

Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District
50 West High Street, Ballston Spa
Planning Room
Minutes of Regular Meeting 07/17/2024

In Attendance:

District Directors:

Janet Bartow – Grange
Victoria Garlanda – At Large
Steven Ropitzky –Chairman
Jen Koval – At Large
JD Arnold – Legislator
Kevin Veitch – Legislator

District Staff:

Dustin Lewis– District Manager
Dan Palemire – Field Technician

Regrets: Jay Matthews, Scott Monica

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

1. **Minutes of June 2024 Meeting:** **Motion** to approve by Arnold, seconded by Koval, Bartow abstained otherwise carried unanimously.
Garlanda entered the meeting.
2. **June 2024 Financial Reports:**
 - a. **Income Report, Expense Report, Bank Report, Budget vs Actual Report and Vouchers:**
Motion to approve by Veitch, seconded by Bartow, carried unanimously.
3. **Field Report: (Attachment A)**
4. **Cooperating Agency Reports:**
 - a. **NRCS:** Girard reports there is a Job opening for “district conservationist” is being listed for the area once more. 15 Applications approved: Pollinator, Fencing, Exclusion, Pasture, Cover Crop, High Tunnels & Erosion Control. All projects are going well.
 - b. **FSA:** No Report.
 - c. **RC&D:** No Report.
 - d. **NYSSWCC:** Fickbohm emailed monthly report.
 - e. **NYACD:** Lewis reports that the annual meeting will be held in October, more details to follow. The board inquired about getting a representative to come speak at the next meeting.
 - f. **CCE:** No Report.
5. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Water Quality Coordinating Committee:** No Meeting
 - b. **Grants:**
 - i. Agricultural Environmental Management – Palemire reports that a Farm in Gansevoort is reopening for business.
 - ii. Septic – Lewis reports that the contract is all set, and he has begun sight visits and applications for the new round.
 - iii. Roadside Erosion – No Activity, there are plans to hydroseed after the county fair.
 - iv. CRF - **Two** applications have been submitted.
 - c. **2025 Budget:** The 2025 Budget was reviewed by Bartow and Ropitzky prior to the meeting. **Motion** to approve made by Bartow, seconded by Garlanda, carried unanimously.
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **CAFO Grant program:** Lewis reports that there is a new round starting this fall. The grant will focus on manure management and handling.
 - b. **Saratoga County Fair Volunteers:** Lewis reports there is a sign up for volunteers to staff the SWCD booth at the County Fair next week online.
 - a. **Tree & Shrub 2025:** **Motion** to approve holding the sale in 2025 made by Bartow, seconded by Veitch, carried unanimously.
7. **Other Business:**
 - a. **Administrative Conference:** Lewis reports that the Annual Administrative Conference is being held locally in November. Which will be convenient for any training needs still required for Part C.
 - b. **National Envirothon:** Lewis reports that there is a need for volunteers for the National Envirothon being held in NYS at the end of July. Staff members from the office will be traveling to volunteer their time.
8. **Correspondence:** No Correspondence.
9. **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, 2024, at 3:00pm. Meeting adjourned by Koval, Seconded by Garlanda at 4:07pm.

Respectfully submitted: _____

Kaitlyn H.J. Bemis, Secretary

Steve Ropitzky – Chairman

ATTACHMENT A:

July 2024 Field Report

- Hydro seed Town of Charlton
 - Hydro seed Town of Greenfield
 - Hydro seed Town of Wilton
 - Work on new building
 - Pond Site Visit (Wilton)
 - Cover Crop Grant webinar attendance
 - Septic Site visit (Providence)
 - Mohawk Watershed Coalition Meeting
 - AEM: No-till Saratoga Springs farm
 - Charlton Farm Micro irrigation – working on equipment bids
 - Charlton Farm Pesticide storage and handling facilities – Engineer, Draft design received working on bids
 - Ballston Lake Farm irrigation pond – Engineer, Finalizing design
 - Schuylerville Farm Micro Irrigation Zoom meeting, Finalizing detailed design and working on bids
 - Schuylerville Dairy tier 5b
 - Saratoga Dairy cover crop
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