

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

**423 Griffing Avenue**  
**Riverhead, New York 11901**  
**September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**Board of Director's in attendance:**

Rob Carpenter, Chairman - Grange/Farm Bureau  
Legislator Al Krupski – Treasurer - Legislative District 1  
Legislator Robert Calarco, Legislative District 7  
Phil Schmitt – Farm Community Representative  
Brian Culhane – Member at Large

**Staff and Organizations in attendance:**

Corey Humphrey – SWCD District Manager  
S. Odell-Pepe-SWCD Staff  
A.M. Calabro – SWCD Staff  
S. Frost – SWCD Staff  
E. Compagnone – SWCD Staff  
K. Shahinian – SWCD Staff  
B. Luskin – AEA NYSDAM

- Chairman R. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 4:13 p.m.
- Chairman R. Carpenter declared a quorum. Three of the five directors present. Let the record show Legislator R. Calarco and Legislator A. Krupski will be joining the meeting shortly. The meeting was held in person and all in attendance are socially distancing as per NYS and CDC guidelines. The September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting is being recorded.
- The draft minutes of the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Board of Directors meeting were reviewed. Motion made by B. Culhane to accept the August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 minutes as written, seconded by P. Schmitt; none opposed; motion carried. Roll call 3/0

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

- The September 1, 2020 Treasurer's Report was presented and read to the Board of Directors.
- Let the record reflect that Legislator A. Krupski has joined the meeting.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to accept the September 1, 2020 Treasurer's Report as written; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried. Roll call 4/0

- Let the record show Legislator R. Calarco joined the meeting while Corey was presenting his district manager report.

District Report presented by District Manager C. Humphrey

- We are standardizing procedures or protocols in house. We're looking to provide a base for how we advertise, prioritize, develop, write our grants and secure grants to focus on what we do when it comes to planning and implementation of added practices. All these efforts will create a reference guide on how we operate this district, not just for new staff coming in, but so it's clearly laid out of how we prioritize our programs.
- Performance Measures: We are above and beyond where we need to be in performance measures. There are one or two small aspects changes at the State level due to COVID made it easier for districts and district boards to meet the performance measures this year. All the projects we have had been laid out with their monthly updates from the staff's project reports.
- Our NYS DEC Ag. Handling Facility Contract has been extended and awaiting the fully executed contract extension. Ag. NPs Grants, specifically Rd. 21; we are working on creating two conservation plans in order to meet the match required by the grant contract. We are on track to make sure we're finished with this before the holiday season starts.
- The 2017 WQIP Program; this is a pass through grant with the Town of Southold. Town of Southold has advised the district that the timing and scope of the project has been changed. The District is going back to the NYS DEC to revise the plan a second time. The requested revision includes not just a term change, but a scope change as well. Instead of having a road in build, we're looking to disconnect three or four outfall pipes for even water flow coming near Richmond Creek.
- The 2016 EPF Program; we had some discussions in the last 60 days on how we're going to reallocate some of the remaining funds for implementation.
- RCPP: We are working with Peconic Land Trust's, Jesse Marcus and Dan Heston to source out farms who are interested in conservation planning and who also fall within the Peconic Bay Watershed. A.M. Calabro notified the District today she passed the final equivalency exam.
- Ag. in the Classroom: All the payments went out to the schools this year.
- The Farm Tire Recycling Program had a pickup in July and August yielding 181 passenger tires, 48 truck tires and 19 large tractor tires.
- We're hosting a Soil Health Webinar Series in conjunction with CCE. Kaitlin Shahinian and Deb Aller are working together to set up this soil health webinar series. There will be a new topic for the next four months. August 27<sup>th</sup> focus was on cover crops. The next webinar is on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and will be showcasing some of the equipment we have in our soil health program. The October and November webinars dates have yet to be determined. All the webinars are free of charge.
- Before we take a vote on approving the district managers report, let the record reflect that Legislator R. Calarco has joined the meeting.
- Motion made by Legislator A. Krupski to accept the District Manager's Report as presented; seconded by B. Culhane; none opposed; motion carried. Roll call 4/0

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

- U.S.D.A./N.R.C.S. – Currently no update this month

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

- DPW did a great job on the building updates.
- Recently had the pleasure of meeting with Vanessa Lockel the new Executive Director of Suffolk County CCE. They have every indication of moving back in the CCE Building at some point and that's on their schedule. So we'll see where it goes from there.
- During the meeting for Town of Southold I mentioned the Storm Water Project at the end of South Harbor that kind of ties in with the County's MS4 Program because it is in the process of eliminating all of their outfalls in an effort to get out of the MS4 Program. It's something we should be looking at also and certainly something that I know CCE administers the MS4 program for Suffolk County which they've been working on implementing outfalls for decades.
- Thank you very much Ann Marie, it's going to be a big big help for the District.
- The Article Six Amendment was before the Legislative yesterday and tabled. There were some concerns about the potential impact for homeowners who are simply doing renovations adding a bedroom, that I think they're going to try to work through those concerns between now and the next cycle in October and have a resolution to release water septic system regulations for Suffolk County and specifically the moving towards requiring the alternative wastewater systems that reduce nitrogen discharge.

## C.C.E. - Ag. Stewardship Report presented by C. Humphrey in the absence of D. Aller

- CCE Suffolk has a new Executive Director, Vanessa Lockel. She began on September 1<sup>st</sup> and we're excited to have her! More information about her background and previous experiences is below for those that would like to learn more.
- Long Island Soil Health Virtual Field Days. These are on-going and are a collaboration between CCE Ag Stew and SCSWCD. The first was on August 27<sup>th</sup> and discussed cover crops, roots, and soil health. Debbie Aller discussed summer cover crops species for Long Island and Joseph Amsilli presented on cover crop roots and soil health. We had 32 attendees and received a lot of positive feedback. The presentations were recorded and are available on YouTube.

The next field day is planned for September 24<sup>th</sup>, 4:30-5:30p.m. and will discuss the Soil HELP and Soil Health Testing Program. Presenters are K. Shahinian and D. Aller.

A 3<sup>rd</sup> virtual field day will take place on October 21<sup>st</sup> from 4:30-6:00 p.m. and will discuss compost and soil amendments. Speakers have not been finalized, but included Amy Lagner, Olga Vargas and Liz Camps from NRCS.

- August was a busy month for research and on-farm trials. Data collection and harvests are still on-going and will wrap up this month.
- Fall Soil Health Samples: Debbie and Kaitlin plan to collect soil health samples from 4 farms this fall (starting next week). This will bring the total farms receiving soil health testing in 2020

to 15 farms (11 farms sampled in Spring). Debbie will begin going over test reports with farmers this fall/winter and hopes to involve Kaitlin/Ann Marie/Liz into the discussion.

- Additionally, a folder has been created between CCE, NRCS and SWCD to share Soil Health test reports so they can be used to assist and compliment other program efforts (eg. Writing of NMPs and EQIP program opportunities).
- CCE is coming back to Griffing Ave. (soon). As work on the HVAC system wraps up it is looking more and more likely that CCE will be moving back into the building sometime after Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.
- Virtual Ag Forum Planning is on-going. It will be held over 3 days (Jan. 5,6,7, 2021). Sessions will be 2hr blocks. DEC credits will still be offered for relevant sessions. Cost is \$40 to attend. If you have any ideas for general session topic ideas, please let me know. Some ideas being considered include: managing social media platforms, and farming in a changing climate. There will be a separate session devoted to labor and workforce development

#### L.I.C.A.P. Representative Update

- Scheduled meeting date on the calendar was a tentative date and no meeting was held. No additional information to report at this time
- The next L.I.C.A.P. Board of Directors Meeting has not been scheduled and will advise the board as more information becomes available.

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

- NYACD of which I serve on the board; have decided to do their annual meeting virtually as well Will keep the board and district staff apprised as more information is forthcoming.
- I also serve on the Suffolk County Aquaculture Lease Program Review Committee. They're working through a lot of issues related to managing the program. CCE were recently out on the water for a day or two getting a visual eye on the sites to see what's going on and pinpoint any problems with the program.
- I've been contacted by two separate senators that want to come down to Long Island for a farm tour to learn about agriculture. Senate Minority Leader from Niagara Falls, said he wants to come and get a feel for Long Island agriculture. Phil Schmitt has graciously agreed to host us and we're going to have a round table discussion to talk about the practices and issues affecting agriculture. The second tour is with the Minority Leader of the Senate Ag. Committee, who also wants to take a tour to learn a little more about our specific issues. Thank you to Dan and Phil for hosting these visits

#### Old Business:

None

#### New Business:

- Motion made by B. Culhane to approve the NYS SWCC Part B Proposal for the 2021 Ag. in the Classroom \$6,000; seconded by Legislator R. Calarco; none opposed; motion carried; Roll call 5/0
- Motion made by P. Schmitt to authorize the District to complete the Progressive Growers Inc. credit application and in addition authorizes the District to pay the invoices promptly from the District checking account unobligated balance to forgo any interest or late payment charges; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried; Roll call 5/0
- Cost Share Discussion
- Sharon Frost announced she will be retiring and her last day with the District is September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- Ben Luskin from NYSDAM gave a presentation to the Board of Director's and topics of discussion: Ag. Nps Grant Closeouts and site visits, new policies for district record retention, other District related programs and policies and State Committee's next meeting is on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. and is still will be a WebEx so your all invited to join the meeting. Please see Corey for further details to access the meeting through WebEx.

Executive Session:

- None
- Motion made by B. Culhane to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 p.m.; seconded by Legislator A. Krupski; none opposed; motion carried. Roll call 5/0
- Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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

Date: 10/16/2020

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

Date: 10/8/20

