

Schenectady County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2024

Present: Steven Ruther, Michael Pileggi, B. Donald Ackerman, Eric Hess, Nicholas Klemczak, Joe Braun

The meeting was **called to order** 10:00 am by Steven Ruther, Chairperson.

Privilege of the Floor: none

Steven Ruther 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. Steven Ruther 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. A question was raised regarding the Ewaste payment. Nicholas explained it was the January 2023-April 2024 bill which included services for fluorescent bulbs and battery recycling.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve the report.

Motioned by Donald Ackerman, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

2025 Budget Adoption

Nicholas summarized the 2023 Final Budget and noted that compost revenue was up for the year.

After, he reviewed the proposed 2025 Budget, pointing out the yellow highlighted items indicate increase, green highlighted areas indicate decrease on the spreadsheet.

The Compost Budget was reviewed first, showing major expenses such as product purchases, equipment repairs, salaries and benefits. Additionally noting that fewer permits may be sold because permits are not required to recycle electronics at the facility. He anticipates yardwaste tipping should remain the same; increases in compost, topsoil and natural wood chip mulch sales; colored wood chip mulch will be kept in stock.

He next reviewed the District Budget explaining: benefit funds; insurance payments for Directors and facility; project budget adjustments; materials/maintenance costs; tree & shrub program expenses; annual flower program; tree planting projects; travel and training; special projects; performance measures funds.

He discussed preserve/bike/hike maintenance expenses and the time involved. He proposed hiring a full-time preserve/bike/hike person to maintain, expand and update with improvements keeping them beautiful for all to use and enjoy. The person could be a "trails coordinator" funded through the District reimbursable by the County. He asked the Directors to consider his proposal to be further discussed at the June Meeting.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to adopt the 2025 Budget.

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

Resolutions

2024-3 AEM Tier 4 Cost-Share Track Project: 093-0128 Grassed Waterway

Joe and Nick explained Tier 4 funding, available for two years, and where the funds will be appropriated. There are two farms Joe is working with, one project backed out, leaving extra monies available to apply to the remaining project or for a new project. Discussion ensued. Additional projects to be determined.

2024-4 Authorization to send Greenhouse and 2002 Pickup truck to public auction

Nick talked to many organizations and schools to see if any interest, to no avail. Both items will be auctioned upon Director approval.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-3
Michael Pileggi motioned, seconded by Eric Hess. Motion carried.

Steven Ruther asked for a motion to approve Resolution 2024-4
Eric Hess motioned, seconded by Donald Ackerman. Motion carried.

Program Reports

Scott Fickbohm's report was emailed to the Directors. Nicholas mentioned the Spring Manager's Meeting in Montgomery County on 6/6/24 beginning at 10:00, lunch included. He said attendance counts as a Performance Measure requirement. Eric Hess previously attended the SWCC Meeting last month, counts as a PM.

Nicholas Klemczak, Executive Director Program Highlights:
(complete report on file)

Compost Facility: Gave tour to the CCE Master Composter Class; Previous auction items gone; Millings forthcoming; Product sales are still going strong.

Preserves/Bike/Hike: Installed bike trail maps; Indian Kill Preserve trail work with five trail stewarts.

Fishing Derby: Success; working on improvements for next year.

Tree & Shrub: Success; gave extra trees to CCE Master Gardeners.

Miscellaneous: Envirothon was successful; Onderdonk beaver deceiver installed; Kids Can Compost event; Summer Crew Leader applications received; Flowers for municipal plantings; new finance computer tower.

Joe Braun, District Technician
(complete report on file)

AEM Projects: Continuing on Tier 4, Tier 1 & 2 assessments on new farms; new Tier 3 started; Attended webinars for CRF 8 grant. Trail work; Fishing Derby; Fehr Ave. site; Envirothon judge; Flower program.

The **next meeting** is June 26, 2024 at 10:00 at the District.

Steven Ruther asked for a **motion to adjourn** at 11:20.

Donald Ackerman motioned, seconded by Michael Pileggi. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Paula Schaeffer
Administrative Assistant