

Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
November 22, 2023

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

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

Privilege of the Floor: None

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the **October Meeting Minutes**.
Motion made by Eric Hess, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Financial

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

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

2023 Annual Plan of Work (APOW)

Nicholas presented the APOW Draft to the Directors for review. Nicholas asked if there were any questions and explained that a few updates for 2024: Part B and farms to be worked on.
Nicholas submitted the report to Scott Fickbohm, who will forward it to the State Committee.
After discussion, Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the APOW for 2024.
Michael Pileggi motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

Program Reports

Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC emailed his report. Nicholas reviewed it with the Board members.
(Full Report on file)

Nicholas Klemczak, Executive Director, presented the **District Highlights**, noting the following:
(Entire report on file)

Compost Facility:

Facility is busy accepting yardwaste and the grinder is still "chugging" along;
Repair/part replacement made on the Hyundai loader, old John Deere loader and the new John Deere loader.

Preserves/Bike Hike/County Forest:

Damien has been inspecting the trails, preserves and forest maintaining and clearing areas of debris.

Part B Project:

The Wright Foundation has awarded SiCM a grant to cover the hiring of a Compost Coordinator to manage the composting system on Fehr Avenue. We will continue to pick up and bring the food waste to the composting system until then. Bin #2 is full and was capped on November 1st.

Miscellaneous:

- Damien is doing a good job organizing and setting up for winter product bagging;
- Beaver Deceiver installed on Weast Road, still awaiting DEC permit for Onderdonk Rd. installation;
- Work with County Invasive Specie Committee continues;
- Looking for ways to control Hemlock Wolley Adelgid infestation at the Plotterkill;
- Nicholas attended the Admin Conference earlier this month;

Duane Lake representatives asked if the District would assist them with soil testing residential lawns to possibly identify failing septic systems. The Directors said we should contact the County Lawyer to evaluate legal and residential issues prior to moving forward.

Nicholas conferred with the Directors regarding the Warranty options on the soon to be delivered Grinder. The costly 3 year “Premium” Warranty vs. the 1 year “Standard” Warranty (which automatically is included in the cost of the grinder). After discussion, it appears that the Standard Warranty will suffice and be more cost effective. A repair log will be kept. Nicholas said he will further investigate and contact the salesperson.

Joe Braun, District Technician reported on his **Program Highlights:**

(Entire report on file)

- Currently has three AEM programs active and is working with Champlain Valley Agronomics to create a NM-Core Plan for four farms;
- Had a pre-construction meeting on a Tier 4 farm project with an engineer and the construction company;
- Continues to work on the food composting system at the community garden;
- Has AEM farm projects in the works for 2024;
- Applied for AgNPS for another three farms;
- Checked on the Beaver Deceivers - all holding out, so far;
- Directed and worked with 5th grade students from Zoller on planting apple trees for a community orchard.

Joe noted this was the *first time* we were awarded a CRF Grant which he wrote this year. It will be used for implementing an irrigation project at farm in Glenville.

The next meeting is on December 27, 2023 beginning at 10:00 at the District Office.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Schaeffer
Administrative Assistant