



ORLEANS COUNTY SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES

July 14, 2015

PRESENT: Edward Morgan, Rep At Large  
Dennis Kirby, Manager  
Judy Bennett, Secretary/Treasurer  
James Neal, Farm Bureau Rep.  
Katie Sommerfeldt, WQ Technician  
John DeFilipps, Leg. Rep.  
William Eick, Leg. Rep.  
Megan McAnn, Technician  
John Kast, Rep. at Large  
Victor DiGiacomo, NYS SWCC  
Bob Bills, USDA NRCS

**I. Call To Order:** Chairman, Edward Morgan called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm for the purpose of conducting routine business.

**II. Public Comment Period:** No public comments.

**III. Minutes:** **Motion** by Eick, second by Neal to accept the minutes as written. **Carried**

**IV. Treasurer's Report:** **Motion** by DeFilipps, second by Kast to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. **Carried**

**V. Bills & Vouchers:** **Motion** by Eick, second by Neal to pay the bills and sign the vouchers. **Carried**

**VI. Operational Budget:** Dennis reported that this is in everyone's packet to review. The only thing that sticks out to him is that he doesn't think we will bring in the amount of money we expected for tile layout.

**VII. New Business:**

- A. Megan Training: Dennis reported that he emailed the information on this Level I training for Megan to attend. It is some good basic training being held August 3 – 7. **Motion** by Neal, second by Eick for Megan to attend at District expense. **Carried**
- B. Dennis – Empire Farm Days: Dennis reported that he is involved with the group to set up displays and seminars on soil health. He would like approval to work all 4 of the days. **Motion** by Kast, second by Neal for Dennis to attend all 4 days. **Carried**
- C. 2016 Medical Insurance: Judy reported that we received notification that Blue Cross Blue Shield is filing for a request to increase our Medical Insurance in 2016.
- D. Invasive Species Rules for Tree sale: Dennis reported that the State Committee adopted a rule that we should follow this new invasive species list and not sell or use any of these things. There are some trees that we have sold in the past during our tree sales. On the list is also listed several grass seed listed that we use all the time. We have complained and it was restated that they just don't want us to sell it, but we can still use it for projects.
- E. FL-LOWPA:
  1. Katie reported that Kristy, the representative for FL-LOWPA, wants to set up a tour with DEC so that they can come out and see some of the projects that were completed using FL-LOWPA funds. Katie is working with her and 4 farmers to set up this tour. Katie has prepared a sheet to hand out giving a little background information on the project's, how much the project's cost, how much was cost shared, and some pictures of each one of the projects. They will be visiting Orleans, Monroe, and Wayne counties. For the tour they will be visiting Orleans Poverty Hill's proposed project site for a manure pad, Michael Zelazny's Grassed Waterway, Torrey's Silage leachate, and Sidonio's Stream Crossing. From here they will go over into Monroe County. Dennis reported that all directors are invited to attend.
  2. Judy read a letter from FL-LOWPA stating that they are going to be charging dues of \$100 per year to each one of the counties in FL-LOWPA.
- F. Grassed Waterway/Diversion Ditch: Katie reported the following:
  1. The Knowlesville ditch is completed. She does have to go down and seed the end part where the trolley tracks are. She took some pictures today with the grass growing.

2. There is a grassed waterway project set up on Route 237 that is about a mile long. It will also help with some residential flooding problems.
  3. There is a filter strip project we will be working on in the Town of Shelby for Francis Domoy.
  4. There might be another grassed waterway along Meadowbrook Drive in the Village of Albion. They are getting a lot of residential flooding from the farm field behind the houses. She explained the problems. There is going to be a meeting at the Albion Village Hall on July 23 with Dale Brooks and us to talk to the landowners to see who is in favor of what and if they have any other ideas on how to fix the problem.
- G. District Shirts, etc.:** Dennis reported that it has been a while since we got any shirts and would like permission to get some more. **Motion** by DeFilipps, second by Eick to order shirts for staff and directors. **Carried**
- H. Payroll Certification:** **Motion** by Eick, second by Neal to have Morgan sign the payroll certification to be submitted to County Personnel office. **Carried**
- I. Slashbuster:** Katie reported that we got the easements for the first slashbuster job for this winter on Letts Road in Shelby.
- J. Other:**
1. Dennis reported that Judy has the list for people to sign up for the working at the fair booth.
  2. Dennis mentioned that we are running into situations that require us to have a higher limit on our credit cards. He would like to increase them to \$1,000 each for a total of \$3,000. **Motion** by DeFilipps, second by Kast to increase the credit limit on all three credit cards to \$1,000 each. **Carried**
  3. Dennis reported that Judy has been asked to join a operations subcommittee to help to re-work the Administrative Manual. It just means another commitment for her to attend another meeting. She has not decided whether or not to join the group.
  4. Dennis reported that there is some money available to work in the Genesee Valley Watershed. The idea is to set up a coalition to make it easier to get grant money. At this point in time we don't have to contribute any time or money. **Motion** by Kast, second by DeFilipps to participate in the Genesee Valley Watershed Coalition. **Carried**
  5. Dennis reported that George Squires, District Manager in Genesee County, is retiring as of August 14. Elizabeth Bentley-Huber, Technician is also retiring as of July 24. It was decided that if there is something for them for the staff to attend.

## VII. Old Business:

- A. NYACD:**
1. Judy reported that we received an invoice for the remaining amount for the dues. She made the recommendation to pay the remaining amount due because without the Director's Association there are no Districts. The Directors Association is who goes to Albany and does our lobbying for us. Employees are not allowed to go lobby, that is what the directors are for. Without paying the dues we won't have the Director's Association. **Motion** by Eick, second by Kast to pay the remaining \$750. **Carried**
- B. Grass Carp Sales:** Judy reported that we did okay this year. We sold 35 in this first round and will be picking up more during the regular fish program next week.
- C. Grant Project Summary:** Attached. Dennis explained the updates.
- D. Legislative Committee:** Dennis reported that he met with the Legislative Committee. He thinks it went well. He was told to come back and think big. Discussed Boom Mower.
- E. Envirothon Financial Results:** Dennis reported that with all the donations that we received and the raffles that were held we have a balance to roll over to next year. Judy reported that we also have a table to Raffle off during the 2 county fairs. She has to make sure that it is approved by the Sportsmen's Federation for us to sell the raffle tickets.
- F. Rent:** Judy reported that we no longer have to pay rent. The USDA has signed a lease with the landlord and it includes our office space. Discussed what will happen if the government shuts down again.
- G. Other:**
1. Judy handed out some training reports from Megan and Katie.
  2. Dennis reported that we had a station at Conservation Field Days in May. Megan instructed the first day and then he did it the second day.
  3. Dennis reported that Megan went to the State Envirothon in May and helped out at the registration desk.

## VIII. Cooperating Agency Reports:

- A. District Manager:** Attached
- B. District Conservationist:** Bob Bills introduced himself. He gave a brief update on NRCS.
- C. Orleans County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC):** Dennis reported that they just had a meeting and was very sparsely attended. Jayme Breschard from GFLRPC attended and she can help us with some guidance on water quality issues.
- D. NYS SWCC Report:** Victor DiGiacomo went over his attached report.

Next meeting date August 4, 2015 at 12:00 pm.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:17 PM.

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Judy Bennett  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Date:

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Edward Morgan  
District Chairman  
Date:

DRAFT