



MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 17, 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
TJ Stokes, County Legislator – arrival at 12:20 pm

Staff:

Steve Lorraine, District Manager
Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Other:
Katie Livingston, CCE

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 12:06 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes – The Draft of Minutes for the March 2026 meeting was emailed to the board members in advance and were also included in the board packets. *A motion was made by Charlie Pace, seconded by Dana Krueger, to approve the March 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 March 2026: Bank Account Report, Unpaid Bills Detail, Tree Sale Refunds, Paid Bills Detail, Check Detail, Deposit Detail, Payroll Journal, Vacation & Leave by Employee. *A motion to approve the March 2026 Treasurer's report was made by Allen Hough and seconded by Charlie Pace. Motion carried.*
- Bills – In addition to the Unpaid Bills report, Amy Hayduke brought two late-arriving bills from Dairy One, in the amount of \$421 and \$165. Amy Hayduke also brought the list of tree sale refunds in the amount of \$454.30. *A motion was made by Allen Hough and seconded by Charlie Pace to approve payment in the amount of \$69,773.38 for 17 bills and 13 tree sale refunds. Motion carried.*
- Quarterly Grants Update – The report was in the board packets and was reviewed by the directors. It was noted that the end date for RD 27 Chenango was extended to 3/1/26. *A motion to accept the quarterly report with the corrected end date for RD 27 Chenango was made by Allen Hough. The motion was seconded by Ric Barnes. Motion carried.*

4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine

- Jess & Ryan have been continuing to update both CAFO and non-CAFO CNMP's.
- Jess has been working with CAFO clients on spring fertilizer recommendations.
- Ryan has been working on spring fertilizer recommendations for non-CAFO farms.
- Ryan continues to work with the state to get his AEM Planner Certification.

- Tom has been working on some planting plans for projects to be implemented this year.
- Tom and Andy have been assisting many landowners with DEC permits.
- Andrew is working to finalize a stream restoration project on DeRuyter Lake.
- Andrew is working with Jake on a barnyard system at a farm in New Woodstock, to be constructed this summer.
- Andrew and Jake completed design work for a barnyard project at a farm in Nelson – to be constructed this summer.
- Andrew and Jake are finalizing a covered barnyard design for a farm in DeRuyter.
- Andrew & Steve have been making multiple site visits for flooding issues across the county.
- Carl & Jake completed the design for a lined earthen storage at a farm in DeRuyter.
- Carl & Tom have been completing Soil Group worksheets as they come in.
- Carl & Jake are working on a waste management system for a farm in Munnsville.
- Carl & Jake are working on an irrigation system for a vegetable farm in Nelson.
- Joann, Ryan and Steve attended a two-day USC meeting.
- We held the annual tree sale on 4/16/26. We sold 15,837 stems. Profit, not including staff time, was a little over \$12,000.
- Andrew completed a drainage design for the Town of Sullivan for the Sullivan Park.
- Steve attended a meeting of the MRWC.
- Steve attended a meeting of the OLWC.
- Jess and Steve worked with the CPF on farmland protection application.
- Steve has been contacting candidates for our buffer steward internship and should have done next week.
- Jake and Steve have been working with a property owner and PCD on a drainage issue in Poolville.
- Steve has been working on RD 31 AgNPS applications that are due 4/20/26.
- We received 3 grants through CRF RD 9. They are tree planting projects on three different sites.
- Steve signed an agreement with the USC for \$75,000. \$40,000 for engineering and \$35,000 for implementation.
- Steve was on a call with the USC executive board about a cover cropping grant opportunity for farms. \$35/acre paid through USDA. A brief discussion about this occurred.
- Tom and Steve have been working on the Oneida Lake water chestnut removal project.

5. FSA – No report, no one present

6. NRCS – No report, no one present

7. CCE – Katie Livingston, Local Foods Educator

- The April 2026 CCE Report for SWCD was included in the director packets. Katie highlighted items from the report.
- The upcoming Pond Class was discussed, which will include Steve Lorraine as a speaker.

8. Committee Reports

SWCC – Ryan Cunningham

The April 2026 SWCC report was included in the director's packets. Steve Lorraine reviewed the report with the board.

County – TJ Stokes/Dana Krueger

- The State of the County meeting was held recently at Delphi Falls.

- Landfills – still continuing to pursue the tonnage increase on the permits to 125,000 per year with DEC.
- Windmills – there was a meeting in February. The attorneys are working on a road agreement. All of the towns, schools and the county have passed resolutions/signed off on not having a pilot. The size of the project has increased due to size of turbines.
- Solar – nothing new to report. A discussion occurred.
- Planning – Continuing to discuss broad band reconnection. They are working on a new strategic plan for the county IDA.
- A discussion occurred regarding snowmobile trails on powerlines and the DEC wetland mapping annulment.

9. NYACD/NACD

- The March 31, 2026 Letter to Directors from Blanche Hurbutt was included in the meeting packets.
- The 2026 assessment (invoice) will be discussed at a future meeting.

10. CDEA – Steve Lorraine

- Steve Lorraine reported that they are working on the September training.

11. Old Business

Conservation Farm of the Year – A specific date to hold the award luncheon has not been determined yet. The farm owner is out of the country, will return in May.

RD 31 applications submitted/to be submitted soon: Chenango – 2 farms, Chittenango – 1 farm, Limestone – 1 farm, Oriskany – 1 farm, Nelson Swamp- 2 farms, Oneida Lake Soil Health – still finalizing.

12. New Business

RD 24 Chenango – As the grant is closed and all payments have been received, *a motion was made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Charlie Pace, to close the bank account for RD 24 Chenango. Motion carried.*

Policy Review – Gas Card, Credit Card, Financial Policy

After discussion, a motion was made by Dana Krueger, seconded by Allen Hough, to adopt the Gas Card Policy. Motion carried.

A motion was made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Charlie Pace, to adopt the updated Credit card policy, which replaces the policy dated 6/20/24. Motion carried.

In order to give the board more time to review the Financial Policy, we will return to this at a future meeting.

13. Additional Business

Steve Lorraine informed the board that he will send them an email about the Regional Manager Meetings. The board members are welcome to attend.

15. Next Meeting

May 21, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

16. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Charlie Pace. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 1:06 pm.

Amy Hayduke

Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Date: 4/20/26

Ric Barnes, Chairman Date: _____