

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES  
April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

Meeting was called to order at 7:26 a.m. by Chairman Morrow.

Attendance: Board members – Gerald Morrow, Dave Blades, David Holland, Ed Gardner; SWCD – David Reckahn, Lois Sayward, Laura Benedict, Alice Halloran; NRCS – Sarah Trumbull

Excused: Karl teRiele

**MOTION** to accept the March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017 minutes was made by Holland, seconded by Blades, and carried.

**Correspondence** – Dave passed around some correspondence for the directors to review. NYS Flood Plain and Stormwater Managers meeting will be held in Binghamton. Dave feels this would be an important meeting to bring back to the county.

**Chairman's Update** – No update. Chairman Morrow was present at the Technician interviews Tuesday, and will discuss later in the meeting.

**Secretary Update** – was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 1)

**MOTION** to accept the April update was made by Blades, seconded by Gardner, and carried.

**District Manager Update** was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 2)

**MOTION** to accept the April update was made by Holland, seconded by Blades, and carried.

**Conservation Technician Update (Laura)** was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 3)

**MOTION** to accept the April update was made by Gardner, seconded by Holland, and carried.

**Conservation Technician Update (Alice)** was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 4)

**MOTION** to accept the April update was made by Blades, seconded by Gardner, and carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **TECHNICIAN OPENING** – The Technician position will be discussed at the end of the meeting in executive session.
- **ROUND 22 CHECKING ACCOUNT – MOTION** to open an Ag NPS Round 22 interest bearing checking account with \$126,671.49 received from the Department of Agriculture and Markets was made by Blades, seconded by Holland, and carried. 90% of the project cost was received.
- **SUMMER INTERN** – The summer intern position will be discussed at the end of the meeting in executive session.
- **ESSEX COUNTY SWCD LOGO** – Laura didn't have a chance to check with Loremans's for a quote. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- **FARMLAND PROTECTION BOARD MEETING** – The Farmland Protection Board Agricultural District meeting Public Hearing will be held May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Board of Supervisors meeting at 9:30 a.m. before the full board meeting. A meeting was held with Cornell

Cooperative Extension to go through the changes. There were additional parcels that were added in. All final decisions will be completed and forwarded to the state.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **CREP PROGRAM** – This program gives enhanced payments to landowners who want to implement conservation practices by protecting their stream banks, planting trees, and buffers. The Lake Champlain Basin Program would like to add some additional funds for these conservation practices.
- **CLIMATE RESILIENT FARMING GRANT** – The Press Release came out recently announcing Essex County SWCD has received an \$184,130.00 Climate Resilient Farming Grant for a landowner in the Town of Essex. The project will establish three ponds on a farm that cultivates fruit and nut trees.
- **CULVERT GRANT** – Due to lack of documentation, FEMA rejected the culvert grant. Dave R. felt Essex SWCD had over 200 hours of work into the grant. Dave said it is so important to document and take pictures after a storm event. If funding becomes available, it is necessary to have the entire backup in applying for these grants.
- **RCPP FUNDING UPDATE** – Essex County SWCD has \$28,000.00 in staff time to be used for plans not funded by AEM. This funding could be used for Forestry plans that the district was planning on covering under Part C. That money could be then be used towards projects and equipment.
- **LAKE EVEREST SUPPLIES** – The Lake Everest project funded by the Lake Champlain Basin Program in Wilmington must be completed by June. \$20,000.00 has been allowed for this project. The plan is to capture the water coming down the hill to prevent flood resiliency in the west branch of the AuSable. Dave R. would like to purchase supplies from E.J. Prescott and A.H. Harris to complete the project. One erosion product cost twice as much as the other. Dave would like permission to try both, document and use as a demonstration. The Lake Champlain Basin Program said it would be alright if documented. **MOTION** to purchase supplies from both E.J. Prescott and A.H. Harris to use as a demo was made by Blades, seconded by Gardner, and carried.

### **DISTRICT TREASURER**

- A. Financial report was presented to the Directors (Appendix 5)  
**MOTION** by to accept the April report as presented by Blades, seconded by Gardner and Holland, carried.
- B. Bills due for payment were presented to the Board for approval. (Appendix 6)  
**MOTION** by Holland to accept the April bills for approval, and pay as such seconded by Gardner, and carried.

### **COOPERATING AGENCIES**

NRCS Report – Sarah Trumbull was present to give a report on NRCS funding available. Sarah thanked Alice for her help with the Essex County high tunnel applications. Sarah reviewed a Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist with the Directors and had them all sign an Affirmation of Review (Appendix 8)

**OTHER**

Chairman Morrow said the county is looking at a building in Lewis to move Essex County Cornell Cooperative Extension into. They are talking about moving Essex County SWCD into a new building at the DPW site, since Essex SWCD works with them on many projects. Everything is still in the talking stages.

Dave R. updated the board on the Fish and Wildlife projects that have been completed. He is looking at new projects to get funded.

**MOTION** to move into Executive Session at 8:10 to discuss personnel matters was made by Holland, seconded by Gardner and carried. Minutes were not taken.

**MOTION** to move out of Executive Session at 8:43 was made by Blades, seconded by Gardner, and carried.

**MOTION** to hire William O'Reilly to fill the full-time Technician position at an annual salary of \$25,000.00 with benefits was made by Blades, seconded by Gardner and carried.

**MOTION** to offer the summer intern position to Christopher Malin at \$10.00 an hour was made by Holland, seconded by Blades, and approved.

**Next Meeting – May 18<sup>th</sup>, @ 7:30 a.m.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Secretary Update (Lois)  
Appendix 2 – District Manager Update (Dave)  
Appendix 3 – Conservation Technician Update (Laura)  
Appendix 4 – Conservation Technician Update (Alice)  
Appendix 5 – Treasurer's Report  
Appendix 6 – Bills for Approval  
Appendix 7 – NYSSWCC Report  
Appendix 8 – Civil Rights for Responsibilities Checklist

Submitted by:

Lois Sayward  
Secretary to the Board

