

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

August 28, 2023

MEETING # 885

Present:

Scott Ryan, *Chairman, Grange Member*
Brian Holloway, *Vice Chairman, Farm Bureau Member*
Richard Kennedy, *Member at Large*

Corey Nellis, *District Manager*
Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk-Treasurer*
Rebecca Ferry, *Ag Economic Dev Specialist*

PUBLIC COMMENT:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER @ 7:30 PM

MINUTES of the June 26, 2023 meeting were reviewed. Brian Holloway made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Richard Kennedy. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of August 27, 2023

District Checking:	23,665.87
Building Acct:	264,264.65
Canjo 27 (Michalak) C701470	563,694.05
Canjo 28 (Ulman) C701511	1.00
Water Quality	1,004.95
Hill Side Farm (Lipiec) C701471	154,937.32
Hoefle C012183	23,763.33
Fisher C012181	589.44
AEM	91,324.55
Ridgedale C701426	275,638.36
Crowe T012325	356.86
Crowe Irrigation CRF C012432	1.00
Slate Creek Farm T00335GG	1.00
Part C:	149,925.17
Undeposited Funds	874.80
Total in all accounts	\$ 1,554,408.94

Review of disbursements (check register 6/27/23 through 8/27/23)

Review of outstanding accounts

Bills to be paid: none

Richard Kennedy 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 Brian Holloway, carried.

Old Business:

- 1.) **Field Work** – We had AEM projects all lined up to be completed by December. One of the farmers came into the office today and is not sure if he will be moving forward with his project. If he does not move forward, then the district will need to find a new farm before the end of the year. If that does not happen the AEM money will need to be returned to the state.
- 2.) **CRF Grants** – The district applied for two CRF grants this year. One is to update manure separation equipment and the other for an extensive 2-acre composting facility for manure and make a commercial product that is saleable.
- 3.) **Ag Plastics** – The final bales of plastic that were at the MOSA transfer station were shipped out in July. The district will no longer have the Ag plastic program since we are unable to find a company willing to take the plastic once they are baled to be recycled.

New Business

- 1.) **Budget** – The 2024 budget request was turned into the county. Corey did not request an increase in appropriations for 2024.
- 2.) **Kelly CAFO – final payment** - The grant was closed out and final payment was made on the grant. There are some concerns about the final payment going to the contractor. There are discussions going on currently to resolve the concerns.

- 3.) **Part C – Trailer purchase** – *There is a Haulmark Trailer for sale by closed bid at the Broadalbin-Kenyon Fire Company. The district would like to put a bid in on the trailer to store all the items purchased last year with the Sundae on the Farm grant. **Richard Kennedy made a motion to put a bid in, no higher than \$3000, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.***
- 4.) **Farm to Table** – *See AED report.*
- 5.) **Changes to Performance Measures 2024** – *There was a 2024 State Aid to Districts forum in August. There was discussion about changes to the current Performance Measure requirements. They wanted to get thoughts and feedback from the districts about these possible changes. The funding for the performance measures has increased substantially, which is why they are looking at making these changes.*
- 6.) **NYACD Annual Meeting** – *The NYACD annual meeting will be held October 24-26, 2023 @ the Hampton inn, Penn Yan. Any director interested in attending is welcome.*
- 7.) **Retirement Annual Invoice/deficiency payment** – *The district received the 2024 estimated invoice. There was a charge on the bill for a deficiency reconciliation in the amount of \$3,232.00. The district contacted the retirement department to see if they could explain what this charge was. Corey is also sure that our deficiency payments should end in 2024. When we spoke to the retirement department, they are going to have the accounting department email Corey with an explanation of our questions.*
- 8.) **SOTF – money collection for 5k** – *The SOTF committee would like to have Soil and Water collect the registration fee for those who want to run in the 5k. They do not have the capability of taking credit payments and would like Soil and Water accept those payments for Farm Bureau. **Brian Holloway made a motion, seconded by Richard Kennedy to take the registration payments for the 5k and the money collected will be transferred to Farm Bureau less the credit card fees, all in favor, motion carried.***
- 9.) **Sexual Harassment Training for directors** – *Richard Kennedy, Brian Holloway and Scott Ryan were in attendance, and all confirmed they watched the NYS Sexual Harassment Video, an annual requirement for all Board members.*

Committee Reports:

AEM: No Report

FSA: No Report

AED:

Harvest Connection - I have promotional items now to be at the fair and sundae on the farm. We are working on developing concept for commercial and will be shooting footage in the next few weeks. We have secured funding from RC&D for 10 zip codes which in the whole harvest connection area to have commercial seen electronically.

Sundae on the Farm - Dygerts Farm Creamery, Leopold award ceremony, celebrating 300 years. SK - needing to have the ability to pay with credit card. Asking if can do with district and then send that money to Farm Bureau.

Grants:

Grants Submitted but do not have decision yet:

Hutchison Harvest - USDA-Planning grant, USDA- meat processing grant- NYS meat processing grant. Fieldridge - USDA Value Added Grant

Meads- NYS Grant for Technology. Grants In Progress:

Dygert Farms Creamery Tier II NE-DIC - Processing grant due 8/31 Hutchison Harvest - USDA Meat

Expansion Grant Due in November

Milking Handling Grant with NE-DIC- working on outreach due in fall. Have a few farms interested in applying.

Technology Advancement Grant - NE-DIC - working on outreach for this grant. Wants technology advancement but especially if it helps more than one farm.

Waiting on the County Micro-Enterprise grants to be announced.

Farm To Table Tour 2023- The event was very well attended. Most saw increase in sales over last year. Consumers commented on increased advertising and marketing. Some farmers on the outside edges of the coverage were a little less attended from last year. Some consumers want it to be a 2-day event.

The committee and the farmers are thinking on some of the ideas and will work on them this winter. The group is forming its own 501-C3 to be able to take advantage of additional sponsorship. CALF was a great partner to get this off the ground but certain sponsorship we are unable to get because CALF already receives for their other programs.

Have been invited to the County Tourism group and this has been very beneficial. We share ideas on grants and programming.

Becky Ferry

Ag Economic Development Specialist

NRCS:

- NRCS has finished funding applications for fiscal year 2023. Here are the numbers for Montgomery County
 - 7 CSP cropland contracts were funded for a total of \$199,252
 - 1 CSP forest land contract for a total of \$7,636
 - 1 EQIP CIC contract for cover cropping for a total of \$200,000
 - 1 EQIP farmstead contract for a total of \$450,000
 - 3 EQIP high tunnel contracts for a total of \$54,996
- Grand total of all contracts is: \$911,884

- We are accepting application in all programs for 2024. So far we have 3 applications on hand for the Agricultural Management Assistance (AMA) program and 11 EQIP applications.

- We are welcoming two new employees to my Field Office Team. Both employees will be assisting with workload in Montgomery County.
 - Matt Martire is a Soil Conservationist in Ballston Spa. Matt is a native of Dutchess County and a graduate of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). He has been employed by NRCS in North Carolina and Wisconsin and is glad to be back in New York.
 - Toni Daino will be starting as a Soil Conservationist in Ballston Spa on 9/11/23. She is also an ESF graduate and is currently employed with NRCS in Walton.

We held a Local Working Group (LWG) meeting in July. The LWG allows input from local stakeholders, such as SWCDs, on our program priorities and deliveries.

*Thomas Bielli
District Conservationist
Fulton, Hamilton, Montgomery, Saratoga, Warren & Washington Counties*

Adjournment:

Richard Kennedy made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned @ 9:19 pm

NEXT MEETING: September 25, 2023

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak