

Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road Liberty, NY 12754 (845)292-6552 Fax (845)295-9073

Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors Meeting February 10, 2020

Minutes

I. <u>Call to Order:</u> Chairman Hughson called the regular business meeting of the Sullivan County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors to order at 6:00 p.m.

Board members present – Wilfred Hughson, Chairman Robert Kaplan, Vice Chairman

John Diehl, Farmer Eugene Benson, Treasurer

Board members absent – Nadia Rajsz, Legislator John Gorzynski, Farmer

Agency representatives: – Brian Brustman, SWCD Lisa Schick, SWCD

II. <u>MINUTES:</u> R. Kaplan made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 13, 2020, board meeting, E. Benson seconded, no one opposed, the motion was passed and carried.

III. WRITTEN & VERBAL REPORTS: See attached written reports.

NRCS: District staff will be meeting with E. Sweeny and A. Capraro of NRCS to discuss projects.

FSA: Disaster declaration has low interest loans available. Deadline is around June 1st. Interested parties should contact FSA in Walton for details.

CCE: See written report.

NYS Grown and Certified-been getting interest and SWCD has been doing a lot of AEM Tier 2's.

IV. <u>OLD BUSINESS</u>:

- A. Neversink/Rondout Grant:
 - The new contract, CAT 499, has been reviewed by the County Attorney's Office. Minor corrections were needed. Contract was signed and sent to DEP.
 - Discussed issuing an employee (HS) salary increase. Salary funds in current budget. E. Benson made a motion to give an employee (HS) 3% salary increase retro-active to January, 1-year date, J. Diehl seconded, no one opposed, motion was passed and carried.

- B. Program Updates:
 - NYS DEC Tire mandate has been postponed until May, 2021. Reviewing the effectiveness of several projects from different counties.
 - Tree & Shrub program doing well and have received several orders.
 - Contractor Training has to be on hold until we can set a date with CCE rooms, due to construction.
- C. Retirement Dinner: LK
 - Date will be Saturday, March 28th, 6:00-6:30 pm, at Danny's Restaurant in Wurtsboro.
 - District will pay for Family attendees, all other pay \$30.00 per person
 - Extra funds will go towards cake and gift (Tractor Supply Gift Card)

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Bank Statements: The January bank statements were reviewed.
- B. MOA with Dutchess County SWCD:
 - A 2-year pilot program for Carbon Farming/Soil Health Improvement. Up to \$270,000, approximately \$35,000 per farm.
 - Dutchess County SWCD is administering grant.
 - Looking at having one farm participant in Sullivan County. Somewhere in Time Farm is interested.
 - R. Kaplan made a motion to participate and for Chairman Hughson to sign the MOA, J. Diehl seconded, no one opposed, motion to participate and sign was passed and carried.
- C. Annual Reports: Annual Report of the Treasurer was submitted for review and approved. E. Benson signed.
- D. District Law Training: All present Directors participated in the Module 10, District Law training. 2020 Sexual Harassment training will be done at the March meeting.
- E. District 2020 County Funding: Appropriation funds is \$240,000, up \$10,000 from 2019. Flood Mitigation funding stayed at \$100,000.
- VI. <u>DISTRICT CLAIMS</u>: R. Kaplan made a motion to approve abstracts, bills and pre-approvals, seconded by E. Benson, no one opposed, the motion was passed and carried.

2019 – 1B \$ 193,408.00 2020 – 2A \$ 1,018.00

Bills presented to the Board for pre-approval: Total - \$ 62,041.68 - See breakdown sheet

VII. TREASURER REPORT: The Profit and Loss and the Balance Sheet were reviewed. E. Benson made a motion to approve the reports, J. Diehl seconded, no one opposed, the motion was passed and carried.

VIII. NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

X. <u>ADJOURNMENT:</u> Adjourned at 7:15 p.m. - Motion by J. Diehl

February 2020

Lisa Schick, Program Assistant Wilfred Hughson, Chairman