



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 12th, 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

P.J. Emerick, SWCD Rep
Sam Casella, Board of Supervisors Rep

Schuyler County

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

Seneca County

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep
Frank Sinicropi, Board of Supervisors Rep

Steuben County

Lola Tears, Legislature Rep
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep (Alternate)
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep

Yates County

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

RC&D Staff

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

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

Approval of Minutes of July 18th, 2007 Council Meeting.

Dick Gunderman moved to approve, seconded by Greg Heffner and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of July 18th, 2007.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated August 31st, 2007. *Sam Casella moved to approve, seconded by Ken Bush and carried to approve the Treasurer's Report of August 31st, 2007.*

Council's IRS 990 Report – 990 was filed by the deadline of August 15th, 2007. Received acknowledgement that IRS did receive it.

Communications:

- NFWF grant application that was previously submitted for targeting small watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay area has been put on hold
- Update for RC&D's on a National level, last year the proposed budget was \$14.6million, the House passed recommendation to increase the amount to \$52.3m/Senate passed recommendation for \$53.1m
- Regarding the 2007 Farm Bill, the House has passed its version with recommendations for RC&D's, including that every RC&D would have its own Coordinator

County Reports:

Chemung: (Karen Tillotson)

- Wetland Construction – Working with the USC on building two new wetlands. One in the Town of Southport (under construction) one in the Town of Big Flats.
- Conservation Cabin @ Fairgrounds – Electric is still being worked on. It was open during the fair and had great comments about the cabin.
- Fish Program – The District is offering Perch and Crappie, along with minnows in October.
- Hydro-seeding – Mark Richer and Karen T did a job on a gravel pit in the T/Southport. Mark Watts, Mark R. and Karen T. also did a very large mulching job in the T/Horseheads.
- Dam maintenance – Sometime this month Hoffman Dam will have some welding done on the interior pipe to repair the cracks in it. This was bid out and only received one bid and it was awarded to Finger Lakes Industrial Contracting Corp. at a cost of \$27,319.00.
- Manure Storages – Through the Round 13 Non-point Source grant two manure storage units will be built in the county. One for the John Mann Farm and the other is for the Seymour Farm. The grant is for \$386,000.
- Stream Guides – The District still has a large quantity of books on hand if any District or municipality is in need of more.

Ontario: (P.J. Emerick)

- Continuing to be a part of the Ontario-Wayne Stormwater Coalition and are currently working on administering Rd 8 & 9 of a WQIP grant. This grant is a cooperative effort between the Ont-Wayne MS4 group, the G-FLRPC and the District.
- The District has just received the results of the independent audit that it requested. The results will be used to enhance our Dist policies, procedures and record keeping.
- The Dist currently is administering and implementing 9 active grants. Many of the grants involve farming Operations however some include road bank stabilization projects, and vineyard BMP's.
- Round 14 of the Ag non-point grants is fast approaching and the Dist will be meeting to discuss this later this month.
- Ag values are continuing to be completed and returned
- AEM is continuing with several Tier I and II being completed as well as compiling data for grazing management plans.
- The Uniform Procedures Program is continuing, with several wastewater treatment system inspections, perk tests and soil investigations.
- The State Fair booth was a success with several of the staff members indicating that they received several questions and comments from fairgoers.
- On September 18th & 19th Conservation Field days will be going on at the 4H camp in Bristol.
- September also marks the month that the Dist begins to prepare for the tree and shrub sale in the spring.

Schuyler County: (Elaine Dalrymple)

- Proposed gravel mine expansion above the Village of Watkins Glen, (Padua Dam) involves 106 acres, stormwater issues.
- Both Steuben & Schuyler Counties passed resolutions requesting the State provide funding for rehabilitation of such dams. Glenn Larison was not happy with NYACD's Directors' comments regarding these resolutions.

Tim Hicks moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to endorse a letter of support regarding the dam issues for the NYACD meeting on October 28th – 30th 2007.

- Trying to get some Ag mixing pads finished with Seneca Co. to complete a grant.
- Doing a fair amount of stream work

Seneca County: (Jim Malyj & Frank Sinicropi)

- Big year for harvesting, a lot of weeds at the end of Cayuga Lake. The SWCD has been able to purchase a new harvester, and trying to seek funding for a 2nd harvester
- Worked at the Cannon National Envirothon.
- Construction for chemical mixing pads at a couple of wineries.
- Working with the County drainage projects, beaver dam removal, storm water projects
- Seneca Meadows is building a horticultural greenhouse (to grow peppers) across from the Seneca Co landfill on 40 acres which will be powered from the gases coming from the landfill. Also will be working on developing a nature center.
- Clearing trees to try to grow corn and soy beans.

Steuben County:

None

Yates County: (Al McGuffie)

- Closures of offices in Yates Co. State-wide NRCS (8) , FSA (8), Rural Development (6) offices
- 2008 EQIP cost-sharing program begins in October and ends November 5th. Other programs won't begin until new Farm Bill is passed.
- Working on Ag & Non-Ag grants

Coordinator's Report:

Conservation Innovative Grants – The Finger Lakes RC&D Council has been awarded a \$48,000.00 grant through NRCS. The grant will provide cost sharing assistance to eight livestock producers for the purpose of installing solar powered livestock watering systems. Eligible participants must be raising a minimum of 25 animal units (dairy, beef, sheep, goats &/or horses and be located within one of the 29 designated counties in New York. Each participant must contribute a minimum of \$1,875.00 of cash &/or in-kind services toward the completion of their respective project. The project is expected to begin in September 2007. The Council is already receiving inquiries about participating in this project from livestock producers

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative 2007– NRCS has recently awarded the Finger Lakes RC&D Council a \$23,000.00 grant for the purpose of preparing a minimum of 19 grazing plans and conducting two pasture walks or workshops within the Council's six county region. Contracts are in place with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Yates County and Wildland Consulting of Bath to complete these deliverables.

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative 2006- The Finger Lakes RC&D Council is bringing this current grant to a close. To date 19 grazing plans totaling 775 acres; 49,177' of fencing; 960' of pipeline; 4 watering facilities; 46 acres of pasture seeding and 1 pasture walk were completed.

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.

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 was held on Thursday, July 26, 2007. The tour was conducted under the auspices of the Finger Lakes Sustainable Farming Center. The purpose of the tour was 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. Stops included a prescribed grazing farm, pastured poultry, organic cash crops & vineyard/winery.

- News Release for the NY Federation of RC&D Councils across the State. Week of September 23-29th was recognized as the National RC&D week.

NRCS Report:

None

Old Business:

- **Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association meeting in Hershey, PA** – September 16th -19th, 2007. Lola Tears and Ken Bush will be representing the Council. Ken is the Council's representative for the Mid-Atlantic. Sam Casella and Velynda Risley were able to get donations for this event from local wineries.
- **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. We will not have a booth for the Council, however the VDC will have a booth.
- **Environthon** – Finger Lakes RC&D was mentioned in the brochure as a sponsor for \$500.00. 250 students, 200 volunteers for 571 people. Representatives from 49 states and 99 provinces attended.
- **Renewal of Directors/Officers Liability Insurance** – Upon renewal of the policy the Council was offered an additional \$1,000,000 for an additional cost of \$100.00. The premium would go from \$665.00 to \$775.00.

Elaine Dalrymple moved to approve, seconded by Ken Bush and carried to approve the current policy that is in place for the \$1,000,000.00 with the annual premium of \$665.00.

New Business:

- **NRCS/Civil Rights Compliance Review (9/19/07)** – Statewide basis, make sure that NRCS programs are equally being offered to ethnic groups, races, gender, etc.
- **NYACD Annual meeting Sponsorship presented by Velynda Risley of Steuben Co. SWCD** - *Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Tim Hicks and carried to approve to sponsor NYACD for \$300.00 at the Annual meeting in Owego, NY on October 28-30th.*

Other Business:

None

Approval/Cancellation Projects (measures):

- **2007 GLCI Project**
- **NYSEPF Round 14 Grant**

Motion to accept the 2007 GLCI & NYSEPF Round 14 Grant projects was made by Sam Casella and seconded by Ken Bush and carried.

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on November 14th, 2007 at the Rural Urban Center in Montour Falls

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm

Motion to accept was made by Dick Gunderman and seconded by Greg Heffner and carried.