

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
Planning Room 50 West High Street Ballston Spa, NY 12020
Minutes of Regular Meeting 02/21/24

In Attendance:

District Directors:

Janet Bartow - Vice Chairman
Jennifer Koval – At Large Farmer
Steven Ropitzky –Chairman
Kevin Veitch – Legislator
Victoria Garlanda – At Large
JD Arnold – Legislator

District Staff:

Lewis, Dustin – District Manager
Kaitlyn Bemis– Office Manager
Dan Palemire – Field Technician

Outside Agency:

Kate Girard - NRCS

Regrets: Tina Williams, Jay Matthews

Meeting called to order at 3:02 pm by Chairman Ropitzky.

1. **Minutes of January 2024 Meeting:** Motion to approve by Veitch, seconded by Bartow, carried unanimously.
2. **January 2024 Financial Reports:**
 - a. **Income & Expense Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers:**
 - b. Motion to approve made by Bartow, seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: Attachment A**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Girard reported: 1 High Tunnel project completed; forestry work completed in Galway. Finishing up ranking projects for funding: 1 high tunnel project approved, 4 forest management projects approved through the environmental quality incentives program., with 8 more applications pending. 1 cover crop project, 1 fencing project and 1 tree planting project all pre-approved through the conservation stewardship program. The Conservation stewardship program is going to have several more rounds that farms are applying for.
 - b. **FSA:** No Report
 - c. **RC&D:** No Report.
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Monthly report distributed via email; annual reporting was due 2/15/24.
 - e. **NYACD:** Lewis & Bartow to attend Legislative Days.
 - f. **CCE:** Saratoga Plan is planning a farm tour with CCE on 6/22/24, they are currently reaching out to farms to see who would like to be involved.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** Lewis reported on a recent meeting: Discussions about Ballston Lake and the ongoing issues with phosphors and beavers. Dean Long spoke about Saratoga Lake and what could be potentially organized to help Ballston Lake with the outlet. Friends of the Kayaderosseras has their annual meeting on 3/11/24.
 - b. **Grants:** Lewis reported on the following:
 - a. Agricultural Environmental Management
 1. Reviewing applications and finalizing paperwork for completed projects.
 2. A motion for AEM, to make a payment for the completion of the AEM 17 Tier 4 implementation fuel storage projects to Kyle Donnan for \$14,999.99 and a \$15,000.00 payment to Saratoga Apple after approval is received from Scott Fickbohm (AEA) made by Garlanda, Seconded by Koval, carried unanimously.
 - b. Septic System – Lewis reports meeting with the deputy county administrator about the expanded new septic system grant round and receiving additional funds. The district expects to keep managing the septic grant for the new round.
 - c. Roadside Erosion - Grant is completed regarding materials, looking to wrap up this round with time spent on hydroseeding and roadside assessments.
 - c. **T&S 2024:** Lewis reported that the sale is live, and brochure would be distributed in about a week.
 - d. **Envirothon 2024:** Planning of the event is ongoing.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Copier Contract:** a motion to approve a new copier lease at \$145.00 per month for 5 years made by Veitch, seconded by Garlanda, carried unanimously.
 - b. **District Books Review:** Lewis requested bringing in an outside accounting firm to review books and make recommendations for easier annual reporting. A motion to approve working with R.A. Mercer CPA not to exceed \$2,000.00 was made by Bartow, seconded by Veitch.
7. **Other Business:** No other business.
8. **Correspondence:** No Correspondence
9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20nd, 2024, at 3:00 pm. Meeting adjourned by Chairman at 4:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Kaitlyn HJ Bemis, Secretary

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

February 2024 Field Report

- AEM round 18 projects county wide
- AEM round 17 close out
- Ag Assessment County wide
- Triller Pond Survey
- AEM Maple Producer (NYG&C)
- Ag Assessments
- Attended CAG meeting.
- Septic Grant work, 4 payments to landowners (Saratoga)
- Held a 4-hour training in Ballston Spa
- PRISM meeting to review grant applications.
- Upper Hudson River Watershed Coalition meeting
- Meeting with State Park staff to set up a culvert installation training (Saratoga Springs)
- Stormwater site visit with contractor (Saratoga Springs)