

July 11, 2023

MINUTES

**OSWEGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Directors and staff met in-person at the District Office Conference Room, located at 3105 State Route 3, Fulton, NY 13069 at 10:04am on Tuesday July 11th, 2023.

PRESENT:

Jeff Richards, Chairperson
Linda Lockwood, Vice Chairperson
Tom Bonoffski, Member
Sandy Tuori-Bell, Member

Joe Chairvolotti, District Manager
Erica Schreiner, Sr. District Technician
Sarrah Learned, Environmental Resource Technician
Laura Romanowicz, Secretary

1. **MINUTES - MOTION: TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR June 2023 AS SUBMITTED.**
4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)
Made by Director **Lockwood** and seconded by Director **Bonoffski** and carried.

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE - MOTION: TO APPROVE THE BILLS FOR July 2023 AS SUBMITTED.**
4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)
Made by Director **Bonoffski** and seconded by Director **Lockwood** and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT - MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR June 2023 AS SUBMITTED.
4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)
Made by Director **Lockwood** and seconded by Director **Bonoffski** and carried.

2023 MODIFIED BUDGET - Board of Directors reviewed and approved the 2023 Modified Budget as submitted.

PAYROLL CERTIFICATION FOR EMPLOYEES - Board of Directors reviewed and approved the **July 2023** Payroll Certification for Employees as submitted.

RECONCILED BANK STATEMENTS - Director **Bonoffski** reviewed the **June 2023** Reconciled Bank Statements and initialed.

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Old Business

The matter of developing a policy that could alleviate the loss of vacation time for employees in the future has been discussed several times throughout this year. It may be beneficial to adopt a policy that allows full-time employees to receive payment in lieu of up to 40 or 80 hours of annual leave. General discussion followed.

MOTION: TO ADOPT THE VACATION BUY-BACK POLICY AS SUBMITTED, WHICH ALLOWS FULL-TIME PERMANENT AND PROBATIONARY EMPLOYEES TO REQUEST PAY IN LIEU OF UP TO 80 HOURS OF ANNUAL LEAVE TIME.

4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)

Made by Director **Bonoffski** and seconded by Director **Lockwood** and carried.

New Business

Performance Measures: Two board members still need a state/regional meeting to satisfy the performance measures required. Staff will continue to forward acceptable opportunities. General discussion followed.

Mosquito Dunk Kits: The District has partnered with the Oswego County Health Department to make the mosquito dunk kits available to landowners. The District pays the full cost of the kits, and the Health Department may contribute towards the cost in the future. The kits have been delivered to county municipalities and have also been made easily accessible to obtain at the district office. To date, the district and the health department have distributed 42 cases, or 504 pouches, with which there is now minimal inventory remaining in stock. General discussion followed.

MOTION: TO ORDER 53 CASES OF MOSQUITO LARVICIDE KITS FROM BONIDE AND PAY THE INVOICE UPON RECEIPT OF THE PRODUCT UP TO AN AMOUNT OF \$5,600.

4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)

Made by Director **Bonoffski** and seconded by Director **Tuori-Bell** and carried.

2023-2024 District Auto & Liability Insurance:

MOTION: TO PROCESS PAYMENT TO EASTERN SHORES ASSOCIATES FOR THE DISTRICT'S CURRENT INSURANCE POLICIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$7,170.69.

4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)

Made by Director **Lockwood** and seconded by Director **Bonoffski** and carried.

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Presented a procurement packet to the Board for farm 075-0129. The landowner has selected the lowest bidder.

MOTION: TO APPROVE KEN MALONE EXCAVATING WITH THE LOW BID OF \$22,722.00 FOR SITE PREPARATION FOR AN AEM BASE ROUND 17 IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT AT OSWEGO COUNTY AEM FARM 075-0129.

4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)

Made by Director **Lockwood** and seconded by Director **Bonoffski** and carried.

MOTION: TO APPROVE ZIMMERMAN BUILDERS WITH THE LOW BID OF \$25,568.00 FOR CONCRETE FOR AN AEM BASE ROUND 17 IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT AT OSWEGO COUNTY AEM FARM 075-0129.

4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)

Made by Director **Bonoffski** and seconded by Director **Lockwood** and carried.

MOTION: TO ISSUE PAYMENT TO THE CONTRACTOR UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION AND ENGINEER SIGN-OFF FOR AN AEM BASE ROUND 17 IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT AT OSWEGO COUNTY AEM FARM 075-0129.

4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)

Made by Director **Lockwood** and seconded by Director **Tuori-Bell** and carried.

MOTION: TO ISSUE PAYMENT TO THE CONTRACTOR UPON SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION AND ENGINEER SIGN-OFF FOR AN AEM BASE ROUND 17 IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT AT OSWEGO COUNTY AEM FARM 075-0133.

4 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)

Made by Director **Tuori-Bell** and seconded by Director **Lockwood** and carried.

REPORTS:

Shannon Bozeat provided the following report:

March 20, 2023 - June 30, 2023

NRCS NE 5 Team: Cayuga, Onondaga, Oswego Co SWCD Board Report

Shannon Bozeat (District Conservationist), Scott Travis (Resource Conservationist), Miranda Ciardulli (Resource Conservationist), Don Quinn-Jacobs (Soil Conservationist), Josh Del Rio (Pathways Intern)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Completed Contracts:

- Cayuga: 2 Soil erosion.
- Onondaga: 2 high tunnels, 1 Tree and shrub establishment, 1 Prescribed grazing,
- Oswego: 1 High tunnel, 1 Nutrient management

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In process (planning or implementation):

- Cayuga: 3 High tunnels, 3 Reduced tillage, 2 Soil erosion, 1 cover crops, 1 Ag chemical mixing facility, 1 Forest Management plan, 3 Prescribed grazing, 1 Manure storage
- Onondaga: 2 High tunnels, 1 Reduced tillage, 1 Forest management plan (preapproved), 1 Prescribed grazing, 2 Manure storage, 1 CNMP
- Oswego: 1 reduced tillage, 2 Nutrient management

Environment Quality Incentive Program Conservation Incentives Contract (EQIP-CIC)

- Two contracts executed Cayuga and Oswego counties for cover crops and reduced tillage.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

Payments made for 2023 fiscal year:

Onondaga - 5 Current Contract

- \$288,508

Cayuga - 21 Current contracts

- \$329,387

Oswego - 5 Current Contracts

- \$11,472

CSP General- Applications have been received:

- *Cayuga - 5
- *Onondaga - 0
- *Oswego - 1

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

- **Onondaga:** 1 reenrollment
- **Cayuga:** 3 reenrollments
- **Oswego:** 1 reenrollment

Wetland Reserve Program Easement Monitoring (WRP)

- 11 Onsite Monitoring visits completed by ESF Student for NRCS

Sarra Learned gave the following report:

Trained water chestnut interns alongside JC and LR, including GPS, GIS, and equipment training. Led a tour to show interns all water chestnut sites and launch locations throughout Oswego County. Guided and assisted interns during their first day of hand-pulling water chestnuts at Battle Island State Park.

Continued monitoring water chestnut growth throughout the Oswego River since early June. Currently working on surveying and mapping all patches eligible for chemical treatment, which begins next week, and communicating acreage with JC.

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Conducted a second round of visits to all giant hogweed sites to confirm plant mortality. Any plants remaining after the initial treatment have been marked and sent to Chase Enterprises for a second round of treatment. Final site checks will take place starting next week in preparation for the end of our contractual season, July 31st, to ensure all plants have been treated and all flower or seed heads have been removed.

Provided a map showing county-wide distribution of giant hogweed plants in Oswego County for legislator Ed Gilson.

Continued to gather field photos of the giant hogweed program, the water chestnut program, and intern photos as needed for ES's outreach purposes.

Added several shapefiles, or data sets, to our GIS computer related to aquifers, municipal boundaries, and lidar imagery, used to identify vegetative cover types.

Continued involvement with the water sampling aspect of the Sandy Creek 9 Element Plan with Jefferson County SWCD.

Provided technical assistance through customer phone calls and by providing various maps and environmental reviews as needed.

Erica Schreiner gave the following report:

One additional landowner is in the process of obtaining bids for a AEM Base Round 17 implementation project this year.

Photo-documented pre-project conditions at three farms. Conducted a survey to check elevations after site preparation at one farm.

Continued AEM planning with other program participants. Received two inquires regarding certification or re-certification for the New York Grown and Certified program.

Two field surveys were conducted earlier this year for agricultural landowners who plan to self-install drainage on their farm. Designs were given to the landowners and reviewed on-site.

Began distributing a reimbursement form to active AEM participants for soil, manure, and compost testing services. In AEM Base Round 17, \$3,000 is included for this program.

Provided information and photos for the 2022 Oneida Lake Watershed report.

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Completed CPR and first aid training.

Participated in the 20th annual Oswego County Progressive Agriculture Home and Farm Safety Day with a presentation about outdoor safety. Member of the original committee that started the event in the county.

Received several extremely well written thank you notes for Ed Hogan who donated scholarship funds to the Oswego County Envirothon.

Attended the June meeting of the Oswego County Legislature to accompany the Oswego High School Envirothon team when they received a proclamation for their achievements of first place at Oswego County Envirothon and 7th place at New York State Envirothon.

Maintained the District web site and Facebook page.

Provided a self-introduction to the water chestnut interns. Asked for their assistance in taking photos to document their work.

Assisted with assembling materials for the Oswego County Fair display, and helped to set up the booth.

Continued completing tasks as a member of the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association State Fair Committee.

Provided customer technical assistance in the following areas: ag assessment vs. ag district, drainage, general property questions, historical farm records, soil testing, and wetlands.

Continued planning the 35th annual Oswego County Conservation Field Day to be held on September 21, 2023 at Selkirk Shores State Park. Four schools have registered fifteen classes to attend. Acknowledged a \$200.00 donation from Director Tuori-Bell.

Laura Romanowicz gave the following report:

2nd Quarter 2023 941 & NYS-45 reports have been completed, filed, and sent the appropriate parties.

Received the 2nd and final 2023 County Appropriation in the amount of \$96,998.50. Funds have been deposited into the District Savings Account.

Assisted with taking the jon boat motor & trailer in for repairs.

Assisted with the set up and tear down of the district's display at the county fair.

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Joe Chairvolotti gave the following report:

Assisted landowners and municipalities with general technical, water quality and forestry related advice, both remotely and on-site.

Requests for new or updated forest management plans are still coming in, which will be completed under Parts B and C as well as AEM in 2023. Some may need to be pushed to 2024.

Will be teaching a forestry course at the NYACD annual meeting in October and was asked to develop a class narrative, which was completed and submitted.

Solar reviews: Provided a report to the Town of Mexico regarding a potential solar project. The report included land cover data, which is now available for future issues/projects.

Great Bear Shoreline Project: Coordinated virtual meeting with DEC, ACOE, Barclay's office and Friend of Great Bear to initiate the permit process. General discussion followed.

Dam Removal in Mexico: Requested to complete a WQIP grant application and will begin looking into this soon.

Little Salmon River Watershed: Conducted research and reached out to several agency and municipal contacts as well a consulting firm, regarding the request by the Veracruz Yacht Club to conduct sampling in the Little Salmon River Watershed with the potential to develop a 9 E Watershed Plan. This request has reached Albany level DEC and circled back to this office. Met with several DEC staff regarding this issue and we plan on meeting again to hear the club's concerns as a group.

Village of Pulaski: Asked to participate in a wellhead protection planning process with the Village of Pulaski, which is being coordinated by CNY Regional Planning.

Town of Mexico: Received a request to investigate an ag protection planning opportunity with NYS Dept. of Ag and Markets. Also asked to participate in the future meeting.

Lake Neatahwanta: Participated in 2 meetings and had several conversations with political officials. This office may be assisting with coordinating a meeting to bring regulatory agencies and other stakeholders to the table regarding the water quality in Lake Neatahwanta. General discussion followed.

HWA Biocontrol: Due to the timing when the green light was given to release, there were not enough biocontrol agents left for a spring release. The plan is to release insects in the fall.

EAB Biocontrol: Participated in 1 biocontrol release at Rice Creek with SLELO PRISM.

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Water Chestnut Herbicide Treatment:

Conducted limited water chestnut checks from shore and reviewed maps/pics from Sarra. The acreage that is dense enough to be sprayed is significantly reduced from last year.

DEC and Canal Corp permits have been obtained and Chase submitted their 7-day notice of intent to spray.

Developed a post-treatment water sampling scheme to assist with the modeling in the future. Requested sample bottles and materials from the lab.

General discussion followed.

Water Chestnut Hand-pulling Program:

Provided training to the interns throughout the first week, which included an overview of the wc program and District operations, GIS/GPS and water safety. Each intern was also trained in CPR, boater's safety and harassment prevention.

The crew has pulled more than 6,500 lbs of water chestnuts. The growth and weather this year will prevent a large total weight.

Have dealt with several boat issues, but the equipment is working well now.

One intern did leave the program and I worked with another applicant to fill the position. This individual was interviewed, hired and trained after the start of the season. Austin Vincent started hand-pulling on 7/7, after training was complete.

Interns are updating the hand-pulling video and will likely be sampling wc seeds in various locations to determine density.

General discussion followed.

Attended CPR training with interns.

Attended SLELO Symposium and received SAF CF credits.

Silver Lake: Our application to the NYS DEC for a wetland permit to allow cattail cutting for habitat improvement was approved and a permit was obtained. Restoration work began in June at the Silver Lake Fen.

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Developed and submitted a report to the OLA on 2022 District activities.

Submitted a letter of support for CNY Regional Planning's and Madison County's application for additional funds to move the Oneida Lake 9 E Plan forward.

Attended manager's meeting coordinated by the state.

3. **NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday August 8th, 2023 @ 10:00am at the District's Conference Room

4. **ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 11:35am.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN

Made by Director **Lockwood** and seconded by Director **Tuori-Bell** and carried.

Respectively submitted,

Laura Romanowicz

cc: Directors
NRCS/Area Office
Ryan Cunningham/NYSSWCC
FSA & NRCS/Oswego Field Office
Betsy Sherman-Saunders/Clerk of the Legislature
Raven Ahart/Deputy Clerk of the Legislature