



**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, September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Schuyler County Human Resource Complex, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

### **Chemung County**

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

### **Ontario County**

P.J. Emerick, S&WCD Rep

### **Schuyler County**

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

### **Seneca County**

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep

### **Steuben County**

Velynda Risley, SWCD Rep (Alternate)  
Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep (Alternate)  
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep

### **Yates County**

Jim Balyszak, SWCD Rep  
John Keidel, Member @ Large

### **RC&D Staff**

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

### **Introduction of Guests**

Chanda Lindsay, NRCS/Black River St. Lawrence RC&D Council  
Suzanne Sinclair, Seneca County Manager

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

**Special Announcement was made to the Board to acknowledge the passing of the previous Council President Lola Tears who passed away on Sunday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2008.**

*Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to make a donation of \$50.00 to Hospice of the Southern Tier in memory of Lola Tears.*

**Approval of Minutes of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Council Meeting.**

*Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by PJ Emerick and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008.*

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

Secretary Velynda Risley reviewed the financial statement dated August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008. *Ernie Swift moved to approve, seconded by Karen Tillotson and carried to accept the Treasurer's Report of August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008.*

### **Financial Management Policy:**

Per our 2007 Audit, it was suggested that we develop a Financial Management Policy. We had approved such a policy in April 2004. We revised that policy and presented it to the Council members at the September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 Board meeting. *Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to approve and adopt the revised Financial Management Policy as of September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008.*

### **Communications:**

- Received a very nice thank you card from Barb and Al McGuffie for the Council acknowledging recognition of their services to the Finger Lakes RC&D Council over the past 15 years.

### **Gas Line Subcommittee Report:**

- Elaine Dalrymple brought the Board up to date on the letter regarding the Marcellus Shale gas drilling and its environmental impact on the water resources, other visual and environmental concerns as well as potential damage to roads. The letter will be forwarded to Pete Grannis, Commissioner of NYSDEC on September 26, 2008. *Jim Balyszak moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to authorize Ken Bush to sign this letter on behalf of the Council.*

### **County Reports:**

#### **Chemung:** (Karen Tillotson)

- **Manure Storage Units** – Installed one on the Mann Farm and the other on the Seymour Farm. This funding came through the Round 13 NYSEPF grant.
- **Cabin at Fairgrounds** – The cabin is just about complete and is being used by committees for meetings.
- **Chemung County Stormwater Team** – Due to the MS4 regulations, Chemung County decided to hire an Educator, Engineer, and Technician to help assist with these regulations. The District will house this team and is currently working on putting an addition on the District building. Money for the building came through a grant from Senator Winner. This funding for the team is through the county and municipalities.
- **Northeast Regional NACD Meeting** – Mark Watts attended this meeting in New Hampshire and did a presentation on “Diverse Partnerships and Projects”.

#### **Ontario:** (P.J. Emerick)

- During this reporting period, the District staff is continuing to conduct weekly compliance inspections in several municipalities that the District has agreements with. Along with these agreements, the District also provides education and outreach activities for Town Boards and Citizen Organizations. Later this fall the Ontario County SWCD will be conducting the required contractor training for erosion and sediment control.
- Our AEM program is going strong with several farms in 3 different watersheds actively involved in the process.
- Our agricultural grants program is ongoing with several farms working diligently to finish their approved BMP's before the construction season is over.
- Conservation Field Days is in full swing with several schools involved this year. The trail has been modified to include several unique stations.
- The District staff has been very busy assisting in the planning and coordination efforts for the NYACD Annual Meeting, which will be held October 19-21, 2008 in Geneva, NY.
- Successful Livestock Farming for Beginners Series begins 9/30/08-10/18/08 @ 6:30pm-8:30pm at the CCE in Canandaigua.

#### **Schuyler County:** (Elaine Dalrymple & Brett Chedzoy)

- Cornell Cooperative Extension will be presenting a series of Agri Forestry workshops.
- The Schuyler session of the stormwater education program sponsored by the Rural Stormwater Coalition (a Subcommittee of Chemung, Schuyler and Steuben WQCC's) for code enforcement officers (CEO's), and other municipal officials held in June have resulted in a number of referrals from CEO's to the District. CEO's are telling landowners and contractors to contact us for assistance related to preparation of Notice of Intent's and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans. This is one of the desired outcomes from this program.

Another session of this program entitled, "Rural Stormwater: Why Does It Matter? Let Your Voice Be Heard", was held in Steuben County in May as well.

- The Schuyler County Stream Program, a cost share program to assist municipalities and landowners with streambank stabilization, has been used extensively this year by municipalities, primarily for work near their infrastructure. Jerry Verrigni continues to work with County and Town Highway staff to make sure streams are handled so that their hydrology is not radically changed after stream remediation occurs.
- An application has been submitted by the Schuyler County Ag and Farmland Protection Board to NYS Ag and Markets for the Purchase of Development Rights program. A vineyard property overlooking Seneca Lake was submitted for protection.

**Seneca County:** (Jim Malyj)

- Rapping up the weed harvesting
- Starting engineering on the Round 14 non-point source grant for ag-mixing facilities.
- Stated there were some FL-LOWPA changes from the State

**Steuben County:** (Velynda Risley)

- **State Grants** – SWCD is waiting for 2 payments totaling \$51,620.64 for Meads Creek-Demerit and Bennetts Creek. The 3 remaining projects should be completed within the next 2 months.
- **NRCS Operational Agreement** – SWCD has entered into an Operational Agreement with NRCS for FY 2009 for our office rental. Our rental agreement is in-kind match towards technical and clerical services. Jeff Parker has written a letter to our County Administrator requesting office space as of October 1, 2009.
- **Ag Environmental Management (AEM)** – District received year 4 contract totaling \$40,000. SWCD will be presenting 4 farms with AEM Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment signs at the Farm City Day event in Cohocton on 9/20/08.
- **Upper Susquehanna Coalition** – This Coalition of Districts has been successful in obtaining a line item within the EPF fund in the amount of \$250,000. Steuben Co SWCD/\$17,500 in road bank stabilization funds. \$40,000 for streambank stabilization in the Bennetts Creek and \$20,000 for wetland restoration.
- **District Streambank Program** – There are 41 participants requesting a total of \$394,939. 12 projects have been completed totaling \$84,089. 3 of these projects were completed thru the Shared Service Program with no cost to the program (\$3,800.00)
- **Senate Initiative Program** – SWCD has received their contract for an all terrain vehicle to be purchased by the end of the year. This will be used as part of our critical area seeding program.
- **Pre-Disaster Assessment** – SWCD worked with FEMA & SEMO on a Pre-Disaster Assessment (PDA) in the Township of Wayland. The approximate cost of the PDA was in excess of \$300,000.
- **2009 Budget** – Jeff Parker presented SWCD 2009 operation budget to AIP and was approved with \$4,000 increase.

**Yates County:** (Jim Balyszak)

- None

**Coordinator's Report:**

**Wind Powered Livestock Watering Systems** – On August 12, 2008 the Finger Lakes RC&D Council and NRCS formally entered into a cooperative agreement for \$72,000.00. This agreement will allow eight livestock operators in Western New York to receive up to \$8,000.00/farm toward the installation of wind generated livestock watering systems. Wind evaluations and NEPA evaluations will be done on the first eight candidates to confirm their eligibility. The funding is being made available through NRCS's Conservation Innovative Grant program.

**Finger Lakes RC&D Area Plan** – The Council's 5 year strategic plan has been completed, approved by the Council's Board of Directors and on August 18, 2008 accepted by NRCS New York. The Area Plan has been forwarded onto NRCS in Washington, DC for review.

**Venison Donation Program** – The Venison Donation Coalition has signed the new 3 year contract which is between NYSDEC and the VDC. The contract must still be reviewed by the offices of the NYS Attorney General and NYS Comptroller. The contract will allocate a maximum of \$450,000.00 to the VDC over a 3 year period with two 1 year extensions possible.

**Dry Hydrants** – The Council has ordered two dry hydrant units for the Ovid Fire Dept. in Seneca County. The units each consist of 6" dry hydrant heads, 8" horizontal strainer, 3 feet of insulation sleeves and a 12" x 18" reflective ID sign.

**AEM Reporting Project** – Cheryl Faucett, RC&D Program Assistant continues to enter data from NYSEPF Round 12,13 &/or 14 projects which have been funded and planned within the Council’s six county region. As of this date planning information from Steuben, Schuyler & Yates counties have been entered into NRCS’s toolkit. This special project will end as of 12/31/08.

**2008 GLCI Grant** – The Council and NRCS entered into a new Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative Grant which will begin on October 1, 2008. The \$23,000.00 will be used to develop a minimum of 17 grazing plans and host 2 pasture walks as well as conduct follow-ups with 35 landowners who have already received grazing plans.

**NRCS Report:**

- **FY 2009 National RC&D Budget** – House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committees have recommended the National RC&D budget be set at \$51 million.

**Old Business:**

- **Mid-Atlantic RC&D Association meeting** – September 22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008 in Northern New Jersey. Ken Bush and Virginia Bush will be attended along with Dick Winnett and Velynda Risley.
- **Silent Auction Donations** – Dick Winnett thanked all the Council members who helped to obtain donations for the silent auction at the Mid-Atlantic meeting, Specifically, Kristen White, Seneca Co., Sam Casella, Ontario Co., Elaine Dalrymple, Schuyler Co. & Velynda Risley, Steuben Co. Many Thanks!

**New Business:**

- **Alternative Energy for Rural America Workshop** – Steuben Co CCE sponsoring, Finger Lakes RC&D Council would be a co-sponsor for this workshop which will be held at the Wings of Eagles Discovery Center, Horseheads. *Tim Hicks moved to approve, seconded by Dick Gunderman and carried to make a donation of \$100.00 to help with the cost of this workshop.*
- **Grassland Evaluation Contest** – Seneca Trail RC&D Council has asked for a donation of \$200.00 the same as we donated last year for this contest. Penn Yan School will be one of the participants this year. *Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Tim Hicks and carried to donate \$200.00 to the Grassland Evaluation Contest.*

**Other Business:**

- None

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

- **2008 GLCI Grant Approved**

*Motion to accept the approved project was made by Velynda Risley and seconded by Ernie Swift and carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled for 1:00pm on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at the Human Resource Complex, Room 120, Montour Falls, NY

***Meeting adjourned at 2:29pm***

***Motion to accept was made by Velynda Risley and seconded by Ernie Swift and carried.***