



**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 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Schuyler County Human Resource Complex, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

### **Chemung County**

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

### **Ontario County**

P.J. Emerick, S&WCD Rep

### **Schuyler County**

Elaine Dalrymple, S&WCD Rep  
Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep

### **Seneca County**

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep

### **Steuben County**

Velynda Risley, SWCD Rep (Alternate)  
Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep (Alternate)  
Ernie Swift, SWCD Rep  
Tom Tomsa, Member @ Large

### **Yates County**

John Keidel, Member @ Large

### **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 July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Council Meeting.**

*Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by PJ Emerick and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.*

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

Secretary Velynda Risley reviewed the financial statement dated August 31, 2009. *The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.*

### **Communications:**

– None

## County Reports:

### Chemung: (Karen Tillotson)

- **MS4 Stormwater Grant** – Sent out paperwork to close out grant and received payment for grant.
- **AG Tour** – Setting up an Ag Tour for the Co Legislators on September 26<sup>th</sup>. They will visit 3 farms.
- **Quanza Hut** – The hut is up and plans are to start collecting Ag Plastic which will be stored in the hut until a source is found to accept the plastic bales.
- **Log Cabin** – Open for the fair and was well attended. Stormwater Demonstration walk way on the side which has a rain garden and rain barrel display. Also, a composting unit is on display.
- **DEC P2 Intern** – This program went well and the intern held several workshops on composting, also made brochures to hand out.
- **Hydro-seeding** – Went out and assisted with a couple seeding jobs for the county on road ditches.
- **Stormwater Team** – Jimmie Joel Carl is now on board as the Engineer so the team is complete.

### 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 Genesee FLRPC and the District.
- The District has just rec'd a Dept of State Grant for the Honeoye Lake Watershed. The grant will be used to prioritize bank erosion sites and then to conduct stabilization practices on those sites.
- The District is continuing to complete work on several AG NPS grants in watersheds throughout the County. Some of the grants are in cooperation with the Yates County SWCD.
- Ontario Co SWCD will be applying for a WQIP Rd 10 grant to conduct roadbank stabilization projects in Several watersheds within Ontario and Yates Counties.
- Ag Environmental Management (AEM) is continuing with several Tier III's being completed.
- The Uniform Procedures Program is continuing with several wastewater treatment system inspections, perk tests and soil investigations.
- Conservation Field Days is currently underway at the 4H camp in Bristol.

### Schuyler County: (Elaine Dalrymple)

- 42 road ditch assessments were conducted in the Town of Hector and in the Lamoka Lake Watershed. The collected data will be used to determine the erosion potential of the individual ditches and rank them for remediation. Special emphasis was given to those stretches of road with slopes greater than 8% and to stretches of road near streams. Each section of ditch that was selected for data collection was identified with a GPS point.
- Hydro-seeding has been completed on over 5 miles of road ditch.
- 9 grazing systems are either installed, under construction, or planned for completion this fall.
- A 5 million gallon, lined, earthen manure storage structure for a dairy farm is under construction and two more 3.5 million gallon, earthen, manure storages are out for bid.
- The District Manager assisted with creating, setting up, and manning SWCD booths at Empire Farm Days and the State Fair.
- A Schuyler Co Task Force on Energy Development has been established whose approximate purpose is to gather information and provide recommendations to local governments to guide energy development in our communities thereby protecting our natural resources public health and safety and rural community character. The County Administrator encouraged this effort. One meeting has been held to date, a web pages is being established to facilitate communication, and subcommittees are being formed
- Numerous maps continue to be made for residents for various purposes using our GIS expertise.
- Rain barrels have been a popular item with residents and a total of 80 have been made by the District with 68 sold.
- Stormwater management technical assistance continues to be provided with the help of the Regional Stormwater Specialist.
- 7 stream projects will be completed in Sept and Oct.
- AEM Year 5 work continues in earnest.
- Tim Hicks reported that the new owners of US Salt have announced their planning conversion to a 100% Bio Mass Energy generating facility. It was also mentioned has US Salt applied to be a facility to receive Bio Mass and US Salt has applied to be a recipient under FSA's Bio Mass Crop assistance program.

**Seneca County:** (Jim Malyj)

- **Weed Harvesting** – Wrapped up this project Labor Day weekend. Offered educational sessions on where the weed harvester can go and where it can't with regards to the dimensions of the harvester.
- **Ag Non Point Grant** – Finishing up
- **Silage Leachate Project** – Waiting for reimbursement funds to be available for participants.
- **AEM** – Work still continuing
- **NY State Fair and Empire Field Days** – Kristin White from Seneca Co set up booths and attended both

**Steuben County:** (Velynda Risley)

- **Water Quality Projects** – Cohocton River Stabilization Project - Smith Hill & Meads Creek Streambank Stabilization County Line has been completed with an estimated cost of \$129,892.40. Reimbursement totaling \$80,000 will be submitted to DEC prior to December 31.  
The District is coordinating a Shared Services stream project that involves Town of Erwin, DOT, DEC Flood Control/Operations, Corning Inc., DPW and SWCD. 700-800' of river bank will be stabilized using in-stream structures to protect Town of Erwin's Sewage Treatment Plants outflow pipe and Corning Inc. fiber optic cable due to the Rte 15 Overpass construction. Corning Inc. is contributing \$75,000 for materials (rock riprap/seeding) while all equipment is being donated. The anticipated cost of this project is \$135,445.
- **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 40 acres has been hydro-seeded.
- **District Streambank** – Seventeen projects have been completed to date totaling \$125,547.95. Six of the projects were completed thru the Shared Services Program.
- **Ag Grants** – Implementation is being made on the grazing contracts. Obtaining funding thru EPF on grants has been slow due to the State's financial situation – on a positive note, we just received \$65,598.75 for Rd 14 Prescribed Grazing grant and we have submitted another voucher totaling \$105,035. There is approximately a 6 months turn around time for processing reimbursement vouchers. Still no announcement on Round 15 proposals – hopefully soon
- **AEM** – Four local farmers were selected to receive AEM Sign that *Farmers Partnering to Protect Our Environment*. Keith and Darlene Barrett were one of the recipients and they were recognized at County Fair; Al Cisco and Ed Machuga will be presented their sign at Farm City Day; and Hillsprings Farm (Charlie and Norm Painter), who are also our 2009 Cooperator of the Year, will receive their AEM sign at our Cooperator luncheon in November.
- **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 has been completed with 4 classes that have been scheduled (October 30 & November 13 – Chemung; November 5-Steuben; and December 2 – Schuyler)
- **District 2010 Budget** – The SWCD Board approved our budget totaling \$337,827.95 with 1% increase; however, we were able to cut our budget by \$107,676.51. We are seeking a \$3,000 increase to County Appropriations to cover the 1% increase which are employee's raises. The budget was brought before the AIP Committee for the approval which they approved and is now forwarded to the Finance Committee.
- **Contribution and Operational Agreements** – District will be entering into an Agreement with NRCS for WRP monitoring to assist them with onsite reviews. SWCD will be housed with NRCS still. SWCD will enter into an Agreement with NRCS to assist them in program delivery which will be used to offset the rent.
- **GIS Software** – Thanks to Schuyler SWCD knowledge of an ESRI GIS software Usage Agreement with NRCS for non-ITS Computer Users, Steuben SWCD will be signing the User Agreement for three computers. Two agreements have already been forwarded to NRCS for approval and the other agreement is waiting for a SWCD signature. The software is only be used for SWCD purposes and the software cannot be used for personal benefit or use.
- **NYSERDA** – Tom Tomsa reported that Steuben CO CCE is working with Jack Wheeler, Asst Co Administrator on funding a proposed program opportunity to costing out to any Non-profit or Local Government Agency that has a facility that \$30,000.00 would pay for an Energy Efficiency Study Recommendations, as long as those recommendations would consider renewable energy sources that were cost efficient for the facility. Trying to locate a consultant with Bio Mass System expertise, this is the first step before the application can be submitted to NYSERDA. Also, developing an inventory for Bio Mass through Steuben County.
- **Farm City Day** – Drumm Farm/Pulteney on Saturday October 3, 2009, also a tour for the elementary kids on Thursday October 1, 2009 at the Drumm Farm.

**Yates County:**

- None

**NRCS Report:**

- **FY 2009 National RC&D Budget** – House of Representatives and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committees have agreed to reinstate the National RC&D budget at \$50.7 million. Still negotiations continuing as to how the funds will be allocated.

- **RC&D Office Program Appraisal** – Internal audit conducted by NRCS/Dennis DeWeese, Asst State Conservationist, Syracuse. NRCS wants to make sure that the RC&D offices are in compliance. This review/audit provided a training opportunity for three new RC&D Coordinators.

#### Old Business:

- **Cooperative Agreement between NRCS & Finger Lakes RC&D** – Entered into a Conservation Technical Assistance (CTA) agreement with NRCS for Cheryl Faucett to work 20 hrs per week for the Bath Field Office. NRCS will provide \$13,500.00 to the Council towards this agreement over the next year.  
*Velynda Risley moved to approve, seconded by Ernie Swift and carried to enter into this CTA agreement with NRCS in the Bath Field Office.*
- **Reducing Financial Management Barriers faced by Organic Dairy producers – NY Farm Viability Institute Grant** – John Hanchar, NWN Dairy, Livestock & Field Crops Team will manage the \$20,090.00 grant. The Council will receive approx \$1,900.00 for accepting this grant. This grant will provide some insight to the producers on financial management and record reporting.
- **Creative Agriculture Approaches to Sustainability on the Farm Conference, Canandaigua, NY August 19-20, 2009** – Council allocated \$500.00 to be a co-sponsor of this 2 day event, which was through the Finger Lakes Farming Sustainability Center, Jim Ochterski of CCE Ontario Co coordinated the program. There were 40 paid enrollees. The 1<sup>st</sup> day consisted of panel discussions. The 2<sup>nd</sup> day consisted of a bus tour of the western side of Canandaigua Lake. The event was a success.
- **Natural Gas Tour-Fortuna Energy, Troy, PA, September 23, 2009** – Brett Chedzoy, CCE has set up this tour. The tour was changed for 8:00am to Noon – 4:00.

**Catharine Valley Trail, Michelle Benjamin** – Michelle is the President of the Friends of Catharine Valley Trail. Michelle put on a very informative presentation of the trail. The website is [www.catharinevalleytrail.com](http://www.catharinevalleytrail.com).

#### New Business:

- **RC&D Member Training, date TBD** – Sharon Ruggi, President of the NY Federation of RC&D Councils, has been trying to put together a 2 day training session for RC&D Board Members. Sharon has made arrangements with Donna Hunter, National Association of RC&D Councils staff. The topics may include: Roles and Responsibilities of RC&D Members, Fiduciary Responsibilities, Potential Conflicts of Interest, etc. Looking at November 17, 18 or 19<sup>th</sup> in the vicinity of Syracuse, NY. Amy Dlugos, Velynda Risley, Ken Bush were interested in attending.  
*Tim Hicks moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to approve up to \$750.00 to pay for RC&D Board Members to attend this training in November.*
- **Biomass Crop Assistance Program** – Handout
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative** – Handout

#### Other Business:

- **Filing of Finger Lakes RC&D 990 & NYS Bureau of Charities** – Filed reports on time.
- **Statewide RC&D Coordinators' Meeting, Bath, NY 8/25/09** – Dennis DeWeese, NRCS, brought RC&D Coordinators to Bath to tour Ed Gates, Solar Powered Pumping System, Rory Miller/Don Deroshier, Sheep Operation, and Glen Creek, Natural Stream Design work.

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

- **2009 GLCI Contract**

*Motion to accept the approved 2009 GLCI project was made by Velynda Risley and seconded by Tim Hicks and carried.*

Next meeting is scheduled for **Monday 1:00pm on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009** at the Human Resource Complex, Room 120, Montour Falls, NY

*Meeting adjourned at 2:48pm*

*Motion to accept was made by Velynda Risley and seconded by PJ Emerick and carried.*