

October 10, 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 10:03am on Tuesday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 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 September 2023 AS SUBMITTED.**  
**4 yeas** (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)  
Made by Director **Bonoffski** and seconded by Director **Lockwood** and carried.

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT - MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR September 2023 AS SUBMITTED.**  
**4 yeas** (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)  
Made by Director **Bonoffski** and seconded by Director **Lockwood** 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 **October 2023** Payroll Certification for Employees as submitted.

**RECONCILED BANK STATEMENTS** - Director **Lockwood** reviewed the **September 2023** Reconciled Bank Statements and initialed.

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**Old Business**

Driveway repairs: Thank you to the highway dept. for fixing the potholes in our driveway. General discussion followed.

Annual Report: Will be released soon.

Budget: Asked about staffing and capacity at the EDP meeting. General discussion followed.

**New Business**

Part B project: Will be submitting a proposal for Part B funds that entails developing at least 2 forest management plans for private landowners.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE PROJECT BEING SUBMITTED FOR THE 2024 PART B CONSERVATION PROJECT, WHICH INVOLVES THE DEVELOPMENT OF FOREST MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR PRIVATE LANDOWNERS.**

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

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

FLLOWPA Funding 2023/2024: The project proposal entails primarily water chestnut control and will be submitted by 10/15. General discussion followed. The board was in favor of the request.

Request from Brooks Forestry Resource Management to administer Regenerate NY grant applications in Grants Gateway. General discussion followed. The board was in favor of moving forward with the opportunity.

AEM Round 18 Proposal. General discussion followed.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE A RESOLUTION AS PRESENTED, AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION BY THE OSWEGO COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT IN THE AEM BASE PROGRAM FOR ROUND 18.**

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

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

**REPORTS:**

**Ryan Cunningham submitted the following report:**

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee

Region 4 Report - September 2023

Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham - Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

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### **NYS SWCC News**

**AGNPS Round 29 Awards:** Congratulations to those Districts who will be receiving funds to help farms via the Agricultural Non-Point Source Program! \$13.8 million will be divided between 21 Districts to implement projects on 80 farms. The funding will help protect and preserve NY's natural resources by enhancing water quality in priority watersheds. Information about Plan of Work development will be available shortly. More info about the Round 29 awards can be found here:

[https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/agnpsround29projectdescriptions\\_0.pdf](https://agriculture.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/09/agnpsround29projectdescriptions_0.pdf)

**2023 (AEM)-Leopold Conservation Award:** Congratulations to Dygert Farms of Palatine Bridge and the Montgomery County Soil and Water Conservation District for taking top honor for the 2023 AEM Leopold Conservation Award! The Dygert family and the SWCD were honored at a ceremony which convened on the farm in September. Thank you to all the SWCDs who nominated a farm this year.

**October SWCC Meeting:** The next SWCC meeting is scheduled to convene at **10:00 AM on October 17<sup>th</sup>**. Further details and an agenda for this meeting will be sent out shortly. Reminder - participation at a SWCC meeting is eligible toward PM1, Part C of State Aid to Districts.

### **SWCC November 1st Reminders:**

- **2024 Annual Plan of Work (APOW):** It's time to start updating your APOW for 2022. The deadline for submittal to your AEA is **November 1, 2023**. This will allow time to review, provide feedback, and recommend to the SWCC for approval by the end of the calendar year. Please don't hesitate to discuss with your Regional AEA if there are any questions or concerns.
- **AEM 18 Action Plan Submittal:** The two-year AEM Action Plan is due **November 1, 2023**, for a program which runs from January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2025. Action Plans and other documents should be uploaded to your SWCD AEM Sharepoint folder, with confirmation emails sent to the Program Manager and your Regional AEA.
- **2024 Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance:** Part B proposals are Due **November 1, 2023**. Projects are to be completed by December 31, 2024. Part B requests should be submitted via email to [ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov](mailto:ben.luskin@agriculture.ny.gov).
- **Interim Reporting:** Interim reports for AGNPS Contracts (Round 21-Round 23), CAFO WSTSP (Round 1 and Round 2), CRF (Round 1 - Round 4) are due **November 1st**. Reports should be sent to [Maureen.Irish@nyagriculture.ny.gov](mailto:Maureen.Irish@nyagriculture.ny.gov), as well as the appropriate program manager and your Regional AEA.

**SWCC Operations Sub-Committee:** The SWCC is preparing to re-establish the Operations Sub-Committee SWCC is currently looking for interested SWCD staff to help serve. A major component of the sub-committee's focus is directed at the upkeep of the SWCD Office/Operations Manual. We anticipate the first meeting to occur in the Winter of 2023. If you are interested in serving on the sub-committee, please contact your Regional AEA.

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### **Other Events**

**2023 Upper Susquehanna Watershed Forum:** USC is thrilled to return to an in-person watershed forum for 2023, and to be returning to the beautiful Binghamton University Center of Excellence. **October 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm. All information regarding the forum can be found at <http://u-s-c.org/usforum> including registration and opportunities for posters and displays.

**2023 Empire State Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society Annual Meeting:** The annual meeting of the Empire State Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society will be held **November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, 9:00AM to 4:00PM at the Cayuga County Soil and Water Conservation District. The meeting will be held in person with a virtual option for those interested. **Please save the date.** An agenda and registration link will be available shortly.

**2023 Northeast Region Agribusiness & CCA Conference:** Including the Basic Training track for those preparing to take the CCA exams as well as the Advanced Training track for current CCAs. An in-person track will commence at the Doubletree Hotel, East Syracuse, NY on **November 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, followed by a virtual track will commence on **December 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2023**, when additional programming will be offered. More information and a registration link can be found here, <https://www.nysaba.com/educational-meetings>

**NACD 2024 Annual Meeting:** Registration for The National Association of Conservation Districts' (NACD) 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is now open! Hosted in partnership with the California Association of Conservation Districts, the 2024 Annual Meeting will take place in San Diego, California, from **February 10<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. To learn more and to register, please visit: <https://www.nacdnet.org/news-and-events/annual-meeting/>

### **Other Funding**

**Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants:** Nearly \$175 million in funding is available for fish passage projects under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Proposals must be received through [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) by **11:59 PM Eastern time on October 16, 2023**. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants>

**DEC Invasive Species Grant Program Funding Available:** DEC recently announced that \$3 million is available in the third round of the State's Invasive Species Grant Program (ISGP). DEC is accepting applications for these grants through **Nov. 1st, 2023**. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/115742.html>

**NOAA Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grant:** NOAA recently announced that they will provide nearly \$240M to prioritized high-value, high-impact habitat restoration projects that advance resilience. The competition closes **November 17th**. For more information and to apply, visit, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/240-million-available-transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience>

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**Sarra Learned gave the following report:**

Met with JC and Nick Dietschler from the NYS Hemlock Initiative to assess locations at Independence Park suitable for biocontrol release against hemlock woolly adelgid. Several locations were identified and the release of laricobius beetles, who prey on the adelgid over winter, will be taking place next week.

Assisted JC in preparing for various water chestnut meetings by providing maps, photos, and any information as requested.

Calculated acres and produced a map towards the invoice to Onondaga County SWCD for the water chestnut populations treated on the Onondaga County portion of the Oswego River in the phoenix area.

Conducted the last water chestnut surveys of the season: Big Bay area in Onieda Lake, Little Salmon River, and North Sandy Pond.

Attended the Applied Hydrology and Hydraulics course during the Conservation Skills Workshop, held in Auburn.

Participated as a loop worker during Conservation Field Day.

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

Represented the District and attended the Oneida Lake Association meeting at the Oneida Shores County Park.

Completed the 2022 District Annual Report.

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

**Erica Schreiner gave the following report, covering the time frame since the August 8, 2023 Directors meeting:**

The first of three AEM implementation projects of 2023 began in early August and is now complete. The second project is nearly complete and the third project is approximately half-way complete. A significant amount of time has been spent in the field for all three projects.

Continued AEM planning with other program participants.

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Attended a farm project meeting.

Attended an Oswego County Ag Agency Team meeting.

Assisted with completing a survey for an agricultural landowner who would like to install tile drainage at his Christmas tree farm. A design will be created and given to the landowner.

Met with the newly hired CNMP planner at Jefferson County SWCD regarding a CNMP for an Oswego County landowner. The planner has met with the landowner and will move forward with collecting farm data and collecting samples for soil and manure tests.

Maintained the District web site and Facebook page.

Completed set-up and tear-down of the NYS Fair booth as a member of the NYS Conservation District Employees' Association State Fair Committee, and worked two shifts at the event.

Provided customer technical assistance in the following areas: ag assessment vs. ag district, drainage concerns, general property questions, soil compaction, and well water testing.

Continued monitoring the status of a culvert replacement project on Route 49 in regard to assistance given to an agricultural producer in communicating with the NYS Department of Transportation. The culvert replacement is now complete. Communicated with the agricultural producer who indicated that so far, the culvert is working very well and he is pleased.

Continued planning the 35<sup>th</sup> annual Oswego County Conservation Field Day which was held on September 21 at Selkirk Shores State Park. Approximately three-hundred and twenty-five students from six schools attended. All staff assisted and it was a great celebration of the 35<sup>th</sup> year. Sponsors: North Shore Sportsmen's Association, Oswego County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, Sandy Tuori-Bell

Set up an interactive exhibit and an information table at the 14<sup>th</sup> annual Salmon River Fish Hatchery Open House on September 23. Approximately fifteen hundred visitors attended the event.

Gave a presentation about trees at the Onondaga County Environmental Field Day at Green Lakes State Park on October 5.

Prepared for a Day in the Life of Lake Ontario - St. Lawrence River Watershed program which was held on October 6 at Rice Creek Field Station. Led the macroinvertebrate station. Approximately seventy-five students from Pulaski Middle School participated. In addition to learning about macroinvertebrates and why they are important water quality indicators, students also participated in stations about land assessment, water assessment, and chemical water quality assessment.

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**Laura Romanowicz gave the following report:**

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2023 941 and NYS-45 reports have been completed, filed, and sent to the appropriate parties.

Assisted with the Conservation Field Day set-up/tear down and helped at the main headquarters during the event on September 21<sup>st</sup>.

Coordinated with Computer Outlet to obtain & set up new office equipment for staff, and the old equipment has been disposed of properly.

Continuing to update the 53<sup>rd</sup> tree and shrub program documents, which are currently in draft form and will be reviewed and approved by Joe in the near future.

Performance Measures: To date, we have 2 out of 3 required attendances for the regional or state meeting performance measure. Meeting information will be emailed to directors as they are received. Please continue to send a confirmation email or text to myself and Joe if you were in attendance of a meeting for our records.

Dunk kits: 95 cases (1,140 each) mosquito dunk kits were purchased in 2023. With the partnership from the Oswego County Health Department, 80 cases (960 each) have been distributed within county to date, and 15 cases remain in inventory.

**Joe Chairvolotti gave the following report:**

Reforestation Property:

Met with logging contractor and oversaw the grading of skid trails and the log landing. The performance bond has been released to G&C Martin Logging, Inc.

Will be completing the 2024 timber sale soon.

Assisted landowners and municipalities with general technical, water quality and forestry related advice, both remotely and on-site. Requests involving regulatory features, conservation easements, logging near regulated areas, drainage, regulatory features, hazard trees/invasive species, tree identification and stormwater.

Assisted with water sampling for 1 day for the 9 E watershed plan.

Provided assistance to NRCS regarding CSP participant and will be marking a practice on the ground for the landowner soon.

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CSW AEM Forestry Course: Prepared for and taught the course at CSW on 9/20 with 2 other instructors. The class focused on forestry BMPs on farms and took place in the field.

Attended two SWCC staff meetings to offer assistance in developing a suite of forestry practices to be added to the CRF grant program.

Asked to serve as an instructor for the AEM forestry class at the 2024 WQS and also to be a panelist for the invasive species class.

NYACD Forestry Course: Communications in preparation of presentation on 10/26. Will prepare powerpoint soon.

Little Salmon River Watershed: Mr. Dowling met with the Town of Mexico and the reps reiterated the options that this office and DEC have discussed with him recently.

Village of Pulaski Drainage Grant: Some communications with the Village of Pulaski. Will be conducting a bid next month to move the stormwater planning process forward for the Salmon Meadows development. This was moved to a later date due to workload.

Village of Pulaski Wellhead Protection Committee: Attended meeting and visited the wellheads.

Lake Neatahwanta: Attended a meeting with stakeholders and the EutroPHIX firm. A treatment with EutroSorb is being proposed, which acts as a phosphorous binder. The intent is to render the phosphorous in the lake inactive to alleviate the HAB concerns. I contacted regulatory agencies and invited them. I did receive information, but no one from DEC nor Army Corps was able to attend. At this point, DEC does not recognize this as a registered treatment and is waiting for the report from a pilot program to be approved. More information and approval from DEC is needed before being involved in grant applications for this project. There was also a public meeting the day after the stakeholder meeting, but I did not attend. General discussion followed.

Water Chestnut Herbicide Treatment:

Met with Onondaga County SWCD and provided a presentation on our herbicide program and the steps involved in successfully obtaining a NYS DEC pesticide application permit.

Working with Canal Corp to get an authorization for applying for harvesting, hand-pulling and/or herbicide treatment permits through DEC.

HWA at Independence Park: Met with reps from NYS Hemlock Initiative. Biocontrol release is scheduled to happen the week of 10/16.



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Mexico Trail Riders: Met with the trail coordinator to review a crossing and began a design. We'll be assisting with the pursuit of a wetland permit.

Attended CNY Stormwater Coalition meeting.

CNY Regional Planning obtained a large grant for urban forestry work. This will involve disadvantaged communities in Oswego County.

Working with a landowner associated with an AEM BMP project that has brought concerns to this office. General discussion followed.

3. **NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 @ 10:00am at the District's Conference Room

4. **ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 11:29am.

**MOTION: TO ADJOURN**

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