

# ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 18th, 2024

## DISTRICT BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Monty in the Westport Town Hall at 7:49 a.m.

Attendance: Board members - Ike Tyler, Jim Monty, Ben Leerkes, Anna Reynolds. Mike Davis was absent. SWCD – Renee Clark, Alice Halloran, Meagan Goff, Interns- Marta Estrada and Emily Pinheiro. NRCS- Allie Holmes.

**MOTION** to accept the June 20th, 2024 minutes was made by Leerkes, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.

**Correspondence** – Alice let the Board know that Ben Wever Farm is in the top three contenders to be awarded the Leopold Award.

**Chairman's Update** – No report.

**Farm Bureau Update**- No report

## Monthly Updates

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## OLD BUSINESS

- **Maternity/Paternity Leave Policy**- A discussion was had about adding a policy for maternity/paternity leave to our personnel policy. Alice wrote up a draft policy and gave it to the County Attorney for review, this discussion was tabled until the County Attorney provides feedback.
- **NRCS Local Working Group Meeting**- A meeting of the 3 County's region at the Ausable Grange is scheduled for July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Lewis Irrigation** – A **MOTION** was made by Leerkes, seconded by Reynolds, and carried to close out Lewis Irrigation Grant # T00205GG.
- **Ausable River HUA**- A **MOTION** was made by Leerkes, seconded by Monty, and carried to close out Ausable River HUA Grant # C701413.
- **Emerald Ash Borer**- Alice credited the district's interns for observing D-shaped holes on ash trees at the Beaver Bend Preserve and for choosing that area to hang one of 10 traps they use. Alice said there has been anecdotal evidence of more emerald ash borer in the county, and they hope to put up more traps next summer.
- **Budget**- A discussion was had about preparing the proposed 2025 budget, the Board decided to increase the County request.

- **NYACD-** Alice let the Board know that there is some concern that NYACD no longer has the ability to lobby.

### **District Treasurer**

A. A financial report was presented to the Directors, (Appendix 5). A **MOTION** was made by Leerkes, seconded by Reynolds, and carried to accept the June report as presented.

B. Bills due for payment in the amount of \$90,263.80 were presented to the Board for approval, (Appendix 6). A **MOTION** was made by Leerkes to accept and pay the July bills for approval, and pay as such, seconded by Monty, and carried.

### **COOPERATING AGENCIES**

NRCS – Allie was present to give report

NYSSWCC – (Appendix 7)

NYACD- (Appendix 8)

### **Other Business**

With no further business and/or discussion to come before the Board a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 a.m. was made by Leerkes, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.

### **Next Meeting – Thursday, August 15th, 2024 at 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 (Meagan)  
Appendix 5 -Financial Report  
Appendix 6- Bills  
Appendix 7- NYSSWCC Report  
Appendix 8- NYACD Report

Submitted by:

Renee Clark, Secretary to the Board

