

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
July 15th, 2021**

Meeting was called to order at 7:44 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Monty at the DPW Meeting Room in Lewis.

Attendance: Board members – Jim Monty, Dave Blades, Ben Leerkes, Anna Reynolds;
SWCD - Alice Halloran, Lois Sayward, Daniel Berheide, Joe Braun.

Excused: Chairman Ike Tyler

MOTION to accept the June 17th, 2021 minutes was made by Blades, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

Correspondence – NYACD letter announcing the annual meeting will be held October 19-21st. The directors are invited to attend. More information should be available for the August meeting.

Chairman’s Update – No update.

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

MOTION to accept the July update was made by Blades, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

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

MOTION to accept the July update was made by Reynolds, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

Technician Update (Daniel) – was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 3)

MOTION to accept the July update was made by Blades, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

Technician Update (Joe) - was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 4)

MOTION to accept the July was made by Reynolds, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **NYACD Region 5 Representative** - The board wants to meet the NYACD Region 5 Division Representative Frank Thomas from Warren County. **MOTION** made by Blades, seconded by Monty to invite Region 5 Division Representative Frank Thomas to come to our August 19th Board of Directors meeting at the DPW meeting room in Lewis at 7:30 a.m., and carried.
- **Port Henry Stream Study** - Bills have been coming in for water testing from Endyne Labs for the Port Henry Stream Study LCBP grant. Tasks will have to be completed before submitting for reimbursement. The district does not have a contingency fund, so the payments have been coming from the unexpended balance and are being tracked for reimbursement. **MOTION** to approve paying the Endyne Inc. bill in the amount of \$1,860.00 from unexpended balance was made by Leerkes, seconded by Blades, and carried. Lois will check into having a contingency fund for the Soil and Water District. Jim suggested talking to Linda Wolf or one of the auditors regarding setting up an account to borrow from to upfront grants.
- **Ag Building Letter** – Alice wrote a letter to be sent to the Board of Supervisors regarding office space for Essex SWCD. It was sent out and to be discussed at the meeting before being distributed. Jim said comments were made stating the county isn’t required to provide Essex SWCD space, so if SWCD found an alternate space we could go there. Jim stated Essex SWCD has been providing

a valuable service to Essex County for over 50 years. Jim directed Alice to send the letter to Shaun Gilliland, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Steve McNally, and Dan Palmer. She will have Chairman Tyler sign the letter before sending out. It is coming from the Essex County SWCD Board of Directors.

NEW BUSINESS

- **No-Till Drill Rental Agreement** - Alice would like to have the agreement ready by the time the drill arrives. The agreement was taken from the Clinton County agreement, but will need to be modified. Ben suggested a \$15.00 per acre rate and a discount per acre if the farmer has a plan. A \$3.00 per acre discount with a plan in effect within the last five years was suggested. The updated agreement will be sent out to review prior to the August meeting. Ben feels the district should encourage using the no-till drill. Jim would like to see repairs for equipment paid for by the user if they were caused by abuse. The \$300.00 deposit, liability insurance, and all the requirements in the general rental agreement will also apply. **MOTION** to approve a \$15.00 per acre rate and a \$3.00 discount an acre with a plan was made by Leerkes, seconded by Blades, and carried.
- **NYACD Annual Meeting October 19th - 21st** - Discussed earlier in the meeting.

OTHER

DISTRICT TREASURER

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

COOPERATING AGENCIES

NRCS Report - No report.

NYSSWCC – No report.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Next Meeting – August 19th, 2021 @ 7:30 a.m. at the DPW Meeting Office

Attachments: Appendix 1 - Secretary Update (Lois)
Appendix 2 - District Manager Update (Alice)
Appendix 3 - Technician Update (Daniel)
Appendix 4 - Technician Update (Joe)
Appendix 5 - Financial Report
Appendix 6 - Bills

Submitted by:

Lois Sayward
Secretary to the Board