



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 21, 2025 7:00 P.M.
Regular Board Meeting**

Present:

Board:

Ric Barnes, Chairman & At-large Farming Public Rep.
TJ Stokes, County Legislator
Jim Cunningham, County Legislator
Charlie Pace, Non-Farming Representative

Staff:

Steve Lorraine, District Manager
Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Other:
Katie Livingston, CCE Local Foods Educator
Ryan Cunningham, NY Ag & Markets Regional AEA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 7:07 PM and introductions were made.

2. Approval of Minutes – Approval of the minutes from the July meeting was tabled for a future meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report – Amy Hayduke

The Treasurer's report, excluding the payroll reports, was sent to the directors in advance.

The board packets included the following reports for July 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 July 2025 Treasurer's report was made by Charlie and seconded by Jim. Motion carried.*

Bills – A correction was pointed out by Steve Lorraine for the bill to Legend Dairy. The amount due should be \$15,675.00, not \$20,900.00. *A motion was made by Jim and seconded by Charlie to approve payment of 23 bills in the amended amount of \$231,308.39. Motion carried.*

4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine

- Jess has been delivering the newly updated CNMP's to our CAFO clients.
- Jess is currently developing 2026 crop year manure spreading schedules and will have then to the CAFO farms by mid-September.
- Tom has been assisting Jess with CAFO plans.
- Tom and Blaine have been working with the USC to evaluate and complete maintenance on the previously installed buffers.
- Blaine has been assisting Andy with surveys, designs and permit applications.
- Blaine has completed his summer employment and is headed to Cobleskill for college this fall.
- Andy oversaw completion of a drainage project in the city of Oneida.
- Andy oversaw completion of a watering system at a beef farm in the town of Lincoln.
- Andy is overseeing a covered waste transfer system at a farm in Earlville.
- Andy and Tom are building a buffer fence on a beef farm in Lincoln.
- Andy and Steve oversaw a flood mitigation project on North Lake Road on Tuscarora Lake.
- Andy and Steve oversaw a stream rehab project in New Woodstock as part of a WQIP project.
- Carl is overseeing a covered barnyard project at a farm in Eaton.

- Carl is overseeing waste storage and transfer systems at farms in Lebanon and DeRuyter.
- Carl is working on a design for an approximately 2000-foot access road on a farm in Smithfield. This is a project with our NRCS contribution agreement.
- Carl oversaw a logjam removal project in the city of Oneida.
- Joann and Steve have been working on the AEM Strategic plan that was sent to the directors for review.
- Joann has been working with USC on BMP data management.
- Joann is working with the CDEA, developing trainings for the 2026 Water Quality Symposium.
- Amy and Steve have been working on both our health insurance and other district insurances.
- Steve is working with the Village of Canastota to put together a plan to clean some of the drainageways to help with flooding issues.
- We continue to work with landowners and municipalities on damages from the June floods.

5. FSA – Alisha Cook, County Executive Director

A report from Alisha was included in the meeting packets. It was reviewed and discussed.

6. NRCS – No report, No one present.

7. CCE – Katie Livingston

A report was included in the meeting packets. Katie summarized the report and discussed various points in it.

8. Committee Reports

SWCC – Ryan Cunningham

- August 2025 SWCC report was included in the director's packets.
- The 2024 Annual Report was passed around.
- Ryan reported that the next board meeting is September 16. It is online and open to anyone. There are a couple of new board members starting soon.
- SWCC will be doing some presentations at the upcoming NYACD meeting. These will highlight various coalitions.
- Competitive grants, like CRF Round 9, are coming out in September. These will include cost-share equipment, along with some new things – Nutrient Management for state cost-share rates, flat rates for items like cover cropping, big projects like covers and flares, composted bedded packs, flood resiliency, trout, and water management.
- Another grant opportunity coming up is for ecosystems-based management. It is a Stream corridor management, non-ag project grant and will be \$1.5 million. Projects will include culvert replacements, buffers, and adjacent work to stream corridors.
- With fall coming, work on annual plans, Part B and Aem 18 are winding down. Ryan and Scott are available if help is needed phasing in & out of projects

County – Jim Cunningham

- The 2026 Budget work has begun.
- In an effort to consolidate government programs, they are working with Wanderer's Rest on starting a county-wide dog control program.
- The county received a DOH grant for codes enforcement. They are reviewing codes consolidation.
- The county ambulance is operating with a 96% recovery of funds and is considered solvent.
- Jim has been on numerous radio and television shows discussing solar energy, the proposed 1600 acre wind turbine project in Fenner and the need to keep prime farmland available to farms. A discussion about this occurred.
- Jim met with Canal Corp to discuss their asset distribution.

- Jim has heard from many speakers about the recent agreement between the County Sheriff's office and ICE.

9. NYACD – Blanche Hurlbutt's letter to directors was included in the member packets. Relevant emails have been forwarded as they come in.

- Steve reminded the board that the NACD Northeast Region and NYACD Conference will be held in Syracuse 9/21/25-9/24/25.
- A discussion occurred regarding proposed resolutions from other SWCD's.

(TJ Stokes arrived at 7:58)

10. CDEA – Steve Lorraine

Information regarding the upcoming Administrative Conference and Conservation Skills Workshops were emailed in advance and also passed around at the meeting. The Admin Conference will be in Cazenovia Oct 28-29 and the Cons Skills Workshops will be in Auburn Oct 6-9.

11. Old Business

Surety Bond – There was a discussion about the recent quotes that we received from Eastern Shore Insurance Agency for Commercial Property, Commercial General Liability, Commercial Auto, Inland Marine, Public Officials Liability and Crime Insurance. *A motion was made by Charlie, seconded by TJ, to switch to Eastern Shore Agency with the proposed coverages. Motion carried unanimously.*

Health Insurance – Steve and Amy attended an informational meeting earlier in the day with Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance Consortium. Proposed changes to the premiums and policy were discussed with the board. A comparison chart was provided to the board. After some discussion, *a motion was made by Jim and seconded by TJ to make a resolution to withdraw our application to GTCMHIC. Roll call was done. All were in favor. Motion carried.*

Post Pounder – The bids received were reviewed by the board. *A motion to reject all bids was made by Ric. The motion was seconded by Charlie. Motion carried.*

12. New Business

AEM 5-year Strategic Plan – The plan was emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. Steve asked them to review it and let himself or Joann Burke know if they have any questions. We will return to it next month. A discussion occurred regarding solar & wind turbines and the need to protect prime farmland. Well head maps were also discussed.

Internal Audit – Steve reminded the board that an internal audit needs to be done on the 2024 financial records.

Credit Card Fraud – Steve reported that the district credit card through First National Bank was compromised. The fraudulent charges were caught by FNBO as they occurred. After confirmation, the charges were reversed and new cards were issued.

Banking ICS accounts – A discussion occurred regarding the district-owned saving accounts currently in money market accounts. NBT offers a different money market account that earns more interest, called ICS or IntraFi Network Deposits. TJ and Jim reported that the county and Smithfield have accounts with NYClass. Steve is going to research NYClass more and return to this at a later meeting.

RC&D – Steve reported that we have been in contact with a lawyer regarding dissolving the organization. Paperwork is in process.

Library Items for disposal – A list was provided in the meeting packets. *A motion was made by Jim, seconded by TJ, to dispose the items on the list. Motion carried.*

Budget – Steve handed out a draft of the 2026 budget. After discussion, a motion was made by TJ, seconded by Jim to approve the budget. Motion carried.

13. Next Meeting

September 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Charlie, seconded by TJ. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49 PM.

Amy Hayduke

Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Date: 8/22/25

C Barnes TB

Ric Barnes, Chairman

Date: 10/16/25