



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, July 15, 2009 at the Chemung Co Fair Grounds, Horseheads, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

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

Ontario County

Elaine Borgeest, Alternate

Schuyler County

Elaine Dalrymple, S&WCD Rep
Brett Chedzoy, Member @ Large

Seneca County

Kristin White, Alternate

Steuben County

Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep
Velynda Risley, Alternate
Amy Dlugos, Alternate
Ernie Swift, S&WCD Rep

Yates County

Jim Balyszak, SWCD Rep

RC&D Staff

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

Introduction of Guests

Meeting called to order by President, Ken Bush at **1:00 P.M.**

Approval of Minutes of May 21st, 2009 Council Meeting.

Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of May 21, 2009.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated June 30, 2009. *The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.*

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to transfer the remainder of the Chemung River Basin Grazing #3 to the general fund and to remove the Risk Management Grant from the grant summary.

Communications: None

Presentation of 2008-2009 Audit Report:

Karen Tillotson moved to approve, seconded by Velynda R., and carried to accept the Annual Audit 2008-2009.

County Reports:

Chemung: (Karen Tillotson)

- **Purchased new Quanza Hut**– Storage for the Tub Grinder and Ag Plastic bales
- **NYSDEC Millennium Stormwater Tech** – Millennium Pipeline was fined and DEC was awarded money to hire on a technician to oversee pipeline problems. Jessica Verrigni is the tech and is responsible for Steuben, Chemung, Schuyler, Seneca and Yates counties.
DEC P2 Position – The District was awarded an Environmental Excellence Award through DEC and was able to hire an intern for environmental issues. Sarita Upadhyay was hired and is currently working on composting issues. There will be a compost workshop held at the cabin on July 21, 2009.
- **Purchased new 15' bat mower** – Used for dam maintenance and detention ponds. What took 20 hours to mow last year took 4 hours to mow this year with the new mower.
- **MS4 Stormwater Grant** – Sent in paperwork to close this grant out for \$18,000.00 due the district.
- **Cabin** – The cabin at the fairgrounds will be open during the Chemung Co Fair with the EmRiver on display.
- **New NRCS Conservationist** – Met the new DC Suzy Daubert

Ontario: (Elaine Borgeest)

- **Ag Non-Point Source Grants** – Continuing to work on NYSEPF grants
- **Stormwater** – Inspection & training
- **AEM Grant** – Still working on year 5
- **Honeoye Lake Watershed** – Currently seeking a Department State grant for

Schuyler County: (Elaine Dalrymple)

- **AEM** – SWCD is immersed in conducting Year 5 work including Tier 1, and 2 surveys, 3A plans, 5B BMP evaluations and public outreach
- **3 AEM** – “Farms Partnering to Protect Our Environment” awards will be presented by SWCD in cooperation with the Schuyler County Ag and Farmland Protection Board and the Schuyler County Farm Bureau at the Farm Bureau annual picnic in August.
- **Rural Stormwater Coalition** – Schuyler SWCD is a member that includes Steuben and Chemung counties and the coalition is conducting contractor training sessions, building demonstration rain gardens and selling rain barrels.
- **Meads Creek Watershed** – Stream assessment work is being conducted with the assistance of the USC Stream Team as part of the RC&D Fish and Wildlife grant. This assessment will help prioritize areas for stream stabilization implementation projects.

Seneca County: (Kristin White)

- **Round 4** – Closed out grant and it went very well
- **Round 5** – NRCS reported to District to be cautious with grant whether it will be funded or not and when
- **Hydro-seeder** – Purchased last year hydro-seeding work is being done for municipalities
- **Weed harvesting program – FLOW-PA** – Begun weed harvesting on Cayuga Lake

Steuben County: (Velynda Risley)

- **State Reimbursement** - Due to the financial situation of the State, reimbursement to Districts has been slowing coming. We have finally received our reimbursements for Part A (\$30,000), Part B (\$6,000) and Part C (\$15,463.58). We are still waiting for AEM (\$40,000) and FL-LOWPA (08-09 (\$85,000) and 09-10 (\$42,500)
- **Water Quality Projects** – No time cost extension for the Cohocton River Stabilization Project - Smith Hill & Meads Creek Streambank Stabilization – County Line have been approved and will be completed this year
- **FL-LOWPA** – No word yet as to when the contract is coming. The District is purchasing seed/fertilizer/mulch from another account to offset expenditures in order to keep the program running. To date 32.3 acres has been hydro-seeded. The weed harvester will not be operational this year and the Lake Associations has been notified. The funding for 2009-2010 has been cut by 50%
- **Senate Initiative Program** – SWCD has received the reimbursement (\$6,820.20) for the four wheeler purchased
- **District Streambank** – To date 10 of the 38 projects have been completed totaling \$87,730. We have 28 projects remaining totaling \$318,421.40

- **Ag Grants** – Implementation is being made on the grazing contracts
- **AEM** – SWCD annual action plan has submitted and we're seeking the \$40,000.00 allocation
- **Tributary Strategy** – Jody Applebee continues to enter BMPs into the USC GIS database. SWCD entered into another agreement with USC totaling \$35,000 for documenting BMPs for the Tributary Strategy
- **NRCS** – EQIP rankings have been completed. We had a grand total of 211 applications with 25 being funded: **CBWI** – Cropland 10 apps, 5 funded; Grazing 114 apps, 10 funded; **EQIP** – Forestry 31 apps, 5 funded; Forestry Wildlife 7 apps, 3 funded; Grazing 19 apps, 1 funded; Livestock waste 15 apps, 0 funded; **WHIP** – 13 apps, 4 funded
- **Jenifer Coleson, DC** – Relocated to the State of Washington. NRCS has posted the position and a recommendation has been sent to the State Conservationist for consideration & approval. An Acting DC comes to the office twice a week.
- **Education Outreach** – The Rural Stormwater Coalition (Chemung, Schuyler, Steuben counties) has been offering the Sediment & Erosion Control training classes to contractors who need to be certified by 2010. To date 8 training classes have been completed with 4 classes scheduled for later in the year.
- **Water Quality Strategy** – Our local Water Quality Committee had contracted with STC to update our Water Quality Strategy. The strategy was approved by WQ committee, AIP committee and will be on the agenda for full Legislative approval in July. The strategy can be found at www.steubenwaterquality.org. Copies of the strategy have been forwarded to State/Federal Representatives, Corning Community College and local library system.

Yates County: (Jim Balyszak)

- None

NRCS Report:

- **Latest update on National RC&D FY 2010 Budget** – House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committees have recommended the National RC&D budget be set at \$51 million. The entire House of Representatives has accepted and passed the resolution. Senate has not acted on this yet. Senate recommending the RC&D's be performance driven

Coordinator's Report:

Alternative Energy Field Day – The Finger Lakes RC&D Council is co-sponsoring along with Cornell's Small Farms Program, an Alternative Energy Field Day on Thursday, August 6, 2009 at the Robert & Mary Lou Bondi farm in Prattsburg, NY. The Solar Powered Livestock Watering System which was installed with the help of a New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) Grant. The solar powered livestock system provides water to the Bondi's 50 beef cows. Although no registration fee is required, please call the Finger Lakes RC&D Council's office @ (607) 776-7398 Ext to pre-register.

Finger Lakes Grazing Grant – 5 of the total 20 participants in this Round 12 NYSEPF grant have completed the installation of the BMPs associated with their respective prescribed grazing systems. Six other farms have partially completed their BMP installation under this \$192,300.00 grant which has a completion deadline of 12/31/2009. No extensions will be granted. To date 562 acres of prescribed grazing has been applied; 45,477' of fencing; 365.5 acres of pasture seeding/management; 140' of animal walkway and 1 livestock watering system.

Chemung Grazing #4 – 13 of the 21 project participants have fully installed all the BMPs associated with their respective grazing systems. Six livestock producers have partially completed their projects. A total of \$148,255.31 of the grant's \$207,040.00 has been earned with the landowners contributing another \$102,101.20 in cash, materials, labor &/or in-kind equipment. The deadline for completing this grant is December 31, 2009. To date 728.5 acres of prescribed grazing has been applied as well as 115,868' of fencing; 19 watering facilities; 64 acres of pasture seeding and 3,450' of pipeline in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties.

Chemung Grazing #5 – 16 of the 19 livestock producers involved in this grant have totally completed their projects. Of the grant's total \$194,625.00 landowners have earned \$146,224.29 while the local match equals \$113,880.44. Resulting from the project 122,100' of fencing; 62 acres of pasture seeding; 6 watering facilities and 1,159 acres of prescribed grazing has been installed in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties. This project deadline is 12/31/09.

Chemung Grazing #6 – This \$216,910.00 grant is providing financial assistance to livestock producers in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties for the purpose of installing BMPs associated with prescribed grazing. As of this date nine farms have installed 25,998' of fencing; 105 acres of prescribed grazing & 130 acres of seeding as well as 268' of laneway and 157' of pipeline.

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – During July 2009 the Federal Government will be unveiling a new multi-agency \$475 million initiative aimed at the Great Lakes. Funding will be made available through agencies such as the EPA, NRCS, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service as well as other agencies to address toxic substances, invasive species, non-point source pollution & habitat & wildlife protection and restoration. The closest informational meeting about this initiative will be held in Rochester, NY on July 29, 2009 at the Radisson Riverside.

Old Business:

- **Nat'l RC&D Conference** – John Keidel certainly appreciated the opportunity to be able to attend the conference and found it to be very informative and worthwhile. John reported that the Nat'l RC&D Assoc. Executive Director, Roberta Jeanquart is resigning. Keynote speaker Dr. Lowell Carlet from the College of Ag & Home Economics @ New Mexico State spoke and his bottom-line message was we “cannot have healthy humans separated from plants & animals” therefore they are all interrelated. Dr. Carlet also stressed the need for RC&D Councils to be in close touch with local communities to be able to offer them “dreams” rather than products & services. John mentioned there were numerous concurrent sessions dealing with financial management, working with partners, natural resources, energy, too many to mention. John went to some of these sessions and also attend RC&D 101, a basic introduction to RC&D's.
- **Venison Program** – Due to the lack of funding for the program, the Executive Dir of the NYS Association of Food Banks has asked that the eight Food Banks in NY who have entered into a contract with the Venison Donation Coalition, pay 100% of the venison processing for the 2009 season.
- **Summer Ag Sustainability Conference** – Council is a co-sponsor of this event which will take place on August 19 & 20 in Canandaigua. Registration deadline is August 7. Pamphlet handed out.
- **Marcellus Shale Update, Brett Chedzoy** – Fortuna Energy has extended an invitation for 20 people to tour the gas well site in Troy, PA. Brett has asked the Board if anyone would be interested, the tour will begin on Wednesday September 23, at the Fortuna office in Big Flats at 8:00am and continue to Troy PA and return at 1:30pm. There is no fee for the tour, but the lunch will have to be on your own.
- **NFWF Contract** – News release for the Natural Stream Design Grant that was awarded to the Council for \$399,995.00 was published in the Star Gazette. This grant will be used to restore 1.4 miles of eroding stream banks on creeks in the Chemung River Basin.

New Business:

- **Emerald Ash Borer** – Dick Winnett handed out a packet about this invasive beetle native to eastern Asia, EAB kills all species of ash trees in N America and has the potential to cause severe economic and ecological damage.

Other Business:

- **None**

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):

- **None**

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on September 16th, 2009 at the Human Resource Complex, Room 120, Montour Falls, NY

Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm

Motion to accept was made by Greg Heffner and seconded by Velynda Risley and carried.