

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

423 Griffing Avenue
Riverhead, New York 11901

May 9, 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
Phil Schmitt – Farm Community Representative

Staff and Organizations in attendance:

Ann Marie Calabro – SWCD Staff
Susan Odell-Pepe-SWCD Staff
Kaitlin Shahinian – SWCD Staff
Deborah Aller – S.C. Cornell Cooperative Extension
Corey Humphrey – SWCD District Manager
Liz Camps – U.S.D.A. - N.R.C.S.

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum. Three out of the five members were in attendance. Legislator R. Calarco and P. Schmitt will be joining the meeting shortly.
- Chairman R. Carpenter recommended that the April 11, 2019 minutes be reviewed and approved at the end of the meeting. Due to the late release of the transcribed minutes the board members were not given sufficient time to review the minutes for any necessary edits.

Treasurer's Report presented by S. Odell-Pepe

- The May 9, 2019 Treasurer's Report was reviewed.
Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the May 9, 2019 Treasurer's Report as read; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.

District Report presented by District Manager C. Humphrey

- Suffolk County 2020 SWC Operating Budget
- NRCS-USDA – Personnel Changes – Allan Connell will be rejoining NRCS by the end of April 2019.
- The new NYSSWCC Southeast Regional Coordinator is Ben Luskin. Jennifer Clifford has taken a new position with the NYS Climate Resilient Farming Program.

- 2019 Agriculture in the Classroom has hand delivered 4 of the 5 checks to this year's participants.
- 2019 Envirothon was a success even though we had rain showers.
- Agriculture Mixing Facility – a participant in the program has started the construction for their approved agriculture mixing facility.
- Deer Fence Grant Program – NYSSWCC approved the requested grant program extension. Four participants left to complete the installation process for cost reimbursement.
- AEM Annual Action Plan update

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. 2016 Soil Health Guide and Workshops
 - ii. 2017 South Harbor Road Remediation
- d. Deer Exclusion Fencing Agricultural Environmental Planning (multiyear)
- e. Resource Conservation Partnership Program
- f. Environmental Protection Fund
- g. Soil Health Testing
- h. Soil Health Equipment Loan Program (Soil H.E.L.P.)

2. 4 Hour NYSDEC Endorsed Erosion and Sediment Control Training

- Held a NYSDEC 4 Hour Erosion and Sediment Control Training April 4, 2019

3. Municipal Assistance

- On a regular basis the District receives technical assistance requests from the public in addition to several I & E requests from municipalities such as the Town of Southold, Sound Beach Community and the others. On average, the District receives between 3-5 requests per month to inventory and evaluate resource concerns associated with a specific project.

4. Staff Training, Planner Certification

- Over the next months, District staff will participate in several intense trainings. These trainings provide opportunities for staff to earn credit towards becoming a NRCS Certified Planner as well as prepare them to provide technical assistance to Suffolk County. Training topics include Prescribed Grazing, NRCS Toolkit, and NRCS NY Guide to Developing Conservation Plans among others.

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

- Let the record show that P. Schmitt and Legislator Calarco joined the board meeting at 4:18 p.m.

USDA - NRCS Field Office Report – Liz Camps

- Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Urban Conservation Program in on the works
- In the next few weeks Allan Connell will be back working for NRCS-USDA in the Riverhead office.

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

- Suffolk County CCE Building update - S.C. Cornell Cooperative Extension is currently staffing the front desk door coverage on Monday's. Will keep the board updated as the information becomes available on the front desk door coverage.
- Attended the Fuel Tank Amnesty Program conference call. An estimated 130 growers have not taken advantage of the Fuel Tank Amnesty Program. The Board is requesting the District Manager Corey to discuss this matter with S. Frost who is running the program. To review the current strategy on outreach and how it could be improved to get the estimated 130 growers to take advantage of this grant program. Also to prepare and submit a report on results of the current outreach to sign up the 130 growers who haven't taken advantage of the grant program.
- On May 8, 2019 attended the Council of Environmental Quality Meeting. The board is requesting the district staff attend a C.E.Q. meeting and give a scheduled ½ hour speech on what the district and partner agencies do in protecting the aquifer, nitrogen reduction and storm water management.

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

- May 1, 2019 meeting postponed until May 29, 2019.
- Next general meeting is to be held on June 20, 2019 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; located at S.C. Water Authority Education Center, 260 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge, N.Y. 11788.

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

- D. Aller had to leave early and the next C.C.E. report will be at the June 13, 2019

Chairman's Report presented by R. Carpenter

- April 25, 2019 attended the Farm Labor Hearing for the proposed Farm Labor Bill. Would like to acknowledge the Southold Town Board that sent in a letter of opposition and resolution, Riverhead Town Supervisor sent a representative to speak at the hearing, and Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine sent in a letter in support of the farmers as well. Also the Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone sent in a letter of support for the farmers

- Attended Fuel Tank Amnesty Program conference call
- The Regional Economic Development Council has opened up their round of funding and the applications are due the end of July 2019. Empire State Development has reached out to me directly regarding this funding source. Last summer Empire State Development joined a tour visiting several the Peconic Land Trust Capital Grant Programs site locations here on the island. The Board suggests that the District and CCE which are partnering in the District Equipment Lease Program look into the potential future funding opportunities for the current program.
- Asked to join the Natural Assets Working Group and to hold the position of Co-Chairman of the board.
- Old Business:
2018/2019/2020 Suffolk County Operating Budget – Revenue Actual & Future - Tabled

New Business:

- Fuel Tank Amnesty Program Conference call

Executive Session: none

- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the April 11, 2019 transcribed minutes; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried.
- Motion made by P. Schmitt to adjourn the meeting at 5:41 p.m.; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried.
- Meeting adjourned at 5:41 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: _____