

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

423 Griffing Avenue
Riverhead, New York 11901
November 14, 2019

Board of Director's in attendance:

Rob Carpenter, Chairman - Grange/Farm Bureau
Legislator Al Krupski, Legislative District 1 –Treasurer
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
Edward M. Compagnone - SWCD Staff
Deborah Aller – S.C. Cornell Cooperative Extension
Dave Mortensen – U.S.D.A. – N.R.C.S.

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum. Four of five board members were in attendance.
- P. Schmitt has been excused for a conference he has to attend and will not be attending the board meeting.

- The draft minutes of the October 10, 2019 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to accept the October 10, 2019 minutes, seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.

Treasurer's Report presented by S. Odell-Pepe

- The October 10, 2019 Treasurer's Report was reviewed.
Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the October 10, 2019 Treasurer's Report as read; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.

District Report presented by District Manager C. Humphrey

- **4 HR Erosion and Sediment Control Training** – In reference to last month's MOA that was signed with the Nassau District. We have our first joint venture on December 10th, 2019 being held at Old Bethpage Village Restoration. We are going to try to host these at least 4 to 5 times a year together. Try to get as many people signed up for the classes as possible as it is mandatory for contractors. Additionally in the 4 HR E.S.C. Trainings, again I was contacted by Tony Leung from (NYSDEC Region I – Division of Water) and Stony Brook University where he is an Adjunct Professor in the Masters Level of Engineering Sciences.

He requested that I come again this year to help him do 2 full classes specifically on E.S.C. in NYS. Again I committed to both days to help out Tony. Last year was great, I think we had 30 students and this year I think it is 35 students in this course. All graduate level engineering students in their senior year or just about ready to graduate going for their P.E. Essentially we are looking to go over regulatory procedures for permitting and best management practices specifically how to inspect your construction sites.

- The Agriculture in the Classroom Grant Program – So far to date this program has given out \$28,000 to local schools. We are looking to have a resolution under new business. Kaitlin Shahinian put together a grant proposal or is working on finalizing the grant proposal upwards of a \$100,000 for the USDA Farm to School Grant. Essentially expanding the outreach we currently have with Ag. in the Classroom.
- Aquatic Coastal Connectivity Workshop – Aquatic Coastal Connectivity Workshop which again we will touch on this a little bit later that has been put together by Ed. He has only been here three months so we are pretty impressed at the speed he is able to develop this proposal. Essentially we are looking to set up a workshop and train individuals to inspect these historic culverts throughout Suffolk County that has essentially been impeding and blocking the habit movement of digamous fish. We seek support from the board to organize and host a workshop to train local municipal, NGO and NPO participants on evaluating culverts for aquatic passage. We want to set up a network of trained individuals across the County to evaluate culverts in an effort to prioritize and remediate insufficient structures.
- Staff Training – We have had a number of staff trainings in the last month. Most notably I want to point out Mary Kerstetter from NRCS came down to visit us. I want to thank her again for making time for the full week to travel down here. She worked with A.M. Calabro working on conservation plans for one full day. Spent two full days with Ed, Kaitlin and myself going over WinPST as well as the Nine Steps of Conservation Planning.
- Agrochemical Mixing Facilities – Construction of One Women is just about completed. There are a handful of other aspects that she has to finalize on her installation before we can reimburse her. We have two other additional facilities that are in the survey and design phases and will not likely be starting construction until the spring if not later.
- Agriculture Non-Point Source Grants – Sharon is closing out two of our AgNPS Grants with Ben Luskin the AEA who we met at the September meeting. I was also notified by Ben that unfortunately we did not have any of our Rd. 25 applications funded. Sadly disappointing, however we are in the process of setting up a conference call with Sharon, myself and Ben to review the applications and understand why we did not rank higher than I think we should have compared to some of the other projects out there.
- 2017 NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Project – S. Harbor Road Remediation – We are working through the final revisions from Jenny Kohn for the MOA between the District and the Town of Southold to redo that road end on South Harbor Road. We are hoping to have

the M.O.A. done by December, so the Town of Southold can go out to bid and shop around for what they need for the project and we'll have construction started in the spring of 2020 and completed before Memorial Day.

- Deer Exclusion Fencing – We still have three remaining fences to be installed. We don't have additional funds after these last three. We're not likely going to see those three installed until after the season if not in the spring of next year.
- Resource Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – The RCPP is dependent on Ann Marie's Agronomist position which is dependent on her certification as a planner. We were anticipating that Ann Marie have her certification by December of 2019. We just got notification of the last week that the final course that she has to take is not going to be offered until June of 2020. However when Mary Kerstetter was here she reviewed both of Ann Marie's drafted plans. One she provided notes and was able to finalize it with Ann Marie. The second plan she'll work with remotely and provide any edits that she can for Ann Marie's final draft plan for certification. I was speaking with Liz Camps from USDA NRCS she mentioned the possibility of a waiver for that final course. We will follow up with Liz, Dave and Blake from upstate on the possibility of a waiver.
- Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) – EPF of 2016 –Sharon is working with Dan Briggs. We have two of the plans fully completed. There are three that are in progress and will be completed soon. We just went to contract on six additional vegetable farms that were bulked together in order to try to get the contract out to Dan Briggs so that we can complete the plans for those six additional farms before the contract expires.
- Long-Term Soil Health Testing w/CCE Ag Stewardship – Nothing new to report on Soil Health Testing. We will pick up again in the spring of 2020.
- Soil HELP – We are still sending out loaner equipment, but is starting to taper off now that the season is ending. We did just purchase Unverferths to upgrade the Zone Builder. Waiting to hear back from Kaitlin if they were installed. We anticipate they will be used heavily come spring 2020.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to accept the District Manager's Report; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.

USDA - NRCS Field Office Report – Dave Mortensen

- Discussed the revised Memorandum of Agreement between USDA, NRCS, NYS SWCC, and Suffolk County SWCD and answer questions on the new agreement. NRCS would like to have all agreements signed by the end of the year. Dave is requesting the District to review the MOA and if acceptable sign and return to USDA NRCS. Dave would be happy to answer any additional questions.

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

- Attended the Combating Climate Change: Solar Energy, Farming, and the Future of Solar Energy, Farming and the future in New York Conference. It was well attended and many questions were asked and new ideas were raised.

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

- Attended a 30 hour NYS Pesticide Training Class helping with presentations on various subject matter.
- Gave several presentations at the 5 week Arborist Certification Training Program at CCE Office in Nassau County.
- Attended the NYS Soil Specialist Training Workshop in the Kingston, NY area.
- Collected 20 soil samples from various farms for Fall Soil Health Testing Program using funding through American Farmland Trust. Testing was done on different commodity farms.
- November 2019 C.C.E. will present a poster on the Wood Chip Trials conducted at Wickham's Farm at Cornell University.
- Wrapping up field and research trials at the L.I.R.E.C. Lab.
- Currently applying for grant opportunities for 2020.
- The 2020 Ag. Forum will be held on January 8th and January 9th, 2020 and the event location is the Suffolk County Community College Eastern Campus.

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

- C. Humphrey attended the October 23rd, 2019 L.I.C.A.P. meeting in Nassau County.
- Attended the November 14th, 2019 L.I.C.A.P. meeting. Discussed the progress on the State of the Aquifer Report and should the report should be finalized by the end of November 2019. The report will be distributed on December prior to the Public Hearings which are scheduled for December 17th through December 19th, 2019. The L.I.C.A.P. Board is looking to vote on the State of the Aquifer Annual Report in the beginning of 2020.
- At the November 14th, 2019 L.I.C.A.P. meeting Suffolk County gave their presentation of the Sub-Water Shed Plan.

Chairman's Report presented by R. Carpenter

- Attended the October 23rd, 2019 N.Y.A.C.D. Annual Meeting. The president of the N.Y.A.C.D. Dan Errand stepped down last January 2019 and we have a new president Sam Casella from western New York. Was voted in at the annual meeting as the new 1st Vice President of the N.Y.A.C.D. Our resolution on the cost list was passed with little discussion.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the disbursement of district funds in the amount of \$2,000 to hold the Aquatic Coastal Connectivity Workshop in the spring of 2020 and to approve the submission of the grant application for the SWCD/NYS Ag & Markets

Community Resiliency Grant Program to reimburse the district for the Aquatic Coastal Connectivity Workshop and; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the submission of the grant application for the USDA FNS 2020 Farm to School Grant Program; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by B. Culhane to establish the SCSWCD 2020 meeting schedule that all board meetings are to be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month in 2020 with the except of the January 2020 board meeting to be held on January 2nd ,2020. Also that the January 2nd , 2020 meeting is designated as the S.C. S.W.C.D. Board of Directors Organizational Meeting; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to reappoint B. Culhane as Member at Large for the term period November 1, 2019 through 10/31/2022; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.

Executive Session: Entered Executive Session at 5:08 p.m.

- Motion made by Chairman R. Carpenter to go into executive session as per section 105 Part F of the open meetings law, seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m.; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

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

Date: _____

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

Date: _____