



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 17, 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

Staff:

Steve Lorraine, District Manager
Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Barnes at 7:04 p.m.

- 2. Approval of Minutes** – The Draft of Minutes for the August 2026 meeting was emailed to the board members in advance and included in the board packets. *A motion was made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Allen Hough, to approve the August 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 August 2026 Treasurer's report was made by Ric Barnes and seconded by Allen Hough. Motion carried.
- Bills – The Unpaid Bills report included 3 bills for Gatehouse Farm (Chenango Contracting, CB Masonry, Payne Construction) which Chairman Barnes owns. He would normally recuse himself from discussion and any motion involving the bills for Gatehouse Farms, but only 3 board members were present, so he was asked to stay. This is in accordance of the grant contract. *A motion was made by Allen Hough and seconded by TJ Stokes, to approve payment in the amount of \$304,429.90 for 31 bills. Motion carried.*

4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine

- Jess is meeting with our CAFO farms to finalize and review their 2027 spreading schedules.
- Ryan is soil sampling for our CAFO and non-CAFO farms to ensure their plans are up to date.
- Ryan is updating multiple non-CAFO CNMP's.
- Joann is working on an audit of AEM Year 19 to ensure that we are on track with our expenditures.
- Joann and Tom have been getting everything in place for several tree planting projects for this fall.
- Joann continues working on data collection and reporting for the USC.
- Tom and Andrew continue working with both private and public landowners on DEC permits.
- Tom has been working on several tree planting plans for projects scheduled for next spring.

- Tom and Steve have been working on the Oneida Lake Water chestnut removal project. Cortland SWCD brought their weed harvester and started harvesting today.
- Andrew is overseeing a covered manure storage project at a farm in Sheds.
- Andrew completed a storm crossing design for a landowner in Nelson. Construction is slated for this fall.
- Andrew is working on a flood mitigation design for a home in Lincoln.
- Andrew picked up the tractor for planting cover crops this fall. He should be starting this week.
- Andrew continues to move the post pounders around the county as requested.
- Andrew oversaw a logjam removal in Oneida Creek in Munnsville.
- Carl is overseeing construction of a waste storage and transfer system in Munnsville.
- Carl is overseeing logjam removals in Chittenango Creek.
- Carl is working on a silage leachate collection system for a farm in Morrisville.
- Carl is working on an irrigation design for a vegetable farm in Lebanon.
- We have had multiple close outs approved by the state for grants we have finished.
- Steve is working on a contract with regional planning to do forestry work in the county- tree plantings and giveaways.
- Carl completed test pits for a farm in Georgetown interested in manure storage.
- Amy and Steve submitted to the county the information they requested regarding our 2027 budget request.
- Bekah, our summer intern, completed her duties and has gone to Paul Smiths College for the fall semester.
- The Soil Health workshop was held at Gianforte Farms with more than 60 attendees.
- Steve attended a meeting of the USC.
- We submitted a grant application to the USC for funding for a stream crossing, channel stabilization and forested buffer. It was chosen for funding.
- The stream and road stabilization project on Carey Rd in DeRuyter was completed.
- We are working on a bank stabilization project in the town of Eaton.
- The Lyon Rd bridge stabilization project ran into a bit of an issue. We have come up with a solution and will be doing work next week.

5. FSA – No report, no one present.

6. NRCS – No report, no one present.

7. CCE – The September 2026 CCE report for SWCD was included in the board packets. The report was reviewed and discussed.

The joint annual business meeting for CCE and Madison County Farm Bureau is scheduled for October 8th.

8. Committee Reports

SWCC – The Region 4 September 2026 SWCC report was included in the director's packets. Steve Lorraine reviewed and discussed the report with the board.

County – TJ Stokes

Windmills – The pilot that was supposed to be voted on was tabled for next month. A letter was sent from a windmill company to landowners that they plan to start construction on 10/5/26. There is a pre-construction meeting on Monday. They do not have approval from the IDA to start construction. A discussion occurred.

Landfill – They are continuing to work on the permit for expansion.

Budget – Hearings are this week.

9. NYACD/NACD – Steve Lorraine

The NACD Update on Recent Congressional and Executive Actions letter was in the board packets.

The NYACD letter dated 8/11/26 was discussed.

10. CDEA – Steve Lorraine

The 2026 Conservation Skills Workshops will be held October 5-8 in Auburn.

The CDEA hired a lobbyist.

11. Old Business

Board Audit – Steve Lorraine reported that Charlie Pace is planning to contact him when he is back in town so a date can be arranged with Allen Hough to complete the audit. Steve will contact Allen when he hears from Charlie.

12. New Business

Health Insurance Renewal – Steve Lorraine reported that the renewal quotes came in and the increase was 22%. Quotes were obtained for high-deductible plans and from other companies. After review, the current policy has the best coverage for the amount of the premium.

Part B Projects – After discussion, *a motion was made by Ric Barnes to authorize use of 2027 Part B funds for countywide flood mitigation projects. The motion was seconded by TJ Stokes and carried unanimously.*

Plan of Work – A copy of the 2027 Plan of Work was handed out by Steve Lorraine. After review and discussion, *a motion was made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Ric Barnes, to approve the presented 2027 Plan of Work. Motion carried.*

13. Next Meeting

October 15, 2026, at 7:00 pm.

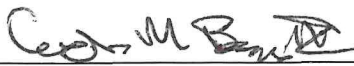
14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by TJ Stokes, seconded by Ric Barnes. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.



Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 9/22/26



Ric Barnes, Chairman

Date: 10/15/26