

**Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
Planning Room - 50 West High Street, Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
**Minutes of Regular Meeting 06/19/2024**

**In Attendance:**

District Directors:

JD Arnold – Legislator  
Victoria Garlanda – At Large  
Jennifer Koval – At Large Farmer  
Steven Ropitzky –Chairman  
Jay Matthews – At Large Farmer

District Staff:

Dustin Lewis– District Manager  
Kaitlyn Bemis– Office Manager  
Scott Monica – Senior Technician  
Dan Palemire – Field Technician

Regrets:

Kate Girard  
Janet Bartow – Grange  
Kevin Veitch - Legislator

Meeting called to order at 3:01 PM by Chairman Ropitzky.

1. **Minutes of May 2024 Meeting:** Motion to approve by Matthews, seconded by Garlanda, carried unanimously.
2. **May 2024 Financial Reports:**
  - a. **Income & Expense Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers:**
  - b. **Motion** to approve made by Matthews, seconded by Arnold, was carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
  - a. **NRCS:** Girard emailed that they are primarily working through Conservation Stewardship Program applications.
  - b. **FSA:** No Report
  - c. **RC&D:** No Report
  - d. **NYSSWCC:** Fickbohm emailed a monthly report.
  - e. **NYACD:** No Report
  - f. **CCE:** No Report.
5. **Old Business:**
  - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** Lewis reported about the last meeting, Ballston Lake is continuing to work on the removal of beaver dams. The flow meter has been received and they are hoping to use it to develop a plan to open the outlet more.
  - b. **Grants:**
    - i. Agricultural Environmental Management – Round 18 is underway and the request for reimbursement has been submitted to cover any projects being completed.
    - ii. Septic – **Motion** to allow the signing of the contract with the county for the new grant made by Garlanda, seconded by Matthews carried unanimously.
    - iii. Roadside Assistance – No Report.
  - c. **Part C requirements:** Lewis reports that he is looking for board members to attend outside meetings to meet the Part C requirements.
  - d. **Envirothon Financials – Funds Transfer:** **Motion** to approve the transfer of \$1,600.00 to the Envirothon Account to cover the cost of the 2024 regional program from Part C made by Garlanda, seconded by Koval carried unanimously.
  - e. **Tree & Shrub:** Bemis reported on the financials from the 2024 T&S program.
6. **New Business:**
  - a. **2025 Budget Committee:** Ropitzky volunteered to come early before the next meeting to review the 2025 budget. Koval volunteered to as well, if Bartow was unable to make the commitment.
  - b. **CRF Application Resolution: (Attachment B)** **Motion** for a resolution to apply for the new round of CRF grants made by Matthews, Seconded by Koval carried unanimously.
7. **Other Business:**
  - a. **District Law Training:** Arnold reported he will fill out the form stating that he has taken training to keep on file.
  - b. **Google Workspace:** Lewis reported about reviewing some options to have the districts emails changed over to reflect a more professional address. There will be more research done on the security of this approach.
8. **Executive Session (if needed):** A **motion** was made to enter Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person at 3:47pm by Matthews, seconded by

Garlanda, carried unanimously. A **motion** to come out of executive session at 3:56 pm was made by Matthews, seconded by Arnold, carried unanimously. No action taken.

9. **Correspondence:** None

10. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 17th, 2024, at 3:00pm with the budget committee meeting at 2pm. Meeting adjourned by Chairman at 4:01pm.

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Kaitlyn HJ Bemis, Secretary

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

**ATTACHMENT A:**

**June 2024 Field Report**

- LaRue ag drainage (Charlton)
- Ag drainage Farm
- Hydro seed Town of Wilton
- Hydro seed Town of Greenfield
- Hydro seed Town of Charlton
- Building site drainage & hydro seed
- Start WQIP grant application
- AEM:
  - Saratoga irrigation pond test pits
  - Irrigation pond clay liner source/permeability tests
  - Schuylerville Farm irrigation zoom meeting
  - No-till repairs
  - Conservation plans complete and delivered – Saratoga Farms
  - No-till Farm
  - No-till Farm
  - Tier 5b Saratoga farm: Irrigation System and New Sprayer
- CRF Applications
- Manager's Meeting Montgomery County
- Meeting with Moreau officials about drainage issue on Rte 32 (Moreau)
- 4 Hour ES&C training
- Saratoga Lake Property site visit with SLPID (Saratoga)
- Tire Collection (Wilton)
- Conservation Field Days Presentation
- Pollinators seed deliveries
- State Envirothon
- Pond site visit (Ballston)
- LAP stormwater visit (Saratoga)
- Fair display preparation

**RESOLUTION  
of the  
Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District**

**Resolution No.:**2024-1

**Date:** 6/19/2024

*Authorizing participation by the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District in the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program.*

**WHEREAS**, the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee has issued a Request for Proposals inviting Soil and Water Conservation Districts or groups of Districts acting jointly to submit proposals for funding under Round 8 of the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available for projects that consist of activities that will mitigate the impact of agriculture on climate change and enhance the farm's resiliency to projected climate conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District has determined that certain work, as described in its applications and attachments, (the "Projects") is in the public interest and consists of activities that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration, and/or increase the resiliency of the farm(s);

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District Board

1) That **Dustin Lewis**, District Manager, or such person's successor in office, is the representative to act on behalf of the District's governing body in all matters related to State Assistance under Round 8 of the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program. The representative is authorized to make applications, execute the contracts for State Assistance, submit project documentation, and otherwise act for the District governing body in all matters related to the Projects;

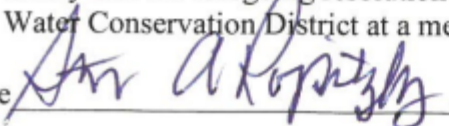
2) That the District agrees to fund its portion of the cost of the Projects as provided in the applications;

3) That one (1) certified copy of this Resolution be prepared and attached to the applications for funding under Round 8 of the Climate Resilient Farming Grant Program;

4) That this resolution take effect immediately.

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly passed and adopted by the Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District at a meeting held on the 19th day of June in the year 2024.

Signature

 Title SWCD CHAIRPERSON