

BROOME COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 20, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m., by Chair, M. Donahue.

Present Were:

M. Donahue, Chair
K. Wildoner, Member
A. Urda, Member
L. Price, Member

B. Park, Natural Resource Asst.
C. McElwee, Executive Director
J. Puglisi, Grazing Specialist

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the March 2021 meeting were approved.
Motion by A. Urda to approve, seconded by L. Price.

3. **Treasurer's Report & Bills:**

A) Financial Report March 2021 was approved. (see attachment)
Motion made by K. Wildoner to approve the March Financial report, seconded by A Urda.

B) April 2021 bills were approved. (see attachment)
Motion made by L. Price to approve April bills, seconded by K. Wildoner.

4. **Correspondence:** None.

5. **Reports:**

NRCS: E. Steele was not able to attend meeting. Her report is in Director's folders.
Discussion followed.

District: C. McElwee (no written report). Fuller Hollow Creek Project – design is 60% complete, temporary easements have been requested, Tioga County SWCD is doing all the administrative portion of this project. No work has been done on the Round 26 Grant, waiting till the end of month to see if the EQIP monies will available to the producer and then move accordingly on this grant.

J. Puglisi: No-till and post pounder are being rented. Letters have been sent AEM Round 16 implementation, advising producers that monies awarded need to have projected completed by December 31, 2021. One producer has withdrawn from their project which was for a tree planting \$5,000. Looking for producer to utilize these monies. Letter requesting seed bids for the District's hydroseeding program have been mailed out.

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Reports Con't:

J. Puglisi also mentioned there is a producer that has a majority of his farm in Chenango County would like a grazing plan. After discussion the Board decided that due to the fact that only 6 acres are in Broome County that producer should contact Chenango County SWCD.

B. Park: working on the cover crops program – she has reached out to producers in Broome County and submitted estimated acres to USC to see about funding. Broome will be doing a USC buffer planting at park in Conklin on April 24th for Trees for Tribes program and another planting at a town park in Vestal on Wednesday, April 28th. Board has asked B. Park to contact Broome County Planning to obtain names of farms in Ag Districts and with Ag Exemptions in the county. She will create a data base so that the District can begin to promote programs that are available.

6. New Business:

A) District Book Audit: Tabled till May meeting.

Old Business

A) Work update – provided in District reports above.

B) Tree update – this year's tree pickup went well. The trees were picked up via a drive-thru set up which worked well. Broome County Highway provided orange cones and Broome County Parks assisted with making sure that their vehicles were out of the way for the pickup. Will have numbers available at May meeting.

C) Retirement/Insurance – the board further discussed the creation of an HRA to be offered to District retirees. Discussion regarding offering a 80/20 split 80% district would pay 20% retiree would pay. **Motion** made by K. Wildoner to enter into contract with LifeTime Benefits Solutions for the creation of the HRA, which will have a \$99 per month administrative fee, seconded by A. Urda. Motion carried. Discussion then followed as to the dollar amounts that would be available for retirees. After discussion **Motion** was made by L. Price to have \$8000 per year available until age 65; this would be divided into bi-annual availability \$4000 for Jan-Jun, \$4000 for July-Dec. At age 65 the amount would be decreased to \$4500 per year, \$2250 available Jan-Jun, and \$2250 available July-Dec., seconded by A. Urda. Motion carried. H. Lurenz will look into this further with Lifetime Benefits Solutions.

D) Natural Resource Specialist position – with C. McElwee retirement date of June 28, 2021, discussion followed as to the hiring someone to fill his position. M. Donahue said he would check with Broome County Personnel to see if the position of District Manager would be an option instead filling position as Natural Resource Specialist.

Con't D – Natural Resource Specialist position:

The job description for Natural Resource Specialist was provided to the directors to review for discussion at the May meeting.

7. Personnel: Timesheets – All timesheets reviewed and signed by A. Urda.

Next meeting will be May 18, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Broome SWCD District Shop Building.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by K. Wildoner, seconded by L. Price. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:11 p.m.

M. Donahue, Chair

H. Lurenz, Secretary

Attachments:

Financial Report – March 2020

List of Bills – April 2021

E. Steele - NRCS Report

J. Puglisi's Report

B. Park's Report

P. J. Emerick, NYS SWCC, Report