



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: fingerlakesrcd@infoblvd.net

The Finger Lakes RC&D Council meeting was held Wednesday, July 20, 2005 at Schuyler County Rural Urban Center, Montour Fall, NY.

In attendance:

Chemung County

Ken Bush, SWCD Rep

Ontario County

Doris Kenny, Alternate SWCD Rep

Sam Casella, Board of Supervisor

Schuyler County

Wayne Dimmick, SWCD Rep

Glenn Larison, Member at Large

Jim Ochterski, Legislature Rep

Elaine Dalrymple, Alt. SWCD Rep

RC&D Staff

Richard Winnett, Coordinator

Seneca County

Nancy O'Connor, Alternate SWCD Rep

Steuben County

Greg Heffner, Treasurer

Lola Tears, Chairperson

Velynda Risley, SWCD Rep

Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep

Yates County

Al McGuffie, NRCS

Barb McGuffie, Alt. Member at Large

Marion Balyszak, Member at Large

Taylor Finch, Legislative Rep

Meeting was called order at 1 pm by Chairperson Lola Tears.

Approval of minutes:

Glenn Larison made the motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Ernie Swift. Carried.

Treasurers Report:

Greg Heffner reviewed the May-June treasurer's report with the committee members. *Wayne Dimmick made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented, seconded by Nancy O'Connor. Carried.*

- A. Dick informed the Committee that \$451 is remaining from the Seneca Lake CNMP grant after closeout and recommended to transfer this amount to the general fund. *Greg Heffner made the motion to transfer \$451 from Seneca Lake CNMP to the general fund, seconded by Ken Bush. Carried.*

Communications:

Nothing to report.

County Reports:

- A. Chemung County: Ken Bush reported that SWCD is busy building wetlands for stormwater retention.
- B. Ontario County: Doris Kenny reported Ontario County SWCD has a new employee named Kathy Tomaschko who will be working on the Ag grants. The Districts is currently working on the 2006 budget and is looking at another deficit with a flat line from county appropriations. Sam Casella informed the committee that the Canandaigua Lake Watershed is looking at adding another watershed inspector
- C. Seneca County: Nancy O'Connor reported weed harvesting has started with Cayuga-Seneca Canal then moving to the Seneca & Cayuga Lakes. Empire Farms Days will be August 9th – 11th in Seneca Falls. This year the focus is on Forest Service celebrating 100th anniversary with Smokey Bear's appearance daily. SWCD has received the AEM contract.
- D. Schuyler County: Jim Ochterski updated the committee on the US Fish & Wildlife grant. He stated that the grant was designed to study nesting birds within grazing land. The study was focusing on one (1) specific bird on twenty four (24) farms participating in the study. The data that has been collected is finding good grassland birds such as species of special concern are using livestock pasture as active breeding ground. Fact sheets will be developed as an outreach effort.
- E. Steuben County: Ernie handed out/reviewed Steuben County accomplishment report. The following items were reviewed:
 - ≈ Working Agreements
 - ≈ FEMA
 - ≈ District Streambank
 - ≈ Road ditch Stabilization
 - ≈ Single Audit
 - ≈ FL-LOWPA
 - ≈ BMP Collection
 - ≈ EQIP
 - ≈ AMA
- F. Yates County: Al discussed the following items:
 - ≈ AMA – 7 contracts approved
 - ≈ CRP – 4 contracts approved
 - ≈ CREP – 5 contracts
 - ≈ Debt for Nature – 7 contracts
 - ≈ Assisted SWCD on six (6) EPF grants
 - ≈ FSA – 25 plans completed

Marion reported this meeting will be her last meeting as Yates County representative for past 6 years and the following were reviewed:

- ≈ Colby Peterson as a District Technician in Yates County
- ≈ investigating stormwater complaints
- ≈ closing out the Great Lakes Grant
- ≈ Flint Creek Watershed grant

Comments from Federal/State Legislators:

None present

Comments from NRCS Representative:

No report

Coordinator's Report:

Dick handed out a written report on the activities taken place. The report will be appended to the minutes in the book of minutes.

Old Business:

- A. Dick informed the Committee that Lola Tears and Ken Bush & wife will be attending the Mid-Atlantic Association RC&D meeting held at West Point, NY during September 20th-23rd. The registration cost was well within the budget. Dick mentioned that with Elaine's help the Seneca Winery Association donated two (2) cases of wine, Nancy O'Connor was able to get three (3) bottles donated from Hosmer Winery and Velynda Risley was able to get a four (4) bottles donated from Dr. Frank's winery along with Heron Hill Winery on where the Council can one get one.
- B. Dick updated the committee on the National budget for RC&D's. The House of Representative has passed a budget with an increase of \$100,000 but the Senate Appropriation Committee has a recommendation to stay at level funding. There may be a \$50,000 increase to the budget but not sure.
- C. Dick informed the committee that Joyce is seriously considering disability retirement. No one from Kelly Services was willing to drive from Corning for that amount of hours per week. Dick also stated that NRCS sent a letter to Joyce from NRCS State Office regarding making a decision on her situation. After speaking with Lola, Ken & Greg on the situation regarding Kelly Services, Dick informed them that he has two daughters home from college and they would be willing to work for that amount of time (10-12 hrs/wk). *Taylor Finch made the motion to hire Dick's daughters for the temporary position, seconded by Ernie Swift. Carried.* Al mentioned that maybe the Council should look into a contribution agreement with NRCS for clerical support. Velynda stated the contribution agreements are six (6) month agreement with 50/50 match. Dick will look into the contribution agreement area and advise the council of the findings at the next meeting. Marion suggested to work towards a long range solution.
- D. At the last meeting, the committee authorized \$500 to the Mid-Atlantic Association of RC&D Council annual meeting but the Mid-Atlantic Association only requested a contribution of \$100.

New Business

- A. Dick reviewed the Affirmative Action Plan with the committee. *Greg Heffner made the motion to accept the Affirmative Action Plan as presented, seconded by Taylor Finch. Carried.*

Other Business

- A. Dick informed the committee that the 2004-2005 audit is in the processing of being completed. The report will mostly likely have recommendations because funds are being handled by one individual and there no separation of duties.
- B. Dick stated the Chronic Wasting Disease is a relative to the mad cow disease but is found in whitetail deer. According to CDC (Center for Disease Control) there is no evidence of crossing species line. DEC will continue the statewide monitoring. The deer taken to any Oneida County meat packaging places for ground meat will be tested by Cornell and the meat will remain at the packaging facilities until the results are back. A question was asked about the liability issue. The liability is covered under the good faith clause.

Approval/Cancellation of Measurers:

- A. Dick Winnett discussed the 2005 GLCI Project with the committee. *Marion Balyszak made the motion to approve 2005 GLCI project, seconded by Ken Bush. Carried.*

Date, Time, & Place of next meeting – September 14, 2005.

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

Wayne Dimmick made a motion to adjourn at 2:24 pm, seconded by Nancy O'Connor. Carried.

Velynda Risley
Recorder