

Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2032

Present:

Steven Ruther, Michael Pileggi, B. Donald Ackerman, Eric Hess, Nicholas Klemczak, Joe Braun, Paula Schaeffer

The meeting was **called to order** at 10:05 am by Michael Pileggi, Vice Chairperson.

Privilege of the Floor none

Michael Pileggi asked for a motion to approve the **May Meeting Minutes** and the minutes from the **Special Meeting** held on June 26, 2023 recorded by Joe Braun. Motion to approve made by Eric Hess, seconded by Donald Ackerman. Motion carried.

Financial: review will be discussed at the end of the meeting.

Resolutions:

2023-4 Participation in AEM Base Program Round 18

Nicholas explained this program. He stated it's a 2 year program in which we continually participate. We submit the Action Plan to the State Committee by the due date of November 1, 2023.

Michael Pileggi asked for a motion to accept the resolution. Donald Ackerman motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

2023-3 Participation in the Climate Resilient Farming Program Round 7

Nicholas said this is the first time we will participate in this program. The program is through the NYS Conservation Committee. We would be assisting a farm in Glenville with an irrigation management system for his tree farm.

Michael Pileggi asked for a motion to accept the resolution. Donald Ackerman motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

Program Reports

Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC Nicholas emailed the report to the Directors. (full report on file)

Nicholas Klemczak, Executive Director gave updates his District Highlight Report: (full report on file)

- * John and Randy have made more black mulch; They have repaired the belt on the screener conveyor which saved us \$2300 in labor fees; They also are diagnosing the Hyundai Loader issues for repair;
- * We provided a demo of our bagging system to employees of a garden center in PA who may want to purchase the same one;
- * Put the "word" out...we are looking for large wood yardwaste to process woodchips;

- * Andrew Velasco accepted the position as Summer Youth Crew Leader for our program;
- * The program begins on July 5th and ends August 16th. This week, Dave Pidgeon has been showing Andrew the areas which the youth will be working and Dave was pleased with Andrew's work ethics;

- * Preserves and trail work continues; Dave, Damien and Andrew have cleared powerline crossings at Plotterkill;
- * The trail stewardship members have been working out well, reporting fallen trees along the trails;
- * Woodlin Club- the wildflowers have started to bloom and fill in the entire area! It's beautiful!

- * Part B Project, Fehr Ave. Foodwaste Composting System is complete and is working well; Nicholas has been picking up all the foodwaste from Zoller, composting it at the site and monitoring it regularly. He noted because we have not reached the 1000 lb./week limit regulated by DEC, we may be able to allow other programs to add their foodwaste to the system during the summer;
- * The Flower Program went very well this year, we planted flowers at the County building and DSS - some employees helped with the planting and had a “competition” for the best island!
- * We will research perennials for fall and spring plantings;
- * Nicholas helped Steve Feeney with a NYSDEC Grant for Vale Cemetery Tree Inventory (Urban Community Forestry Grant);
- * Michael Pileggi and Nicholas attended the Regional Managers Meeting in Montgomery County. It was very informative regarding upcoming programs, staff, state and district happenings;
- * Nicholas explained the “cover and flare system” for manure storage and dispersal.

Joseph Braun, District Technician highlighted some of his past month’s projects (full report on file):

- * AEM projects, Ag NPS grant, pasture management plans, mapping, municipal flower program;
- * He also suggested we offer a \$5.00 discount of Soil Group Worksheets as an incentive for landowners to update their Tier 1 farm inventory. The Directors unanimously agreed as it will certainly keep the AEM records current.

Financial

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve. Eric Hess motioned, seconded by Donald Ackerman. Motion carried.

The Paid Bills Report was reviewed. Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the Report. Michael Pileggi motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

The 2024 BUDGET was distributed to the Directors and reviewed by Nicholas. At this time, Joseph Braun was recused.

Nicholas explained most of the aspects of the budget and the highlighted areas which needed to be reviewed in more depth.

Recently, the County’s Union voted to raise the hourly pay for certain job titles for County workers. Nicholas explained since we follow the County’s policies, our HEO’s, MEO, and Laborer are qualified to receive the same benefit because they hold the same job titles. This increase will keep their pay in line with the County’s for these job titles. After discussing options, all agreed to the pay increase. Steven Ruther asked for a motion to grant the pay increase. Eric Hess motioned, Donald Ackerman seconded. Motion carried.

The next meeting is July 26, 2023 beginning at 10:00 at the District.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to adjourn at 11:08. Donald Ackerman motioned, Michael Pileggi seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Schaeffer
Administrative Assistant