



***Finger Lakes***  
***Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc.***  
CHEMUNG, ONTARIO, SCHUYLER, SENECA, STEUBEN, AND YATES COUNTIES, NEW YORK  
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The Finger Lakes RC&D Council Meeting was held Wednesday, September 15, 2004 at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.

In attendance:

*Chemung Co.*

Ken Bush, S&WCD Rep.

Mark Watts, Member @ Large

*Ontario Co.*

Tom DeRue, S&WCD Rep.

Sam Casella. Board of Supervisors Rep.

*Schuyler Co.*

Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large

Wayne Dimmick, S&WCD Rep.

Charlie Fausold, Schuyler Co. Legislature Rep.

Glen Larison, Schuyler Co. Legislature, Alternate

*Seneca Co.*

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep.

Nancy O'Connor, Alternate S&WCD Rep.

*Steuben Co.*

Greg Heffner, Alternate Legislature Rep.

Lola Tears, Legislature Rep.

Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large

*Yates Co.*

Marion Balyszak, Member @ Large

*RC&D Staff*

Joyce Baxter

Dick Winnett

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

**Approval of Minutes** – *Tom DeRue moved and Greg Heffner seconded to accept minutes as written. Carried.*

**Treasurer's Report** – *Ken Bush motioned and Elaine Dalrymple seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as presented by Greg Heffner. Carried.*

- a) *Audit 2003-04 Completed* - D. Winnett, informed Council that Audit went well and everything was in order and satisfactory.

- b) *IRS 990 for FY 2003-04 Filed* - It was reported that 990's were filed on time and in compliance.

**Communications** – Nat'l Assoc. District Newsletter "National Catalyst" received – discussed the 2004-2005 appropriations. (On file at RC&D Office)

## **County Reports**

**Chemung** – Mark Watts reported the following:

- a) Storm Water – District busy doing site inspections and assisting homeowners in filling out notices/letters of intent.
- b) Stormwater Coalition – awarded \$200,000 from NYS DEC to implement Lidar (which is land topography). Assisting the MS 4 communities in complying with the phase II regulations.
- c) Tire Amnesty Day – October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- d) Flood Attenuation Wetlands put on hold because of rain
- e) Working with FEMA on streams that suffered damage from the August 2003 storms
- f) Receiving Inquires on Gas Exploration Production

Ken Bush reported that the Town of Erin held an informational meeting re: Gas Exploration Production this week and had representatives from the State Attorney General offices present.

**Ontario** – Tom DeRue reported that Ontario District very busy with all programs to include: Ag Implementation, road banks, and septic system inspections.

- b) Bob Stryker has been promoted to District Field Manager and his new responsibilities include supervision of technicians in the field and providing training/on site job experiences for the staff.
- c) Recently received a grant under the Great Lakes Commission Office, Erosion and Sediment Control Program. The grant will provide several educational opportunities for local boards and decision makers in regards to Phase II guidelines and the local responsibilities under the general permits
- d) Will be working on proposal(s) under NYSEPF Ag Non-Point Pollution Round XI

**Schuyler** – Wayne Dimmick reported that NYSDEC has cut way back on doe permits and wondered why.

Charlie Fausold reported that Jim Octerski, Schuyler Coop. Extension is putting together an Agri-Forestry Marketing Guide. Guide should be completed in the next few months.

Elaine reported that District (a) is trying to promote the CREP program (riparian buffer initiative)

- b) The District has also received a Records Retention Grant through the SARE for digitizing photos.
- c) Working with Cornell Cooperative Extension "Forest Field Day (forestry education – geared toward elementary students
- e) Attended a meeting last week re: Proposed 24" pressurized pipeline through Chemung, Ontario, Schuyler, and Yates Co.

**Seneca** – Jim Malyj reported dealing with the major rain events from recent storms

- b) District taking over the on-site septic/waste water program
- c) Weed harvesting closing out ( had bumper crop in August)
- d) FLOWPA (increase of \$'s)

Nancy O'Connor reported that Seneca Co was in the budget process. A Budget Meeting was being held today.

**Steuben** – Greg Heffner reported that a Household Hazard Waste Day was being held this week at the Steuben Co. Landfill. Ag. Waste Day was held two weeks ago.

- b) \$2 m worth of damage caused by the remnants of Hurricane Frances, Wednesday, Sept. 8th. FEMA decided they could add the damages to the Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> storm (\$5 ½ m). Lost one county bridge; Woodhull – declared a disaster area.

D. Winnett informed the Council FEMA has a temporary office in the Ag Service Center, Bath.

Tom Tomsa reported that Farm City Day is scheduled for Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> to be held at Scanlon Farm, Addison. Expect approx. 1,000+ people.

**Yates** – Marion Balyszak:

- a) Yates & Ontario Co. SWCD partnering and working on Round XI (EPF & AEM). Proposals (Central Lowlands as well as Flint Creek – Seneca Lake Watershed). 3<sup>rd</sup> implementation grant in this watershed and 4<sup>th</sup> in Seneca Lake Watershed.
- b) Jim Balyszak appointed interim District Manager for Yates S&WCD (filling position left open by the departure of Les Travis).
- c) Seneca Lake Watershed efforts continue with On-Site Watershed Management Initiative
- d) Stormwater Management – continue with Great Lakes funded project between the Seneca & Keuka Lake Watersheds
- e) Public Hearing on gas pipeline will be held 7 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> – Yates Co. Auditorium

**Coordinator's Report** (reviewed handout - available upon request)

**NRCS Report** – No Report

**Old Business**

- a) *Establish Records Retention Policy*

**Mark Watts moved and Ken Bush seconded to accept the Records Retention Policy as written. Carried.**

- b) *Hunt Out Hunger Banquet* – “Wolfhead’s Hunt Club” held a dinner Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. Approx. 175 people attended; the \$5,500.00 proceeds were donated to Venison Donation Coalition. It was asked if any organization could put on a benefit of this type to assist the VDC and the answer was YES!

c) *Mid Atlantic RC&D Council Meeting*, Wheeling, W.V., Sept. 1-3, 2004. Lola Tears and Ken Bush attended the meeting on behalf of the Council.

Lola Tears thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the meeting; thanked Ken Bush and his wife Virginia for the ride to and from the conference. Lola reported the Highlight of the conference was that ***Dick Winnett*** had the distinguished honor at the Awards Banquet as being selected ***“RC&D Coordinator of the Year”***.

***Congratulations Dick!!!!!!!!!!***

***And the Finger Lakes RC&D Council*** was selected as ***“Council of the Year”***.

L. Tears thought that the Venison Donation Program was the force behind the Awards.

D. Winnett reported that 6 States and 29 RC&D Councils participated in the meeting and that it was quite an achievement to receive these awards. He also reported that as a result of receiving these 2 awards that our name(s) will be put into a nomination at a National level (there are 7 regions in the entire country).

Lola Tears strongly encouraged that other Council members attend these meetings. The meetings are very enlightening and worthwhile.

Post cards were circulated for next year’s conference which will be held at West Point, NY. Hopefully members will start thinking about attending next year.

K. Bush thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend the Conference. He highlighted some of the sessions held and remarked that it was a very good conference.

K. Bush mentioned to the Council that during the meeting it was discussed about the possibility that the Council(s) hire someone to work 8-10 hrs week/month to assume some of the responsibilities of the Federal staff that NRCS does not want the staff to handle.

c) *Update of Finger Lakes Council web page* – Tom Tomsa and Dick Winnett updated the Council on the progress of the Finger Lakes RC&D Council website. An agreement has been entered into with Steuben Co. Coop. Extension. RC&D staff has been working with Carla Dewejko, Extension; website is up and running.  
Log onto: [www.fingerlakesrcd.org](http://www.fingerlakesrcd.org).

## **New Business**

a) *Round 11 NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant applications*: Dick will be working on 2 new grazing applications: 1) Finger Lakes Grazing Project – encompass Ontario, Seneca, Yates, and parts of Schuyler. Have approx. 30 potential participants – biggest majority Ontario & Seneca, decent number from Schuyler but not many coming out of Yates. Seneca Co. SWCD will be the official applicant for the project. 2) Other application will continue to emphasizing Chemung River Basin Grazing Project (have quite a list from Steuben and J. Wickham, Schuyler has been working with us on a list from Schuyler and

Chemung). Anticipate getting both applications in before to Oct. 20, 2004. Added dollars for administrative cost.

- b) Incorporation of Venison Donation Coalition: D. Winnett reported that Venison Coalition has been incorporated. Greg Heffner, President of VDC will be signing papers today for the 501C.3 (IRS). D. Winnett hopes by the end of the year that the Coalition will also be a non-profit entity. The organization will be the beneficiary of the \$1.00 check-off and any other dollars generated through fund raisers or direct donations. Representations are from NY Food Banks, RC&Ds, Farm Bureaus, and members at large (sportsmen's groups) will serve as voting members on the Coalition.

### **Other Business**

K. Bush received literature on developing Emergency Management Plans from Sharon Ruggi, President of Nat'l. Federation of RC&Ds. (Available up request).

### **Approval/Cancellation of Measures**

*Sam Casella moved and Charlie Fausold seconded and it was carried to accept the following measure.*

- a) **Chemung River Basin Grazing Project – Phase 4**

**Date, Time, Place of Next Meeting – Wednesday, November 10, 2004 at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.**

*Greg Heffner moved and Ken Bush seconded to adjourn meeting at 3:00 p.m. Carried.*

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Baxter

Fl.9.15.04.mtg