



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
May 21, 2026 7:00 PM
Regular Board Meeting**

Present:

Board:

Ric Barnes, Chairman & At-large Farming Public Rep.
Allen Hough, Vice-Chairman & Farm Bureau Rep.
TJ Stokes, County Legislator – arrival at 12:20 pm

Staff:

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 7:07 PM.

2. Approval of Minutes – The Draft of Minutes for the April 2026 meeting was emailed to the board members in advance and were also included in the board packets. *A motion was made by Allen Hough, seconded by TJ Stokes, to approve the April 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 April 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 April 2026 Treasurer's report was made by Allen Hough and seconded by Ric Barnes. Motion carried.
- Bills – *A motion was made by Allen Hough and seconded by TJ Stokes to approve payment in the amount of \$144,604.17 for 30 bills. Motion carried.*

4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine

- Jess and Ryan are working on updating our CAFO clients CNMP's
- Ryan continues working with the state on his planner certification.
- Ryan, Andrew and Tom completed a tree planting for Upland Reforestation on a small beef farm in Lebanon – part of a USC project.
- Joann, Ryan, Andy, and Tom completed a 1.5 acre tree planting on a farm in Munnsville.
- Joann and Tom completed a riparian buffer planting in Nelson as part of a USC project.
- Joann has been working on our annual BMP verification for the USC Bay Program.
- Jess and Joann attended the regional Envirothon in Sherburne and the Oneida County Envirothon in Utica. The state Envirothon is next week.
- Tom has been working with multiple landowners on Oneida Lake for permits to repair damage to shorelines from the spring flooding.
- Tom is developing planting plans for projects to be planted this fall.

- Andrew oversaw completion of a diversion and detention basin at a farm in Lincoln.
- Andrew is working on multiple stream designs for construction this summer.
- Andrew is assisting Tom with the permit workload.
- Andrew is working on several flood mitigation designs.
- Andrew and Jake completed a design for a covered barnyard in DeRuyter. It is out to bid now.
- Andrew completed a cattle laneway design for a farm in Morrisville. It is out to bid now.
- Carl and Jake are working on a waste storage & transfer system at a farm in Munnsville.
- Carl and Jake are finalizing an irrigation design for a farm in Nelson.
- Carl and Jake completed a leachate collection design for a farm in Chittenango.
- Andrew and Jake completed design for a covered barnyard system in New Woodstock. It is scheduled for construction in July.
- Carl and Jake are working on an irrigation system design for a vegetable farm in Lebanon.
- Carl and Steve are working with Town of Brookfield on a drainage issue at the Town Park.
- Carl and Steve are working with the Town of Brookfield on an issue at Gorton Lake.
- Steve is working on multiple grant close outs.
- Steve is working with the USC for strategic planning.
- Steve attended a state policy advisory meeting.
- The WQCC meeting is June 4 at 10am at the Erieville firehouse.

5. FSA – No report, no one present

6. NRCS – No report, no one present

Steve Lorraine reported that Evan Sweeney has been very helpful with a manure system that we are working on in Munnsville.

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

- The May 2026 CCE Report for SWCD was included in the director's packets. Maryellen highlighted items from the report.
- Several posters were passed around for upcoming events through CCE.

8. Committee Reports

SWCC

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

He will be attending the Spring Manager's Meeting at the Chenango County SWCD on June 1st.

County – TJ Stokes

Wind - The windmill company is looking to get agreements done. They do not have a pilot. They changed the project to avoid conflict with federal wetlands. They now have 4 less windmills planned. FAA had no issues with the project.

Landfill - They are working on securing a permit to double tonnage.

Other – TJ sat in on a New Visions meeting.

9. NYACD/NACD

- The April 30, 2026 Letter to Directors from Blanche Hurbutt was included in the meeting packets.
- A draft of a letter from the SWCD board to Sam Casella, President of NYACD, was reviewed and discussed. There were no objections.

- The 2026 assessment was discussed. A motion was made to amend the bills to be paid to include a payment of \$1500.00 to NYACD for the 2026 assessment. Motion was made by Allen Hough, seconded by TJ Stokes. Motion carried.

10. CDEA – Steve Lorraine

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

11. Old Business

Conservation Farm of the Year – After discussion, a motion was made by Ric Barnes to rescind the 2026 award nominee based on recent developments. The motion was seconded by Allen Hough. Motion carried.

Policy review – After discussion, a motion to adopt the new District Financial Operations manual was made by Allen Hough. The motion was seconded by TJ Stokes. Motion carried.

2026 Budget – An amended budget was handed out, reviewed and discussed. A motion to approve the amended 2026 budget was made by Allen Hough, seconded by TJ Stokes. Motion carried.

12. New Business

Truck – The purchase of a new truck was discussed. The board instructed Steve Lorraine to contact local car dealers to discuss the trade-in values of 2 vehicles with the purchase of a new vehicle. A motion was made to authorize Steve Lorraine to negotiate the purchase of a new vehicle with one of the district vehicles as trade in. Steve is to contact Chairman Barnes to discuss and approve the final purchase prior to completing the sale. TJ Stokes made the motion. Allen Hough seconded. Motion carried.

RD 28 Chenango bank account – A motion was made by TJ Stokes to allow Amy Hayduke to close the bank account for RD 28 Chenango once the final payment from NYS Ag & Markets arrives. The motion was seconded by Allen Hough. Motion carried.

Rd 27 Chenango bank account – A motion was made by Allen Hough to allow Amy Hayduke to close the bank account for RD 27 Chenango, pending the close out and final payment from NYS Ag & Markets. Motion was seconded by TJ Stokes. Motion carried.

13. Next Meeting

June 18, 2026 at 7:00 pm.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Allen Hough. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 pm.



Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer
Date: 5/27/26


Ric Barnes, Chairman Date: 6/17/26

