

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

**423 Griffing Avenue**  
**Riverhead, New York 11901**

**July 18, 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  
Phil Schmitt – Farm Community Representative  
Brian Culhane – Member at Large

**Staff and Organizations in attendance:**

Ann Marie Calabro – SWCD Staff  
Susan Odell-Pepe-SWCD Staff  
Corey Humphrey – SWCD District Manager  
Sharon Frost – SWCD Staff  
Deborah Aller – S.C. Cornell Cooperative Extension – unable to attend

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum. Four out of the five members were in attendance. Legislator R. Calarco will be joining the meeting shortly.
- The draft minutes of the June 13, 2019 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to accept the June 13, 2019 minutes, seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.
- Legislator R. Calarco joined the Board Meeting at 4:07 p.m.

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

- The July 18, 2019 Treasurer's Report was reviewed.  
Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to accept the July 18, 2019 Treasurer's Report as read; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

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

- Suffolk County 2020 SWC Operating Budget was submitted to the Budget Office on June 26, 2019.
- At the June 13, 2019 meeting the Board of Directors enacted a hiring committee to hold interviews for the vacant Soil District Technician Position. The committee met with eligible candidates and has selected Edward M. Compagnone. Edward accepted the position and will start this employment with the S.C. Soil & Water Conservation District on July 22, 2019.

- 2019 Farm Tire Recycling Program – District requesting additional funding to extend the program to accommodate for the tires that were not accounted for in the initial funding request.
- Soil HELP (Soil Health Equipment Loan Program) continues to gain popularity and providing producers an opportunity to implement on-farm BMP's.
- A.E.M. (Agricultural Environmental Mgt.) - One of the core functions of NYS Soil and Water Conservation Districts is to provide technical assistance, conservation planning assistance and BMP implementation to agricultural producers in Suffolk County. The AEM program is a program through the NYSSWCC that reimburses the District for time spent working through the AEM tier system to provide these critical services.
- Agriculture in the Classroom 2020 – Finishing up with our third year of this program, the Ag. in the Classroom grant program has awarded over \$20,000 of funds to start and enhance local school agriculture education programs. The SCSWCD will be applying for the 2020 Capt. Planet Foundation Grant to compliment the current funding for this program. We will be requesting the maximum award of \$25,000. The application opens this September and closes in December 2019.
- Soil Health & Pasture – The District has partnered with American Farmland Trust, Cornell Cooperative Extension and others to host a workshop focused on pasture land management. The event is scheduled to be hosted around the end of September or early October.

**1. Active Grants:**

- a. Agrochemical Mixing Facilities
  - b. Agriculture Non-Point Source Grants
    - i. Fuel Tank Replacements Rd 20, 21, 22, 24
    - ii. Integrated Pest Management & Sprayer Retrofits Rd 20
    - iii. Nutrient Management Planning Rd. 21
    - iv. Nutrient Recycling (ebb and flow system) Rd. 24
  - c. NYSDEC Water Quality Improvement Projects
    - i. 2017 South Harbor Road Remediation
  - d. Deer Exclusion Fencing
  - e. Agricultural Environmental Planning (multiyear)
  - f. Resource Conservation Partnership Program (R.C.P.P.)
  - g. Environmental Protection Fund (E.P.F.)
  - h. Soil Health Testing
  - i. Soil Health Equipment Loan Program (Soil H.E.L.P.)
  - j. Farm Tire Recycling
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- 4 Hour NYSDEC Endorsed Erosion and Sediment Control Training
  - Municipal Assistance
  - Staff Training

Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the District Report; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.

## USDA - NRCS Field Office Report – Liz Camps – Unable to attend

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

- C.E.Q. has received the draft environmental impact statement for the County's Sub-Watershed Plan. The committee is currently reviewing report and will be drafting their comments regarding the report.

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

- B. Culhane attended the June 20, 2019 L.I.C.A.P. General Meeting. L.I.C.A.P. did release the outreach and advertising campaign which can be viewed on their website. On July 31, 2019 L.I.C.A.P. is starting the process to draft the L.I.C.A.P. Report. The report submission deadline is December 2019 and then will go to public hearing for comments. L.I.C.A.P. General Meeting will be held on September 12, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Suffolk County Water Authority Education Center, 260 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, NY.

### C.C.E. - Ag. Stewardship Report presented by Deborah Aller – Unable to attend

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

Currently I am working with the Regional Economic Development Council and the Natural Assets Work Group and we are in the process of drafting a report for inclusion into the overall regional report to talk about historic parks, tourism, agriculture and aquaculture industries here on Long Island. The agricultural section and plan will cover a number of ideas about funding requests and one of the items I have looked at is possible funding for Deer Fence from the regional economic development council as well as if there is a need or at least mentioning the equipment lease program and see if they might be willing to fund us if there is another piece or two of equipment that the district might want to obtain. There's a number of other things, but doesn't pertain here which would be possible funding for Ag. worker housing, help economically for farmers to do business plan reviews, as well as marketing money to market the region a little bit more to highlight some of our other Ag. components (wineries, farm stands and breweries) on Long Island.

- On July 18, 2019 joined Legislator Hahn to tour Long Island Horticultural Research Lab, Phil Schmitt's Farm and Harbes Farm. Topics of discussion were Ag. Environment Mgt., Nutrient Mgt. Plans, needs of farmer's to be able to spray and protect their crops from pest infestations and invasive species.
- Toured the Agri-Tech Center in Geneva, New York. Met with researcher's that are dealing with the apple industry and how they are trying to be in front of pest problem mitigation. Visited the trial fields of Hemp for CBD Oil and discussed the economics of growing Hemp Oil. Lastly visited the food processing facility which works with small processors to help better refine how their product is made.
- On July 18, 2019 attended East Hampton Town Board Meeting on proposed legislation requiring a farmer to plant a cover crop and/or have a mechanism to keep the soil on the farm.

### Old Business:

- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the hiring committee's selection to hire Edward M. Compagnone as the candidate to fill the vacant permanent soil district technician position; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the provisional appointment of Kaitlin Shahinian to the position of District Soil Technician; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.
- Let the record show Legislator A. Krupski and P. Schmitt recused themselves from voting on the additional funding for the 2019 Farm Tire Recycling Program. The voting members will be Legislator R. Calarco, R. Carpenter and B. Culhane.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to approve the additional funding request of \$11,568 for the 2019 Farm Tire Recycling Program to cover the cost of three more tractor trailer containers for old farm tire disposal; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- By common consent the matter of the Soil H.E.L.P. additional equipment insurance has been closed with no action taken.

### New Business:

- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to approve the authorization of the District to go forward with the applications for NYSSWCC AgNPS Rd. 25; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the term extension of the NYSSWCC AgNPS Rd. 21 with CCE for Tissue Sampling; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the District Manager to hold an E.S.C. Training Class in calibration with Nassau County S.W.C.D. on August 13, 2019 at the same rate and the same stipulations as per Resolution 2017-19; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to approve the disbursement of district funds in the amount of \$2,000 for the Soil Health & Pasture Workshop is hosted by District, Suffolk County C.C.E. and American Farmland Trust; seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by Legislator R. Calarco to approve the authorization of the District to go forward with the submission of the application for the NYSDEC WQIP – Stone Brook University - Lake Ronkonkoma Benthic Exchange Study; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.

### Executive Session: None

- C.C.E. Building Update – The County is going to invest apx. \$450,000 to replace the air handlers (HVAC System) in the C.C.E. building.
- Motion made by P. Schmitt to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 p.m.; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

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

Date: 9/10/19

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

Date: 9/12/19