



**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](mailto:fingerlakesrcd@infoblvd.net)

## Minutes

The Finger Lakes RC & D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

### **Chemung County**

Ken Bush, S&WCD Rep  
Dick Gunderman, Legislature Rep  
Karen Tillotson, Member @ Large

### **Ontario County**

PJ Emerick, SWCD Rep

### **Schuyler County**

Glenn Larison, Legislature Rep (Alternate)  
Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large Rep  
Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep

### **Seneca County**

### **Steuben County**

Lola Tears, Legislature Rep  
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep (Alternate)  
Velynda Risley, Member @ Large Rep  
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep  
Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large

### **Yates County**

Jim Balyszak, SWCD Rep

### **RC&D Staff**

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

### **Introduction of Guests**

PJ Emerick, District Manager, Ontario County (replacement for Tom DeRue)

**Meeting called to order** by President, Lola Tears at **1:00 P.M.**

### **Approval of Minutes of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007 Council Meeting.**

*Glenn Larison moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007.*

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

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007. *Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2007.*

**Diversification of Funds** – Refer to minutes from special Executive Committee meeting held on 6/13/07. Regarding collateralization of funds over \$100,000.00 per Financial Institution. *Glenn Larison moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to accept the minutes of this special Executive meeting.*

**Motion to closeout 2 Grants (NYSERDA & Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Foundation (listed on Treasurer's Report):**  
*Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Ken Bush and carried to approve the closeout of 2 Grants.*

**Acceptance of 2006 – 2007 Annual Audit:**

*Glenn Larison moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman, and carried to accept the Annual Audit 2006-2007.*

**Engagement letter from Carnevale, Niles, Whitney & Davis (Audits):**

Proposed rates for 2008 - \$3,500.00 2009 - \$3,600.00 2010 - \$3,700.00. Rates would be locked in for the next 3 years.  
*Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Ken Bush and carried to approve the rates for 2008, 2009, 2010 audits.*

**Communications:**

None

**County Reports:**

**Chemung:** (Karen Tillotson)

- The District received a member item grant for a new excavator and trailer to haul it, which will be used for dam maintenance. Mark, Mark and summer helper have been out mowing and clearing dams of debris.
- Some grants the District is working on are the Round 8 MS4 Stormwater grant, the Round 8 Road Ditch grant and Round 13 grant for manure storage facilities on the Mann and Seymour farms.
- The District is getting ready to bid out three wetland projects which will be funded through the Upper Susquehanna Coalition, two in Big Flats and one in Southport.
- The log cabin at the fairgrounds is coming along, working on getting the electric in and the guys will be working on it next week.
- Fish program has gone well, just had bass & minnow pickup on the 14<sup>th</sup> and sold 770 bass and 39 pounds of minnows.

**Ontario:**

None

**Schuyler County:**

None

**Seneca County:**

None

**Steuben County:** (Velynda Risley)

- **Water Quality Projects** – SWCD has submitted the work plans for two Non-Ag EPF projects that were approved for Round 8. Waiting for the contracts to be signed.
- **Hazard Mitigation Program** – Construction has begun on the Vieley Road Project. The project will be completed by the end of next week. The project consists of 800' rock lined road ditch, replacement of a 3' culvert, 600' underground outlet, 900' diversion ditch, ½ac retention pond with standpipe.
- **Senate Imitative Program** – Steuben was awarded \$70,000 to purchase a track mounted excavator. Bids were sent out to four companies and the award goes to the lowest bidder at Board meeting this month. The bids were from \$177,500 to \$116,212. We have the equipment and its presently being used on the Vieley Road project.
- **District Streambank** – Six streambank projects have been completed totaling \$28,133.87 with 25 remaining to do. Due to the purchase of the excavator, the District was able to reduce the hourly rate ranging from \$89-\$120/hr to \$50/hr for municipalities and \$75/hr for landowners which was set by the SWCD Board. The cost of the program was becoming cost excessive due to the machine time. The reason why we are able to charge a low hourly rate is because our County Highway Dept furnishes the operator and when the machine is not needed to do District work then our County Highway will be using it. The Board has set a separate account for equipment maintenance.
- **Award** – Jeff and Velynda were presented an appreciation plaque from AL Blades & Sons, Inc. for their dedication to the municipalities of Steuben County and their relentless efforts in the field of Soil & Water Conservation.

- **Canon Envirothon** – The event is an environmental education competition. This year's theme is Renewable Energy. The students will be tested in 5 different areas...soils and land use, aquatics ecology, wildlife, forestry and a current environmental issue. The competition begins local than moving to State and then to Nationals. The event will be held in Geneva at the Hobart-William Smith College during week of July 29<sup>th</sup> – August 4<sup>th</sup>. 54 States and 7 Providences will be represented. 500 people will be in attendance which includes volunteers, judges, & Canon Executives. A trip to Niagara Falls is planned...the students will tour the Power Authority Facility and taking the Maid of the Mist boat ride. They will also go to Roseland Water Park for recreation after a testing day. This event costs \$300,000 most of the funds will be provided by Canon but some funds were raised thru sponsorship. A pamphlet will be developed with each states representative along with list of sponsors.

**Yates County:** (Jim Balyszak)

- Working on Ag and Non-Ag Grants. Purchased bale mulchers with funds available thru Senator George Winner.
- In the process of updating the 1998 State of the Lake report which was produced for Seneca Lake Water Quality

**Coordinator's Report:**

**Managing Labor Risks** – The Finger Lakes RC&D Council has entered into a contract with the Northeast Center for Risk Management @ the University of Delaware. This \$20,000.00 will address how farm owners from nine Western NY Counties can face a changing & challenging human resources risk management environment. The RC&D Council has contracted with Cornell University's Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team which will host four workshops and a maximum of four small study groups. These workshops and study groups will provide participants with opportunities to: improve understanding of human resources risk and its management; learn and apply people management and problem solving skills as well as evaluate changes to their farm businesses. Thirty six to 72 participants representing 36 farm businesses will identify possible solutions from the set of managing people, production practices and/or capital for labor possibilities.

**Venison Donation Coalition** – The 2006 Venison Donation season concluded on 3/31/07. 83,472 pounds were donated this past season throughout New York State resulting in 333,888 meals served. Currently the VDC is pursuing a new five year contract with NYSDEC, in which the Coalition would be a sole source vendor for New York's Venison Donation program. It is anticipated this new contract would begin on April 1, 2008. Win \$500.00 gift certificate from Bass Pro Shops. Contest advertisement running in *New York Outdoor News*.

**Finger Lakes Sustainable Farming Tour** – A tour for decision makers (County, State & Federal agency personnel; non-profit organizations and elected officials) from Ontario, Seneca & Yates Counties will be held on Thursday, July 26, 2007. The tour is being conducted under the auspices of the Finger Lakes Sustainable Farming Center. The purpose of the tour is to familiarize the attendees with the diversity of the region's agriculture, the importance of agriculture to the region's economy both from a production standpoint and tourism perspective.

**Grant Opportunities** – NYS Dept. of Agriculture & Markets recently announced a request for proposals through Round VII of the *Grow New York Food & Agriculture Industry Development (FAID) Program*. The FAID program provides matching funds up to \$60,000 for proposals which implement innovative & low risk approaches to the research, development, production, processing & distribution of agricultural products. *The deadline for submission of proposals is August 28, 2007.*

The New York Farm Viability Institute – announced a request for proposals through the Institute's Applied Research Partnership. Projects which use existing research to explore on-farm feasibility, implementation models and other consideration may be funded for up to \$250,000.00. All projects must include farmer participation and proposals are due by October 1, 2007.

### **NRCS Report:**

- Last month released a NRCS New York Efficiency Plan to save money they are targeting to close 9 District offices which includes Yates County. Stated that no employee would lose their jobs.

### **Old Business:**

- **Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association meeting in Hershey, PA** – September 16<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Registration is \$220.00 per Rep/Spouse \$170.00/Lodging for 3 days is \$258 plus mileage. (Received a free registration for submitting 10 names for sponsorship)

*Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Jim Balysak and carried to approve 3 representatives to attend the Association meeting in Hershey, PA*

- **Changes to Mid-Atlantic RC&D Assoc. Constitution & By-Laws** – May decide to discontinue as a not-for-profit organization (501C.3).
- **Venison Donation Program – changes** – 5 Yr contact between the NYSDEC & the Federation will expire in 2008, the Coalition is currently pursuing a new 5 yr contract between the Coalition & NYSDEC.
- **S.T.O.R.E** – “Southern Tier Outdoor Recreation Exposition” will take place in Bath on October 6-7, 2007 for the first year at Wilkins RV location on Route 415.

### **New Business:**

- **RC&D Secretary’s position description** – Developed a new Program Assistant Description for the secretarial position in the Finger Lakes RC&D office

*Jim Balysak moved to approve, seconded by Elaine Dalrymple and carried to approve the Program Assistant Description*

- **Employee Handbook** – Developed an Employee Manual for RC&D Council Employees. Council wanted to make a few changes regarding a section that requested the employee to make a daily log of work performed to be deleted, changing the amounts on the purchasing process, not allowing the borrowing of office equipment.

*Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to approve the Employee Manual with the necessary changes.*

### **Other Business:**

None

### **Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):**

- **Grass Finished Beef** – Preliminary proposal to SARE, establish some standards on grading grass fed beef.

*Motion to accept the Grass Finished Beef project was made by Ken Bush and seconded by Greg Heffner and carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2007 at the Rural Urban Center in Montour Falls

***Meeting adjourned at 2:32pm***