

Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
March 27, 2024

Present: Michael Pileggi, B. Donald Ackerman, Eric Hess, Nicholas Klemczak, Joe Braun, Paula Schaeffer

The meeting was **called to order** 10:00 am by Michael Pileggi, Vice Chairperson.

Privilege of the Floor: none

Michael Pileggi asked for a **motion to approve** the February Meeting Minutes.

Motion to approve made by Donald Ackerman, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

Financial

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

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

Computer Upgrade

Nicholas explained that our finance computer and his laptop computer are old and need to be replaced per the advice of the IT department representative. Both computers were examined by the IT person. The finance computer was "cleaned" to give it more speed, which worked some, but it still is slow to boot, etc. The laptop had already exceeded its recommended life span, 4-6 years, hence the slow response time. The IT representative recommended DELL computers and will help set them up. The approximate cost of replacement was estimated at \$3,000-\$3,500. Purchase will be via Sourcewell as used by the County.

Michael Pileggi asked for a motion to purchase both computers. Donald Ackerman motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

T-Shirt/Hoodie Purchase

Nicholas said we are in the process of purchasing work shirts and hoodies for the staff, which will make our crew look more official when wearing the SSWCD shirt and logo while out at job sites. The Directors were included in this offer. We will research colors and styles at our Staff Meeting 3/28/24 and place the order. Cost will not exceed \$500.00.

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

Resolutions

Resolution 2024-1 AEM Tier 4 Cost-Share Track Farm: 093-0121
Agrichemical Storage

Michael Pileggi asked for a motion to approve the above Resolution. Donald Ackerman motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

Resolution 2024-2 AEM Tier 4 Cost-Share Track Farm: 093-0066
Livestock heavy use area

Michael Pileggi asked for a motion to approve the above Resolution. Eric Hess motioned, seconded by Donald Ackerman. Motion carried.

Landowner Agreement Update

Last year we adopted our Landowner Agreement Contract which was to be used as a guideline for perspective property owners to whom we provide our services. We found this lengthy contract to be overwhelming for the landowners to use because of the terminology. We created a simplified agreement which contains all the vital aspects of the contract eliminating the incongruous language. The revised contract will be concise and will cover all the necessary procedures in a basic format which Joe Braun will review with each applicant.

Michael Pileggi asked for a motion to approve the updated agreement.
Eric Hess motioned, seconded by Donald Ackerman, motion carried.

Program Reports (complete reports on file)

Scott Fickbohm, NYS SWCC: Nicholas emailed his report with the meeting information.

Nicholas Klemczak, Executive Director **Report Highlights:**

- Control panel on new Grinder needs replacement. Vermeer installed a used panel and ordered a new one, which they will install under warranty;
- NYS Power Authority dredging the Mohawk River, an abundance of fill will be available to use at the Facility for underneath millings to be received from County Airport upgrades;
- Auctioning old tub grinder and windrow turner via Collar City Auctions;
- Compost sent to Penn State U for yearly analysis;
- Trail signs will be installed at the new water fountain areas;
- A grant of \$22,000 was received to treat hemlocks at the Plotter Kill for HWA infestation;
- Nick met with DEC, PRISM and Kathy Fisher to assess the hemlocks;
- Signed on CGL Arbor Services to retreat the trees in May;
- Pro Landscape software was purchased using Part B funds to use towards the county pollinator/perennial gardens;
- The Pro Landscape software gives us the tools to design and place landscaping projects insuring the best planting outcome. Will be designing for DEPW and DSS;
- Organizational meetings held for the annual Fishing Derby at the Indian Kill, scheduled for May 11, 2024;
- Several Tree Planting projects happening in April;
- Our annual Tree & Shrub Sale is moving forward;
- Nick is the newly appointed Conservation District Employees Association (CDEA) Division VI Representative;
- Full Part C funds were awarded;
- Several classes, training sessions, symposiums, workshops, attended throughout the month (additional sessions scheduled for future dates) and attended the Water Quality Symposium in Syracuse;
- Fehr Avenue food composting working well, the new Compost Coordinator is doing a great job;
- 2024 Re-Leaf Conference is July 24-26, 2024 in Albany.

Joe Braun, District Technician **Report Highlights:**

Reported on several AEM Tier 4 projects; Assisted with Tree & Shrub preparation and bird/bat house building; Completed CPR training; Attended Water Quality Symposium in Syracuse; Helped bag products and plowing.

Correspondence: Nick distributed Bond Act and Legislation Day information.

The **next meeting** is April 24, 2024 at 10:00 at the District.

Michael Pileggi asked for a **motion to adjourn** at 11:20. Donald Ackerman motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Schaeffer, Administrative Assistant