



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 19, 2026 12:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting**

Present:

Board:

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

Staff:

Steve Lorraine, District Manager
Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Other:
Maryellen Sheehan, CCE
Alisha Cook, FSA

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 12:03 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes – Minutes for the December 2025 meeting were emailed to the board members in advance and were also included in the board packets. *A motion was made by Hough, seconded by Pace, to approve the January 2026 Minutes. Motion carried.*

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 January 2026:

Bank Account Report, Unpaid Bills Detail, Paid Bills Detail, Check Detail, Deposit Detail, Payroll Journal, Vacation & Leave by Employee.

A motion to approve the January 2026 Treasurer's report was made by Hough and seconded by Pace. Motion carried.

Bills – A motion was made by Hough and seconded by Pace to approve payment of 20 bills in the amended amount of \$169,049.87. Motion carried.

4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine

- Jess has been meeting with our CAFO-farms to complete annual compliance reports, which are due to the DEC by the end of March.
- Jess has been working with a few non-CAFO farms on their nutrient management plans.
- Ryan finished his first CNMP and submitted it to NYS as part of his planner certification.
- Ryan has been assisting Jess as needed.
- Tom has been completing Ag assessments as they come in.
- Tom has been working on multiple planting plans for projects to start this spring.
- Tom and Andrew continue working to assist landowners and municipalities with stream, shoreline and wetland permits.
- Andrew has been working on the stream restoration design for DeRuyter Reservoir as part of a DEC WQIP grant.
- Andrew has completed design of a stream stabilization project at a property in Munnsville.
- Andrew & Jake have been working on multiple covered barnyard designs.

- Carl & Jake have been working on an irrigation project for a vegetable farm in Erieville. Maryellen Sheehan from CCE has also been assisting on this.
- Carl is working on an earthen-lined manure storage design for a farm in DeRuyter.
- Carl has been reviewing past installed practices on CAFO farms to develop a list of practices that need recertification.
- Joann & Amy are handling tree sale orders that are coming in.
- Joann has been working on BMP verification to review past practices and ensure they are still functioning as designed in the USC watershed.
- Joann has been helping the CDEA with the upcoming Water quality Symposium.
- Joann & Steve submitted the AEM RD 18 closeout to the state for review.
- Amy & Steve submitted all required year-end reports to the state on time.
- Amy & Steve are currently reviewing the district's Financial Policy handbook and will bring it to a future meeting for board review. Steve asked the board if they would prefer that we remove the non-fiscal items that are listed in the Division of Responsibilities section, as there are several. He elaborated that most of the items are listed in other policies already. Everyone was in agreement that they did not belong there if they were not fiscal items.
- The staff, including Steve, put together a list of potential projects for AEM Tier 4 RD 19 funding and have a ranked list of projects for board review later in the meeting.
- The staff, including Steve, have developed a ranked list of projects for the flood mitigation program for the board to review also today.
- Steve is currently working on grant closeouts for AGNPS projects in the Chenango River watershed.
- Steve continues to work with CNY Regional Planning to develop the 9E Watershed Plan for Oneida Lake.
- Steve has been working with the Village of Cazenovia on a dam removal project on Chittenango Creek.
- Tom & Steve have been working with Oneida County SWCD on the Invasive Species Removal project in the Oneida Lake Watershed.
- Steve presented a PowerPoint presentation to the SWCC on Tuesday about the Oneida Lake Watershed Coalition and asked them to sign onto our MOU. They agreed.
- Steve has been working as part of a small subcommittee of the USC on a strategic planning project for the organization.

5. FSA – Alisha Cook, Farm Service Agency County Executive Director

- They are working on sign-ups for the DMC (Dairy Margin Coverage). There are 44 landowners signed up now. The deadline is next Thursday.
- ARC/PLC Base Anchor program – Still working on a history dig is required before they can begin taking applications.
- The Farmer Bridge Assistance Program – The rates have been announced. Payments could be substantial. The checks were originally scheduled to be issued in February, but applications are not available yet, so the check issue date may change. They are also pushing farmers to create login.gov accounts so they can do their own paperwork online.
- Conservation Reserve Program –Continuous sign-ups are 3/9/26-4/17/26. They will rank them.
- Working Land CRP for grasslands - They are working on CRP sign-ups, but farmers have to wait until after August 1st to cut hay.
- The Supplemental Disaster Relief Program Stage 2 has been opened.
- Emergency Livestock Relief program has closed. There were 6 applications. One was funded and was over \$80,000.
- The Madison County office is assisting Chenango and Walton, as there is only 1 person in each of their offices.

6. NRCS – No report, no one present

7. CCE – Maryellen Sheehan, Agriculture and Horticulture Resource Educator

Maryellen sent a report that was in the director packets. She discussed items from the report and also the following topics:

- Pond Day
- Apple Grafting Workshop (flyers passed around)
- Pesticide Training coming
- Tractor Safety Workshop coming

8. Committee Reports

SWCC – Ryan Cunningham (not present)

- The February 2026 SWCC report was included in the director's packets. Steve Lorraine reviewed the report and various deadlines with the board.

County – No report, no one present

9. NYACD/NACD

- January 31st Director Letter from Blanche Hurbutt was included in the meeting packets.
- A letter from Onondaga County SWCD to NYACD was included in the board packets. There was a discussion about this. The board would like Steve Lorraine to draft a letter as well, which will be reviewed next month when the annual dues are discussed.

10. CDEA – Steve Lorraine

The Water Quality Symposium is in March. They are working on rewriting some of the CDEA By-Laws.

11. Old Business

Pole barn lease- Steve Lorraine reported that the lease has been signed.

Employee Handbook – A copy was emailed to the board members prior to the meeting. A few additional changes were discussed and approved. *A motion was made by Pace, seconded by Hough, to approve the updated Employee Handbook with the additional changes. Motion carried.*

2025 Part C budget – An amendment was passed around and reviewed by the board members. *A motion was made by Hough, seconded by Stokes, to approve the amended 2025 Part C budget. Motion carried.*

12. New Business

AEM Tier 4 RD 19 – The ranking list that the staff put together was handed out. *After discussion, a motion to approve the list was made by Hough, seconded by Pace. Motion carried.*

Pace motioned the board to authorize Steve Lorraine to submit the chosen list of landowners to the state. The motion was seconded by Hough. Motion carried. Resolution #151 attached.

RD 30 Upper T & RD 30 Soil Health bank accounts – *A motion was made by Pace, seconded by Hough, to authorize Amy Hayduke to open new bank accounts for RD 30 Upper T & RD 30 Soil Health grants. Motion carried.*

Old computer disposal – Two computers are non-functional/reached their lifespan and should be disposed of: Dell Inspiron 1150 Serial # CN-OF3553-12961-47H-3481; Dell Inspiron 5547 Serial #DF060B51-D79B-427F-80FF-81BFBA4403A3. *A motion was made by Hough, seconded by Pace to approve disposal of the previously stated computers. Motion carried.* Steve Lorraine stated that we will remove the hard drives and destroy them, then recycle the rest.

CPA – Bryn Wilcox is no longer offering consulting services. She recommended Farrow & Locke. We plan to contact them after tax season to discuss an audit.

Review of Annual reports to NYS – The reports were emailed to the board prior to the meeting for review. A discussion occurred and no issues were found.

Conservation Farmer of the Year – We have selected JD Grass from Lebanon. Steve has been in contact with the farm and they are thrilled. We will work out a date to have the luncheon/award presentation with the owner.

District Insurance – Due to contract requirements, Amy obtained a quote for a \$1 million umbrella policy through Eastern Shore Insurance Agency, which would cost \$680/year. *A motion was made by Barnes, seconded by Pace to approve Amy to sign the application and pay the premium. Motion carried.*

Stream Rankings – Steve Lorraine provided the board with a ranking list. A discussion occurred. *Hough motioned the board to approve the ranked list as presented. The motion was seconded by Charlie. The motion carried.*

2026 Part C budget – A discussion occurred about budget that Steve Lorraine passed around to the board. Funding has not been secured yet. Steve will bring it back the board once we know the funding amount.

13. Additional Business

Steve Lorraine shared a Thank You card that came from the Cazenovia FFA for Joann and Jess' help with judging at the recent District 5 Leadership Development Event.

A discussion occurred about the National Watershed Coalition.

15. Next Meeting

TBD, depending on the CFY luncheon.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Hough, seconded by Pace. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 P.M.



Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Date: 2/24/26

Ric Barnes, Chairman Date: _____