

June 14, 2022

MINUTES

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

The Directors and staff met at 10:12am on Tuesday June 14th 2022 in the District Office Conference Room, located at 3105 State Route 3, Fulton, NY 13069.

PRESENT:

Jeff Richards, Chairperson

Joe Chairvolotti, District Manager

Linda Lockwood, Vice Chairperson

Erica Schreiner, Sr. District Technician

Tom Bonoffski, Member

Mary Ellen Chesbro, Member

1. **MINUTES - MOTION: TO APPROVE MINUTES FOR May 2022 AS SUBMITTED.**

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

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

2. **ADMINISTRATIVE - MOTION: TO APPROVE THE BILLS FOR June 2022 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 May 2022 AS SUBMITTED.

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

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

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

RECONCILED BANK STATEMENTS – Director **Lockwood** reviewed the **May 2022** Reconciled Bank Statements and initialed.

Old Business

New Position Duties Statement has been submitted for the Environmental Resource Technician position.

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New Business

Vehicle situation: The interns will be using the District van this summer and an additional U-Haul truck was rented for the permanent staff to use because the process is much easier than most rental companies. General discussion followed.

The 2018 Chevy Silverado sustained damage during fieldwork for the giant hogweed program. Photos were reviewed and general discussion followed.

MOTION: TO HAVE THE OSWEGO COUNTY SWCD PICKUP TRUCK REPAIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DISTRICT INSURANCE POLICY, WHICH REQUIRES 1 WRITTEN ESTIMATE AND CARRIES A \$500 DEDUCTIBLE.

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

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

Oswego County Buildings and Grounds is obtaining quotes for replacing the awning at the front entrance of the office. General discussion followed.

Correspondence received from the NYS Envirothon Committee thanking the District for sending volunteers to help at the NYS Envirothon.

REPORTS:

Shannon Bozeat provided the following report:

May 5th 2022- June 10th

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 as of to date for current application being assessed was November 1, 2021,

Applications received:

- **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

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Implementation of EQIP Contracts:

- **Cayuga:**
 - *Livestock pipeline design is complete; Fence is being installed as of yesterday.
 - * Pasture and hay land planting was done
 - * High tunnel
- **Onondaga:** *Design is still underway for Access Road, livestock pipeline, Roof Runoff structure.
 - *IR's have been developed for Pasture and hay land planting, Fence for Prescribed grazing system.
 - *High tunnel construction check completed
 - *Finished Laying out the Diversion, Underground outlet, Rock Lined channel, WASCOB
 - *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:** Tree/shrub Pruning \$275.72,
- **Onondaga:** Seeding and Mulching along a High Tunnel \$59.62.
- **Oswego:** High Tunnel \$3,823.55

Wetland Easement Monitoring will be starting

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

Sarra Learned provided and Joe Chairvolotti summarized the following report:

Giant hogweed:

Made contact with 54 landowners to gain permission to monitor and survey giant hogweed plants. Permission has been gained for most sites, but not all. Contact methods include phone calls, emails, and letters.

Have been surveying approximately 40 sites for giant hogweed. This includes locating plants, flagging their location with survey tape, and collecting GPS data on plant location and plant density. Giant hogweed plants have been found and are being treated on approximately 20 sites this year. Continuously providing maps and communicating plant locations with contractors for treatment as necessary.

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Other:

Preparing for the water chestnut season; provided maps required to obtain Oswego River work permit from the Canal Corporation, coordinated training for water chestnut interns with Joe and Laura, and gained permission to access launch points.

Volunteered as a Team Trail Guide for the NY State Envirothon at Hobart and William Smith College.

Worked with all staff to deliver mosquito dunk kits to municipalities around the county.

Attended the Eastern Lake Ontario Dune Coalition (ELODC) meeting via zoom.

Provided customer technical assistance by producing soils reports and property maps as requested.

Erica Schreiner gave the following report:

Completed wrap-up tasks for the 2022 Oswego County Envirothon. Attended a ceremony at the June meeting of the Oswego County Legislature at which a proclamation of achievement was presented to the Oswego High School Envirothon team for placing first at the Oswego County Envirothon and eighth out of thirty-five teams at the NYS Envirothon. Three of the five team members were able to attend the ceremony.

Participated as a presentation judge and a team trail guide at the NYS Envirothon.

Gave a presentation about wildlife to first and second grade students at the annual Volney Elementary School Earth Day program. Many hands-on items were shared with the students; feathers, furs, scat replicas, skulls, and track replicas.

Gave a presentation about safety in the outdoors to fifth grade students at the Oswego County Progressive Agriculture Farm and Home Safety Day, which was held at the Oswego County Fairgrounds.

Maintained the District web site and FaceBook page.

The AEM Round 17 contract was received, signed, and returned to Albany. Once the contract is executed, a voucher can be submitted for funding.

Continued AEM planning with program participants. There are several upcoming field visits scheduled to complete tier planning and address various concerns.

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A landowner who received technical assistance for tile drainage in a hay field in late 2020 thanked District staff for their help. He self-installed the tile and was not convinced it had worked until he went to the field this spring. He is very pleased with the results of higher quality grass for his horses.

A landowner who received technical assistance for a drainage design to capture roof water and convey that water underground to an outlet away from his chicken coop thanked the District staff for their help and is quite impressed at the level of service provided. He was given a site-specific drainage design, along with a materials list. He will use that information to buy the necessary materials and hire a contractor to complete the work. Once completed, the chicken coop area will be much drier as it will no longer receive roof run-off.

In October of 2019 a letter was sent from the District to the NYS Department of Transportation office in Mexico, regarding a road culvert on State Route 49 near Gilbert Mills Road. The letter; outlined concern that the height of the culvert causes water to back-up into 240 acres of muck fields at Joseph DiSalvo Farms, Inc., asked that when the time came for culvert to be repaired/replaced that consideration be given to lowering it, and provided information about the importance of keeping agriculture viable in Oswego County. District staff followed up with DOT but no response was received until May of 2022, indirectly, when an employee of DiSalvo Farms obtained good news. The existing culvert pipe is scheduled to be replaced with a concrete box culvert at a lower elevation, and it will allow approximately three times the amount of water to pass through it. A copy of the design plan was brought to DiSalvo Farms by DOT and general discussion took place. DiSalvo Farms staff thanked the District staff for their role in providing pertinent information to DOT, and will keep District staff informed of the culvert replacement progress.

Provided customer technical assistance in the following areas: ag assessment vs. ag district, ag drainage, nuisance insects, and pond maintenance.

Assisted with delivery of mosquito dunk kits to Oswego County municipality offices.

Joe Chairvolotti gave the following report:

Conducted inspections of the Reforestation timber sale located in the Town of Parish and have been in communication with the contractor. The harvesting will be completed in the weeks to come, but restoration will likely need to wait until August/September.

Conducted 2 inspections of the beaver dam on the St. Mary's Rd Reforestation property. The pond is still present, but there is a hole in the dam now which has alleviated the flooding on the road. Trappers from the county are controlling the beavers and the Town of Parish will be working on removal of the dam. General discussion followed.

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Received a request to remove trees on Reforestation property and investigated. General discussion followed.

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

Worked with NYS DOT on 2 situations with landowners regarding drainage.

Provided assistance on a stormwater/water quality issue at a timber harvesting operation at the request of a NYS DEC Conservation Officer.

Reviewed/edited a forest management plan from the past.

Volney Solar Project: Requested by the Town of Volney to review soils information from a solar array proposal. The acreage of prime ag land and farmland of statewide significance was calculated and a response was submitted. General discussion followed.

Plan for Sandy Creek Watershed: Attended a meeting with Jefferson County SWCD, Tug Hill Commission and NYS DEC regarding a 9 Element Plan for the Sandy Creek Watershed. This office will partner with Jefferson County SWCD on some of the work involved.

Asked to be on Drinking Water Source Protection Plan for the City of Fulton.

Dredging/Park project in Cleveland: Asked by the Village of Cleveland to provide assistance as needed for a proposed project.

Made contact with ESF and we may be able to obtain resistant chestnuts for our tree sale in a few years.

Lake Neatahwanta: Communicating with the NYS DEC and members of the LNRC regarding removal of the equipment. This will likely take place in June/July. The landowner storing the equipment has requested that the settling pond installed be restored back to its original condition. General discussion followed.

Water Chestnut Control:

Obtained herbicide application permits from the NYS DEC.

Herbicide treatment is scheduled for the weeks of 7/18 and 8/8.

Interns started on 6/13 and will be spending the first week in training.

Getting the new boat ready for the field season.

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Sarra is working on gaining permission from landowners for access to various water chestnut patches.

Submitted an application to obtain a work permit from the NYS Canal Corp for hand-pulling water chestnuts.

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Control (HWA): Finally obtained a NYS DEC permit for the pesticide treatment this fall at Independence Park. Also, this office is still working on obtaining information on biocontrol. Planning on meeting with the HS committee in July or August to finalize the request to release insects that prey on HWA at Independence Park.

Silver Lake: Working with NYS DEC, CNYLT and SUNY Oswego for restoration and research project ideas to spend remaining funds.

Meetings attended: ELODC, EDP, FLOWPA

3. **NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday July 12th, 2022 @ 10:00am at the District's Conference Room

4. **ADJOURNMENT** - Meeting adjourned at 11:34am.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN

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

Respectively submitted,

Erica Schreiner
Acting 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