



**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 8, 2010 @ 1:00pm at the Schuyler Co Human Resource Building, Montour Falls, NY.

In Attendance:

### **Chemung County**

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

### **Ontario County**

None

### **Schuyler County**

Jerry Verrigni, S&WCD Rep (Alternate)  
Timothy Hicks, Legislature Rep  
Brett Chedzoy, Member @ Large

### **Seneca County**

Jim Malyj, S&WCD Rep

### **Steuben County**

Amy Dlugos, Legislature Rep (Alternate)  
Greg Heffner, Legislature Rep  
Velynda Risley, S&WCD Rep

### **Yates County**

John Keidel, Member @ Large

### **RC&D Staff**

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

**Meeting called to order** by President, Ken Bush at **1:05 P.M.**

### **Approval of Minutes of July 21, 2010 Council Meeting.**

*Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to accept the Council meeting minutes of July 21, 2010.*

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

Treasurer Greg Heffner reviewed the financial statement dated August 31, 2010. *The Treasurer's report was filed for audit.*

- Authorization to closeout Finger Lakes Grazing Grant NYSEPF Rd 12 – *Greg Heffner moved to approve, seconded by Velynda Risley and carried to closeout this grant and transfer balance to a general money market account.*

### **Communications:**

None

## County Reports:

### Chemung: (Karen Tillotson)

- **Open House Chemung County Rural Stormwater Coalition** – On July 28, 2010 located at the Chemung Co SWCD Building in Horseheads, NY went well with approximately 40 participants.
- **Log Cabin (Chemung Co Fairgrounds)** – Open for the fair and the EM River was up and running, enjoyed by all ages. Cabin was also opened for the Old Timers.
- **Workshop** – Stream Investigation, Stabilization & Design

### Ontario: None

### Schuyler County: (Jerry Verrigni & Brett Chedzoy)

- **Stream Projects** – Working on stream projects a couple of them are funded through the Finger Lakes RC&D Council.
- **Rd 15**– Silage Lechate Collection System going in at the end of the month.
- **USC Demonstration** – John Wickham is building a grazing system in Alpine, NY on USC land that has a large wetland area. He built it so there could be there areas. An area that is not grazed in the wetland (as a control), an area in the wetland that is grazed, and then an upland area to graze them when it is too wet to have them in the wetland itself. This is to see what impact grazing animals in wetlands have on species type in these wetland areas.
- **AEM** – Work still ongoing.
- **Food Bank of Southern Tier Brochure** – Prepared a brochure to partner farmers with the Southern Tier Food Bank to sell or donate any surplus food they may have so that it may be utilized for feeding the hungry instead of just going to waste. The Finger Lakes RC&D Council is a co-sponsor on this project.
- **Wagner Hardwoods Tours, CCE of Schuyler** – Thursday, October 7, 2010 from 9:30am – Noon at Wagner Hardwoods (6307 State Route 224, Cayuta, NY)

### Seneca County: (Jim Malyj)

- **Weed Harvesting** – Wrapping up the weed harvesting program. The SWCD has sold 2 old weed harvesters.
- **Graze NY** – The District is taking over the administration of the program from Cayuga Co SWCD.
- **Seneca Meadows Land Fill** – Proposing a clay mine in the T/Waterloo, NY.
- **Pesticide Mixing Facility** – NYSEPF Round 14 ongoing.

### Steuben County: (Velynda Risley)

- **Member Item** – District Vehicle was approved.
- **Steuben Co Fair** – Attendance in the Ag building was much better this year.
- **Stream Permits for NFWF** – Working on permits for Colonel Bills and Bennetts Creek.
- **NYSEPF RD 14** – Met with landowners & engineers on bid package. 85% funding has been received.
- **NYSEPF RD 15** – Contract has been received for 2 manure storage buildings. At this time there is no funding.
- **AEM Strategic Plan** – Contract has been signed by Jeff and has gone back to the State Committee.
- **Hydro seeding** – Ongoing. This year has been a little different because there was more demand from private residents. Will be hydro seeding the gas well site in Avoca.
- **Rte 414 USC Wetland Project** – Completed (T/Hornby). Jeff P. is still conducting stormwater inspections to ensure 80% coverage is met.

### Yates County:

- None

### NRCS Report:

- **National RC&D Program FY 2011 Budget** – House Agriculture Appropriations Committee and Senate Agriculture Appropriations Committee have agreed to reinstate the National RC&D budget at \$50.73 million nationwide. This still must be presented in front of both full Houses of Congress.

## **RC&D Coordinators Report -**

**Chemung Grazing #6** – Eleven of the twenty-one project participants have completed their respective grazing system projects. Each participant has earned a maximum of \$8,800.00 while contributing a minimum of \$3,700.00. Five other participants have completed a portion of their projects, earning between \$1,315.00 & \$8,474.00. The remaining 6 participants haven't submitted any invoices for reimbursement. A request for a no cost extension was submitted on 11/30/09, the NYSSWCC has approved this extension request through 11/15/11.

**Southern Tier Grazing** – Eight of the 25 grazing participants have completed the installation of their BMPs while 8 other participants have partially completed their projects. The remaining 9 participants have yet to submit any invoices for reimbursement. The current deadline for completing this \$262,395.00 grant is December 31, 2011.

**Invasive Species Outreach Project** – The Finger Lakes RC&D Council submitted a pre-proposal to the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation in order to develop an educational outreach initiative which will help municipal highway departments manage invasive species such as Giant Hogweed, Poison Hemlock, Japanese Knotweed & Wild Parsnips. If funded the \$8,750.00 program will include a total of 6-8 workshops for highway personnel in Chemung, Ontario, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben & Yates Counties. Also as part of the grant is the printing of 200 field guides to help highway personnel with identifying these noxious weeds. The Council received word last month that the NFWF isn't interested in a full proposal. Jeff Parker & Dick Winnett will continue to look for other funding opportunities to fund this worthwhile project.

**Natural Steam Design Grant** – The work on the project sites are currently in the planning stage as well as obtaining permits stage. One phase of the Schuyler County portion of this \$399,995.00 has been completed, resulting in \$14,975.00 of improvements being installed along Coon Hollow and Switzer Hill Road.

**Contribution Agreement** – The Finger Lakes RC&D Council has concluded the contribution agreement with NRCS. Both parties will have contributed \$13,500.00 toward the service provided to the Bath NRCS field office by Cheryl Faucett, RC&D Program Assistant. Cheryl has been helping the field office staff with entering data from Chesapeake Bay Watershed Initiative files into NRCS' progress reporting system "Toolkit". Cheryl has also helped the NRCS office with filing, mailings and reports. This current contribution agreement expires on September 15, 2010.

NRCS and the Finger Lakes RC&D Council have entered into a new contributions agreement which will take place upon the closeout of the current agreement. NRCS will contribute \$14,500.00 for Cheryl's service while the Finger Lakes RC&D Council will pay 25% of the total agreement costs (\$4,836.00).

**2009-2010 GLCI Grant** – The Council has completed its obligations as described in the agreement with NRCS. Sixteen grazing plans totaling 643 acres have been prepared by the Council's grazing consultants. In addition 2 grazing workshops/pasture walks have been held with approximately a total of 70 people attending the two events. Finally, 45 follow-up visits to livestock operations with previously prepared grazing plans were conducted. The Council has signed a new GLCI contract. It is anticipated this agreement will allow the RC&D Council to contract for services from the Steuben SWCD &/or Jonathan Barter.

**Alternative Energy Field Day** – A field day cosponsored by the Finger Lakes RC&D Council & Cornell's Small Farms Program will be held on Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> @ Jonathan Barter's farm near Branchport. Approximately 35 people attended the field day which provided individuals the opportunity to see a livestock watering system powered by wind & solar energy.

## **Old Business:**

- **Mid Atlantic RC&D Meeting** – Cancelled due to lack of participation.
- **Invasive Species Project** – Did not get funded by the NFWF.
- **Filing of IRS 990 & NYS Dept of Law** – E-filed by Wheat & Fitzpatrick (Council's Accountant), and have filed the NYS Dept of Law.
- **Food Bank of Southern Tier Flier** – Brett Chedzoy made suggestions that the Council try to circulate this flier to as many people or groups possible either by mail or websites, etc. to make farmers aware of this program.

**New Business:**

- **NY Federation of RC&D's Meeting** – Velynda R., Ken B. & Dick Winnett will be attending this meeting on September 30, 2010 – Syracuse, NY.
- **Jonathan Barter/Alternative Energy Field Day, Branchport, NY** – September 9, 2010 10:00 – 12:00am on Ford Road, Branchport, NY. This field day will provide a view of a wind/solar project that has been completely installed.

**Other Business:**

- **Purchasing Copier** – The Council has purchased a used copier from the Yates Co SWCD, to replace the copier that we now have in the office.

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

None

Next meeting is scheduled for *Wednesday November 17, 2010 at 1:00pm at the Schuyler Co. Human Service Complex, Montour Falls, NY*

*Meeting adjourned at 2:07pm*

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