

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
February 18th, 2016**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. By Chairman Morrow.

Attendance: Board members – Gerald Morrow, Dave Blades, Karl teRiele, Ed Gardner; SWCD – David Reckahn, Lois Sayward, Tiffany Pinheiro, Laura Benedict; NRCS – Sarah Trumbull; NYSSWCC – Bob Brower

Excused: David Holland

MOTION to accept the January 21st, 2016 minutes was made by teRiele, seconded by Gardner, and carried.

Correspondence – Dave passed around some correspondence for the Directors to review.

Chairman's Update – Chairman Morrow did not have an update.

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

MOTION to accept the January update was made by Blades, seconded by teRiele, and carried.

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

MOTION to accept the January update was made by teRiele, seconded by Blades, and carried.

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

MOTION to accept the January update was made by teRiele, seconded by Blades, and carried.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

- **DEC REGION 5 FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD** – Dave Blades was the Essex County Board of Supervisors Representative to the DEC Region 5 Fish and Wildlife Management Board in 2015. Supervisor Ronald Moore from the Town of North Hudson was appointed to this position for 2016. Attending DEC Region 5 Fish & Wildlife board meetings qualify towards participation at State, Regional, and National Meetings and functions to satisfy the performance measures meeting requirement. Any Board of Directors member may attend a meeting to qualify. Essex County SWCD does not need to make an appointment to the Fish & Wildlife Management Board.
- **ESSEX COUNTY FORESTRY UPDATE** – The timber sale has started in Lewis. The bid is going out for the UTV and the trailer at the county. Chairman Morrow said the Sheriff's Department has a trailer for Essex SWCD to use at no cost. Chairman Morrow suggested Dave look at the trailer, and see if it is what he wants. The bids should be in for discussion at the next board meeting.
- **TREE AND SHRUB SALE** – The 2016 Annual Tree and Shrub Sale is now going on. Orders are slowly starting to come in. The date of the sale is April 22nd at the Essex County Fairgrounds in Floral Hall.

NEW BUSINESS

- **APPROVAL TO SIGN THE CONTRACT FOR FUNDING WITH ESSEX COUNTY** – Essex County approved funding Essex County SWCD in the amount of \$111,233.00 for 2016. **MOTION** to approve Chairman Morrow signing the funding contract with Essex County in the amount of \$111,233.00, was made by Blades, seconded by Gardner, and carried.
- **APPROVAL TO PAY BILLS** – The March Board of Directors meeting will be held March 24th, since the symposium will be held the week of our regular meeting. Lois would like permission to pay any bills due

before the meeting ahead of time. **MOTION** made by teRiele to approve payment of bills due to be paid before the March 24th meeting, seconded by Gardner, and carried.

- **POSTING MINUTES ON THE WEBSITE** – Lois asked the Board of Directors if they would like to have the meeting minutes posted on the website. All agreed they should be on the website. Bob Brower said that legally if a district has a website, the draft minutes should be posted within ten days, and the final minutes posted when approved. This procedure will be followed.
- **NORTHEAST ADMINISTRATIVE CONFERENCE** – The Northeast Administrative Conference will be held May 23rd and 24th in Lake George. Lois would like permission to attend. The rates to attend the conference are not available yet. **MOTION** to approve Lois attending the conference May 23rd and 24th was made by teRiele, seconded by Blades, and approved.
- **STORMWATER CLASSES** – Dave asked permission to attend classes in order to keep up his Certified Professional in Erosion and Sediment Control (CPESC) certification. The classes are being held March 23rd and June 22nd in Ballston Spa. The cost to attend each class is \$225.00. **MOTION** to give permission to Dave to attend one or both classes was made by teRiele, seconded by Gardner, and carried.
- **PART C FUNDING** – Bob Brower would discuss the funding increase from the state later in the meeting.
- **RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR ROUND 22** – Round 22 agricultural grants will be coming out soon. A board resolution needs to be passed in order to apply for this round of funding. There are one or two farms that are interested in applying. **MOTION** made by teRiele to allow Essex County Soil and Water Conservation District to apply for funding was made by teRiele, seconded by Gardner, and carried.
- **VEHICLE STATUS** – Dave updated the board on the status of the vehicles. He reported over \$2,000.00 was put into repairs on the Chevrolet truck last year, and the Ford car had over 80,000 miles on it. Bob Brower said that Soil and Water Districts can't incur debt or lease a vehicle. Purchasing a vehicle will help towards the Part A eligible expenditures match. Bob said many districts are buying and selling new vehicles every two years, and breaking even or having very little cost. They can buy the vehicles on state contract at a reduced cost, and sell in two years. Chairman Morrow suggested Dave look into prices to upgrade the vehicles.

DISTRICT TREASURER

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

COOPERATING AGENCIES

NRCS Report – Sarah Trumbull was present to give a report.

NYSSWCC Report - (Appendix 7)

Bob Brower was present to give his report. Bob went over the additional funding money available through the Environmental Protection Fund to Soil and Water Districts in the state. There is a push to do more agricultural protection planning. There will be more money available to districts who meet the performance measure criteria. Bob emphasized the state wants to see Soil and Water Districts have long term planning goals.

The District Law power point was presented to the directors by Dave Reckahn. The District Law training is required for all directors to take every three years.

OTHER

Next Meeting – March 24th, at 7:30 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 a.m.

Attachments: Appendix 1 – Secretary Update
Appendix 2 – District Manager Update
Appendix 3 – Conservation Technician Update (Tiffany)
Appendix 4 – Conservation Technician Update (Laura)
Appendix 5 – Treasurer's Report
Appendix 6 – Bills for Approval
Appendix 7 – NYSSWCC Report – Bob Brower

Submitted by:



Lois Sayward
Secretary to the Board