

**ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
MINUTES
November 16th, 2023**

Meeting was called to order at 7:47 a.m. by Chairman Tyler at the Westport Town Hall.

Attendance: Board members – Chairman Ike Tyler, Ben Leerkes, Jim Monty, Mike Davis, Anna Reynolds; SWCD - Alice Halloran, Renee Clark, NRCS-Allie Holmes.

MOTION to accept the October 18th, 2023 Regular Board of Directors Meeting Minutes was made by Leerkes, seconded by Monty, and carried.

Correspondence - Alice let the Board know that the AEM contract was accepted for \$401,250.00, we received the CRF 7 grant award for 3 farms and she will be speaking with the IDA about a grant for AG Producers.

Chairman's Update - No update.

Farm Bureau Update – Ben discussed the Stream C Bill with the Board.

Grange Update - No update.

Farmland Protection Board Update - No update.

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

MOTION to accept the November update was made by Reynolds, seconded by Davis, and carried.

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

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

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

MOTION to accept the November update was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

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

MOTION to accept the November update was made by Davis, seconded by Reynolds, and carried.

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

MOTION to accept the November update was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **2024 Budget-** No update at the County level.
- **QuickBooks Consultant- Donald Moore, CPA-** A **MOTION** for approval for consultant to continue to provide services was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.
- **Equipment Rental Charge-** A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Reynolds, and carried to lower the fee to rent the 12' No-Till Drill and the 5' Dew Drop Drill to \$30.00 per day.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Solar and Wind Projects on Farmland-** A discussion was had about solar and wind projects on farmland and how it will impact Essex County.
- **Stipend for Safety Gear- A Resolution** was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried to provide staff a stipend of \$300.00 every three years to purchase 1 pair of appropriate safety toe footwear to meet safety requirements while performing job duties. Receipt of purchase will be required. Stipend will be distributed starting this year.
- **Budget Transfer-** A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried to make a budget transfer of \$6,444.06 from Intern Salary line to Part B \$6,000.00, Payments to others \$44.07 and Field Equipment 399.99.
- **CRF 5 Crooked Brook Closeout-** Checks will be written to Echo Farm for \$2,567.16 and to Essex SWCD for \$3,285.12. A **MOTION** to close account after checks clear and account is at zero balance was made by Reynolds, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.
- **Lake Champlain Cover Crops 2023-**A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried to write 10 checks totaling \$28,214.00 to farms for 2023 cover crops.

OTHER

DISTRICT TREASURER

- A. Financial reports were presented to the Directors (Appendix 6)
MOTION by to accept the October report as presented was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.
- B. Bills due for payment in the amount of \$49,967.41 were presented to the Board for approval.
MOTION to accept the November bills for approval, and pay as such was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried. (Appendix 7)

COOPERATING AGENCIES

NRCS Report – Allie Holmes was present to give a verbal report.

NYSSWCC – Ryan Cunningham sent November report (Appendix 8)

NYACD-Blanche Hurlbutt sent October report (Appendix 9)

MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 a.m. was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

Next regularly scheduled meeting – December 21st, 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 (Meagan)
Appendix 6 - Financial Report
Appendix 7- Bills
Appendix 8- NYSSWCC Report
Appendix 9- NYACD Report

Submitted by:

Renee Clark, Secretary to the Board