

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**January 22, 2024**

**MEETING # 889**

Present:

**Scott Ryan**, *Chairman, Grange Member*

**Brian Holloway**, *Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau Member*

**Martin Kelly**, *Legislative Member*

**Richard Kennedy**, *Member at Large*

**Robert Headwell, Jr.**, *Legislative Rep*

**Corey Nellis**, *District Manager*

**Karen Klemczak**, *District Clerk-Treasurer*

**Rebecca Ferry**, *Ag Economic Dev Specialist*

**Public Comment: None**

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER @ 7:30 PM**

**Election of officers:** *Richard Kennedy made motion to keep the same slate of officers, seconded by Martin Kelly, all in favor, motion carried.*

**Review of Policies:** *Internal Review; Bill Payment; Investment; Procurement; Director's Attendance; FOIL policy; Sexual Harassment Policy; Workplace Violence Policy Code of Ethics; Breach Policy.*

*Designation of Official Publication: Amsterdam Recorder; Official Depository: NBT Bank.*

**A motion was made by Richard Kennedy, to adopt the new policies for Sexual Harassment, Workplace Violence, Code of Ethic and Breach Policy and to approve all the current policies as written, seconded by Martin Kelly.**

**Audit:** *Brian Holloway and Robert Headwell, Jr. will review the 2023 Annual Treasurer's Report and let the board know their results*

**TREASURER'S REPORT as of January 21, 2024**

District Checking:	60,418.74
Building Acct:	101,360.71
Canjo 27 (Michalak) C701470	570,818.44
Canjo 28 (Ulman) C701511	148,361.46
Water Quality	1,017.65
Hill Side Farm (Lipiec) C701471	336.96
Hoefele C012183	21,330.50
Fisher C012181	1.10
AEM	47,323.24
Ridgedale C701426	96,773.68
Crowe T012325	361.37
Crowe Irrigation CRF C012432	184,929.17
Slate Creek Farm T00335GG	4,464.23
Part C:	123,365.63
Undeposited Funds	1,120.46
Total in all accounts	\$ 1,630,733.38

**Review of disbursements (check register 10/22/23 through 12/5/23)**

**Review of outstanding accounts**

**Bills to be paid: None**

**Martin Kelly 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. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Old Business:**

**1.) Field Work** – *All projects are on schedule. No new updates*

**New Business:**

**1.) Legislative Days** – *Legislative Days will be March 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>. Scott Davis and Scott Ryan will attend Legislative Days this year.*

**2.) Becky** – *Young Dairy Leaders Institute/Holstein Foundation* – *Becky applied for a nationwide leadership conference and was accepted into the program. She asked the board if she could go on company time instead of*

*using her vacation/personal time. The conference ensures participants develop and retain essential leadership skills, apply those skills in real-life scenarios, and then focus on leadership as influence to benefit the dairy industry. Robert Headwell, Jr. felt that this training would be relevant to Becky's current position, he made a motion to allow Becky to attend the conference on SWCD time and be reimbursed for her travel expenses. Brain Holloway seconded the motion, Holloway, Headwell, Kennedy and Ryan in favor, Kelly abstained from the vote, motion carried.*

- 3.) **State Budget** – *Kathy Hochul added 2 million more dollars to the Soil and Water Districts in this year's budget. Next year there will be another increase in the Part C money allocated to the districts.*
- 4.) **National Envirothon** – *The National Envirothon is going to be held in NYS this year and they are still looking for donations to help with the cost of hosting the event. Scott Ryan asked the board to donate another \$3000 to the event. Martin Kelly made a motion to donate another \$3000 to the NYS National Envirothon, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr., all in favor, motion carried.*
- 5.) **Harvest Connection** – *See AED report below*
- 6.) **Truck** – *Robert Headwell, Jr. made a motion to get bids for the purchase of two new trucks this year to replace the two ½ ton trucks that we currently have. Martin Kelly seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 7.) **Part C** – *Ideas for Part C*
  - *Pond cost share program – 50% for people to refurbish, dredge and clean up their ponds.*
  - *Tire recycling – will be done again in 2024*
  - *Composting Facility for yard waste*
  - *Storm water project – for cities, villages, municipalities, businesses*
- 8.) **Building** – *Scott drew up plans for an addition to our office building. Martin Kelly made a motion to put out a bid for an architect to design the 3 phases of the addition, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr. all in favor, motion carried. Brian Holloway made a motion for driveway grading and shaping that would need to be done before the district can move forward with the addition. Richard Kennedy seconded the motion, all in favor, motion carried.*
- 9.) **Water Quality Symposium** – *Brian Holloway made a motion to allow the district employees to attend the Water Quality Symposium, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr., all in favor, motion carried.*
- 10.) **PDR (Purchase of Development Rights)** – *Nellis farm was accepted for their PDR. This will be the third PDR in Montgomery County.*

#### **Committee Reports:**

**NRCS: No Report**

**FSA: No Report**

**AED:**

- **Harvest Connection** – commercial created and ran digital. Had over 64k impressions.
  - Site analytics shows 1100 clicks on sites mostly to tree farms. Don't have historical data to compare too.
  - Innovation Grant – submitted 2 applications for the county 1 awarded – Scott and Kathy Ryan
- **Montgomery County Micro-Enterprise Grant**
  - Helped with about 15 applications
  - Roughly 40 submitted working with economic development to sort
    - ❖ Will be attending classes to help with attendees
- **Aspiring Farmer Workshop** with CCE at FMCC 2/17/24
- **Farm to Fork Forum** – in partnership with Schoharie Co and MVEDD 3/6 1-4pm
- **Social Media Training** – Harvest Connection group organizing 3/13 9-noon in Voorheesville
- **Butcher Workshop** – was requested to do a meeting with USDA inspector and butcher to discuss what they see in slaughterhouses and see what farmers can do better. Hope to have in March and April.

**Becky Ferry**  
**Ag Economic Development Specialist**

**AEM:**

- **Dakota Wilson CNMP (Dairy)** being reviewed for final changes.

- Tier 4 funding has been announced with an application deadline of February 2. This has generated interest and some new farmers have come seeking help.

Joseph Slezak  
Resource Conservation Specialist

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned @ 8:58 PM

**NEXT MEETING:** February 26, 2024 @ 7:30 PM

***Directors meet at 7:00 PM for Employee Evaluations***

***Respectfully, Karen Klemczak***