

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
April 20th, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 7:46 a.m. by Chairman Tyler at the Westport Town Hall.

Attendance: Board members – Chairman Ike Tyler, Vice-Chairman Jim Monty, Mike Davis, Ben Leerkes, Anna Reynolds was excused; SWCD - Alice Halloran, Renee Clark, Daniel Berheide, Thomas Firkins, Paige Lamb

MOTION to accept the March 30th 2023 Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

Correspondence - Alice passed around information on several trainings for the board to review. Alice also told the Board about Paige’s resignation letter that was sent via email prior to meeting.

Vice-Chairman’s Update - No update.

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

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

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

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

Technician Update (Paige) - was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 5)

MOTION to approve the reports reviewed by the Board was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **NYCLASS** – Money Market and dedicated funds have been transferred to NYCLASS and doing well.
- **Part C Budget**-Additional funds will be used to provide 12 towns \$2000.00 towards the purchase of Live Edge Plow Blades. There is one spot left to fill.
- **Cold Brook Buffer Project(Reber)**– Received the first check and a new checking account was opened per the resolution made at the last meeting.
- **Tree Sale**-Everything is squared away and sale will kick off on the 21st. A discussion was had about native and invasive trees and what we had at nursery in Willsboro.
- **AEM Tier 4**- Lee Garvey Project was started and they are making progress. Flat and Vertical is doing the work.

NEW BUSINESS

- **AGNPS Grant** – 2 new grants to sign. They will be signed in front of a notary
- **AEM Tier 4 Projects** – Quotes were presented to the Board for tank and associated supplies for North Country Creamery. A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried, to accept the amount of the lowest bid and approve up to the lowest bid of \$7,382.50. Tank can be purchased from whomever up to the lowest amount.
- **Tire Drive** - A tire drive has been scheduled for Wednesday, June 14th at the Town of Moriah Highway Dept. The time has not been determined yet. All Essex County residents and landowners are welcome to drop off their tires. Another tire drive will be scheduled this fall in North Elba.
- **Director Training**-Ryan will be holding a training in Raybrook June 21st,2023.
- **Copier**- The maintenance agreement on copier is due to expire. Symquest provided new pricing for same agreement as last year and also provided quotes for leasing a new copier. The Board would like to keep the copier we have since nothing is wrong with it.
- **Essex Farm Cover Crops**- Final payment checks were written and CNB bank account for grant can be closed. A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes and carried, to close the CNB bank account for Essex Farm Cover Crops Grant Account.
- **New Employee**- Alice would like to advertise for a technician on the county website and Denton Publications newspaper. The job description with a starting pay of \$38,000 plus benefits will be posted. A **MOTION** to accept this was made by Davis, seconded by Leerkes. Monty dissented from the majority decision.
- **AEM Program**- There are several farms that won't be doing projects, Alice would like to trade out 2 new farms to the program. The 5 farms will now be WolleCru, North Country Creamery, Lee Garvey Farm, Essex Farm and Full and By Farm. A **MOTION** for approval was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

OTHER

DISTRICT TREASURER

- A. Financial reports were presented to the Directors (Appendix 6)
MOTION by to accept the April report as presented was made by Monty, seconded by Davis, and carried.
- B. Bills due for payment were presented to the Board for approval. (Appendix 7)
MOTION to accept the April bills for approval, and pay as such was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

NRCS Report – Allie Holmes was present to give report.

NYSSWCC - (Appendix 8)

NYACD-

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:42a.m. was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

Next regularly scheduled meeting - May 18th 2023 @ 7:45 a.m. at the Westport Town Hall

Attachments: Appendix 1 - Secretary Update (Renee)
 Appendix 2 - District Manager Update (Alice)
 Appendix 3 - Technician Update (Daniel)
 Appendix 4 - Technician Update (Thomas)
 Appendix 5 – Technician Update (Paige)
 Appendix 6 - Financial Report
 Appendix 7 - Bills
 Appendix 8 - NYSSWCC Report

Submitted by:

Renee Clark,
Secretary to the Board