



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**December 19, 2024 11:00 A.M.**  
**Regular Board Meeting**

**Present:**

Ric Barnes, Chairman & At-large Farming Public Representative  
Allen Hough, Vice-Chairman & Farm Bureau Representative  
Jim Cunningham, County Legislator  
TJ Stokes, County Legislator  
Charlie Pace, Non-Farming Public Representative

Steve Lorraine, District manager  
Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer  
Maryellen Sheehan, CCE  
Anna Hardiman, CCE  
Donna Ulatowski, FSA

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 11:04 A.M.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were emailed to the directors in advance for review. *A motion was made by Charlie Pace, seconded by Allen Hough to approve the November 2024 meeting minutes. Motion carried.*

**3. Treasurer's Report – Amy Hayduke**

The Treasurer's report, minus the Payroll Summary and Vacation & Leave summary, was emailed to the directors in advance for review.

The board packets included the following Quickbooks reports for November 2024:

Bank Account Report, Unpaid Bills Detail, Paid Bills Detail, Check Detail, Deposit Detail, Payroll Summary, Vacation & Leave by Employee (Dovico report). *A motion to approve the November 2024 Treasurer's report was made by Allen Hough and seconded by TJ Stokes. Motion carried.*

*A motion was made by Allen Hough, seconded TJ Stokes to approve payment of 14 bills in the amount of \$276,872.16, which included an amended bill for Holy Smoke. Motion carried.*

**4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine**

- We are wrapping up the construction season. We have a couple of projects that are still underway.
- We are currently working on plans for new grant opportunities.
- We are working on designs for projects to be constructed in the next year.
- Steve and Amy are working on financials to close out the year. Amy met with a bookkeeper recently to go over end of the year financials.
- RD 30 AgNPS RFP is out and due in late February.
- We will need to update our AEM Strategic Plan in 2025. Steve will talk to the board about it more after he attends the state-wide meeting next month.

**5. FSA – Donna Ulatowski**

- Donna announced that her retirement date is 12/27/2024.
- Donna's replacement has been hired, with 1/12/25 as their tentative start date.
- The lease for the property at 6503 Wes Rd, Hamilton expires in 2025. She has been in contact with the leasing agent in Washington DC and they will handle it.
- There is no new Farm Bill.

6. NRCS – No report, no one present.

7. CCE – Maryellen Sheehan, Anna Hardiman

Maryellen passed out the CCE Madison Report for SWCD and discussed various items on the report.

### 8. Committee Reports

**SWCC** – The December 2024 report from Scott Fickbohm was included in the board packets. Steve Lorraine reviewed some points of interest in the report. He recently attended the state committee meeting. They approved our time extension request for RD 27 Chenango grant.

**County** – Jim Cunningham/TJ Stokes

- Jim Cunningham reported that the county passed the budget below the tax cap.
- Jim recently met with Senator Manion and spoke about solar projects, wind projects and micronuclear. Jim is forming a committee to look at micronuclear plant in our county.
- Jim also met with some county executives regarding the Cyprus Creek Solar Project. There have been concerns raised because the project is planned to be built on prime Ag farmland.

9. NYACD – Steve Lorraine reported that he has submitted articles to be included in the legislative packet at the Legislative Days in February.

10. CDEA – No report, No one present.

11. Old Business (none)

### 12. New Business

- 2024 Part C Budget – An amended budget was passed around. *A motion to approve the revised 2024 Part C Budget was made by TJ Stokes and seconded by Ric Barnes. Motion carried.*
- New bank accounts - *A motion to open 4 new bank accounts for RD 7 CRF: Gianforte, Orth, Lyman and Ficken was made by Jim Cunningham and seconded by TJ Stokes. Motion carried.*
- Close bank accounts - *A motion was made by Allen Hough to close the bank accounts for RD 5 CRF, AEM RD 17 Tier 4, RD 25 Chenango, RD 26 Soil Health, RD 26 Chenango and Rd 26 Grazing, as the grant are now closed. The motion was seconded by Charlie Pace. Motion carried.*
- External Audit – will return to at a later meeting.
- Section 125 Plan – *A motion was made by Charlie Pace and seconded by TJ Stokes to approve the Section 125 plan titled "Premium Conversion Plan". Motion carried and Chairman Barnes signed the plan*

### 13. Next Meeting

January 16, 2025 12:00 P.M.

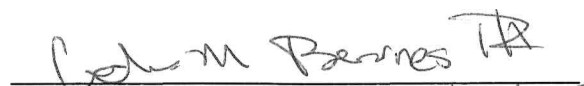
### 14. Adjournment

*Motion to adjourn made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Allen Hough. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 A.M.*



Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 12/20/2024

  
Ric Barnes, Chairman Date: 1/13/25