

**Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**  
**May 24, 2023**

Present: Steven Ruther, Michael Pileggi, Eric Hess Nicholas Klemczak, Paula Schaeffer

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

**Privilege of the Floor:** none

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

Motion to approve made by Michael Pileggi, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

**Financial**

The **Treasurer's Report** was reviewed. Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the report. Eric Hess motioned to approve, seconded by Michael Pileggi. 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.

**2024 Budget Review**

Nicholas Klemczak distributed the 2024 Budget specs in its entirety to the Directors for their review. Complete 2024 Budget on file.

Nicholas reviewed all the highlighted changes within the Budget. Non highlighted items remained the same. He explained the necessity for the increase in the highlighted expenses. The telephone expenses and the special projects revenue were reduced.

Nicholas proposed a new program, "Trees for Trees" which stems from our annual Tree and Shrub Program. The revenue we make from our Tree and Shrub Program will help support the expenses incurred from the new program. We feel this will be well received by the residents who participate in our Tree and Shrub sale because the revenue received will be used to purchase the trees to plant throughout the County.

In reviewing the 2024 Proposed Compost Revenue, Nicholas stated because some of the District funds are used to support the Compost Facility expenses, he has requested an increase in the appropriation for the upcoming year. This will relieve the financial burden imposed on the District, thus allowing more District programs to be implemented.

Nicholas mentioned an increase in pay given to some county crew employees negotiated through their Union. In order to receive the increase, the employee would decrease their compensation time off. He asked the Directors for their input as to how this should be handled for our HEO's, MEO, Crew Leader and Laborer since we follow County protocol. Our employees do not receive compensation time, so a trade of this nature would not be feasible. A discussion ensued and the Directors decided to table the discussion until we had all the Directors present.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the 2024 Budget and to table the pay increase discussion. Michael Pileggi motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

**Approval of 2024 Envirothon donation of \$3,000.**

Nicholas asked the Directors to approve the 2024 donation because we are a part of the Envirothon Program as are other NYS Districts. It is a valuable and educational program for all New York high school students to participate in. Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve. Eric Hess motioned, Michael Pileggi seconded. Motion carried.

## **Program Reports**

Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC

Nicholas reviewed the May 2023 Committee Report. (previously emailed to the Directors and on file)  
Specifically mentioned the June 12 Managers Meeting.

Michael Pileggi and Nicholas will be attending. Attendance counts as a Performance Measure for the District.

Nicholas Klemczak, Executive Director

Nicholas reviewed his District Report from April 26 through May 24, 2023.  
The complete report is on file.

Miscellaneous highlights included:

- \* The Indian Kill Fishing Derby (“Hooks for Heros”) held on May 13<sup>th</sup> was a success. 112 Registered, 61 kids attended and 43 rainbow trout caught with fish stocked from Avery’s Trout Hatchery;
- \* Compost Facility is very busy. Delivered compost to three elementary schools;
- \* Nicholas and Randy will attend a Compost Operations Training Course July 31 – August 4, 2023;
- \* Flowers from our Annual Flower Program, for public plantings, are being distributed today;
- \* Various events: Arbor Day at Niskayuna, Vale Farm Arbor Day tree planting, Fehr Urban Farm repurposed cinder blocks, Kids Compost Day at Howe Elementary;
- \* The Envirothon was a success;
- \* Part B Project Composting system set up with the first food waste deposit from Zoller this week;
- \* PaintCare paint drop off program is continuing at our Facility.

Joe Braun, District Technician was absent because he is attending the NYS Envirothon in Syracuse. He provided his written report. Nicholas reviewed it on his behalf. The full report is on file.

## **Correspondence**

NYACD Letter dated April 30, 2023 regarding the Annual Meeting 10/24/2023. He will forward the information should any Director chose to attend. It will count as a Performance Measure.

The **next meeting** is June 28, 2023 at 10:00 am

Steven Ruther asked for a **motion to adjourn** at 10:55.

Eric Hess motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Schaeffer, Administrative Assistant