

July 12, 2022

MINUTES

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

The Directors, staff, and guests met at 10:06am on Tuesday July 12th 2022 in the District Office Conference Room, located at 3105 State Route 3, Fulton, NY 13069.

PRESENT:

Jeff Richards, Chairperson
Linda Lockwood, Vice Chairperson
Tom Bonoffski, Member
Mary Ellen Chesbro, Member
Sandy Tuori-Bell, Member
Scott Travis, NRCS

Joe Chairvolotti, District Manager
Erica Schreiner, Sr. District Technician
Laura Romanowicz, Secretary
Sarra Learned, Environmental Resource Technician
Ryan Cunningham, SWCC
Shannon Bozeat, NRCS

1. **MINUTES - MOTION: TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR June 2022 AS SUBMITTED.**
5 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)
Made by Director **Chesbro** and seconded by Director **Bonoffski** and carried.
2. **ADMINISTRATIVE - MOTION: TO APPROVE THE BILLS FOR July 2022 AS SUBMITTED.**
5 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)
Made by Director **Chesbro** and seconded by Director **Bonoffski** and carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT - MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR June 2022 AS SUBMITTED.
5 yeas (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)
Made by Director **Lockwood** and seconded by Director **Chesbro** and carried.

PAYROLL CERTIFICATION FOR EMPLOYEES - Board of Directors reviewed and approved the **July 2022** Payroll Certification for Employees as submitted.

RECONCILED BANK STATEMENTS - Director **Lockwood** reviewed the **June 2022** Reconciled Bank Statements and initialed.

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Old Business

Vehicle situation: Joe was asked to clarify the vehicle status discussed last month. This office rented 2 U-Haul trucks during the field season, 1 for the intern crew and 1 for the office staff. The interns are also using the office van. This decision represents a financial savings to the District and also ensures there is enough room for the entire intern team. General discussion followed.

Alarm system: Have been notified several times from Volney Multiplex that test signals are not being returned. The company inspected the situation and stated that switching phone systems created an issue with the alarm which needs to be corrected with newer/different equipment. This information was provided to Buildings and Grounds. General discussion followed.

Truck Damage/Body Work: A claim has been submitted to our insurance agency for damage sustained in the field and the repair work will be conducted in September. General discussion followed.

New Business

Agreement with Jefferson County SWCD regarding technical assistance. General discussion followed.

MOTION: TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT WITH JEFFERSON COUNTY SWCD FOR DESIGN WORK AS NECESSARY, AT THE CURRENT NYS SOIL AND WATER RATE FOR TECHNICIANS, NOT TO EXCEED 80 HOURS.

5 years (in favor), **0 nays** (those opposed)

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

Part C of NYS Soil and Water Funding: The staff has done a great job of providing technical assistance as well as planning and implementing projects covered under the Part C funding. At this point, this office is close to having earned the staffing portion of the funding source.

REPORTS:

Ryan Cunningham gave the following report:

New York State Soil & Water Conservation Committee
Region 4 Report - July 2022

Submitted by: Ryan Cunningham - Region 4 Associate Environmental Analyst

General Updates

Suspension of In-Person Meeting Requirement: The Governor has extended the State of Emergency for New York and in turn has continued the suspension of in-person meeting requirements of Open Meetings Law through **August 13th, 2022**. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/sites/default/files/2022->

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[07/EO 11.8.pdf](#). Therefore, public bodies are still able to meet and take such action authorized by law without permitting in-person access to meetings. Meetings may be held by videoconference, provided that the public can view or listen to such proceeding, meetings are recorded and posted within 5 business days, and that recordings are transcribed upon request. Members must be visible on camera and have their first and last name displayed.

NYS SWCC News

SWCC Meeting: The July meeting of the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee will be held on **7/26/22 at 10am**. This is a change from the previous set date of 7/19/22. An agenda, minutes from the June meeting and calendar invite with meeting locations and/or access information will be sent shortly.

SWCD - Landowner Funding Agreements

For BMP Implementation projects, a signed SWCD - Landowner Funding Agreements must be submitted to the SWCC when requesting a BMP Implementation Payment. This is an agreement between the SWCD and a landowner that indicates state and landowner contribution amounts, defines project deliverables, and details the responsibilities and requirements for participating landowners.

SWCD-Landowner Funding Agreement must include:

- the amount of state contribution and landowner commitment/source (cash or in-kind)
- commitment of match for contingency funds
- An acknowledgment by the landowner that they will be responsible for the total BMP implementation costs.
- An acknowledgment by the landowner that they understand all state assistance payments will be made on a reimbursement basis.
- An acknowledgment by the landowner that all cost overruns will be the responsibility of the landowner.
- The landowner or operator's name must be printed and signed.

It is suggested that the landowner acknowledge that final reimbursement will be based on the final project cost and the original cost share percentage. The amount to be paid by the State cannot exceed the amount indicated in the contract. Additionally, if another source of funds will be used as match (i.e., EQIP), it is strongly suggested that the SWCD-Landowner funding Agreement include the amount and source of match. PLEASE NOTE: A combination of state funds and match funds may not result in a payment to the Landowner that is greater 100% of the final project costs.

The NYS SWCC does not provide a template SWCD - Landowner Funding Agreement but, can provide examples as requested. If you are considering making any changes to your SWCD - Landowner Funding Agreement, please review those changes with your County Attorney.

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Reminder of Open Funding Opportunities: A reminder that these funding programs are accepting applications on a rolling basis.

- **NYS Farmland Protection Implementation Grants Round 18** - The intent of the grant program is to fund the implementation of certain farmland protection activities intended to maintain the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and its supporting land base and to protect the environmental and landscape preservation values associated with agriculture. For more information about applying, please visit, <https://agriculture.ny.gov/land-and-water/rfa-0238-farmland-protection-implementation-grants-round-18-conservation-easement>
- **Source Water Buffer Program:** Funding is available to support the purchase of development rights on agricultural land to support the protection of active public drinking water sources. The RFA and associated documents are now available on SharePoint, <https://nysemail.sharepoint.com>.

Other Events

Open Meeting Law - Information Session: The Committee on Open Government will present a virtual Open Meetings Law training program on **Thursday, July 21st, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Pre-registration is required. <https://opengovernment.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/07/coog-oml-information-session-072122.pdf>

2022 NY Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Field Days: The NY Soil Health Alliance Group will convene a series of Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Field Day's throughout the State during 2022. Registration is now live for the **July 20th Northern NY event at Sullivan Orchards (Clinton County)**, the **July 25th Central NY event at Thompson Research Farm** and the **July 28th Eastern NY event at the B&B Crop Farm**. Visit, www.fielddays.newyorksoilhealth.org for more information and to register.

2022 Empire Farm Days: August 2nd - 4th, 2022 (<https://empirefarmdays.leetradeshows.com>).

2022 Cornell Aurora Farm Field Day: August 18th, 2022 (<https://cals.cornell.edu/2021-aurora-farm-field-day>).

Other Funding Assistance

NYS Water Quality Improvement Program: The Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant application period is open through **July 29, 2022**. A total of at least \$75 million is available for projects that include: Nonagricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control; Land Acquisition for Source Water Protection; Salt Storage; Aquatic Connectivity Restoration and; Marine District Habitat Restoration. Apply using the Consolidated Funding Application, <https://apps.cio.ny.gov/apps/cfa/>

NOAA Funding, Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal: \$65 million in funding is available for fish passage through the removal of in-stream barriers in FY2022 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act). This funding will support

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transformational projects that reopen migratory pathways and restore access to healthy habitat for fish around the country. Proposals must be received through Grants.gov by **11:59 PM Eastern time on August 15, 2022**. <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants>

Shannon Bozeat and Scott Travis gave the following report:

June 10th, 2022- July 12th

NRCS NE 5 Team: Cayuga, Onondaga, Oswego Co SWCD Board Report
Shannon Bozeat (District Conservationist), Scott Travis (Resource Conservationist),
Miranda Ciardulli (Soil Conservationist), Don Quinn-Jacobs (Soil Conservationist)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

Funded to date: 2022 application:

- **6** for **Cayuga**/ **1** High tunnel / **1** Grazing/1 Energy audit/ **1** Reduced tillage/ **1** Cover crop / **1** soil erosion/
- **3** for **Onondaga**/ **3** High Tunnel
- **2** for **Oswego**/ **1** Reduce tillage/ **1** wildlife-Requested to cancel the application

Implementation of EQIP Contracts:

- **Cayuga:**
 - *Livestock pipeline design is complete; Fence is installed.
 - * Pasture and hay land planting was done
 - * High tunnel
- **Onondaga:** *Design is still underway for Access Road, livestock pipeline, Roof Runoff structure.
 - * Diversion, Underground outlet, Rock Lined channel, WASCOD are being constructed.
 - *2.1 acres of 490, 612, and 484 have been completed
- **Oswego:** High tunnel has been completed and payment certified.

Payment for EQIP Contracts:

- **Cayuga:** Subsurface drainage \$4,933.50, Tree and shrub pruning \$275.72, Pasture and hay land planting \$15, 911.50.
- **Onondaga:** Tree and shrub establishment, mulching and Tree and shrub site prep 7,165.63
- **Oswego:** nothing for this month

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Wetland Easement Monitoring will be starting

- Cayuga: TBD
- Onondaga: TBD
- Oswego: TBD

Food Security Act workload

- Cayuga Onsite investigation completed 10
- Onondaga Onsite investigation completed 3
- Oswego Onsite planned for next month.

Sarra Learned gave the following report:

Giant hogweed:

Wrapping up site visits. Have been conducting follow-up visits two weeks after treatment to ensure plant mortality and to inspect for any missed plants that may need to be sprayed again or flower heads that need to be removed.

Communicating with landowners who report remaining plants on their property after treatment and have been continuing to send locator maps of remaining plants to our contractor.

Providing technical assistance by identifying suspicious plants that get reported to the office as potential giant hogweed.

As the season comes to a close, I have started to get my photos, site data, and maps organized and ready to be entered onto Survey123 for DEC.

Water Chestnut:

After training the interns in June, I have been working with them as needed to make sure they are working cohesively and have proper equipment for their job in the field. They have removed a total of 11,200 pounds as of yesterday the 11th.

Paddled through each of our sites along the Oswego River to monitor our treatment patches. Some patches that were treated last season or that qualified for treatment this season were not present this year. Some of our main patches that have been treated over many years are beginning to appear more broken up and scattered compared to their thick and dense presence of the past.

Participated in a hand-pull event at Metzger's Pond in Constantia this past Saturday, the 9th. This event was organized by Joe and we had several volunteers including our own interns and staff, the landowner

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of the property, and members of the Onondaga Lake Association. We removed 2,350 pounds from the pond which were all composted on-site with permission from the landowner.

Helping Joe as needed with materials for the QAPP. Planning and preparing for taking water samples after water chestnut treatment. This will consist of 10 water samples taken at our 10 treatment sites to be tested in a lab setting for herbicide concentration in the river. This is usually carried out by our contractors, but this year, I will be collecting the samples.

Other:

Assisted SLELO PRISM in a biocontrol release for emerald ash borer (EAB) at the Rice Creek Field Station.

Erica Schreiner gave the following report:

Received thank-you notes from Volney Elementary School 2nd grade students who attended a wildlife sign and animal tracks presentation in late May as part of an Earth Day program at their school.

Began planning the 32nd annual Oswego County Conservation Field Day which will be held on September 15. Invitations were sent to all county 5th grade teachers. Teachers who have already signed up have offered thanks for the program returning to an in-person event after being virtual in 2020 and 2021. Presenter invitations will be sent this week.

Reviewed the Oswego County Fair protocol with District staff. An exhibit about District services will be created and set-up as a static display for the duration of the fair in August.

Assisted JC with water chestnut scouting in Constantia.

Addressed concerns regarding an ag odor complaint in Amboy due to the spreading of egg material. Provided information to the Oswego County Health Department and have maintained contact with the supervisor of the NYS DEC Materials Division as they are handling the complaint and have issued a letter of correction action to the landowner.

Provided historical information to the NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets in regard to an agricultural field that is adjacent to a well in the Orwell Water District. The field receives manure application and that practice has recently been questioned by town representatives.

Maintained the District web site and FaceBook page. Updates with photos are posted to FB every few days about the various field projects taking place this summer. There is also a weekly and a season total posted for the pounds of water chestnut plants that have been hand-pulled. Hogweed control has been a prominently featured program as well.

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Participated in a FLOWA teleconference regarding an outreach video that is being proposed for the organization.

Awaiting an executed AEM Round 17 contract from Albany so that a voucher can be submitted for funding.

Continued AEM planning with program participants, which included field visits. High fuel and fertilizer costs are common complaints this year.

Additional upcoming AEM field visits have been scheduled to complete tier planning and address various concerns.

Completed many tasks for the SWCDs booth at the NYS Fair. Most tasks involve creating materials such as posters for the display and assembling handouts related to healthy soil and soil testing.

Met with Ryan Cunningham to discuss cover crops grants in other counties and what type of program would be best suited for Oswego County.

Provided customer technical assistance in the following areas: ag assessment vs. ag district, ag odor complaint, ag zoning, illegal garbage dumping, soil sampling, and wetlands.

Communicated with the president of FAST (Fulton Area Snow Travelers) about a bridge on agricultural land that is used both for farm equipment and snowmobiles. The president agreed to bring the matter to the club membership. Snowmobile clubs are eligible to apply for state funds earmarked for snowmobile trail maintenance and improvement. If the project moves forward, the District will provide technical assistance as needed.

Laura Romanowicz gave the following report:

Dunk kits - 53 cases of the Mosquito Beaters were purchased & picked up at the Bonide warehouse in Oriskany on 05/23/2022. All staff members assisted with getting the dunk kits out to the 26 County Village and Town facilities that wanted them. Due to the high demand, an additional 21 cases were purchased on 07/06/2022 and are available at the district facility.

Received FLOWPA's NYS DEC Advance payment for contract C311775 YR 3, Advance 1, which was just over \$800,000. Funds have been transferred from the District Checking to FLOWPA's Reserve Account, where retainage and advancement payments will be processed and sent to several SWCD's.

Assisted Joe and the staff with the onboarding of the Interns.

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Assisted with the Giant Hogweed mailing.

New phone system installation - porting took place on Friday 06/03/2022. The transition to this new system has been great and is working well for staff members.

The district truck is scheduled to go to Vashaw's for repairs on Monday 09/12/2022, and will be in the shop until Friday 09/16/2022. We will be provided with a rental vehicle at the time of drop-off, which is covered by our insurance company.

Assisted Joe with getting the initial paperwork for the Village of Pulaski Stormwater Drainage Grant. Grants Gateway will be monitored for the next steps.

Joe Chairvolotti gave the following report:

Conducted several inspections of the Reforestation timber sale located in the Town of Parish. An issue arose with tops having been felled over the boundary on to property owned by NYS DEC. I met with DEC staff and the logger, and ensured that all logging debris was removed from the line. The sale is now completed and an inspection was conducted prior to the contractor moving their equipment. Restoration work will still need to take place later in the summer.

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

Several landowners contacted this office inquiring about funding to remove dead/dying ash trees resulting from EAB.

Ag complaint has been received regarding the stockpiling/spreading of egg shell fertilizer. This information was delivered by a legislator and this office has contacted the NYS DEC and relayed updates as necessary.

This office was asked to be on the committee developing the 9 Element Watershed Plan for Oneida Lake.

Dredging/Park project in Cleveland: Provided information and email responses as necessary.

Developed forestry section of the Town of Constantia comprehensive plan.

Interviewed by the NYS Water Resources Institute regarding the barriers to individuals protecting their shorelines on the Great Lakes system in NYS.

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Lake Neatahwanta: Have been in communication with the LNRC as well as the DEC and visited the site. A list of equipment has been assembled and all items will be picked up by the DEC within the next few weeks.

Water Chestnut Control:

Obtained the work permit from the Canal Corp for hand-pulling.

Interns started on 6/13 and spent approximately 6 days on training, which included invasives species, the water chestnut program, GIS/GPS, CPR, Harassment Prevention, office policies, water safety and in-field orientation.

Got the boat ready and launched it for the first time with the crew leader. The interns have been employing this, which seems to have increased productivity significantly.

Fixed the weed cutter and tested it with the Onondaga County SWCD. In a few hours of work, we removed approximately 1,500 lbs of water chestnuts. This will be applicable in certain situations, but approvals from the DEC and Canal Corp are necessary. It may be employed this year briefly, but it should be used more next year.

Working on the QAPP for the follow-up water testing covered under the FLOWPA funding.

Partnered with OLA for a hand-pull event in Constantia at a pond in direct drainage to Oneida Lake. With approximately 20 participants 2,349 lbs. were removed. The chestnut crew will revisit to clean up the rest.

This office has removed over 10,000 lbs from the river.

Herbicide treatment is scheduled for the weeks of 7/18 and 8/8. Notification has been given to the NYS DEC and riparian landowners.

FLOWPA modification

Water chestnut complaint call regarding Tannery Creek Site. Discussion followed.

Giant Hogweed Program: Conducted 2 site visits with Sarra and discussed the program as needed..

Participated in the biocontrol release of wasps in various forms at the Rice Creek Field Station.

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Silver Lake: Met with CNYLT and staff from SUNY Oswego regarding restoration and research project ideas to spend remaining funds at Silver Lake. Planning on relaying information to DEC to get an ok and then submitting a proposal next month. For one project, a preliminary site review and communication with DEC is required to determine the need for permits.

Attended 1.5-day training for Stormwater Management, which will assist in obtaining a certification.

Other Meetings attended: EDP Committee

3. **NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday August 9th, 2022 @ 10:00am at the District's Conference Room

4. **ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 11:43am.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN

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

Respectively submitted,

Laura Romanowicz
Secretary

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