

BROOME COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DIRECTORS' MEETING MINUTES
JULY 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
E. Heard, Member
P. Shafer, Member
L. Price, Member
A. Urda, Member

P. J. Emerick, NYS SWCC
J. Puglisi, Grazing Specialist
B. Park, Natural Resource Asst.

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

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

A) Financial Report June 2021 was approved. (see attachment)
Motion made by P. Shafer to approve the June Financial report, seconded by E. Heard.

B) July 2021 bills were approved. (see attachment)
Motion made by A. Urda to approve July bills, seconded by E. Heard.

4. **Correspondence:** Circulated. Included was copy of AEM letter for producers if interested in AEM program.

5. **Reports:**

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

District: J. Puglisi (written report in folders) Discussion regarding MS4 issue in the Town of Fenton. After discussions between landowner, Town Engineer and SWCD, the producer is all finished with adding clean fill to areas and the areas have been seeded. After review by the town engineer the producer is in compliance. Also in the Town of Maine a business had clear cut over 2 acres – the Town Code Enforcer contacted the SWCD; after discussions this matter will be handled by the Town.

J. Puglisi & B. Park are scheduled to attend a Sediment and Erosion Control workshop in Horseheads on July 26 & 27. B. Park has received a Jury Notice and the date to report is July 26th. If she needs to report, unfortunately there is no refund for her registration of the workshop. In September this will be a test given, is passed you would be issued a NYS Sediment & Erosion Control Certificate. This would allow employee to be able to write Sediment & Erosion Control Plans if requested by municipalities only not landowners.

Reports Con't

No-till and post pounder have been rented out to various farms. Hydroseeding call from Otsiningo Park regarding hydroseeding. Have been contacted by landowners and municipalities in regards to flooding due to the latest storm. Several technical assistance visits have been done regarding Pierce Creek, Osborne Creek, Ballyhack Creek, and Page Brook. There is a meeting this Friday with Senator Akshar's office regarding flooding issues.

B. Park has been assisting J. Puglisi on the technical assistance calls. She completed two articles for the newsletter, and the USC BMP data has been completed and billed to the USC. Trees for Tribes – there is funding available for the fall and has had a few calls interested in planting buffers. She has also assisted with the completion of some design work with J. Puglisi.

H. Lurenz mentioned that the firm performing the Broome County audit has been in touch and requested several 2020-year end reports and information. To date all have been sent and awaiting word if there is anything else they need.

Farm visits for seven producers, two of which are new farms. These farms are planning to increase their animal units; J. Puglisi said to contact the district when animals are on the farm and will review what funding is available for them.

P.J. Emerick – He brought the board up to date on:

- NYS SWCC monthly meeting was today. He suggested to the board that, if possible, they attend one or more of these meetings as they count towards the Performance Standard Measures.

- NYS Governor announced he would not be extending the State of Emergency declared on March 7, 2020, to find Covid 19. As a result, all meetings must be conducted in compliance with the NYS Open Meetings Law.

- Grazing information – for farms implementing rotational grazing and technicians that assist, pasture re-growth is a critical component of decision making & understanding forage. “The Pasture Re-Growth Monitoring Project” is a statewide pilot demonstration that provides monitoring tools, weekly report, and scheduling of pasture walks. There is a link on my report that you can follow for more information.

- CRP/CREP Training Resources – FSA/NRCS held a two-day remote session on CRP/CREP. There are links and information available in SharePoint.

- NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 18 – Conservation Easement Projects – reminder these applications are taken on a rolling basis. Intent of the grant program is to fund implementation of certain farmland protection activities intended to maintain economic viability of the State's agricultural industry & support land base to protect environmental & landscape preservation values associated with agriculture.

Reports Con't

-NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Round 17 is now accepting applications online through July 30, 2021 till 4 p.m.

-DAP Funding & US Forest Service GLRI request for applications was reviewed.

P.J. Emerick encouraged the Directors/employees to reach out at any time with questions and if the district would like to schedule a Board/staff training. He also suggested that the district take a look at the performance measures to see what has and needs to be met. Discussion also regarding stormwater sediment & erosion plans and stream permits. Think about what engineering needs the district may have.

The Directors thanked P.J. for coming.

6. New Business:

- A) Grant/AEM bidding procedures – discussion regarding the problems producers are having obtaining quotes for projects to be completed utilizing the state grant dollars available. After discussion, **Motion** made by P. Schafer, due to producers unable to get three bids for work that needs to be completed for projects – the quotes required to perform work will be reduced to two bids for projects under \$20,000 until December 31, 2021, seconded by L. Price. Motion carried.
- B) Open position –The Board discussion regarding the advertising and salary range for the Broome County Personnel for “Soil & Water Conservation District Manager”, after discussion **Motion** was made by P. Shafer to advertise the position through the NYS Soil Water Conservation Committee that would reach the districts in New York and on the Broome County job vacancy site. Resumes and application will be received until 4:30 p.m. on August 9, 2021, seconded by L. Price. Motion carried. **Motion** made by P. Shafer to approve the salary range for this position of \$58,000-\$68,000 commensurate on experience and education, seconded by L. Price. Motion carried. H. Lurenz will contact J. Gardner in Broome County Personnel and NYS Soil Water Conservation Committee to advertise this position.

Old Business:

- A) District Book Audit: After discussion, M. Donahue, A. Urda, L. Price and H. Lurenz will meet tomorrow, July 21st to perform the 2020 District Book Review.
- B) Work/Grant Update – discussed in district reports.

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

Next meeting will be August 17, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. at the Broome SWCD District Shop Building.

Motion to adjourn meeting made by A. Urda, seconded by P. Shafer. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

M. Donahue, Chair

H. Lurenz, Secretary

Attachments:

Financial Report – June 2020

List of Bills – July 2021

E. Steele - NRCS Report

J. Puglisi's Report

B. Park's Report

P. J. Emerick, NYS SWCC, Report