

BROOME COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
MAY 18, 2021

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m., by Chair, M. Donahue.

Present Were:

M. Donahue, Chair	E. Heard, Member
K. Wildoner, Member	C. McElwee, Executive Director
G. Baldwin, Member	J. Puglisi, Grazing Specialist
L. Price, Member	B. Park, Natural Resource Asst.

2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the April 2021 meeting were approved.
Motion by L. Price to approve, seconded by E. Heard.

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

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

B) May 2021 bills were approved. (see attachment)
Motion made by K. Wildoner to approve May bills, seconded by E. Heard.

4. **Correspondence:** Circulated. Included was USC April report, NYS SWCC notes.

5. **Reports:**

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

District: C. McElwee (written report in folders) Fuller Hollow Creek Project – design is 90% complete, temporary easements are stilling waiting for some landowners to return. Plan of work being prepared for submittal for the Round 26 Grant. EQIP monies not approved for this producer, he is in the process of looking for other sources.

J. Puglisi: No-till and post pounder are been out. Letters have been sent AEM Round 16 implementation – bids obtained by producers are coming in very high. Discussion as to possibly waiving the three bids if under the \$10,000. No decision made. Hydroseeding done at Otsiningo Park, Cole Park, Town of Binghamton and Town of Kirkwood. Letter requesting seed bids for the District's hydroseeding program were mailed out. J. Puglisi provided a sheet with the bids that were received back. Low bidder was Banfield Baker, fertilizer was higher than other bidders, but fiber/hydro mulch was lower. After discussion,

Reports Con't:

MOTION: was made by K. Wildoner to award the bid for seed, fertilizer, and mulch to Banfield Baker, seconded by L. Price. Motion carried.

J. Puglisi is also mentioned that Round 27 has opened up for proposal submittals, looking at the possibility of submitting another grazing grant.

B. Park: Funding notification came for 330.3 new acres and 400 acres continued acres of cover crops in Broome County. Another 30 acres was received late and board will discuss the possibility of providing some funding for the cover crops.

Two plantings complete for Tree for Tribes, Schnurbush Park, Conklin and Harold Moore Park, Vestal. The plantings were well attended with volunteers and district staff.

District received agreement with USC for verifying 11 farms in the county and will receive \$11,100 for this work.

She contacted Broome County Planning to obtain names of farms in Ag Districts and with Ag Exemptions in the county and also from CCE-Broome County. She provided maps to the Directors indicating possibly farm in the ag districts/ag exemptions in the County. In the process of cross referencing this information and will begin doing the drive buys on a town-by-town basis. She will create a data base so that the District can begin to promote programs that are available.

6. New Business:

A) Natural Resource Specialist position – M. Donahue contacted Broome County Personnel in regards to changing the title for this position. He has not heard back. Will contact personnel. Tabled till June meeting.

Old Business:

A) District Book Audit: Contact directors in the beginning of July to set up a time.

B) Retiree Insurance: After discussion regarding what type of insurance to offer retirees, the board decided that medical insurance will be offer with a 90% paid by district and 10% paid by retiree on a month-to-month basis until age of 65. **Motion** made by G. Baldwin to add the “retiree class” to our current Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, Seconded by E. Heard. **Motion** carried. Motion made by L. Price to offer retirees the district medical insurance with a 90% district cost and 10% retiree cost until the age of 65. Seconded by E. Heard. Motion carried. Discussion followed about possibility of offering some assistance after retiree reaches 65. Tabled until June meeting. Discussion regarding the possibility of the County offering a Medicare Advantage policy for 65 and older. C. McElwee has been following up on this. Will provide more

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information when it is available.**After board meeting: BCPA contacted the District regarding this policy. A resolution will need to be submitted by May 26 to be included in the proposal going out for quotes. H. Lurenz contacted the Directors via email.

Motion was made by K. Wildoner to approve the following resolution for submittal:

MEDICARE ADVANTAGE RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS, Broome County will be issuing a Request for Proposals seeking a contract for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Benefit Services for its retirees, and

WHEREAS, Broome County has proposed issuing a joint Request for Proposal with other interested municipalities pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 119-o, and

WHEREAS, upon selection of the vendor each participating municipality will enter into its own contract with the vendor, and

WHEREAS, Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District wishes to participate in this joint request for proposals, Now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District agrees to participate with Broome County and other participating municipalities in a joint request for proposal for Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Benefit Services for its eligible retirees, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District understands that upon selection of a vendor the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District will enter into its own contract with the vendor, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that participation in this joint request for proposal does not obligate the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District to enter into a contract with the selected vendor, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District agrees to provide Broome County any information required to develop the Request for Proposal including, but not limited to, census information of medicare primary retirees including date of birth, gender and zip code. Copy of current Summary Plan Description and Benefit Summary along with this resolution, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that once the RFP process is complete, Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District agrees to provide post RFP resolution and elect to opt in or out of participation in the selected vendors; MA or MAPD program.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Broome County Soil & Water Conservation District is authorized to execute any agreements, documents or papers as may be necessary to implement the intent of this resolution.

Seconded by P. Shafer. Motion carried.

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Old Business – Con't

- C)** Deferred Comp – discussion regarding offering Deferred Comp to employees. H. Lurenz will provide employees with information received. Tabled until June meeting
- D)** Work/Grant Update – discussed in district reports.

- 7. Personnel:** Timesheets – All timesheets reviewed and signed by M. Donahue and E. Heard.

Next meeting will be June 15, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Broome SWCD District Shop Building.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by E. Heard, seconded by L. Price. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

M. Donahue, Chair

H. Lurenz, Secretary

Attachments:

Financial Report – April 2020

List of Bills – May 2021

E. Steele - NRCS Report

C. McElwee Report

J. Puglisi's Report

B. Park's Report

P. J. Emerick, NYS SWCC, Report