



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 20, 2025 12:00 P.M.
Regular Board Meeting**

Present:

Board:

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

Staff:

Steve Lorraine, District Manager
Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Other:
Alisha Cook, FSA County Executive Director
Scott Fickbohm, SWCC Regional AEA
Maryellen Sheehan, CCE Ag Resource Educator

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 12:02 P.M., followed by introductions.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were emailed to the directors in advance for review. *A motion to approve the January 2025 meeting minutes was made by Allen and seconded by Charlie. Motion carried.*

3. Treasurer's Report – Amy Hayduke

The Treasurer's report, excluding the payroll reports, was sent to the directors in advance for their review. The board packets included the following reports for January 2025: Bank Account Report, Unpaid Bills Detail, Paid Bills Detail, Check Detail, Deposit Detail, Payroll Summary, Vacation & Leave by Employee. *A motion was made by Allen and seconded by TJ to approve payment of 21 bills in the amount of \$89,369.23. Motion carried.*
A motion to approve the January 2025 Treasurer's report was made by Allen and seconded by Charlie. Motion carried.

Amy reported that the annual Madison County payroll certification and the PERMA (worker's comp) Payroll reports were completed on time.

4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine

- Jess & Tom have been updating CNMP's.
- Tom & Carl have been completing Ag Assessments as they come in.
- Carl is currently working on a design for manure storage at a farm in Lebanon.
- Carl has been working on documenting As Builts on existing projects.
- Carl is working on a drainage issue on Oneida Lake, near North Bridgeport.
- Andy is working on a flood mitigation project in Munnsville as part of a RD 8 CRF project.
- Andy completed a design for a flood mitigation project in Lebanon as part of a RD 7 CRF project.
- Andy continues to assist landowners and municipalities with DEC permits for streambank and shoreline projects.
- Joann is working on BMP verification for USC.
- Joann and Amy are handling tree sale orders. Approximately 165 orders have been placed.

- Joann and Amy have started working on a newsletter. We should have one out in the next month. It will be emailed, available on our website, and through a link on our Facebook page.
- Carl, Andy and Steve have been working on developing design estimates for grant applications.
- Amy and Steve have completed all of our 2024 filings for the state and county. All reports were submitted before the deadline dates.
- Steve has submitted the RD 8 CRF grant Plans of Work to the state.
- Steve is currently working on the Plan of Work for the CAFO ENMP grant that was funded. We submitted 3 applications. One was chosen for funding. There will be about \$300,000 to do enhanced nutrient management practices, cover crops, tillage, and manure injection.
- Carl and Steve have started working with the county on a septic replacement program. Work will be on Cazenovia Lake and in Canastota.
- We received the contract for the WQIP grant for work on Limestone Creek in New Woodstock. The project was put out to bid and we have a contractor. We also have the permit. Construction will take place this summer per permit restrictions.
- We are waiting for the Plan of Work documents from DEC for the DeRuyter Lake WQIP project.
- Our office computers may be eligible for the upgrade to Windows 11, with some hardware upgrades to be done by a computer expert.

5. FSA – Alisha Cook

- Dairy Margin Coverage Program sign-ups are now until the end of March.
- The Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program sign-ups are through April 15th.
- Due to changes in the federal government, approvals have been halted on most other programs. A couple of local farms have been affected. Probationary letters of termination were sent to FLP employees but were later taken back. Telework, except for cases of inclement weather, is no longer available to employees other than non-supervisory staff. A voluntary resignation program was offered. And a voluntary early retirement program will be available until the end of the year.

6. NRCS – No report, no one present.

7. CCE – Maryellen Sheehan

The CCE Madison Report for SWCD was passed out and Maryellen described various items on the report.

8. Committee Reports

SWCC – Scott Fickbohm

The January 2025 SWCC report from Scott Fickbohm was included in the member packets. Scott reviewed the report with the board.

County –TJ Stokes

The county has been working on wind and solar topics, with the current focus on potential disposal problems.

9. NYACD –Blanche Hurbutt’s letter was included in the member packets. Steve Lorraine summarized and discussed the letter with the board.

10. CDEA – Steve Lorraine reported that all but one staff member is attending training at Water Quality Symposium in March. The cost is covered in full by CDEA.

11. Old Business – Steve Lorraine

- External Audit – Steve will reach out to other counties to discuss and then report back to the board. Madison County receives a copy of our annual report so this may qualify as an external audit to meet the Performance Standard to be required by NYS in the upcoming years.

- Updated DEC Wetland Regulations – Steve showed the board before and after images regarding the new DEC Wetlands mapping. A discussion occurred that more permits and inspections will be needed before work can be started on many of our future projects.
- Annual Reports –The reports will be emailed to the board in order to give them a chance to review. Further discussion will be at March’s meeting.

12. New Business

- RD 30 AgNPS

Chairman Barnes recused himself from the meeting at 12:59 pm for this discussion.

Steve Lorraine passed around the Potential Projects list and described several projects and rankings. A final review will be done by Steve and staff on Friday. Applications will be submitted once the final list is completed.

Chairman Barnes re-entered the meeting at 1:08 pm

- New bank account for CAFO ENMP Tuscarora Dairy – 3 of our applications were approved. *TJ motioned to approve the opening of a new bank account for this project. Charlie seconded and the motion carried unanimously.*
- New Truck – Steve discussed the need for a new vehicle in order to keep our repair and maintenance costs low. The board agreed. Steve will research pricing and report back to the board.
- Conservation Farm of the Year – Omara Farms in Canastota has been selected. We will hold a luncheon near the farm in March.

13. Additional Items

- Steve advised the board of the need for a CAFO policy. He will put together a policy and bring it to the board for review.

14. Next Meeting

March 20, 2025 at 11:00 am at Theodore’s Restaurant, 3231 Seneca Turnpike, Canastota

15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by TJ, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:34 PM.

Amy Hayduke

Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 2/21/25

Ric Barnes

Ric Barnes, Chairman

Date: 3/26/25

