



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**March 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  
Dana Krueger, County Legislator

**Staff:**

Steve Lorraine, District Manager  
Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer  
**Other:**  
Ryan Cunningham, NYS SWCC  
Maryellen Sheehan, CCE

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 12:05 PM and introductions were made.

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

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

Amy added that NYS Sales Tax was filed and paid on time. And the Tree Sale income is up by about \$327.00 year-to-date, with a current income of \$38,196.71 on 272 orders.

*A motion to approve the February 2026 Treasurer's report was made by Hough and seconded by Krueger. Motion carried.*

*Bills – A motion was made by Hough and seconded by Pace to approve payment in the amount of \$68,733.08 for 19 bills and 12 tree sale refunds. Motion carried.*

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

- The Water Quality Symposium was held last week. All staff attended training, except Steve and Carl. The trainings provided were beneficial.
- We are working on numerous design packages to be sent out to bid soon for construction projects coming this summer.
- We will start receiving trees and packing orders in the beginning of April. Tree pickup day is April 16<sup>th</sup>.
- We will need to adjust the April meeting day, due to the tree sale and Conservation Farm of the Year luncheon. Tentatively Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Steve is working on RD 31 grants.

**5. FSA** – No report, no one present

**6. NRCS** – No report, no one present

Steve Lorraine shared an email from Abby Gulseth, inviting members to attend the Local Working Group meeting for Herkimer, Madison And Oneida Counties on April 8, 2026.

**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 handed out flyers regarding upcoming events and trainings.

Steve Lorraine added that Maryellen has continued to help out SWCD with an irrigation project.

## **8. Committee Reports**

**SWCC** – Ryan Cunningham

The March 2026 SWCC report was included in the director's packets. Ryan reviewed the report and various deadlines with the board.

**County** – Dana Krueger

- Committee meeting is next week.
- Dana is new to the SWCD board. She signed the Oath of Office. She also serves on the Planning Dept, Corrections and Emergency Management boards.
- Dana attended a state conference this week in Albany for the State Association of Counties.
- She also recently attended the Ag and Economic Development session. The commissioner spoke about the impact of FFA and the trickle-down of changes in national funding.

## **9. NYACD/NACD**

- The February 27<sup>th</sup> Letter to Directors from Blanche Hurbutt was included in the meeting packets, along with a flyer regarding an upcoming training and meeting on October 26-27.

**10. CDEA** – Steve Lorraine

- The CDEA Water Quality Symposium was last week.
- A lobbyist has been hired.

## **11. Old Business**

Conservation Farm of the Year – A specific date in April to hold the award luncheon has not been determined yet. Steve will let the board know in the next week. We will try to schedule the board meeting on the same day, just prior to the meeting.

2026 Part C budget – A draft of the budget passed around and reviewed by the board members. Funding was received on 3/16/26. *A motion was made by Hough, seconded by Pace, to approve the 2026 Part C budget. Motion carried.*

## **12. New Business**

RD 31 Resolution - After discussion, *a motion was made by Hough to approve Resolution #153 Authorizing participation in the RD 31 EPF Grants and to allow Steve Lorraine to act as representative on behalf of the District's governing body in all matters related to the State Assistance for RD 31 EPF. Krueger seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.*

**13. Additional Business**

A question was asked about the Employee Handbooks. Steve Lorraine reported that the handbook was completed. There was a meeting with the staff to discuss the changes. It was signed by all employees.

**15. Next Meeting**

TBD, depending on the CFY luncheon.

**16. Adjournment**

*Motion to adjourn was made by Pace, seconded by Hough. Motion carried.* The meeting was adjourned at 12:48 P.M.

*Amy Hayduke*

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Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 3/20/26

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Ric Barnes, Chairman    Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT