

Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2023

Present: Steven Ruther, Donald Ackerman, Eric Hess, Sara Mae Pratt,
Nicholas Klemczak, Joe Braun, Paula Schaeffer

The meeting was **called to order** at 10:07 am by Steven Ruther, Chairperson.

Privilege of the Floor - none

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the **July Meeting Minutes**.

Motion to approve made by Sara Mae Pratt, seconded by Donald Ackerman. Motion carried.

Financial

Nicholas Klemczak previously emailed all the reports to the Directors for review.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the **July Treasurer's Report**.

Donald Ackerman motion to approve, seconded by Sara Mae Pratt. Motion carried.

The Directors reviewed the **Paid Bills Report**.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to accept the Report.

Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

Nicholas explained the request for **purchasing a new copier** for the office (ours is 9 years old and "tired").

New copier quotes run between \$1,000 & \$2,000 which will best serve our office needs.

The Directors concurred. Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the purchase.

Donald Ackerman motioned, seconded by Sara Mae Pratt. Motion carried.

New Business – Review & Adopt

Code of Ethics Policy

Nicholas distributed the Policy for review. He explained that it is to be included with our Policy Manual documents and to be reviewed yearly at our Organizational Meeting.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to adopt the Policy.

Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

Approval to hold our Annual Tree & Shrub Sale in 2024

Nicholas asked the Directors for their approval to hold our Annual Tree & Shrub sale next year.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve. Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

AEM Ranking System

Nicholas explained AEM Round 18 is starting and all Soil & Water Conservation Districts have a ranking system to help identify the highest level of resource concern. He further explained the ranking sheet. After discussion, Steven Ruther asked for a motion to accept the AEM Ranking System.

Eric Hess motioned, seconded by Donald Ackerman. Motion carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Scott Fickbohm Nicholas will email Scott's report upon receipt.

Entire reports previously emailed to the Directors and on file.

Nicholas Klemczak, Executive Director presented the District Highlights Report for July 26 – August 23, 2023

Highlights include:

- Grinder hydraulic system needs to be rebuilt. Cost: over \$100,000 and a 200 day lead time. Discussed options: repair, rent, purchase...Nicholas notified the County Manager and the Finance Department. After much discussion regarding the age of current grinder, costs involved, both monetary and time related and grinder availability,

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to pass a recommendation to the Legislators from our Board to purchase a new grinder. Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Donald Ackerman. Motion carried.

- Repair on the old John Deere 644 loader;
- Compost Operations Training Course was attended by Nicholas and Randy;
- Preserve maintenance and work continues by Dave Pidgeon and Summer Youth crew;
- The Summer Youth Program concluded on August 10th, Andrew did a great job as supervisor;
- Nicholas attended the State Aid to District Forum concerning Parts A, B, C funding and Performance Measures. Nicholas will compile a list of meetings for the Directors to attend to meet Performance Measure requirements;
- Looking into a "Big Picture" learning site as requested by the City's School District;
- Dave Pidgeon and Joe Braun installed a flow device on Sheldon Road beaver dam, after checking the next day, seems to work well;
- On September 6 and 7 at Glenville Town Offices, CDEA Meetings will be held.

Joe Braun, District Technician, presented his report highlighting work at the Preserves, County Forest & Bike/Hike Trail, AEM Programs currently working on, grants and future projects. Also his work on our site, including maintaining our pollinator garden.

The **next meeting** will be held on Wednesday, September 27, 2023 at the District beginning at 10:00.

Steven Ruther asked for a **motion to adjourn** at 11:15.

Donald Ackerman motioned, seconded by Sara Mae Pratt. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Schaeffer
Administrative Assistant

