

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 24, 2022

MEETING #872

Present:

Scott Ryan, *Chairman, Grange Member*

Richard Kennedy, *Member at Large*

Robert Headwell, Jr, *Legislative Rep*

Corey Nellis, *District Manager*

Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk-Treasurer*

CALL MEETING TO ORDER @ 7:15 PM

MINUTES of the January 24, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Richard Kennedy. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of February 23, 2022

<i>District Checking:</i>	7,614.63
<i>Building Acct:</i>	603.26
MCSWCD Savings (Grants)	145,216.27
Trumbull C701373	577.76
Bolster CRF C012140	64,152.72
Caroga Creek C701262	9,806.32
Water Quality	990.09
John King C701338	93.60
MMT C011843	2,100.10
Saltsman C701372	76,451.39
Kelly CAFO C012082	1,019.57
Holloway C012182	951.72
Hoefele C012183	61,136.60
Fisher C012181	37,078.30
AEM	19,002.99
Ridgedale C701426	90,392.77
Crowe T012325	4,343.46
Undeposited Funds	993.42
Total in all accounts	\$ 521,531.55

Review of disbursements (check register 1/21/22 through 2/23/22)

Review of outstanding accounts

Bills to be paid: None

Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report, pay all audited bills, approve all salary payments for the next month and/or the next board meeting, seconded by Richard Kennedy, motion carried.

Old Business:

- 1.) AED Position** – *Becky Ferry was hired as the new Ag Economic Development Specialist. She has slipped right into the job and comes with a lot of experience and connections to the Ag community and beyond. She was ready on day one to get started with very little guidance.*
- 2.) District Trucks** – *There were two purchase orders to Main Motor Car for a 2022 ½ ton and a 1-ton truck. Scott Davis was also contacted by NYE Automotive Group that the ½ ton we had a purchase order on from 2021 has finally come in and we will be getting that truck delivered on Tuesday 3/1. We will now have three 2022 trucks in our fleet. We did put the rogue up for sale. We put it out to bid and have received one sealed offer on it to date. The bids will be open at 2 PM on March 1st.*
- 3.) Retirement Health Benefits** – *After a discussing with the staff, the overall consensus was that the District would pay 75% of the retiree's health care cost and the employee would pay 25%, if there was a spouse they would be responsible for 50% of their cost, and once the employee turns 65 and were eligible for Medicare they would be off the district health insurance. The employee would need to be employed by the district for at least 10 years and must retire from the district. Bob Headwell said to write up a policy for the district based on what the employees' thought was best and bring that back to the board to make a motion and put it into policy.*

New Business:

- 1.) **End of the Year Reports** – *The end of the year reports are finished and were submitted by the deadline. They are ready for review by Brian Holloway and Robert Headwell, Jr. for the annual audit.*
- 2.) **Grant Closeouts** – *Two grants have been closed out and another one has been sent to Scott Fickbohm for final review. Three of the four that were required to be done are complete. Two vouchers have been submitted for \$30k right now and the third one will be about \$7k.*
- 3.) **Tree Sale** – *Our tree sale this year has started out a little slower than last year. We are getting large orders but there hasn't been an overwhelming number of orders so far.*
- 4.) **Resolutions – CRF/Round 28** – *Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to apply for the CRF grant and Round 28 Ag Non point source grant, seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 5.) **Tire Recycling** – *We will be having a tire recycling day for farm tires this year, sometime in the spring. Scott Davis did find a company that would take the tires. The board discussed different option like maybe collecting the tires over a period of a few days rather than just one day to make it easier for the farmers to drop off their tires.*
- 6.) **Employee Evaluations – Scott, Joe, and John** – *Corey's recommendation was to move Joe and Scott up one step and to move John up two steps. The board discussed and the following recommendations were made... Upon their reviews, Scott was moved to a GS 9-1, Joe was moved to a GS 9-6 and John was moved to a GS 6-2. Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to approve the raises, seconded by Richard Kennedy. All in favor, motion carried.*

Committee Reports:

NRCS: No Report

FSA: No Report

AEM:

- Round 16 closeout submitted
- Round 17 under way.
 - Possible Tier 4 projects
 - Waste Transfer – loading area for manure Bo Eck
 - Heavy Use Area Protection – Valentine

CRF

- The NYS Soil and Water Conservation Committee has made available \$8 million for Round 6 competitive projects through the combined State Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 budgets.
 - • Track 1 – \$4M - Agricultural waste storage cover and flare systems
 - • Track 2 – \$2M - Water management systems
 - • Track 3 – \$2M - Healthy Soils NY (Soil Health Management Practice Systems)
 - Andy Crowe would like to apply for cover crops again on different acreage (soybean)
 - Lovin Mama would like to apply for cover crops (small acreage vegetable farm) Also looking into a geothermal system in high tunnel. Waiting for SWCC answer

AGNPS

- The State Committee has made available approximately \$13 million for Round 28 competitive projects through the State Fiscal Year 2021-2022 budget.
- Projects for consideration:
 - Kaufman – manure storage
 - Tommell – manure storage, silage leachate
 - Ulman - manure storage

Joseph Slezak
Resource Conservation Specialist

AED:

- Farm to Table Tour-The group is working on donations and sponsorships. We have the Farm Registration Form out for farms to sign up. Have a logo campaign currently running until end of February. Compiling printing quotes and design of map and website. Have a very detailed social media campaign that will start once logo is done. We have developed it with HAYnerd Media based in Saratoga but with Montgomery County farming ties. He has volunteered his services to help make the event a success. We have a fundraising POP-UP event setup at Stump City for May 14th and then working on many promotional events in June and July to get the word out.
- Meet with some farmers for farm succession planning and on business planning. I expect this will continue in the future.
- A county AED Facebook page has been developed and currently have 180 people following the page. We are working to develop a website for this program with services I can provide for the farmers.
- Harvest Connect – working on seeing if they might share the platform and include our area on the website and the app. Planning on how to gather all the data to add to the site for the farmers.
- Work is continuing in the farm protection planning. We have discussions going on with appraisers to see if we can get a general value in land in the county to help with the process.
- Developing a proposal to go to RC&D for events: Farm to Table, Sundae on the farm and more.
- Developing a proposal for RC&D to run a small grant program for marketing development.
- Waiting on the Montgomery County economic development to setup the ranking meeting for the microgrant program.

Becky Ferry
Ag Economic Development Specialist

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @7:58 PM

NEXT MEETING: March 21, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak