



MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 19, 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
Charlie Pace, Non-Farming Public Representative

Staff:

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

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 7:02 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – The Draft of Minutes for the July 2026 meeting was emailed to the board members in advance and included in the board packets. *A motion was made by Charlie Pace, seconded by Allen Hough, to approve the July 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 monthly reports: Bank Account Report, Unpaid Bills Detail, Paid Bills Detail, Check Detail, Deposit Detail, Payroll Journal, Vacation & Leave by Employee.
A motion to approve the July 2026 Treasurer's report was made by Allen Hough and seconded by Charlie Pace. Motion carried.
- Bills – *A motion was made by Allen Hough and seconded by TJ Stokes, to approve payment in the amount of \$229,455.75 for 20 bills. Motion carried.*

4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine

- Jess and Ryan continue updating CAFO CNMP's as needed.
- Jess is currently developing manure spreading schedules for our CAFO farms for the 2027 crop season.
- Ryan had his first plan approved by the state certification and has submitted his second plan for review.
- Ryan has been working with multiple non-CAFO farms in nutrient management.
- Joann has been working on our 2027 tree sale.
- Joann continues to work with USC on data collection.
- Joann, Jess and Andrew manned a table at the Madison County Fair as part of a Kids at the Fair Day with CCE. (A picture of Andrew dressed as the CDEA mascot Ronnie Raindrop was passed around.)

- Tom and Bekah continue getting out in the field, assessing and completing maintenance on previously installed buffers.
- Tom and Joann have been working on tree orders for fall planting at several locations.
- Tom, Andrew and Bekah have continued to work with multiple landowners and municipalities on DEC permits.
- Tom and Bekah participated in another water chestnut pulling event at the mouth of Oneida Creek, where it flows into Oneida Lake.
- Andrew oversaw completion of a stream restoration project at a farm in Erieville.
- Andrew continues to move the post pounders to farms around the county as requested.
- Andrew completed the stream design for the WQIP grant at DeRuyter reservoir.
- Andrew has been working on multiple flood mitigation projects in the northern part of the county.
- Carl and Jake oversaw completion of an irrigation system at a farm in Erieville.
- Carl and Jake are overseeing construction of a lined earthen manure storage at a farm in DeRuyter.
- Jake, Andrew and Steve met with a farmer in Nelson to talk about a design for a new barn, after his barn was lost to a fire 2 weeks ago.
- Jake and Steve have been overseeing the repairs to a bridge on Lyons Road in Nelson. The county bridge crew is doing the work. Jake did the design to repair it.
- The Village of Canastota has asked us to design an arch culvert structure for them on Rasback Drive to replace an existing undersized culvert.
- We continue working with Ryan Cunningham on grant close outs.
- Steve is still working with the USC on their strategic planning project.
- Amy and Steve have been working on the 2027 Budget.
- Jim Cunningham and Steve presented to members of the county lake association on septic systems.
- The Carey Road project is underway. We designed a stacked rock wall and a concrete wall. The stacked rock wall design will be used, as there will be significant cost-savings. The road should be reopened next week.
- The NYS Soil Health Field Day will be held at Gianforte Farm in Cazenovia next Thursday.
- Steve distributed the Draft USC Strategic Plan Elements and asked the board to review it.

5. FSA – A report from Alisha Cook was in the board packets. The report was reviewed by the board.

6. NRCS – We have the final functional review for a manure storage project in Munnsville, that will be funded by EQIP and AEM. An engineer from NRCS is scheduled to meet with Jake and Carl next week on-site to do a pre-construction meeting.

7. CCE – Katie Livingston, Local Foods Educator

The August 2026 CCE Report for SWCD was included in the board member packets. Katie reviewed the report and highlighted several items, including the recent Open Farm Days.

8. Committee Reports

SWCC – Ryan Cunningham

The Region 4 August 2026 SWCC report was included in the director's packets. Ryan reviewed the report with the board and pointed out several items in further detail, including the RD 31 status, CRF RD 10 to be coming out in about 6 weeks, and the available Farmland Protection grants. The September board meeting will be in Delaware County.

There is a new Ecosystem Based Management grant, which most of our county is in the approved watershed for it. There is going to be a push from DEC to do carve-outs for smaller pilot programs. They will be looking for underfunded coalitions. Judy Latrelle is the contact person. The SWCC AEM 2025 Annual report was sent to the directors by email and passed around at the meeting.

County – TJ Stokes

TJ reported that the landfill expansion is ongoing. They are heading into budget season at the county. A discussion occurred about local solar farms.

9. NYACD/NACD – Steve Lorraine

The NYACD Sponsorship letter was discussed. No sponsorship was approved at this time. The NYACD Annual Awards nomination forms were discussed. The packet will be emailed to the members.

An article regarding Solar siting was emailed to the board in advance and also included in the director's packets.

The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held in Pen Yann on October 26th & 27th.

10. CDEA – Steve Lorraine

The 2026 Conservation Skills Workshops will be held October 5-8 in Auburn. The registration packet will be emailed to the directors. There was a discussion regarding a potential meeting of managers from our CDEA division.

11. Old Business

Audit – Steve Lorraine reported that a CPA will be coming to our office on 9/21/26 to start field work for the policy review/audit.

2027 Budget – Steve Lorraine passed out a draft of the budget. After discussion, *a motion was made by Allen Hough to adopt the proposed 2027 budget. The motion was seconded by Charlie Pace. The motion carried.*

There were discussions regarding a forestry/buffer grant through the USC, the DR mower that is on order, and the potential cost-savings to the county if they hired us for engineering work.

12. New Business

Insurance Renewal – Steve Lorraine reported that the renewal quotes came in for the Commercial Auto, Commercial Property, Crime, Umbrella, General Liability, Public Officials Liability and Inland Marine policies. The total premium increase is \$407.

LENS – A discussion occurred regarding the usage of LENS through NYS DMV. The ability to use it is in the Employee Handbook, but we have not been actively utilizing it. The board was asked if they would like to start using it on a regular basis. No changes to the current procedures were made.

Board Audit – The board was reminded that an audit of the 2025 books has not been done yet. There was a discussion about who and when this could be done. The board members will report back on their availability.

Survey Equipment – We have been borrowing a Rover from a local business. They offered it for sale to us. *A motion was made by Allen Hough, seconded by Charlie Pace to purchase the Rover for \$1500.00. Motion carried.*

Apparel Purchase – The various options for logo wear were discussed. The board would like Steve or Amy to get quotes for hoodies and ¼ zip pullovers. *A motion was made by Allen Hough to purchase 20 hats through Screen It at the cost of \$19.00 each. The motion was seconded by Charlie Pace. Motion carried.*

13. Next Meeting

September 17, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Charlie Pace. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Amy Hayduke

Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 8/21/26

Ric Barnes, Chairman Date: _____