

MONTGOMERY COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 28, 2024

MEETING # 895

Present:

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

Corey W Nellis, Sr, *District Manager*
Karen Klemczak, *District Clerk-Treasurer*
Scott Davis, *SWCD Technician*

Public Comment: None

CALL MEETING TO ORDER@ 7:25 PM

MINUTES of the July 22, 2024, meeting were reviewed. Martin Kelly made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Richard Kennedy. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of October 28, 2024

District Checking:	45,105.35
Building Acct:	224,552.86
Canjo 27 (Michalak) C701470	582,254.56
Canjo 28 (Ulman) C701511	147,133.87
Creek Acres Farm CRF	7,886.03
AEM	180,698.44
Ridgedale C701426	55,624.37
Crowe Irrigation CRF C012432	119,936.55
Slate Creek Farm T00335GG	4,565.48
Part C:	209,837.67
Water Quality	931.03
Petty Cash	250.00
Undeposited Funds	2,200.66
Total in all accounts	\$ 1,578,776.21

Review of disbursements (check register 7/22/24 through 10/28/24)

Review of outstanding accounts

ABSTRACTS #9-2024/10-2024: Bills paid, to be paid and transfers. Motion: by Brian Holloway to approve Abstracts #9-2024/10-2024, 2nd by Martin Kelly, motion carried.

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 Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.

Old Business:

1.) Field Work –

AEM projects have been started:

Briggs – Concrete has been poured and trusses are going up this week.

Peck – His project will begin tomorrow.

Ulman – He has a contractor lined up still waiting on the go ahead.

Jennining – Needs tile layed out.

Part B 2024 – Stream project was completed last week.

2.) Auction Results – We received the money from Auctions International for our two trucks and the mule. The trucks went for \$23,600 and \$23,200. The mule was sold for \$3,450.

New Business:

1.) Pay Retirement Invoice – Martin Kelly made a motion to pay the retirement invoice by December 15th, the motion was seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion carried.

2.) Tire Recycling – The fall tire recycling program was a success again this year. We had 68 people registered with 1,595 tires. The day of the event we had a total of 1,211 tires dropped off.

- 3.) **2025 Plan of Work – Martin Kelly made a motion to approve the 2025 Plan of Work, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.**
- 4.) **Resolution for Grant Extension Ridgedale and Michalak Grant – *The board members were contacted on August 14, 2024, for a motion to ask for a grant extension on Ridgedale grant C701426 to be extended. Martin Kelly made a motion, seconded by Robert Headwell, Jr., all in favor, motion carried. Both the Ridgedale grant and the Michalak grant extensions were approved by the state.***
- 5.) **Part B Project – 2025 - Amsterdam Park Tree Planting and Cleaning – *The Part B project for 2025 will be clearing several dead ash trees at Veteran’s Park in the City of Amsterdam. The funding will be utilized in the removal of the dead trees, as well as replacing with desirable species. A second park in the city located south of Veteran’s Park, the Kirk Douglas Park, will also have trees planted for shade and to increase the ecosystem of the park. Brian Holloway made a motion to approve the 2025 Part B Project, seconded by Martin Kelly, all in favor, motion carried.***
- 6.) **2024 Part B Project – *The Part B funding is \$6000; we had bids came in at \$12k and Frank Borst gave us a bid of \$8640. Frank agreed to do the project, but it was still over budget by \$2,640. Martin Kelly made a motion to use Part C funds for the balance of the bill, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.***
- 7.) **NRCS Staffing and Programs – *Kate Gerard will be taking Tom Bielli’s position as District Conservationist, working out of Ballston Spa. Dianna who was covering Tom’s position took the manager’s job in Marcy. She will now be the Assistant State Conservationist.***
- 8.) **County Budget – *Corey submitted our county budget and asked for an additional \$12K for 2025. After a discussion with Bob Purtell, we will receive an additional \$6000 added to our annual appropriations.***
- 9.) **Ag Conversion – *Corey has a meeting on Wednesday with Megan, the county attorney, and some others to discuss the solar in the town and county about the destruction of ag land, the permanent loss of ag land, and the ag conversion.***
- 10.) **Civil Service Exams – *John VanDerwerken signed up to take both the Technicians exam and the Ag Economic Development Specialist exam. The exams will be given on December 7, 2024.***
- 11.) **Resolution for Ag Non-Point Source Grant Round 30 – *Martin Kelly made a motion to apply for Round 30 Ag non-point source grant, seconded by Richard Kennedy, all in favor, motion favored***
- 12.) **District Board – Sexual Harassment Training – *All the board members in attendance confirmed that they did the annual sexual harassment training for 2024. Bob Headwell was not able to make the meeting but did confirm that he also completed the training.***
- 13.) **NYACD Annual Meeting – *The annual NYACD annual meeting was held in Penn Yan on October 20 – 22. There were 2 resolutions brought to the floor. Herkimer County brought one regarding NYS retirement and employees that come on as a tier 6. They wanted to see if NYSLRS would consider giving some of the same benefits tier 4 employees have to tier 6 employees to help with employee retention. The second resolution was regarding NRCS being shorthanded, and projects being delayed because they didn’t have enough staff to handle all the programs. Also, there is a new Division 6 rep from Washington Co, Sherri Slater and a new rep from Division 4, Delaware Co. They now have 5 Division reps out of 8.***
- 14.) **AEM Projects – *Przestrezelski bid came in higher than expected. Corey asked if the board would approve to move some money around from other projects that came in under budget and move that money to Przestrezelski. Martin Kelly made a motion to approve the moving of funds from some of the other AEM projects to Przestrezelski’s, seconded by Brian Holloway, all in favor, motion carried.***
- 15.) **Becky – resignation – *Becky has given her resignation. Her final day will be November 1st. The position will remain in the Soil and Water office, and we will be posting the job.***

Committee Reports:

- ❖ **AED:** RFSI infrastructure grant- One was submitted with Love and Mama Farm. They regrettably did not get selected.
- ❖ Montgomery County – worked with Robert Purtell on holding the farmers forum. They are working on action items from the farmer survey results.
- ❖ Harvest Connection- Continue to have people that want to sign up.
- ❖ Two new grants came out this week- Food Access Grant and NYS Grown and Certified.
- ❖ The On Farm Milk Storage grant is expected to be released October 8th.

Rebecca L. Ferry
Agricultural Economic Development Coordinator

FSA:

As of today, it appears that we will have a budget through mid-December so we will be working. Unfortunately, it is highly unlikely we will get an extension or new Farm Bill before the end of December so until further notice we can't do any CRP sign ups and we will not be doing any 2025 program sign up such as ARCPLC or DMC. We will still be working with producers to load fall seedings and cover crops. The deadline to submit those reports is November 15th. We will also continue to finish out any 2024 program year programs such as the dairy margin program, ARCPLC, CRP annual payments and Organic programs. We are also waiting to hear about 2023 Emergency Relief program. We are currently finishing 2022 ERP. We have not had many people apply for 2022 phase 2 which is available to producers without crop insurance as most producers have a hard time breaking their feed sales from other farm sales such as milk and knowing their yields from previous years if they feed their crops. The other issue has been that you are required to carry insurance for 2 years after receiving the payment so they would need to decide if the payment is worth the expense however the phase 1 portion of the program for crop insurance and NAP producers has worked well.

Sandra L. (Ferry) Scott
County Executive Director
Montgomery, Fulton, & Hamilton

AEM:

- AEM projects are starting. Scott has been completing designs for Briggs, Pretzel Farms and Peck.
- Working on a plan for Dean Handy and an update Mead Farm.

Dairy Manure Management Incentive Transforming the Farmer-to-Consumer Supply Chain

- Contracted with Carbon A List to complete a CPA-52 for Bunkers project that was funded by an NGO.

CRF

- Crowe grant has been closed out. Final payment is \$13,435.48

Joseph Slezak
Resource Conservation Specialist

NRCS:

1. District Conservationist position for the NRCS Northeast 3 (NE3) Team was advertised for Fultonville, Ballston Spa or Greenwich location. We are waiting on HR for list of applicants, fingers crossed we will get an applicant this time, third try is a charm!?
2. A Soil Conservationist position was advertised in early September for the Fultonville Field Office (and additional positions in Ballston Spa and Greenwich). We have the list of applicants and will be conducting interviews this week.
3. Fiscal year 2024 applications have been contracted/obligated, Total new funding obligated for Montgomery County is: 40 new contracts, \$2,085,000 obligated funds
4. Team Staff is currently working on catching up with prior EQIP and CSP contract holders to certify practices. CSP payments are typically made each fall in November/December.
5. In the next few weeks, a new Acting District Conservationist will be assigned for the Northeast 3 team, my 120 days as Acting DC will be up 10/6/2024. I will keep the SWCD staff up to date on the staff changes

If you have any questions or need anything, reach out to me on my work cell at 518-598-2344 or at dianna.stanton@US_da.gov.

Dianna Stanton
District Conservationist
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned @ 8:55 PM

NEXT MEETING: Shorty's Southside, Dec 5, 2024 @ 11:00 AM

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak

DRAFT