



**MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
January 18, 2024  
Regular Board Meeting**

**Present:** Ric Barnes - Chairman  
Allen Hough - Vice Chairman  
Charlie Pace - Non-farming Public Representative  
TJ Stokes – County Legislator  
Jim Cunningham – County Legislator  
Amy Hayduke - District Clerk/Treasurer  
Steve Lorraine, District Manager  
Donna Purdy, FSA

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Minutes were emailed to the board in advance for review. A motion was made by Allen, seconded by Jim to approve the December 2023 minutes. Motion carried.

**3. Treasurer's Report – Amy Hayduke**

Bills to Be Paid - A motion made by Allen, seconded by Charlie to approve payment of outstanding bills. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the December 2023 report as presented was made by TJ and seconded by Allen. Motion carried.

**4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine**

Jess has been meeting with our CAFO clients and updating their plans accordingly.

Joann is working on BMP verification and Data collection with the USC.

Joann and Amy continue working on the tree sale as the order form is out and orders are coming in.

Joann is working on the AEM Yr17 closeout for the state.

Tom had been soil sampling for both CAFO and non-CAFO CNMP's but the weather has now shut that down.

Tom has been assisting Jess with Nutrient Management Planning.

Tom has been assisting Andy and Carl with surveys on projects still to be designed.

Tom and Andy have been assisting multiple landowners and municipalities with shoreline and stream disturbance permits.

Andy is working on a design for a covered barnyard project at a farm in Nelson.

Andy is working on a stream stabilization project on Creek Rd in Sullivan.

Tom and Andy are working on a flood mitigation project on Vrloyrek Rd in Georgetown.

Andy oversaw completion of the covered barnyard and covered manure storage at a farm in Hubbardsville.

Andy and Steve are working on ranking projects for 2024 flood mitigation funding.

Andy, Tom and Troy oversaw completion of a grazing system at a farm in Lebanon that included an access road, fence, pond construction for water source and a buffer system with cattle exclusion.

Troy completed recycling an old fence project, to be reused on a project this summer.

Troy has been completing a couple new grazing plans for farms in the county.  
Troy has been assisting with the WQS training to be held in Syracuse in March.  
Carl oversaw completion of a covered barnyard and covered laneway at a farm in Cazenovia.  
Carl is finishing up the design for a covered barnyard at a farm in Eaton.  
Carl is working on designs for 2 manure storages at a farm in Lebanon.  
Carl and Tom are completing Ag Assessments as they come in.  
Amy and Steve are working on Annual reports due to the state and county and will have them finished up and submitted on time.  
Amy and Steve are working on multiple AGNPS grant closeouts.  
Steve continues to work with regional planning on development of the Oneida Lake 9E plan.  
Amy and Steve met with our insurance representative to review policies and are waiting to hear back.  
We have been developing a list of projects for the RD 18 AEM Tier 4 funding and will have a ranked list available for review at the February meeting.  
Steve will be meeting with Planning and county Health Department next week to discuss a possible septic program on Cazenovia Lake – DEC funding.  
Steve reviewed a few finished projects with the board, including 3 barnyards, a storage, a grazing project, and a pond project with alternative water source.  
The ranking system now includes consideration of the landowner's management and maintenance of past projects.  
We started a recycling program for fencing that we installed in the past that farmers no longer need/use and want removed. We will remove and re-use the fencing on other projects.  
Steve continues to work with multiple municipalities on FEMA reimbursements from the 2019 storm.  
An article from Country Folks was passed around. The article was written by Troy and was about the Appreciation Luncheon we held in December.  
Carl is at a surveyors training class today (Jan 18).

#### **5. FSA – Donna Purdy**

The Farm Bill has been extended 1 year. They will be expecting a new Farm Bill at the end of this year.  
They are slowly rolling out approvals and appropriations. Right now, they are doing ARCPLC sign ups.  
Donna is expecting that the 2024 Dairy Margin contract sign ups will start sometime in February.  
They are talking about another continuing resolution until March 1<sup>st</sup>. Passed the senate, has to go to the House.  
Waiting for DMC  
Just authorized CRP for continuous sign up, which would be the water quality portion.  
Authorized Forest Management Incentive Program, where producers that put their land in CRP can get forest management practices money for cost-share.

#### **6. NRCS – No report, no-one present.**

#### **7. CCE – No report, no-one present.**

#### **8. Committee Reports**

**SWCC** – January 2024 report from Scott Fickbohm was included in the member packets. Steve reviewed some points from the newsletter:  
State Aid to District, Steve and Amy working on currently  
AEM base Joann working on  
RD 29 AgNP and RD 7 CRF plans work, Steve has submitted plans for the 6 different grants we were awarded.  
January state committee meeting has been canceled.  
Steve sits on the new state Advisory Committee and meets as needed to review proposals for projects and policies.  
Water Quality Symposium – Annual training for officers was discussed and the class schedule was passed around.  
**County** – TJ reported that there is a new Chairman, John Pinard.

TJ is a member of the county Finance Ways and Means and Jim is a member of the Planning Committee. Jim discussed the state budget. Steve noted increases in grant program funding from the state. The county is looking at alternative plans for the landfill operations issue.

## 9. NYACD

- NACD Climate-Smart Commodities grant program was discussed.
- Jim reported that he is no longer on the NYACD board.
- The upcoming 2024 NYACD Legislative Days were discussed.
- The Solar resolution that we submitted was passed.

## 10. CDEA

- National 2024 Invoice – Jim made a motion to decline payment of the invoice, TJ seconded. Motion carried.
- Water Quality Symposium was covered earlier in the meeting. Steve noted that all of the SWCD employees are attending at least 1 class.

## 11. Old Business

- Envirothon Invoice was discussed. Motion to table by Jim, Seconded by Charlie. Motion carried.
- Employee Handbook review. A motion was made by Jim to rescind last month's motion for a floating holiday, the motion was seconded by TJ. Motion carried unanimously. A motion to allow the Juneteenth holiday to be added to the employee handbook was made by TJ, seconded by Charlie. Motion was carried with a 4:1 vote.
- Review of district policies – Technical Policy was reviewed. A motion was made by Jim to update the Technical Policy, increasing the technician rate to match what the state charges. The motion was seconded by Allen. Motion carried.  
The Pond Policy was also reviewed. Steve passed around a proposed update. (attached) Charlie made a motion to update our policy to the proposed policy. Jim seconded. Motion carried.
- NBT Bank Collateral Account – waiting for an update from the bank.
- (Additional, not on agenda) Spectrum now offers fiber internet to our building. The cost for the lowest plan is \$320/month. Amy and Steve are continuing to research options.

## 12. New Business

- CROPWARE purchase – Cropware is the only available software acceptable by DEC that will organize our Nutrient Management Planning files as needed. A motion was made by Ric to purchase Cropware single seat online access for the 2024-year. Seconded by TJ. Motion carried.
- (Additional, not on agenda) 2024 Cowaseleon Creek sealed bids were discussed. A motion to accept the lowest bid was made by Jim, seconded by Allen. Motion carried.
- (Additional, not on agenda) WQCC Savings account was discussed. The interest rate is low. A motion to close the account 5487 was made by TJ and seconded by Allen. Motion carried. A motion to authorize Amy to open a new high-yield savings account for the Water Quality Committee funds was made by TJ, seconded by Charlie. Motion carried.

## 13. Organizational

### *Election of Officers-*

TJ motioned to have Amy Hayduke continue as Secretary/Treasurer to the Madison County SCWD Board of Directors. Jim seconded and the motion carried.

*Therefore, be it Resolved; Amy Hayduke has been re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer of the Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors.*

A motion to appoint Amy as the Records Management Officer was made by Jim, seconded by Ric. Motion carried.

*Therefore, be it Resolved; Amy Hayduke has been appointed the Records Management Officer of the Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors.*

The secretary casted one ballot for the existing slate of officers. With no other nominations, TJ motioned to have the Ric Barnes appointed as Chairman and Allen Hough as Vice-Chairman. Jim seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

*Therefore, be it Resolved; Ric Barnes has been re-elected as Chairman of the Madison County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors with Allen Hough re-elected as Vice Chairman.*

***Schedule of Meetings-***

A motion was made by TJ for Madison County SWCD Board of Directors meeting be held the third Thursday of each month at 7pm for the months of April, May, June, July, August, September, and October and the third Thursday of each month at 12pm for the months of January, February, March, November and December. The motion was seconded by Jim and carried unanimously.

*Therefore, be it Resolved; Madison County SWCD Board of Directors meetings will be held the third Thursday of each month at 7pm and 12pm respectfully.*

***Resolution of Monthly Expenses***

Allen motioned the board to approve a list of monthly expenses, when due to avoid interest and penalties and with respect to the District Managers authorization. Ric seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously. Resolution #139

***Designation of Newspaper-***

A motion was made by Charlie to designate Oneida Dispatch as Madison County SWCD newspaper to publish notices and other materials. The motion is seconded by Allen and carried unanimously.

*Therefore, be it Resolved; Madison County SWCD has designated Oneida Dispatch as their official newspaper.*

***Designation of Bank***

A motion was made by Charlie and seconded by Allen to continue using NBT Bank as the official bank for Madison County SWCD.

*Therefore, be it Resolved; Madison County SWCD has designated NBT Bank as their official bank.*

**14. Next Meeting**

February 15, 2024, at noon.

**15. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn made by Charlie, seconded by TJ. The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm.



Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 01/18/2024