

**SUFFOLK COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS'**  
**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**423 Griffing Avenue**

**Riverhead, New York 11901**

**February 13, 2020**

**Board of Director's in attendance:**

Rob Carpenter, Chairman - Grange/Farm Bureau  
Legislator Al Krupski – Legislative District 1  
Legislator Robert Calarco, Legislative District 7  
Brian Culhane – Member at Large

**Staff and Organizations in attendance:**

Corey Humphrey – SWCD District Manager  
Susan Odell-Pepe-SWCD Staff  
Ann Marie Calabro – SWCD Staff  
K. Shahinian – SWCD Staff

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m.

**Treasurer's Report presented by S. Odell-Pepe**

- The February 13, 2020 Treasurer's Report was presented and read to the Board of Directors.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to accept the February 13, 2020 Treasurer's Report as read; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum. Four of five board members were in attendance.
- The draft minutes of the January 2, 2020 Board of Directors meeting will be reviewed and motion for approval later in the meeting so that the Board has time to review the recent edits by the Chairman of the Board.

**District Report presented by District Manager C. Humphrey**

- The District has submitted to the Budget Office a conference attendance request to send two soil district technicians and one agronomist to the 2020 Water Quality Symposium in Syracuse, New York. The event will be held on March 10<sup>th</sup> through March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
- At last month's annual Organizational Meeting, There was a request to the Board of Directors consider creating a committee or sub-committee to help create a long-term plan for the District. It would be beneficial for the District to have a 5 to 10 year plan that would guide the District and lay the framework for expanding the organization, and lead to the SCSWCD's sustainable growth.
- Completed the NYSSWCC annual reports that are due on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Copies of the reports were circulated to the Board of Directors last week for review.

- The Suffolk County Soil and Water Conservation District Programs and Projects are being presented in a new layout in the District Report handout for your review and discussion.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the District Manager's Report; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.

#### USDA - NRCS Field Office Report – Liz Camps

- No report provided at this time.
- Brian Zimmerman has been hired to replace Allan Connell who retired in December 2019.
- Liz Camps was recently certified as a Conservation Planner.

#### Legislative Report presented by Legislator A. Krupski and Legislator R. Calarco

- Received an invitation from the East Cutchogue School sixth graders to attend the Family STEAM Night Wednesday March 4, 2020. The school will showcase student's STEAM activities K-6 students. The event will include the sixth graders current project they are working on in coordination with L.I.C.A.P.
- Coastal Erosion/Sea Level Rise Task Force meeting was held on Tuesday February 11, 2020. This is a one year term task force to address immediate needs from people who are issuing wetland and coastal erosion permits every day. There is a longer term plan being developed for sea level rise due to all the flooding that our area is currently experiencing.

#### C.C.E. - Ag. Stewardship Report presented by Deborah Aller

- It has been a busy time of year for Ag. Stewardship attending conferences and workshops.
- The January 2020 Agricultural Forum was successful with 430 attendees. Always looking for new topics to include in future Ag. Forums. We would appreciate any topics suggestions from our partnering agencies.
- Recently Nora Catlin held the 2020 Greenhouse and Floraculture Conference.
- Recently attended the NYS Producers Exposition and presented the study on Orchard Weed Management.
- Attended the L.I. Leader's Forum. Discussed the CCE Ag. Steward Program and the work we are doing with the District.
- Attended the final training session of the AFT Soil Health Specialist course.
- Joined the Cornell Climate Smart Farming Team which is a group looking to provide tools to farmers and others for mitigation and adaptation. Looking into doing a future field day on the topic.
- Planning is ongoing for the 2020 field day. The L.I. Horticulture Conference will be held on March 5, 2020 at Brookhaven National Lab. Will be doing a presentation on Landscapers Composting at the event.
- CCE Ag. Stewardship Program has a vacant position available for a Ag. Stewardship Technician. Additional information can be obtained on the CCE Website.

#### L.I.C.A.P. Representative Update presented by Brian Culhane

- The next L.I.C.A.P. meeting will be held on February 14, 2020. Topic of discussion will be reviewing and approval of the Commission's 2019 State of the Aquifer Report and Groundwater Resources Management Plan and 5 to 6 interim reports currently being worked on. Will update the board at the next meeting with detailed information about the L.I.C.A.P. meeting.

#### Chairman's Report presented by R. Carpenter

- Farm Bureau Lobby Days will be held on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 in Albany, NY advocating on issues and funding for agriculture including EPF Program funding, budget items related to Ag. Stewardship and other topics related to agriculture.
- N.Y.A.C.D. Lobby Days will also be held March 2<sup>nd</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 in Albany, NY and they will be working on Soil & Water District issues and policies.
- On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 the Horticultural Research Lab will be holding their annual Fundraiser at Digger O'Dells.
- Back in December 2019 met with the new staff member Lucy Shepard from the Rural Resources Commission based out of Senator's Mays district in the Syracuse, NY area. The commission is looking to do hearing accepting public comment and testimony about flooding issues in specific areas. Another concern is helping the Soil & Water Districts with additional funding for better resource management to help landowners with soil health to mitigate flooding or to help with stream bank restoration and other water ways. Another topic of focus will be the regulatory aspects of dealing with regulatory permitting with streams, ponds and rivers. We should be thinking about mitigation before the problem happens rather than dealing with the problem afterwards. Will be speaking at the hearing on February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 in Albany, NY.
- Focusing on the NYS Legislature's agenda for the review of the \$3 billion proposal for the Mother Nature Bond.
- Had the opportunity to meet with Steve Englebright who is an committee Assemblyman and Chairman of the Environmental Conservation Committee, Assemblyman Fred Thiele and Senator Kenneth LaValle to discuss compost problems. The legislators asked to come forth with language to address this problem. The requirement for test wells is only for Nassau and Suffolk County and is not statewide. We also discussed Deer Fence Funding.

#### Old Business:

- The Board of Directors approval by common consent the 2019 Audit Committee Report.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to amend the date of the November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board Meeting to November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. There is a conflict with the Suffolk County Legislators meeting which is being held on the same day as the board meeting; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.

New Business:

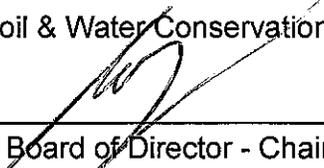
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve use of District unobligated funds to purchase items for the 2020 WQS silent auction and bucket raffle donation not to accede \$250.00; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the renewal of the Friends of LI Horticultural Research Lab Annual Membership Dues using the District's unobligated funds in the amount of \$300; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by common consent from the Board of Directors to approve the submission of the Annual Reporting to NYS SWCC.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to approve the submission of the Ag. NPS Rd. 26 Zero Leaching Nitrogen Grant Application; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the purchase of the Mill Creek 406 Model Row Mulcher with side discharge using District Part C funds the for purchase price up to \$10,000; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve K. Shahinian and District Manager C. Humphrey to develop and draft a memorandum of agreement with Hallockville Museum Farm, Sound Avenue, Riverhead to store the Soil HELP Farm Equipment; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

Executive Session:

- At 5:30 p.m. motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to go into executive session as per section 105 Part F of the open meetings law; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- At 5:36 p.m. motion made by B. Legislator A. Krupski to exit from executive session with no action taken; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 p.m.; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:36p.m.

Minutes transcribed by   
Susan L. Odell-Pepe  
Principal Account Clerk  
Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

Date: 3/12/2020

Approved by   
Rob Carpenter – Board of Director - Chairman  
Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

Date: 9/10/20