



ORLEANS COUNTY SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT MINUTES  
May 5, 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  
Victor DiGiacomo, NYS SWCC  
Heath Eisele, USDA NRCS

**I. Call To Order:** Chairman, Edward Morgan called the meeting to order at 11:55 am for the purpose of conducting routine business.

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

**III. NRCS Civil Rights Training:** Heath Eisele provided the annual Civil Rights training to the SWCD Employees and Board of Directors. A power point presentation was shown that detailed Title VI and VII of Civil Rights Laws, Customer and Employee Complaint process, and importance of Board Diversity.

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

**V. Treasurer's Report:** Motion by Eick, second by Neal to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. **Carried**

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

**VII. New Business:**

- A. Conservation Field Days: Judy reported that this is being held on May 26 & 27. Megan will be doing it the 26 and Dennis on the 27.
- B. Fish Program: Judy reported that we are starting to get fish orders in. We are hoping to get a lot in this year because of the big fish die off from the winter.
- C. Operational Budget:
  1. Dennis reported that Jefferson County SWCD's Audit report was recently released and has brought up some concerns in our District.
  2. Morgan expressed his concerns that he doesn't know enough about the District finances to make good decisions. He has faith in the District staff, but feels he should know more about the finances than what he does.
  3. Dennis presented the board with what he came up with for an operational budget. He has excluded the grant funding to come up with what he considers to be the operational budget. This includes budget to actual. He explained. We also need to show the information on the grants, but they can't be included in the operational budget.
  4. Dennis explained the grant money and how it flows in and out.
  5. Dennis explained that on the monthly reports that they get, they only see the accounts that have had activity.
  6. Discussed the operational budget and the grants.
  7. **Motion** by Neal, second by Eick to accept what Dennis presented as the 2015 operational budget. **Carried**
- D. Other:
  1. Dennis reported that Cooperative Extension is putting on a Fresh Vegetable Weed Management Field Days in Batavia. They suggested that we might want to set up a booth and talk about Soil Health. He doesn't know if he really wants to do this or not. It would take up 2 days of time.
  2. Soil Health Mini Grant: Dennis reported that a new round of Soil Health Mini Grants have been announced. He is not sure if he wants to apply for this round or not. **Motion** by Neal, second by Eick to apply for the grant. **Carried**
  3. Dennis reported that every five years we have to do an AEM 5 Year Strategic Plan. They want you to be specific as to what you are going to do and where. He got this completed and submitted.

## VII. Old Business:

### A. NYACD:

1. Dennis reported that the letter was sent to Dan Ferrand along with a check for ½ of the membership dues and we have not heard anything back yet.
2. Morgan reported that he received an email from Darryl Heiby. They are requesting a meeting of Division I Directors to appoint a new Division I Director. Discussed.

**B. Tree Sales:** Judy reported that she feels that tree sales were down, but she hasn't done all the numbers yet. We ended up with 40 Rugosa Rose that we gave to the Master Gardeners. Now we have to wait to get the money from Genesee County for the trees that they took to get rid of for us. We did take in more money this year than we did last year.

**C. Grant Project Summary:** Attached. Dennis explained the updates.

### D. Other:

1. Judy reported that the Envirothon is Thursday. So far we have received \$200 from each of the legislative representatives except for Corwin, but she will be sending that in. We received donations from WNY Energy, NY Forest Owners Association, and M & T Bank. From looking at budget purposes we are running about even. We have 5 teams from Orleans County participating; 3 teams from Kendall, and 2 teams from Lyndonville.
2. Katie reported that we have laid out about 30,000 feet of tile so far this year and has about 56,000 that has to be done in a week and a half. We have a ditch project and culvert replacement project on South Woods Road that is being completed.
3. The County will be down at the Knowlesville project and finishing up connecting the ditch to where the wetland is. Once that is done we will be seeding and mulching it.

## VIII. Cooperating Agency Reports:

**A. District Manager:** Attached.

### B. District Conservationist:

1. Heath reported that they did interview for the Technician's position. All of the applicants they had were from out of state. Only one of them seemed to be best qualified for the position here and he just accepted a position with the University of Kentucky. They are going to keep going down the list because he knows that there were several local people that also applied, but he never saw their applications.
2. Heath reported that for both him and Charlie Kesterson there is a lot of work going on with the Conservation Stewardship Program. They had 17 applicants for this so they are busy doing interviews with the applicants.
3. They had 8 contracts approved for the National Water Quality Initiative.

**C. Orleans County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (WQCC):** Dennis reported that this meeting was held yesterday. There is a concern at Waterport Dam that the peninsula is eroding. Katie will go down and look at it to see what could be done. We would like to help the Town of Ridgeway or the County with the installation of a parking lot on Route 63 North of Slade Road. We also have some funding for making a ramp for canoe access. Dennis is going to talk to Jim Bensley at the Planning Department about this more and try to get this project moving.

**D. NYS SWCC Report:** Victor DiGiacomo went over his attached report. He also reported that there will be another round of Soil Health Mini Grants coming up.

Next meeting date is to be decided.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:25 PM.

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Judy Bennett  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Date:

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Edward Morgan  
District Chairman  
Date: