

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Frank W. Bratt Ag Center, Jamestown, NY 14701
District Board of Directors' Regular Meeting
October 24, 2013

I. Meeting Called to Order: 8:45 A.M.

A. Present:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Fred Croscut - Chairman | David Spann-District Field Manager |
| Bruce Kidder - Treasurer | Debra Kelley - Secretary |
| Allen Peterson - Vice-Chair | Rob Halbohm - NRCS |

II. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting:**

MOTION by Peterson seconded by Kidder to approve the minutes of the September meeting.

III. **Treasurer's Report:**

MOTION by Peterson seconded by Kidder to accept the Treasurer's report and pay current bills.

A. **The following bills were approved for payment:**

SEE ATTACHED

IV. **Correspondence:**

A. Thank you from Chautauqua Cornell Cooperative Extension to the Chautauqua County SWCD for their help with Visit the Farm Day 2013 at Country Arye Farm, LLC.

V. **Reports:**

A. **Other Agencies**

Jeff TenEyck, Associate Environmental Analyst - See Attached

B. **Committees**

1. **Building Committee:** The committee met with Steve Abdella, Greg Edwards, we discussed using the building, parking area and access to the building. We came back and asked Dave Spann and Debbie to draft a drawing and a letter so we could send it to Stave Abdella with our request. We sent that to Steve a week ago and asked if he could have something ready for the pre-files for the November Legislative meeting and he told me he could that.

2. **Personnel Committee:** We would like to do the personnel appraisals at the November meeting.

C. **District Conservationist** - Rob Halbohm

1. **Program Updates** - Press Release, See Attached

2. **Sheldon Hightower** - NRCS has named a replacement for Sheldon and that will be Ben Schmitt he is currently the assistant State Conservationist for Hawaii. He will start in November.

D. **District Field Manager** - David Spann

1. **Ag Non-Point Grants**

a. **Round 15** - **Ted Card** is almost complete and we will finish very soon.

- Country Ayre Farms** - They hope to have the power in soon.
- b. Round 17 - Don Steward** has a list of things to address before we can sign off on it. **Jack Jones** is also very close to being done.
 - c. Round 18 -**
 - 1. Chautauqua Lake - Allen Peterson** this project is in full swing and I have been working with Rob on the streambank project.
 - 2. French Creek - Findley Lake Dairy** - is complete and the grass is growing on the VTA, I was over there last weekend. The other three landowners, 4 Jacks Dairy, Scott Wallace & Norvel Willink, have not started anything yet.
 - d. Round 19 - Dave Mobila** has completed his spray shed and cover crop he is working with NRCS on the EQIP portion of this contract. Chad Fred has received an extension on his EQIP until next construction season. Chad Scofield is working on some of his cover crop.
 - 2. 2% Grants**
 - a. Dewittville Creek** - is done.
 - b. 28 Mile Creek** - This is the last one to finish and it will be done by the end of the week.
 - c. Chautauqua Marina** - is done.
 - 3. Ronny Reed** - has applied for EQIP and the next Round of the state Ag Non-point Source Grants will more than likely be focused in this area.
 - 4. Report to Planning & Economic Development** - I met with Bill Daly on the 9th of October to make my quarterly report on the District Projects and let him know what we have been working on. He was very pleased with the numbers that I presented, but even more with the photos that I took him of the finished projects.
- E. District Secretary - Debra Kelley**
- 1. NYACD Annual Meeting** - I attended the meeting and I thought there was a lot of good training. We had a CPA come to the training and offer some positive solutions to the annual financial report that is submitted to the State Comptroller's Office each year.
- F. District Field Technician - Derek Zerkowski**
- 1. Update/Reports** - I can expand on the Ag Projects that I have been working on. We have gone over our no-till drills and ordered some parts so we can do some maintenance on them. Also I have been working on AEM; we have got some of the Tier I worksheets back and are looking forward to working on the Tier II work sheets with these farms.
 - 2. Training** - I attended the Conservation Skills Workshop last month in Cortland, there was a lot of good information at this training on AEM, nutrient management.

VI. **Old Business**

- A. **Appointments to the Board** - Allen has written a letter to Farm Bureau to appoint Fred Croscut as the Farm Bureau Representative on the District Board.
- B. **Joint Annual Meeting** - is tonight at the Falcons Nest in Falconer with Farm Bureau.
- C. **Web Site** - **MOTION** by Kidder seconded by Peterson to pay Richard Prince for the hosting fee so we can get started on the new website.
- D. **NYACD Annual Meeting/Administrative Managers Conference** - Dave Spann reported that this was his first NYACD Meeting as District Field Manager and said that it has provided him with some very valuable information and insight to the working of the organization. Fred also reported on the excellent training that was presented and on the business meeting.

VII. **New Business**

- A. **Director Expenses** - If any of the board members have expenses please get them to me by the next board meeting. **MOTION** by Kidder seconded by Peterson to reimburse Fred Croscut for 2 nights camping related to the NYACD Annual Meeting.
- B. **Director Training** - we would like to contact Jeff to see if he would like to come out and do the training this year either at the November meeting or the December Meeting.
- C. **2014 Budget** - **MOTION** by Peterson seconded by Kidder to approve the District Budget for 2014 as presented.
- D. **AEM Contract 2013-2014** - **MOTION** by Peterson seconded by Kidder to approve the AEM contract and for the Chairman to sign it.

VIII. **RC&D** - The next meeting is November 4th at Roger Tory Peterson Institute.

IX. **Water Quality**

X. **Cooperators** - **MOTION** by Kidder seconded by Peterson to approve Country Ayre Farm LLC as a District Cooperator.

XI. **Next Meeting** - Thursday, November 21, 2013, 8:30 A.M. at the Frank Bratt Ag Center, Jamestown, NY

XII. **Meeting Adjourned**

MOTION by Kidder seconded by Peterson to adjourn at 10:30 A.M.

Debra A Kelley

Debra A. Kelley
Secretary

Fred Croscut

Fred Croscut
Chairman

10/24/13

Chautauqua County SWCD
Transaction List by Vendor
 October 2013

| Date | Num | Memo | Amount |
|---|---------|--------------------------------|------------|
| Bank of America | | | |
| 10/11/2013 | On L... | 4170 0801 0125 2813 8/13 | -1,266.36 |
| Card, Theodore | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Brainard Builders, Inv.#13... | -39,300.00 |
| Chautauqua County Farm Bureau | | | |
| 10/10/2013 | 8131 | Annual Meeting - Staff & ... | -325.00 |
| CITGO | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Fleet #133526061 - St#39... | -204.67 |
| County Line Stone Co., Inc. | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Customer#1648.019, Inv.#... | -13,858.11 |
| 10/25/2013 | | Customer#1648.019, Inv.#... | -1,606.17 |
| David A.Spann | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Reimb. for Meals | -20.00 |
| Derek Zerkowski | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Reimb. for Training Expen... | -245.09 |
| 10/25/2013 | | Reimb. for Training Expen... | -55.07 |
| EFTPS - Internet Transfer Federal Deposit | | | |
| 10/31/2013 | | 16-0952573 Pay Period E... | -3,349.24 |
| ExxonMobil | | | |
| 10/18/2013 | On L... | Acct# 7187 8592 3200 33... | -559.02 |
| 10/25/2013 | | Acct# 7187 8592 3200 33... | -1,052.33 |
| Greater Chautauqua Credit Union | | | |
| 10/4/2013 | 8128 | Pay Period Ending 10/4/13 | -325.00 |
| 10/18/2013 | 8132 | Pay Period Ending 10/18/... | -325.00 |
| Hough, Shawn. | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | 2% Project - Dewittville Cr... | -13,637.00 |
| 10/25/2013 | | 2% Project - Chautauqua ... | -18,000.00 |
| Jamestown Macadam, Inc. | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Customer #3501, Inv.#407... | -1,557.55 |
| John Deere Credit | | | |
| 10/22/2013 | On L... | Acct.#6003319401134273... | -1,758.20 |
| NYACD, Inc. | | | |
| 10/3/2013 | 8130 | NYACD 2013 Annual Mee... | -105.00 |
| 10/15/2013 | 8135 | NYACD 2013 Annual Mee... | -10.00 |
| NYS & Local Employees Retirement Systems | | | |
| 10/31/2013 | | #50717Code10ERS Mont... | -76.80 |
| NYS Deferred Compensation Plan | | | |
| 10/4/2013 | 8129 | 11095 Pay Period Ending... | -297.07 |
| 10/18/2013 | 8133 | 11095 Pay Period Ending... | -297.07 |
| NYS Unemployment Insurance | | | |
| 10/21/2013 | On L... | 16-0952573 | -144.24 |
| QuickBooks Payroll Service | | | |
| 10/3/2013 | | Created by Payroll Servic... | -3,788.80 |
| 10/17/2013 | | Created by Payroll Servic... | -4,305.65 |
| Quill Corporation | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Acct#C957663 - Inv.#589... | -119.93 |
| Southern Tier Supply Co. | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Cust.#1000244 - Inv.#206... | -245.86 |
| The Trophy House | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Inv.#23901 - Farmer of th... | -90.00 |
| Univera Health Care | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Inv.#3952301/Group ID 40... | -340.37 |

10/24/13

Chautauqua County SWCD
Transaction List by Vendor
October 2013

| Date | Num | Memo | Amount |
|-----------------------------------|------|------------------------------|---------|
| Verizon Wireless | | | |
| 10/25/2013 | | Acct#942006129-00001, I... | -32.22 |
| Whispering Pines Fish Farm | | | |
| 10/11/2013 | 8134 | 300 Rainbow Trout 3-5" & ... | -405.00 |

Alvin Peterson

Brian Hildebrand

Fred Crossland



United States Department of Agriculture

NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Natural Resources Conservation Service

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Robert Halbohm, District Conservationist
(716) 664-2351 ext 115

NRCS-NY Announces Updated Application Cutoff Dates for NRCS Conservation Programs

Jamestown, N. Y., October 22, 2013— New York Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces **November 15, 2013** as the extended application cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) for Fiscal Year (FY)2014.

Applications accepted after November 15, 2013 may be considered for funding if additional application rounds are announced or for potential consideration in FY2015. All applications are competitive and are ranked based on national, state and locally identified resource priorities and the overall benefit to the environment.

Although a new Farm Bill has yet to be approved, applicants may still apply for funding through the same programs offered through the 2008 Farm Bill. At the time of application, applicants must specify the resource concern(s) that they intend to address. Once further guidance on the 2013 Farm Bill is provided, NRCS will work with applicants to transfer applications to the appropriate conservation program.

"NRCS NY looks forward to helping farmers and rural landowners address priority resource concerns on their land," said Donald Pettit NRCS State Conservationist. "Each year NRCS offers a variety of programs which help landowners address a wide range of conservation needs in New York."

- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** offers financial assistance for practices which address soil erosion, water quality and habitat degradation. Practices implemented through EQIP include strip cropping, grassed waterways and manure storage facilities. Focus areas within the EQIP program include soil health, livestock waste, habitat, forestry and grazing.
- **Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP):** helps participants restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat in grassland and shrubland areas.

If you are interested in applying for an NRCS conservation program please visit our web site for information on applying at:

http://www.ny.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/general_information/how_to_apply.html

Chautauqua County landowners may apply by visiting the local NRCS field office at 3542 Turner Road, Jamestown, NY 14701 or contacting District Conservationist Robert Halbohm at (716) 664-2351 extension 115.

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Natural Resources Conservation Service
441 S. Salina Street, Room 520, Suite 354
Syracuse, New York 13202-2450

NY Financial Assistance Program Deadlines for FY2014

(CSP Deadlines addressed separately) :

| Program-Focus Area | Application Cutoff Date (All applications entered in Protracts) | Pending Letters Mailed | Eligibility Established and all application materials submitted (AGI pending FSA form availability) | Ineligible Letters | Prioritization, Ranking and Cost Estimates Deadline | QA and Peer Reviews | Preapprovals | Preapproval Letters Mailed | Obligation Deadline |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|---|--------------------|---|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| EQIP- including initiatives | November 15 | November 22 | December 13 | December 20 | January 17 | February 14 | February 28 | March 7 | April 25 |
| WHIP | November 15 | November 22 | December 13 | December 20 | January 17 | February 14 | February 28 | March 7 | April 25 |

NOTE: Approved applications greater than \$150,000 for obligation by Regional Conservationist (RC) and applications greater than \$300,000 requiring PL waiver by the Chief must be submitted to Programs staff at least ONE MONTH prior to obligation deadline.

Here is the October update from the Division of Land and Water Resources as it impacts Region 3 Districts.

First the good! Region 3 Natural Resource Conservationist, Bethany Bzduch and her husband are the proud parents of a baby girl, Charlotte Elizabeth, born back on August 12, (Yes, I am a little slow). Everyone is doing well ,and Bethany returns to work today (10/7).

Now the bad (or is it sad, ridiculous , or stupid...your choice). **The Federal Government shutdown continues with no end in sight.** Of the 19 Districts in our region: 8 are nearly business as usual as they are not collocated with USDA, or own their own building. Five others are still in their offices in a USDA Service Center because they pay rent, but may or may not have use of the phone and computers depending on who owns them and pays the bill. Six Districts have been locked out of their offices, and are working from County space, or out of their homes. Of course this all comes at a very busy time of the year for construction, and some Districts are still involved with the County budget justifications. I want to remind Districts if you are covering for NRCS employees when it comes to construction related to a Federal Program like EQIP you can document your time for AEM Base funding. The State Committee Staff in Albany is fully aware of the situation and is working to see if the situation can be improved, but frankly there is not much that can be done with none of the Feds working. It is up to Districts to improve their situation, and develop a backup plan for the next time. Please keep me apprised of your situation if it changes, or you need help in any way. I will be forwarding what I think are important e-mails to the alternative addresses I have until this mess is over.

Here is the rest of the story:

- AEM Base 9 Contracts are now out for District signature and should be returned ASAP. If you are requesting the 25% advance funding we are still being told it could be January before it shows up.
- Agricultural Nonpoint Source Abatement and Control Program (ANSACP), Rd 19 Contracts are still not out. It is hoped you will get them for signature soon, but it is possible any funding that could be requested will not come until January as well.
- The ANSACP Rd 20 RFP is scheduled to be released between late October and mid-November with a likely due date in early January.
- Districts may keep their 2013 project submitted under Part B Conservation Project Financial Assistance active for 2014 potential Part B Funding by contacting Jennifer Clifford at jennifer.clifford@agriculture.ny.gov by November 1, 2013 and confirming you would like to roll the project over. Similar to last year, any Conservation Project Assistance funding will not be dispersed until payment of eligible expenditures has been determined in late February. Should funding be available for Conservation Project Financial Assistance, Districts will have the ability to revise their Part B projects before December 31, 2014. Project completion will subsequently need to be documented in the 2014 Conservation Project Financial Assistance Report filed with the State Committee by February 15, 2015. Remember the request reference year (2014) equates to the year the project must be completed. If you would like to submit a request for a new project please also contact Jennifer and she will provide you with the updated request form. Contact me or Jennifer if you have any questions.
- The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has extended the deadline to apply for Water Quality Improvement Program Grants to December 13, 2013. Also, the deadline for submitting questions to wqipuser@gw.dec.state.ny.us has been extended until November 15, 2013 at 4PM. The Request for Proposals and Application for State Assistance can be found on the Department website at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html>.
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is now accepting applications for urban forestry project grants that can be used to enhance landscapes and provide green spaces in urban areas across the state. Under the Urban Forestry Grant program, communities can apply for tree planting, maintenance grants or invasive pest studies in cases involving an infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer or the Asian Long Horned Beetle. Grants are available to municipalities, public benefit corporations, public authorities, school districts and not-for-profit organizations that have a public ownership interest in the property or are acting on behalf of a public property owner. Awards will range from \$2,500 to \$50,000, depending on municipal population, and have a 50/50 match requirement. Additionally, tree inventories, management plans and \$1,000 Quick Start Arbor Day grants - which have no match requirement - will be available to help communities generate support for new municipal tree programs. The grants are available through the state's Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and will be managed and allocated by DEC. Applicants may obtain all necessary directions and forms for the Urban Forestry Grant program on the DEC website. Paper copies of the application are required to be submitted. Applications will be accepted at the DEC Central Office by mail or hand delivery until 4:00 p.m. on December 5, 2013. Mail or hand deliver grant applications to: NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Urban Forestry, Division of Lands and Forests, 625 Broadway, Albany,