

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
MINUTES**

February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m. by Chairman Tyler.

Attendance: Board members – Ike Tyler, Anna Reynolds, Jim Monty, Dave Blades (called in from Florida); SWCD – Alice Halloran, Lois Sayward, Olivia Dickenson, Daniel Berheide; NRCS – Allie Holmes; NYSSWCC – Ryan Cunningham

Excused: Ben Leerkes

**MOTION** to accept the January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.

**Correspondence** – Alice passed around some correspondence for the board to review.

**Chairman’s Update** – The Chairman didn’t have an update.

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

**MOTION** to accept the February update was made by Reynolds, seconded by Monty, and carried.

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

**MOTION** to accept the February update was made by Reynolds, seconded by Monty, and carried.

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

**MOTION** to accept the February update was made by Reynolds, seconded by Monty, and carried.

**Technician Update (Daniel)** – was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 4)

**MOTION** to accept the February update was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Legislative Days** – Alice, Ben and Jim will be attending Legislative Days March 3<sup>rd</sup> in Albany to meet with the Legislatures. This meeting will count towards a Performance Measure meeting for Ben and Jim.
- **Director** – Farm Bureau has sent a letter requesting Ben Leerkes be reappointed to the Essex SWCD Board of Directors. Jim offered to take it to the Essex County Board of Supervisors for reappointment. Ben filled the vacancy of Karl teRiele through the end of 12/31/19. The new Farm Bureau term would be 1/1/20 – 12/31/22.
- **NYACD** – The discussion continued from last month regarding payment of the \$1,500.00 annual dues. The board felt the dues were very high, and before paying wanted to make sure they were worth the investment to the district. Ryan voiced his opinion on the role the NYACD plays for the districts throughout the state. The board decided to table payment of the dues.
- **Farmland Protection Board** – Alice will talk to Shaun Gilliland, Chairman of the Essex County Board of Supervisors about Essex SWCD’s representation on the Essex County Farmland Protection Board.

- **Meeting Cancellation Plan** – Ike will contact the board members when a meeting cancellation takes place. He will text or call the directors notifying them of meeting cancellation. Ike will contact Alice, and she will contact the district employees.
- **Salaries** – Alice passed around a spreadsheet to go over regarding current and future projected salaries. The Chairman would like time to review the information before making a decision, and have the full board present. The district is also looking for two seasonal interns. Jim suggested contacting BOCES to try to find an intern. They have an environmental program.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Essex County Contract – MOTION** to approve the Essex County 2020 Contract with Essex SWCD in the amount of \$111,233.00 was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.
- **AEM Contract - MOTION** to approve the two-year AEM contract in the amount of \$223,325.00 was made by Reynolds, seconded by Monty, and carried. This contract includes reimbursement for salaries and farmers projects.
- **April Meeting** – Alice will be on vacation for the April meeting. The date will remain the same to handle the monthly business.
- **Records Management** – Alice discussed storage of the permanent records for the district. Jim suggested applying for a grant. Maria McCashion could come to look at what our needs would be before applying for a grant. She could address the board with recommendations.
- **CRF and AgNps Grants – MOTION** to approve applying for the following grants was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.  
 CRF – Water Management System for farm in Willsboro up to \$120,000.00, Soil System for farm in Essex up to \$75,000.00;  
 AgNps – Heavy use for two farms in Jay up to \$150,000.00, Heavy use area for farm in Essex up to \$150,000.00.

### **DISTRICT TREASURER**

- A. Financial reports were presented to the Directors (Appendix 5)  
**MOTION** by to accept the February report as presented was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.
- B. Bills due for payment were presented to the Board for approval. (Appendix 6)  
**MOTION** by Reynolds to accept the February bills for approval, and pay as such, seconded by Monty, and carried.

### **OTHER-**

### **COOPERATING AGENCIES**

NYSSWCC – (Appendix 7) Ryan was present to give a report.  
 NRCS – Allie was present to give a report.

### **OTHER**

**Next Meeting – March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 @ 7:30 a.m.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 a.m.

Attachments: Appendix 1 - Secretary Updates (Lois)  
Appendix 2 - District Manager Updates (Alice)  
Appendix 3 - Technician Updates (Olivia)  
Appendix 4 - Technician Update (Daniel)  
Appendix 5 - Financial Reports  
Appendix 6 - Bills for Approval  
Appendix 7 - NYSSWCC

Submitted by:

Lois Sayward  
Secretary to the Board