



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 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.
Jim Cunningham, County Legislator
TJ Stokes, County Legislator
Charlie Pace, Non-Farming Public Representative

Staff:

Steve Lorraine, District Manager
Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Other:
Tess Southern, CCE

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 11:05 A.M.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were emailed to the directors in advance for review. *A motion to approve the February 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 to approve the January 2025 Treasurer's report was made by Allen and seconded by Charlie. Motion carried.*

Bills – Ric Barnes abstained from this motion as there is a bill due to Gatehouse Farms. *A motion was made by Allen and seconded by Jim to approve payment of 25 bills in the amount of \$122,003.12. 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

- A pond in Fenner gave out. We are providing support to the engineer.
- Water Quality Symposium was last week.
- We are still taking orders for the tree sale for any items that we have left. Pick up is April 10th. Trees will start coming in next week and we will start packing.
- We have been out in the field a lot, starting design work surveys.
- Cowaselon drainage project was finished up last week. It has been seeded and mulched. We are done clearing ditches for now. Along the main stretch there is a blow out that we will need to return to do some stabilization this summer, along with mowing.
- There was a discussion regarding maintenance work on Erie Canal from Chittenango to Durhamville.
- A discussion took place regarding federal funding.

5. FSA – Alisha Cook

An emailed report was in the board member packets. Steve reviewed the report with the board.

6. NRCS – Abby Gulseth

An emailed report was in the board member packets. Steve reviewed the report with the board.

7. CCE – Maryellen Sheehan/Tess Southern

The CCE Madison Report for SWCD from Maryellen was in the board member packets. Tess summarized various items from the report.

8. Committee Reports

SWCC – Scott Fickbohm (not present, no report)

County – Jim Cunningham

- Jim gave the State of the County address last week. SWCD was mentioned favorably, along with slides of our work.
- There was a recent NYS Supreme Court ruling that there will be full-value assessment on wind turbine and solar in the future. This is a favorable ruling for county taxpayers.
- Jim had a meeting at SUNY Morrisville with the campus and the local schools. They are working on more programs. Also discussing the \$4 million per year that Madison County spends on community colleges. They would like to get more of that money funneled to Madison County, rather than other counties.
- Awaiting federal changes.
- A discussion took place regarding Solar & Wind projects in the area.

9. NYACD – Blanche Hurlbutt's letter was included in the member packets and the 2025 Legislative Day booklet was passed around.

10. CDEA – Steve Lorraine reported that all but one staff member attended Water Quality Symposium last week for training.

11. Old Business – Steve Lorraine

- External Audit – Steve will reach out to other counties to discuss and then report back to the board.
- Annual Reports – The reports were emailed to the board for review. There were no questions or concerns. Amy reported that the NYS sales tax was filed online and paid on 3/4/25.
- New truck – We will return to this next month.

12. New Business

- Part C Budget – Copies of the proposed budget from Steve was passed around. Discussion took place on the 2025 proposed Part C budget. *A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by Charlie and seconded by Jim. Motion carried.*
- Payroll Service - Steve reported that he and Amy have been looking at options for payroll processing. They have found that other companies have lower prices but have more research to do on this. They will report back at a later meeting.
- Employee Health Insurance - Steve reported that he and Amy have been looking into the Greater Tompkins County Health Insurance Consortium. The quote that was sent to us was around \$17,000 less than our policy with MVP. They have more research to do on this and will report back at a later meeting. Jim suggested that they reach out to Louann Randall at the county as she recently looked into this and may have some information for us.

13. Additional Items

- Steve passed around the ranked list for 2025 stream projects for the board to review. Discussion was had regarding various properties. *A motion was made by Allen and seconded by Charlie to approve the ranked list as presented.*
- Amy reported that tree sales to-date are up by about 20 orders and \$2700 compared to last year. She also passed around an email from a tree sale customer that received our newsletter.

14. Next Meeting

April 17, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

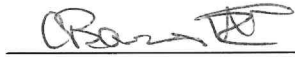
15. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by TJ, seconded by Allen. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 AM



Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 3/21/25



Ric Barnes, Chairman

Date:

4/17/25

