

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
February 17th, 2022**

Meeting was called to order at 7:48 a.m. by Chairman Tyler at the Westport Town Hall.

Attendance: Board members – Chairman Ike Tyler, Anna Reynolds, Ben Leerkes, Jim Monty, Mike Davis; SWCD - Alice Halloran, Lois Sayward, Daniel Berheide, Joe Braun, Paige Lamb

MOTION to accept the January 20th Organizational Meeting minutes was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.

Correspondence – Alice passed around a list of Soil and Water County appropriations she received from the New York Association of Conservation Districts.

Chairman’s Update - No 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 Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.

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

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

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

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

Technician Update (Paige) – Paige just started and will have an update for next month’s meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Legislative Days** - Alice sent out a link for Legislative Days. Any board member who attends one of these meetings will be counted towards a Performance Measures meeting.
- **Tin Pan Alley Loan from General Fund** - The DEC WQIP Tin Pan Alley Planning Grant final payment has been received from the state. The report from the engineer is available to review. **MOTION** to approved paying back the General Fund \$23,030.00 loan and the remaining balance of \$760.62 for Personal Services to close out the grant account was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.
- **Port Henry Stream Study Loan from General Fund** – The Lake Champlain Basin Program Port Henry Stream Study grant requires tasks to be completed and approved prior to reimbursement. **MOTION** to approve paying back the General Fund \$14,999.61 from the Port Henry Stream Study Fund was made by Leerkes, seconded by Monty, and carried.

- **Essex County DEC WQIP Boquet Loan** – Essex County paid the contractor \$134,000.00 to complete the DEC WQIP Elizabethtown Fish and Game project. A contract between Essex County, Essex County SWCD, and the contractor was approved prior to the project beginning. The final payment from the DEC has been received to pay back Essex County and Essex SWCD for administering the grant. **MOTION** to approve paying Essex County the \$134,000.00 loan, \$26,000.00 to Essex SWCD for Personal Services, and to close out the grant account was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **TNC/DEC Reber Dam Project** – The Nature Conservancy and the Fish and Wildlife Agency are planning to remove the dam at the Reber Fire Department to improve fish passage. They may also add a dry hydrant. A discussion was held regarding the funding. They may ask Essex SWCD or the Town of Willsboro to be a pass through for the funding. No decision has been made. Alice will continue to update the board on the project.
- **CNMP Training for Alice** – Alice would like to attend Concentrated Nutrient Management Training in Ithaca. **Motion** to allow Alice to attend Concentrated Nutrient Management Training with travel, food, lodging, and any other related expenses paid for by the district was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.
- **Farmland Protection Board** – Dave Blades was appointed to the Farmland Protection Board to represent the Essex SWCD. Dave’s position will need to be replaced, since his term ended the end of 2021. Alice said the member should be the Chairperson of the Essex SWCD Board or an employee. Essex County appoints the member to the Farmland Protection Board. **MOTION** to appoint Mike Davis to represent Essex SWCD on the Farmland Protection Board was made by Leerkes, unanimous second, and carried. The recommendation of the Essex SWCD board will be submitted to the Essex County Board of Supervisors for their appointment.
- **Reber Rock Time Extension** – Reber Rock Farm would like an extension for their Agricultural Non-Point Source grant. The farm has had this grant for three years without starting the project. This project would include crossing and access roads. **MOTION** to approve a one-year extension for this grant was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

OTHER

DISTRICT TREASURER

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

COOPERATING AGENCIES

NRCS Report – No report

NYSSWCC - (Appendix 7)

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 a.m. was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

**Next regularly scheduled meeting - Thursday, March 17th, 2022 @ 7:45 a.m.
at the Westport Town Hall**

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
 Appendix 7 - NYSSWCC Report

Submitted by:

Lois Sayward
Secretary to the Board