

Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2023

Present: Steven Ruther, Michael Pileggi, Sara Mae Pratt, Eric Hess, B. Donald Ackerman (via teleconference),
Nicholas Klemczak, Joseph Braun, Paula Schaeffer

The meeting was **called to order** at 10:05 by Steven Ruther, Chairperson.

Nicholas Klemczak introduced **Joseph Braun** who was hired as our **District Technician** last month. The Directors welcomed him to SSWCD and wished him well.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to **approve the December Minutes**. Due to inclement weather, the January Meeting was canceled. Motion made by Michael Pileggi, seconded by Sara Mae Pratt. Motion carried.

Organizational

Membership of Board of Directors: Steven Ruther asked for a motion to keep the Board at five members. Michael Pileggi motioned, seconded by Sara Mae Pratt. Motion carried.

Election of Officers: After discussion, Steven Ruther asked for a motion to keep the slate of officers the same as last year. Michael Pileggi motioned, seconded by Sara Mae Pratt. Motion carried.

The 2023 Officers are:

Steven Ruther, Chairperson

Michael Pileggi, Vice Chairperson

B. Donald Ackerman, Secretary/Treasurer

Designate mileage reimbursement (per IRS for 2023) @ 65.5 cents per mile):

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

Per Diem Rate was tabled for this meeting. Nicholas Klemczak will research other Districts for comparison.

Designate newspaper: Steven Ruther asked for a motion to continue using the Daily Gazette as the District's newspaper. Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Authorization to pay bills without prior approval: Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve authorization. Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Director Attendance Policy: No changes. Steven Ruther asked for a motion to accept the Policy as written. Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Investment Policy for 2023: Will remain the same as last year with one additional account for AEM funds. Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve. Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Personnel Policy: Nicholas Klemczak reviewed the new benefit for health insurance coverage for retirees. They will pay a percentage of the cost and the District will as well. Discussion ensued.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to accept the Policy.

Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Financial The **January and February Treasurer Reports** were reviewed.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the reports.

Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

The **January and February Paid Bills** were reviewed.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to accept the report.
Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Request for approval to increase the **Credit Card Limit** from \$2500 to \$5000. Nicholas Klemczak explained how during certain times of the year we will need additional credit because large purchases to be made for various project. Lumber, Tree & Shrub stock, Membership, Conferences, Training fees, Additional items for phone orders, unforeseen emergency items.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the increase.
Michael Pileggi motioned, seconded by Sara Mae Pratt. Motion carried.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC: Nicholas Klemczak reviewed Scott's Report. Highlighting: Water Quality Symposium, March 14-17; NYS Organics Summit available and SWCC Meeting scheduled monthly at 10 am, both count as Performance Measures. Nicholas can forward information.

Nicholas Klemczak, Executive Director : Reported on activities from January and February 2023:
Complete Report of file.

Joseph Braun, District Technician working on getting acclimated with AEM Programs within our County. Has a few new farms completed Tier 1; Several SGW have been completed; Willow Water LLC and Burger's Farm have Tier 3a Conservation Plans; New Tier 4 Cost Share Project.

Compost Facility

John Kehoe and Randy Spengler are keeping up with all the yardwaste; Grinder mill and belt are being repaired/replaced; Dave Pidgeon, Darryl Romano, Damien Lester are almost completed with compost bagging, woodchips to follow; Wilmot still picking up ground yardwaste.

Recycling: Residents are extremely happy not having to pay for television and monitor recycling; the free paint disposal is well received, still getting the "word" out.

Preserves: Maintenance continues through nice weather; Trail committee meetings; Joe created Trail Stewart markers and Plotterkill maps.

Miscellaneous:

State reports submitted on time; ES&C Training 4/4/23; Tree & Shrub order form on line; David and crew are building wildlife houses for the sale; Envirothon scheduled in 5/10/23; Plans continue for Part B Project at Fehr Ave. composting system; Arbor Day events.

After discussion, the Directors unanimously decided to hold **future meetings on the Fourth Wednesday** of each month at 10am, beginning March 22, 2023.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to **adjourn** at 10:55. Sara Mae Pratt motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Schaeffer
Administrative Assistant