

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

423 Griffing Avenue

Riverhead, New York 11901

March 12, 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
Sharon Frost – SWCD Staff
Kailin Shahinian – SWCD Staff
Edward Compagnone – SWCD Staff

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum. Three of the five board members were in attendance. Legislator A. Krupski will be joining the meeting shortly. P. Schmitt will be away and will not be here today.
- The draft minutes of the January 2, 2020 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the January 2, 2020 minutes; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- The draft minutes of the February 13, 2020 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the February 13, 2020 minutes; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report presented by S. Odell-Pepe

- The March 12, 2020 Treasurer's Report was presented and read to the Board of Directors.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to accept the March 12, 2020 Treasurer's Report as read; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Let the record show Legislator A. Krupski joined the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

District Report presented by District Manager C. Humphrey

- reports were circulated to the Board of Directors for review.
- The District this year had 36 clients request Ag. Assessments for over 50 parcels in total. Over the next few months, we will be working with the local Tax Assessors to develop some outreach materials about agricultural exemptions. Our goal is to use this effort as a tool to communicate relevant information to the public and avoid the influx of request that we get every year right before the March 1st deadline for submission.
- The district has made the final payment for the Deer Fence Program. This was a popular program and hopefully in future NYS budgets we can get the funding reallocated to continue the program.
- Staff have been hard at work working on our grant opportunities specifically the AgNPS grants and the high efficiency irrigation grant. In addition, we have been working on closing out past grants that are open.
- Ann Marie has been working on the AEM Base Year Program round 15 close out and putting together the implementation cost share dollars for the AEM Base Year Program round 16.
- The district staff has discussed submitting an application for the AEM Leopold Conservation Award on behalf of Sang Lee Farms. The winner will be awarded \$10,000 and the district who submitted to application will receive \$1,000.
- The district has been working with Tetra-Tech to have an active role with respect to update Suffolk County's Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- District was awarded the 2019 NYS SWCC Part C funding of \$113,879.02 based on performance measures of the District Staff and the Board of Directors.

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

USDA - NRCS Field Office Report – Liz Camps

- No report provided at this time.

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

- At the upcoming S.C. Legislative Meeting on March 17, 2020 Legislator A. Krupski and Legislator R. Calarco will be reappointed to the S.C. S.W.C.D. Board of Directors.
- The County is current focusing on responding to the Corona Virus and in the coming days more information will be forth coming on procedures for departments and staff to follow going forward.

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

- We started the Soil Health Sampling Program for the 2020 season and have collected a few samples so far.
- Advised Kaitlin of a farmer who is interested in the Soil Health Equipment Program.

- Recently gave lectures on the benefits of composting and the NYS regulations on composting.
- Actively planning for the 2020 growing season with various projects.
- Have offered the Ag. Stewardship position to the selected candidate and if they take the position the tentative start date is the first week of April 2020.
- CCE has cancelled all virtual learning for the remainder of the season.

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

- L.I.C.A.P. approved of the Commission's 2019 State of the Aquifer Report and Groundwater Resources Management Plan. L.I.C.A.P. now is going to form working groups to work on various parts of the plan and what could be the impact on the district. I also pay close attention to the topics of discussion of the working groups that could have an impact on the district.
- The March 11, 2020 board meeting was cancelled.

Chairman's Report presented by R. Carpenter

- Was scheduled to testify at the Flood Hearing that Senator May put together in the Syracuse area. Only 7 people testified (myself, the NYSDEC and others).
- Attended Farm Bureau Lobby Days on March 2nd and March 3rd, 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 were also held March 2nd and March 3rd, 2020 in Albany, NY and they were working on Soil & Water District issues and policies.
- Attended last month's N.Y.S.D.E.C sponsored hearing on the Mother Nature Bond Act and are proposing a \$3 billion proposal.
- The Farm Bureau is currently working on the term of the nuisance permits.
- Composting issues being reviewed by Farm Bureau.

Old Business:

- Strategic Planning Committee – Chairman R. Carpenter requesting Board Member and District Manager to put together their thoughts on whom should be the participating members of the committee to be discussed at a future board meeting.

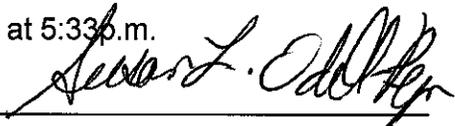
New Business:

- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to approve use of the District's S.C. Operating Budget to pay for the membership dues of NYACD for \$1,500 and NACD for \$1776 and any balance not covered by the District's S.C. Operating Budget will be taken from the District's unobligated fund balance; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried. Chairman of the Board R. Carpenter abstained from the vote since he is a NYACD Board Member.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to approve the submission of the grant application for the Covered Barnyard/Manure Storage Facility for the McCall Farms and the requested funding limit not to exceed \$220,000; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

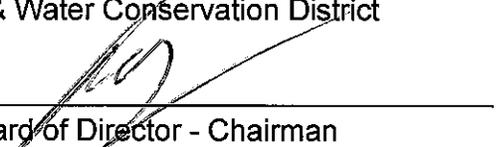
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the submission of the grant application for the Liquid Manure Waste Transfer Facility to improve Mecox Bay Water Quality and the requested funding limit not to exceed \$200,000; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the submission of the grant application for the AgNPS Rd. 26 Fuel Tank Replacement for the Protection of Suffolk's Drinking and Surface Waters and the requested funding limit not to exceed 20% more than the proposed budget of \$357,076.60; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the submission of the grant application for the High Efficiency Irrigation System for Mattituck Farm. The funding request of \$123,258.10; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.

Executive Session:

- None
- Motion made by B. Culhane to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 p.m.; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

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

Date: 9/10/20

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

Date: 9/10/20