



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

Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, July 19th, 2006 at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Ken Bush, SWCD Rep
Karen Tillotson, Member @ Large

Ontario County

Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors
Doris Kenny, SWCD Rep (Alternate)

Schuyler County

Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large Rep
Glenn Larison, Legislature (Alternate)
Jim Ochterski, Legislature Rep

Seneca County

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

Yates County

Al McGuffie, NRCS Rep
Barb McGuffie, Member @ Large Rep

RC&D Staff

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

Introduction of Guests

Meeting called to order by President, Lola Tears at **1:06 P.M.**

Approval of Minutes of May 17th, 2006 Council Meeting.

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Doris Kenny and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of May 17th, 2006.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated June 30th, 2006. **Sam Casella moved to approve, seconded by Ken Bush** and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Acceptance of 2005-2006 Annual Audit:

- Voided checks/need to keep a record of these
- Mail/needs to have dual control when opening the checks

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to approve the 2005-2006 Annual Audit

Communications:

None

County Report:

Chemung:

- The "**Stream Guide Book**" prepared through a grant from FL-LOWPA is in the final stage at the printers.
- The **Chemung County Forest Plan** has a draft proposal that was reviewed by our Board of Directors and will be forwarded to our County Executive.
- **Conservation Log Cabin at the Fairgrounds** has a foundation and some logs have been placed.
- Dick Gunderman and Karen Tillotson have mowed four of the counties dams. NRCS had a crew that inspected the Hoffman Dam pipes for cracks.
- Mark Richter has been doing a lot of hydro-seeding for the county

Ontario:

- **EPA Tour** – Washington based EPA rep visited Ontario & Yates counties in June, significantly important when it comes to funding. Visit was an eye opener for reps regarding the diversity of crops and topography.
- **Grants** – Two non-point source Round XIII grant proposals submitted. A total of 71 proposals were submitted for \$11million in grant funding. The District received a SARA (NYS Archive) GIS grant award for \$23k, this will provide some offices to finish services and equipment.
- **Budget** - District working on next year's budget. Although some grants will be closed out this year, it is forecasted that the District will be OK given new grants, increased county appropriations, and changes in law to provide greater funding to Districts.
- **Work** – landowner BMP implementation work is being completed. – Septic inspections (both in and outside of the Canandaigua Watershed) are down in relation to increased interest rates and subsequent slowing down in the housing market. – Soil scientist fieldwork updates are being continued this summer. – Tom DeRue is busy with storm water reviews and visits to construction sites. Edith Davies and Tom DeRue are giving storm water management sessions to local municipalities.

Schuyler County:

- **Archive Grant** – Received 1938 Air photos 44, 54, 64 from Syracuse University to scan.
- **Lamoka & Waneta Lakes Septic Inspection Mini Grant** – letters going out to the landowners who border these 2 lakes that every 5 years they will have their septic tank inspected while the inspector is present which involves pumping it out (Watershed dept). Hoping Town of Wayne will pass the law in August.
- **Stabilization Project** – Catherine Creek caused from erosion, ongoing installation.
- **Workshop** – Meads Creek Watershed Citizens Committee sponsoring, WQ monitoring, funded thru a grant pertaining to the insects and how they relate to the water quality on August 12, East Campbell Fire Hall.
- **BMP** - projects going on.
- **Cornell Cooperative Extension program** – (*website arnotconservation.info*) Cornell University has 4,000 acres Arnot Forest, located in Southeast corner of Schuyler County in the town of Cayuta. Rural landowner conservation workshops are available covering forestry, pond mgmt, wildlife, alternative energy, on August 19th, special field day for firewood, firewood mgmt, harvesting out of your forest, woodstove operation. Also, workshop on making the most of a few country acres. Late fall planning on education pertaining to the forest tent caterpillar defoliation.

Seneca County: Jim or Nancy will give report next month.

Steuben County:

- **Water Quality Projects** – There are 3 training seminars provided to local municipalities for Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben as part of the mini grant. They will cover Dirt and Gravel Road; Sensitive Stream Maintenance and Road Drainage.
- Construction for the Lake Salubria Infiltration System will begin July 25th. This system is a series of drop inlets with infiltrators which will collect surface runoff water from the Lake Salubria Road.
- SWCD – constructing a 3 tiered retaining wall on Keuka Lake using uni-lock blocks 75’L x45’H, project is estimated at \$100,000 which the private landowner is paying majority of cost.
- **Senate Initiative Program:** SWCD has completed the contract for the purchase of the hydroseeder, once the new one arrives, then a bid package will be prepared for the old hydroseeder.
- The construction of 5 canoe launch sites is complete & was a joint effort between Southern Tier Central Regional Planning & SWCD was working on the close out by the end of August.
- **Hazard Mitigation Program:** Town of Campbell is in the process of purchasing a 5 acre parcel from the private landowner for the construction of the retention pond. SEMO & FEMA were sent a letter regarding the Phase II approval.
- **Stormwater Phase II Review:** SWCD staff are working with local planning boards regarding Stormwater runoff due to subdivision development and NYSEG on the closure of the canal which runs from Waneta Lake to Keuka Lake.

Yates County NRCS:

- Al McGuffie gave a report on the 2006 – 2007 EQIP program

Coordinator’s Report:

- **Round 12 NYS Environment Protection Fund Grants** – The plans of work for both of recently approved grazing grants have been submitted to the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee in Albany. The projects are: **The Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing Grant #5** (\$194,625.00) will assist 19 livestock producers in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties; the **Finger Lakes Prescribed Grazing Project** (\$192,300.00) will provide cost sharing to install BMPs on 19 farms in Cayuga, Chemung, Schuyler & Seneca Counties.
- **2005 Grazing Land Conservation Initiative** – This \$24,000.00 grant through NRCS is rapidly coming to a close. Six grazing plans in Steuben, four plans in Ontario and six in Yates will be completed by the end of August 2006. Also 5 pasture walks/grazing workshops are expected to be completed by August 31, 2006 (project completion date). The Council has entered into contracts with the Ontario Co. SWCD; Steuben Co. & Yates Co. Coop.Ext. and John Wildeman, Grazing Advocate to complete these deliverables.
- **Risk Management Grant** – This \$60,319 grant through the Northeast Center for Risk Management @ the University of Delaware has been completed. The final report will be filed by July 31, 2006. Staff from Cornell’s Northwest New York’s Dairy, Livestock & Fields Crops Team conducted a series of workshops to local farmers on developing business plans, financial summaries as well as financial management skills. More than 100 individuals participated in this project which was administered by the RC&D Council.
- **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant** – The Council was formerly notified in late May that it had been awarded a \$500,000.00 grant through the Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grants program. Working in cooperation with the upper Susquehanna Coalition (USC), the Council will be contracting with USC partners to develop 33 prescribed grazing plans, install associated BMPs including riparian buffers, livestock exclusion, and enhance grassland nesting bird habitat and construct wetland /riparian complexes. A contract between the Finger Lakes RC&D Council and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation is currently being prepared. Work is expected to begin later this year.

NRCS Report:

- Dennis DeWeese, former NRCS/RC&D Coordinator in Ohio has been selected for the position of Assistant State Conservationist for Operations. He will begin the position in Syracuse, NY, August 21, 2006.

Old Business:

- **Report on Nat'l RC&D Conference: Ken Bush** – Thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the conference. Commented that at the NY Federation meeting they introduced Bernadina Tory/Hudson-Mohawk RC&D Council/New Treasurer. Also said that Sheelagh Bailey suggested all Councils inquire about Bonding insurance (anti-crime). **Jim Ochterski** – Also thanked the Council for the opportunity. He was amazed at how many RC&D's have so many different programs to offer.
- **Status of the RC&D Secretary:** No change. Still have temporary position for 20hrs/wk.
- **Status of FY 2007 Nat'l RC&D Budget:** Update from Washington, the entire House did approve the existing level of funding from last year. As of late June, the Senate Ag Appropriation Sub Committee marked up their bill and made the same recommendation as the House. So we should be looking at a comparable budget for the 2007 FY as we had in 2006.
- **Years of Service Awards** – Mentioned the plaques for Nancy O'Connor (10Yrs.) Wayne Dimmick (25 Yrs.)

New Business:

- **Directors & Officers Liability Insurance:** Beehive Insurance Co/Utah has developed a group Insurance policy for RC&D Councils. It would have the same amount of insurance coverage as our current company (Council of Community Service) however, at a savings of \$285.00 annually but would only cover insurance not any other services. **Glenn Larison moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift** and carried to approve the change in the insurance company.
- **U.S. House of Representative Ag. Committee Hearing** – Ken Bush & Dick Winnett attended the hearing in Canandaigua on June 26, 2006. At the hearing Ken presented written testimony in the form of a recommendation regarding the long term continuation of the RC&D Program.
- **Mid-Atlantic Assoc. of RC&D Councils** – There has been discussion from Attorney Jim Ghent Lake Plains RC&D suggesting that this Council is dissolved. It represents 6 states on the National Board. It usually has a deficit budget. Determination will be if we can get representation somewhere else. To date the NY Federation of RC&D Councils has not made any recommendation. Issue was tabled.
- **Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant Application** – Summarized in Coordinators report.

Other Business:

None

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures): Round 13 NYSEPF Grazing Grant

*Motion to accept the Round 13 NYSEPF Grazing Grant was made by **Ken B. and seconded by Greg H. Carried.***

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on September 20, 2006, Schuyler Co. Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY

Glen Larison made a motion to adjourn at 2:26 and was seconded by Sam Casella. Carried.