$250.00 towards the printing of a brochure through the CCE of Schuylers Co to start up this worthwhile program .*

Other Business:

- **Venison Donation Coalition** – The Council was provided with a spreadsheet that showed the donated pounds of venison from 2008 & 2009 seasons which showed a decline in donations. Also, the Food Banks that are involved with our VDC paid 100% of the processing cost for the 2009 season.

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures): None

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 21st, 2010, place to be determined.

Greg Heffner made a motion to adjourn at 2:20pm and was seconded by Velynda Risley, carried.