

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

423 Griffing Avenue
Riverhead, New York 11901

June 11, 2020

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://suffolkny.zoom.us/j/8431288555?pwd=aG1xc1RSTldCUE1TV3M2MEdmSVp0UT09>

Meeting ID: 843 128 8555 +1 (929) 436-2866 (New York)

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
Phil Schmitt – Farm Community Representative

Staff and Organizations in attendance:

Corey Humphrey – SWCD District Manager
S. Odell-Pepe-SWCD Staff
A.M. Calabro – SWCD Staff
K. Shahinian – SWCD Staff
S. Frost – SWCD Staff
E. Compagnone – SWCD Staff
D. Aller – Suffolk County C.C.E.
Liz Camps – USDA/NRCS

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum. All five Board Members were in attendance remotely. Let the record show all attendees joined the meeting remotely through Zoom Meeting App. The June 11, 2020 meeting is being recorded.
- The draft minutes of the May 14, 2020 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Motion made by P. Schmitt to accept the May 14, 2020 minutes as written, seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report presented by S. Odell-Pepe

The June 1, 2020 Treasurer's Report was presented and read to the Board of Directors.

- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to accept the June 1, 2020 Treasurer's Report as read; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.
- Chairman of the Board R. Carpenter requested the proposal for Ag. in the Classroom Grant Program requesting additional funding be taken out of order at the request of the presenter K. Shahinian.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve \$10,371.23 in additional funding for the Ag. in the Classroom Grant Program using NYS SWCC Part C funds. This additional funding will expand the program to allow three more schools to participate in the grant program; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

District Report presented by District Manager C. Humphrey

- SWCD is still out of the office and beholden to the USDA/NRCS standards for when they are opening each office since we are in their leased space. NRCS is re-evaluating each county office at the national level in DC. As long as an office hits the number of criteria they will start to phase in each office. Every Monday a new map is generating by USDA and circulated around marking which counties are scheduled to reopen.
- The district just recently received the green light to conduct field work for staff as well as obviously following PPE and CDC guidelines and social distancing. Recently circulated is a 4 page procedure document on how to request field work, how to reserve vehicles and specifically how we keep our public safe when going out to do field work.
- The Suffolk County 2021 Proposed SWC Dept. Operating Budget is due July 10, 2020. The County is requesting all departments to reduce their 2021 dept. operating budgets by 5% across the board. Over the next few weeks the District will be seeking guidance from the board on how to meet the requested budget cuts.
- At the May 2020 Board Meeting; Chairman R. Carpenter requested the District to prepare a report on how it solicits projects to the public. The District Manager presented the report at the June 2020 Board Meeting.
- In the June 2020 District Report has all the updates on the District Programs and Projects currently going on.
- Rd. 21 – The Nutrient Mgt. AgNPS Grant; There is still significant work to be done on this grant that's focused on developing Nutrient Mgt. Plans and in-kind match to be met.
- NYSDEC WQIP 2017 Project – The District has been notified by Town of Southold that the construction at S. Harbor Rd. (Southold) will commence shortly.
- AEM Base claim was recently submitted and accepted by NYSSWCC. \$43,000 in funds has been received by the SC SWCD.
- The Aquatic Coastal Connectivity Workshop has been postponed to tentatively September 2020.
- R.C.C.P. Program – A.M. Calabro is going to be taking a proficiency exam in the next couple of weeks rather than her training for final certification.
- Soil Health Initiatives – working closely with CCE to get more farm soil sampling taken care of.
- The Soil HELP Loan is continuing to schedule equipment reservations for the 2020 season. The district has been working with CCE to finalize the transfer of the Side Discharge Mulcher.

- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to accept the presented District Manger Report; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

U.S.D.A. – N.R.C.S. Field Office Report – Liz Camps

- U.S.D.A./N.R.C.S Riverhead office is still closed and will email out to partner agencies when going to Phase I reopening. U.S.D.A./N.R.C.S. is continuing to offer services and conducting offsite field visits. EWIP application deadline is July 17, 2021 and the AMA Program application deadline is 06/26/2021. No change to the Cost List in 2020. N.R.C.S. is looking to have the RCCP Program deadlines similar to the EWIP Program deadlines.

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

- Since the Suffolk County C.C.E. Sanitizer/P.P.E. Distribution Program started, C.C.E. has distributed 2,000 gallons of Hand Sanitizer and 550 Masks to 180 Ag. Producers in Suffolk County from their locations in Yaphank and L.I.R.E.C., Riverhead. Supplies are still available and request the partner agencies.
- L.I.R.E.C. looking to reopen home diagnostic lab accepting homeowner samplings for diagnostic testing. Ag. Stewardship Program continuing with the research, cover crop projects and on farm projects. Ag. Stewardship Program is continuing with field visits and working from home.
- Partnering with N.Y.S.D.E.C. on a Long Island Bay Kelp Project. The kelp grown would be distributed to farms to use as fertilizer.
- C.C.E. is looking again to partner with S.C. S.W.C.D. to host Field Days in the Fall of 2020.
- Erin Meyers the new Ag. Stewardship Program employee started first week in June 2020.

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

- Would like to discuss in detail topic under new business.

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

- Attended the June 11, 2020 L.I.C.A.P. Board meeting (web conference). L.I.C.A.P. contracted a consultant invoice was review, reducing invoice by \$1,000 in charges and approved by board.
- L.I.C.A.P approved and hired “Affirm Company” to do their website redesign.
- L.I.C.A.P. created a social outreach program called; “Our Water – Our Lives” and have interns working on the program.
- Discussion held on the Ground Water Resources Management Plan roll out and Long Island Ground Water Steering Committee will be meeting with the West Nassau Aquifer Committee to coordinate their efforts on regional water conservation.
- Looking for recommendation on the State of the Aquifer Report.

Chairman's Report presented by R. Carpenter

- Working on the U.S.D.A. C.F.A.P. (Corona Food Assistance Program) and the funding that is coming to agriculture through that program. Both for the commodity crops, specialty crops and aquaculture in the commercial fishing industry. There seems to be a little disconnect at the moment since most of the programs and most of the funding is geared for soybeans, cotton, wheat, livestock, minimal on dairy and very few on the specialty crops (fruits and vegetables). Many of the growers on Long Island and New York are actually not eligible for funding because of the type of commodities that they grow and have been working heavily on trying to get them included on the lists so they can apply for funding for losses. This particularly affects our wineries, duck farm which the district has done a lot of work on and especially our greenhouse growers that suffered tremendous losses in the spring when people weren't going out to buying plants.
- Attended the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program. Many of our shellfish growers have been doing some work through the R.C.P.P. Project and basically as a side benefit the oysters due help in cleansing the bay waters. It is an important program and Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program has been a vital part in getting the leases out to where the growers can grow shellfish in the Peconic Bay and Gardeners Bay. It is an important program in both environmentally and economically for the region.
- In reference to the N.Y.A.C.D.; have been asked to participate in a phone call with Senator May from the Syracuse Region and the Rural Resource Commission on C.A.F.O. (Concentrated Animal Feed Operations). Possibly there is an issue going on with an upstate farm and they reached out to the association to have some discussions about what it really involves and what the potential impacts are. I think it is important that the districts are involved in setting up C.A.F.O. and helping the farmer with the operations.
- Have been very supportive and attended two committee meetings for the Application for the Agricultural District Program. This year we had about 22 or 23 parcels entered into the program. I sit on the Ag. Protection Board as my role in the District as Chairperson and also sit on the C.E.Q. Committee (Council for Environmental Quality). The board reviewed the applications and all did eventually pass to be moved on to the S.C. Legislator's for public hearings.

Old Business:

- Agricultural Opportunities presentation presented by S. Frost
- SWCD Strategic Planning Committee – tabled to be discussed further at the July 2020 Meeting

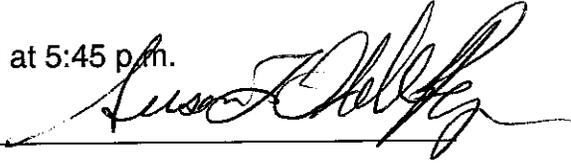
New Business:

- SWCD Reopening discussion
- Suffolk County 2021 Budget update
- SWCD Annual Financial Audit – Legislator A. Krupski to Head the Audit Committee

Executive Session:

- None
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by _____



Date: _____

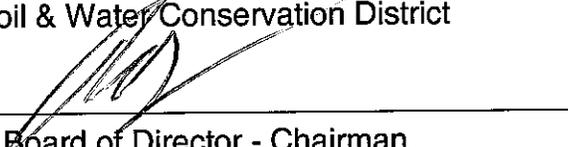
7/9/2020

Susan L. Odell-Pepe

Principal Account Clerk

Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

Approved by _____



Date: _____

9/10/20

Rob Carpenter – Board of Director - Chairman

Suffolk County Soil & Water Conservation District

