

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
May 18th, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 7:51 a.m. by Chairman Tyler at the Westport Town Hall.

Attendance: Board members – Chairman Ike Tyler, Vice-Chairman Jim Monty, Mike Davis, Anna Reynolds, (Ben Leerkes, was excused); SWCD - Alice Halloran, Renee Clark, Daniel Berheide, Thomas Firkins; NYSSWCC-Ryan Cunningham, NRCS- Allie Holmes.

MOTION to accept the April 20th 2023 Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes was made by Davis, seconded by Monty, and carried.

Correspondence - Alice told the Board about several Director Meetings and the Regional Managers Meeting. She let the Board know that Mike attended NY Lake Champlain Ag Focus Group which received a one-time approval as a regional/state meeting for Performance Measure for board members.
-The State Soil & Water Conservation Committee sent out a Survey about the Strategic Plan due Monday May 22nd.
-Alice let the Board know that the Part C State Aid will potentially increase by \$25,000 per District.
-Lake Champlain Basin Program- Seeking input on Proposed Definition of Disadvantaged Community. Public comments accepted through June 9th.

Chairman's Update - No update.

Secretary Update (Renee) - was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 1)
MOTION to accept the May update was made by Davis, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.

District Manager Update (Alice) - was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 2)
MOTION to accept the May update was made by Monty, seconded by Davis, and carried.

Technician Update (Daniel) - was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 3)
MOTION to accept the May update was made by Davis, seconded by Monty, and carried.

Technician Update (Thomas) - was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 4)
MOTION to accept the May update was made by Reynolds, seconded by Davis, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Training**– Ryan did a Director Training after meeting. The training was (Partners in Conservation Module 3) Ben will be offered to watch module online at a later date.
- **New Employees-** A **MOTION** was made by Tyler, seconded by Reynolds, and carried to hire Meagan Goff as a full time Technician at \$38,000 year. A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Davis, and carried to hire Caleb Albano as a Student Trainee at \$15.00 hour.
- **Tire Drive-** Will be held in Moriah on June 14th for Essex County Residents.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Stop Payment** – A **MOTION** was made by Reynold, seconded by Davis and carried to stop payment on check number 5371 to Adam Wild for \$130.00, this was the second time a stop payment was done for refund of GOL workshop. A new check was not issued. Check number 5559 was issued to NYACD and lost in the mail, stop payment was placed and a new check # 5610 was issued.
- **GOL** – Two classes have been scheduled at Crown Point Dairy Farm on June 22nd & June 29th. A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Davis, and carried to pay for any shortages due to hold these classes.
- **Surplus-** Cabinets in storage shed are no longer needed. A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried to surplus these cabinets.
- **Garvey Project-** The project is complete and Lee will be presenting an invoice. A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried to pay invoice in the amount of \$25,750.00 upon receiving it and proof of payment to contractor and proof of match are supplied.
- **Project Quotes-**A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Davis, and carried to approve lowest quote of \$10,965.38 for **Wollecru** Farm to improve general operations.
Juniper Hill Quote- A **MOTION** was made by Davis, seconded by Reynolds, and carried to approve the lowest quote for an irrigation monitoring system. Rain-Flo drip tape \$21,385, Woodpecker monitoring microsystem \$12,365. The system is unique so practices were resubmitted to the State, upon State approval our Board approves.
North Country Creamery- A **MOTION** was made by Davis, seconded by Monty, and carried to approve quote of \$2000 for fuel storage pad.

OTHER

DISTRICT TREASURER

- A. Financial reports were presented to the Directors (Appendix 5)
MOTION by to accept the May 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 6)
MOTION to accept the May bills for approval, and pay as such was made by Monty, seconded by Davis, and carried.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

NRCS Report – Allie Holmes was present to give report.

NYSSWCC - (Appendix 7) Ryan Cunningham was present to give a training after meeting.

NYACD-

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 a.m. was made by Davis, seconded by Monty, and carried.

Next regularly scheduled meeting – June 15th 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 - Financial Report
Appendix 6 - Bills
Appendix 7 - NYSSWCC Report

Submitted by:

Renee Clark,
Secretary to the Board