



MADISON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 29, 2024
Regular Board Meeting

Present:

- Ric Barnes - Chairman
- Allen Hough - Vice Chairman
- Charlie Pace - Non-farming Public Representative
- TJ Stokes – County Legislator
- Amy Hayduke - District Clerk/Treasurer
- Steve Lorraine, District Manager
- Sarah Rosenthal, CCE
- Tess Southern, CCE

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barnes called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes were emailed to the board in advance for review. A motion was made by Allen, seconded by Charlie to approve the February 2024 minutes. Motion carried.

3. Treasurer's Report – Amy Hayduke

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

A motion to approve the February 2024 report was made by Charlie and seconded by TJ. Motion carried.

4. Manager's Report – Steve Lorraine

- We are finishing up numerous designs.
- Several projects are out to bid. Some bids are back but not all.
- Jess has been meeting with all of the CAFO farms to get their annual reports filed. The reports will be filed today. Jess and Steve met with David Livermore to sign the reports because he was the Planner of Record for 2023. With Jess taking over the CAFO planning, we must complete Change of Operation forms for all CAFO's.
- Tree Sales – we are sold out of most species. Pick up will be April 18th. CCE will set up a table with their Master Gardeners for customer advice.
- USC project, Urban Nutrient Management (lawns) – they are trying to get credit wherever possible in the model. Steve would like to set up at the tree sale and offer a \$50 gift certificate for anyone who lives in the Susquehanna Watershed and is willing to fill out a pledge card. The USC will reimburse us for the gift certificate. There were no objections from the board. We will also distribute to some townships.

5. FSA – No report, no one present.

6. NRCS

Steve met with the active regional chief. Evan and Steve put together an application for a potential work agreement. They are currently reviewing it.

7. CCE – Sarah Rosenthal

The March report was sent in advance and included with the member packets. (attached)

A question from a board member was asked about what the DEC credits are for – Sarah and Tess believe it is for Advanced Sweet Corn/ Specialty Crop. They will verify and send information.

8. Committee Reports

SWCC – March 2024 report from Scott Fickbohm was included in the member packets. Steve reviewed some points from the newsletter: AEM Leopold Conservation Award is looking for nominations; It looks like there will be additional funding coming from Ag & Markets for the Ag Non-point specific to green-house gas production projects. It is currently out for public comment.

County – TJ reported that as of right now, the landfill is going to stay with the county.

The application for the windmill project is in the 94 C level. This is the public comment time.

Soil & Water was mentioned favorably at the Finance Ways & Means meeting yesterday. They were touting the various projects that happen at SWCD.

They are looking at ways to fill the budget gaps. They talked about taxing electricity.

A question was asked by a board member about what position the county has taken on the windmill project. TJ reported that he, Jim Cunningham and Dave Jones have asked them to take a position on it in the past about Home Rule. So far the county has not taken a position on it.

9. NYACD – (none)

10. CDEA – (none)

11. Old Business

- Envirothon Invoice was discussed. Motion to table by Allen, Seconded by Ric. Motion carried.
- Employee Handbook review. Corrections were made after the last board meeting. The revised handbook was emailed to the board members in advance of the meeting. Charlie made a motion to approve the Employee Handbook. TJ Seconded. Motion carried.
- Review of district policies – The Post Pounder Policy was reviewed again. The use of the post pounder out of Madison County was discussed. The policy states that if a landowner resides outside of Madison County they could be eligible if in conjunction with one of our neighboring SWCD's. The board agreed to leave that in the policy. Added that the landowner is responsible for calling Dig Safe. Ric made a motion to accept the new Post Pounder policy. Allen seconded. Motion carried.
The board also reviewed the Post Pounder Usage Agreement. Allen made a motion for the board to accept the Post Pounder Usage Agreement. TJ seconded. Motion carried.

12. New Business

- Morrisville-Eaton CTE Work Experience Program- Steve has not heard back from the contact person.
- Bank Account changes:
AEM Round 17 and 18- The grant for AEM RD 17 is complete. AEM RD 18 has started. A motion to close the account for AEM RD 17 and open a new account for AEM RD 18 made by TJ, seconded by Allen. Motion carried.
District Savings-An interest-bearing account is recommended for district funds that are not immediately needed. This would include funds from Part C, Personnel income, Cover crop. A motion was made by Charlie and a second was made by Allen to open a new interest-bearing savings account. Motion carried.
- Trust & Agency- OSC issued a GASB notice that we could no longer use the term Trust & Agency for our payroll transactions. A motion to change the name of the account to Consolidated Payroll was made by Charlie and seconded by TJ. Motion carried.
- New Computer for Jess/Nutrient Management-The current computer is 8-9 years old and starting to glitch/showing signs of impending failure. A quote for a new laptop was passed around. TJ recommended a docking station be added. A motion was made by Allen, seconded by TJ to purchase a new computer costing up to \$1500. Motion carries.

- Board Audit- the need to schedule an audit was discussed.
- Charlie shared that he recently went to a meeting with Affiliated Conservation Club of Madison County. We may see some projects coming in from them.

13. Next Meeting

April 18, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

14. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Stokes, seconded by Hough, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:58 am.

Amy Hayduke

Amy Hayduke, District Clerk/Treasurer

Date: 03/29/2024

Ric Barnes, Chairman

Date: