



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, September 20th, 2006 at the Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

Chemung County

Ken Bush, SWCD Rep
Dick Gunderman, Legislature Rep
Karen Tillotson, Member @ Large

Ontario County

Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors
Tom DeRue, SWCD Rep

Schuyler County

Elaine Dalrymple, Member @ Large Rep
Glenn Larison, Legislature (Alternate)
Wayne Dimmick, SWCD Rep

Seneca County

Nancy O'Connor, SWCD Rep (Alternate)

Steuben County

Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large
Velynda Risley, Member @ Large Rep (Alternate)

Yates County

Jim Balyszak, SWCD Rep
Barb McGuffie, Member @ Large Rep

RC&D Staff

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

Guests

Josh Hornesky, NRCS (Schuyler)
Dennis DeWeese, RC&D Program Manager

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

Approval of Minutes of July 19th, 2006 Council Meeting.

Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of July 19th, 2006.

Recommendation was made to close out Grant NF&WF & Chemung River Basin #2

Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to accept the recommendation.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated August 31st, 2006. **Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson** and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report.

Dick Winnett presented a plaque to Wayne Dimmick for his 25 years of dedicated service.

Communications:

None

County Report:

Chemung: (Karen Tillotson)

- The "**Stream Guide Book**" prepared through a grant from FL-LOWPA is not at the printers yet, there were a few changes and hoping to get them back second week of October.
- **Conservation Log Cabin at the Fairgrounds** has a frame, working on the roof and inside.
- **Trooper Sperr Trail** – The District assisted with getting materials for the trail and also equipment and labor and seeded the disturbed areas. Dedication was September 9, which Mark Watts attended.
- **Workshop** – Mark Watts attended a Dirt & Gravel workshop which had a very good turnout.
- **Round 8 Grants** – Awarded \$183,000 through the Round 8 DEC grant for Water Quality Improvements. Also awarded \$165,000 to provide training and implement a road ditch & road bank stabilization program within the MS4 drainage areas and three non MS4 areas.
- **Seeding** – Mark Richer continues to do seeding jobs within the County when not working on the log cabin.
- **Plant Material Center, NRCS Big Flats** – Mark Watts and Karen Tillotson assisted Paul Salon with his yearly corn project.

Ontario: (Tom DeRue)

- **Workshop** – District continues to provide stormwater workshop sessions to local municipalities (town boards, planning boards, zoning boards)
- **Grants** – Ranked in the upper third for two grants under Ag Round XIII. Received a grant under Round 8 non-ag nonpoint sources grants funded under the EPF, to assist our MS4 communities in northwestern Ontario and western Wayne. Completed and sent in the final reports on the mini-grants received in 04'.
- **Budget** – Completed the process and received a two percent in appropriation from the County.

Schuyler County: (Elaine Dalrymple)

- **Archive Grant** – The 1938 air photos have been scanned by Weiler Mapping and will soon be available for reference use in the GIS system. Historical air photos are especially helpful in determining stream meander patterns, and in examining land use changes. The District now has six decades of photos in digital format.
- **Youth Ag Education** – Continue with this program in Watkins Glen.
- **District Manager Opening (SWCD)** – Deadline for application extended until 9/22.
- **Stream Remediation** – Work has begun on the Bennett property south of Monterey. The District is overseeing construction and the County is providing equipment and manpower. This project is part of the County Stream Program with the landowner contributing one third of the cost of the rock to be used in a high flow channel. This will hopefully shift Meads Creek away from his residence during flood events.
- **CAFO** – Assistance with compliance on CAFO regulations and reducing agricultural environmental pollution are provided by the District. This month examination of silage leachate collection systems, manure storage structures, milk house waste collection systems, riparian buffers and field runoff potentials were done with farmers. The District is non-regulatory but provides technical assistance to farmers for improved nonpoint source pollution controls.

Seneca County: (Nancy O'Connor)

- **Cayuga Lake Watershed Network News** – Copies of the article highlighting Canoga Marsh Restoration was handed out.
- **Grants** – Non-ag Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program grants (Round 8) has been awarded for two road bank stabilization projects in the Cayuga Lake Watershed. 2004 mini grant (\$5,000) to Seneca County Water Quality Committee is in final stage. The WQC contracted with Genesee Finger Lakes Regional Planning to develop Gap Analysis of Local & State Stormwater Management Requirements – to promote consistency between local land use laws & practices & those of the Statewide Phase II Construction permit. The results of the report will be presented to the planning & legislative boards in each Seneca County Community.
- **Harvester** – Aquatic weed harvesting continues in Seneca & Cayuga Lakes, South of Lodi Point & northwest shore of Cayuga Lake. Seneca County in need of a new harvester, search for funding sources has begun. The two harvesters now used are over 20 years old.

Steuben County: (Velynda Risley)

- **Water Quality Projects** – SWCD completed both 2005 water quality mini grants entitled “Town of Bath – Lake Salubria Infiltration System” and “Develop & Implement Water Quality Strategy for Highway” with all final documentation submitted to State Committee.
- **Streambank Stabilization** – Twenty projects were completed this year totaling \$138,486. Two grants approved under Round 8 for streambank stabilization.
- **Grants** – SWCD has five EPF Non-ag grants with (2) started, (2) completed and (1) left to do. By the end of this fiscal year four of the five grants will be completed with all documentation to DEC.
- **Senate Initiative Program** – SWCD has purchased the new hydroseeder and will be putting a bid package together for 1996 hydroseeder in spring 2007.
- **Hazard Mitigation Program** – Town of Campbell has purchased the 5 acre of land where the retention pond will be constructed and SWCD has just received the contract for Vieley Road, Stormwater Project depending on weather conditions the project may start this fall with installation of culvert pipes.
- **Stormwater Phase II Review:** SWCD staff is 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.
- **Budget** – SWCD asked the County for \$20,000 increase. \$10,000 streambank program & \$10,000 in general appropriation which will help offset the cost of rental fee that NRCS will assess this year. The AIP committee has approved our budget as presented.
- **Conservation Field Days** – This year the topic was on Water Quality involving 6th graders held 2 days at the Cooper Plains BOCES 1st day and Wildwood BOCES the next.
- **Farm City Days** – Held at the Duesenbury Farm in Cohocton on September 23rd.

Steuben County: (Tom Tomsa)

- Reviewed with the group efforts by the Cornell Cooperative Extension to initiate a grass pellet project. Although there were some errors in the local newspaper article this proposed project appears to have considerable potential for New York Agriculture.
- **S.T.O.R.E.** – (Southern Tier Outdoor Recreation Exhibition) presented an overview of a program to get the public more aware of the outdoor recreation environmental opportunities available in the region. This program will take place in October 2007 at the Wilkins RV location on Rte 415 in Bath. Will keep the Board informed of any updates as the date draws nearer.

Yates County NRCS: (Jim Balyszak)

- **Flint Creek Roads Grant** – Completed 2 miles of reshaping, rock & hydroseeding. Two year project with goal of 5.1 miles of stabilization.
- **Salt Storage** – No funding for 4 applications under Round 8 (non-point, non-ag).
- **Grants** – Continuing work on 4 ag grants.
- **Round 9 RFP** – Completing an application for PennYan village park/beach shoreline stabilization.
- **Rep. George Winner & Assemblyman Bacalles** – Notification of an award to purchase a bale mulcher to compliment hydroseeding program.

Coordinator's Report:

Risk Management Grant – This \$60,319.00 grant through the Northeast Center for Risk Management @ the University of Delaware has been completed. The final report has been submitted by Cornell's Northwest New York's Dairy, Livestock & Fields Crops Team. Total reimbursement has been received and the project is considered closed. More than 100 individuals attended these workshops &/or benefited from the assistance provided by this project. Deliverables included preparing business plans, financial summaries as well as refining financial management skills.

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant – The Council has signed the contract with the NF&WF for this \$500,000.00 grant. The initial invoice for an advance of funds has been forwarded to NF&WF. 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, as well as enhancing grassland nesting bird habitat and constructing wetland/riparian complexes. I will be participating in the Chesapeake Bay Targeted Watershed Grant Programs' 2006 Project Round Table. I've been asked to summarize the Council's project along with nine other grant recipients. The Round Table discussion will be held on October 12th & 13th at Camp Hill, PA (near Harrisburg).

2006 Grazing Land Conservation Initiative – The Council has entered into a \$23,000.00 grant with NRCS to prepare 19 grazing plans and conduct 4 pasture walks/workshops. These deliverables will be completed by the Ontario County SWCD, Cornell's Northwest New York Dairy, Livestock & Fields Crop Team as well as John Wildeman.

Round 12 NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant(s) – The Steuben Co. SWCD has signed the contract with the NYS Soil & Water Conservation Committee for the \$194,625.00 project entitled **The Chemung River Basin Prescribed Grazing Grant #5**. This grant will be administered by the Finger Lakes RC&D Council and will provide financial incentives to 19 livestock producers in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties who will install BMPs associated with Prescribed Grazing Systems. Seneca County SWCD is awaiting its Round 12 contract for \$192,300.00 that will assist 19 livestock producers in Cayuga, Chemung, Schuyler and Seneca Counties.

Venison Donation Program- The 2006 processors brochure has been distributed to 1,400 licensing agents throughout New York State. To date approximately \$14,300.00 in contributions through the D.E.C.A.L.S. (DEC Automated Licensing System) has been received. Since April 1, 2006 850 pounds of processed venison have already been reported.

Senate Member Item Initiative - The Finger Lakes RC&D Council has just been notified by NYS Senator George Winner that the Council has been awarded a \$9,000.00 grant for the purpose of off setting venison donation processing costs in the Finger Lakes region of New York. The funding is made available to the RC&D council via the NYS Aid to Localities Program

Round 13 NYS Environmental Protection Fund Grant – Steuben County SWCD has been notified that this \$216,910.00 grant will be funded. The project will provide financial incentives to 21 livestock producers in Chemung, Schuyler & Steuben Counties who will install BMPs associated with Prescribed Grazing Systems.

NRCS Report:

- **New RC&D Program Manager – Dennis DeWeese**, former RC&D Coordinator, from Ohio, moved to the Syracuse area. Representing the State Conservationist, who was attending a forum regarding the Chesapeake Bay project. Dennis also mentioned a new process called an Activity Based Costing in October, bench marking what kind of time it takes to do certain activities.

Old Business:

- **Directors & Officers Liability Insurance** – Switched carriers from Chubb Insurance to Beehive Insurance due to cost savings (Approx \$285/yr). Looking into Crime Insurance.
- **Status of the RC&D Secretary** – Resolved. Still have temporary position filled.
- **Status of FY 2007 Nat'l RC&D Budget** – Recommending same amount as last year.
- **Status of Round 13 NYS EPF Grant** – Official applicant was Steuben County SWCD dealing with grazing, should be in the top 50% for funding. Making available \$9.1mm of the \$11mm. Council will be doing the administration if funded.

New Business:

- **NRCS Retirement (s)** – Dave Dupont, District Conservationist, NRCS, Bob Hartwick, Area Conservationist, NRCS, Neil Cheney, RC&D, Black-River St. Lawrence.
- **Mid-Atlantic Assoc. of RC&D Councils** – No updates
- **Nat'l Fish & Wildlife Foundation Grant Application** – Parallel application to the original \$1,000,000 grant that we received \$500,000. Applied for another \$150,000 in addition that will go to the NFWF Board of Directors in November. It will do 49 farms to cover Upper Susquehanna and Chemung River Basin.

Other Business:

Glen Larison mentioned that if anyone had any issues with NY Association of Conservation Districts Board, get in touch with him. Any issues with Susquehanna River Basin Commission bring to his attention.

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures): 2006-2007 GLCI Project – Need to get this on the books as an official project. It will provide \$1,000 less than last year, however will have enough to do the project. *Motion to accept the 2006-2007 GLCI Project was made by Tom DeRue and seconded by Nancy O'Connor, Carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on November 15, 2006, Schuyler Co. Rural Urban Center, Montour Falls, NY

Greg Heffner made a motion to adjourn at 2:20 and was seconded by Velynda Risley. Carried.