

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
February 18th, 2021**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30 a.m. by Chairman Tyler via zoom.

Attendance: Board members - Ike Tyler, Dave Blades, Ben Leerkes, Jim Monty; SWCD - Alice Halloran, Lois Sayward, Daniel Berheide, Joe Brault; NYSSWCC – Ryan Cunningham; NRCS - Allie Holmes.

Excused: Anna Reynolds

MOTION to accept the January 21st, 2021 minutes was made by Monty, seconded by Blades, and carried.

Correspondence – The Legislative Days schedule came. Alice just sent out in the Directors e-mail. The National Association of Conservation Districts sent a letter asking if we would like to join.

Chairman's Update – No update.

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

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

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

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

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

MOTION to accept the January update was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Legislative Days** - Let Alice know what meetings you are interested in going to and she can send you the link to attend.
- **DEC Boquet** - There is nothing new to report on this grant.
- **Employer Health Emergency Plan** - The Employer Health Emergency Plan is required to be filed by April 1st with the state. Ike said the county should have something completed by our next meeting.
- **Annual State Reports** – The Annual State Reports have been completed and filed with the state.
- **Lake Champlain Hydroseeding Program Contract** – The Lake Champlain Basin Program Hydroseeding Contract with Essex County SWCD had been sent out prior to the meeting to review. **MOTION** to give Alice permission to sign the \$125,000.00 LCBP Lake Champlain Hydroseeding Contract was made by Leerkes, seconded by Monty, and carried.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Forestry Intern** – Daniel has been in contact with the Workforce Development Corporation in Plattsburgh. There is an opportunity for the District to get a Forestry intern paid for six weeks. The information had been sent out for the board to look at. The district would pay the intern and then get reimbursed. This is a good opportunity for the district to get six weeks' worth of work done, and to give someone in the forestry field experience. **MOTION** to approve hiring a Forestry intern to be reimbursed through the Workforce Development Corporation was made by Monty, seconded by Blades, and approved.
- **Log Arch** – The Log Arch has not been added to our rental equipment list. It has not been promoted in the past. Alice would like the boards opinion on what fee to put on it. It lifts logs when hooked up to a tractor or four- wheeler to get smaller logs out of an area. It was agreed to add to the rental agreement and charge \$20.00 per day rental.

OTHER

Alice said a farm is interested in applying through Essex SWCD's Source Water Program for a riparian buffer on their property. We are the only entity that can do this. We would partner through the Adirondack Land Trust. This is a conservation easement along the stream. A resolution is needed to apply on behalf of the farm. **MOTION** to allow Essex SWCD to apply on behalf of the farm through the Source Water Program for a conservation easement along the stream was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

Alice wants to hire two more interns. One will be paid for completely through the Port Henry Stream Study Grant. Harleigh Green would like to return as a summer intern and give a start date. **MOTION** to hire Harleigh Green as long as there are no issues with Civil Service was made by Monty, seconded by Blades, and carried.

The Climate Resilient Farming Grant awards were announced yesterday. It looks like the two applications we submitted were awarded.

Alice asked Dave Blades if any new farms were added to the agriculture district. Dave has not received anything recently from the Farmland Protection Board. Ben said they are in the process of making a report.

DISTRICT TREASURER

- A. Financial reports were presented to the Directors (Appendix 5)
MOTION by to accept the January 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 January bills for approval, and pay as such was made by Blades, seconded by Monty, and carried.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

NRCS Report - Allie Holmes called in to give an update.

NYSSWCC – (Appendix 7) Ryan also called in to give an update.

Chairman Tyler welcome Joe.

Jim volunteered to set up the next meeting on zoom.

Next Meeting – March 18th, 2021 @ 7:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 a.m.

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

Submitted by:

Lois Sayward
Secretary to the Board