

ESSEX COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 15th, 2024

DISTRICT BUSINESS

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Tyler in the Westport Town Hall at 7:51 a.m.

Attendance: Board members - Ike Tyler, Anna Reynolds, Mike Davis, Jim Monty, and Ben Leerkes. SWCD – Renee Clark, Alice Halloran, Daniel Berheide, Thomas Firkins.

MOTION to accept the January 18th, 2024 minutes was made by Reynolds, seconded by Davis, and carried.

Correspondence – Alice passed around some correspondence for the board to review. Alice let the Board know that a local farm inquired about the availability of a Ripsower in Essex County. Alice told the Board she let the Farm Bureau know about a position on the Soil & Water Conservation District Committee. Alice let the Board know that the AEM 18 Contract was signed.

Chairman's Update – No report

Farm Bureau Update- No report

Monthly Updates

Secretary Update was reviewed by the Board. (Appendix 1)

MOTION to accept the February update was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

District Manager Update was reviewed by the Board. (Appendix 2)

MOTION to accept the February update was made by Davis, seconded by Leerkes, and carried.

Technician Update (Daniel) was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 3)

MOTION to accept the February update was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

Technician Update (Meagan) – was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 4)

MOTION to accept the February update was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

Technician Update (Thomas) – was reviewed by the Board (Appendix 5)

MOTION to accept the February update was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

OLD BUSINESS

- **2023 ANNUAL STATE REPORTS** – The annual state reports are complete and submitted to the state.
- **SWCD Policies** – A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes and carried to adopt Essex County Ethics policy as part of Essex County Soil & Water Personnel Policy.
- **Interns**- A **MOTION** was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried to hire Olivia Sayre at \$17.00 per hour as a summer intern.

NEW BUSINESS

- **AEM Projects** - A **RESOLUTION** was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried to accept the proposed implementation projects and submit to the State.
- **Leopold Award**- Alice discussed with the Board that Soil and Water could submit an application on behalf of a local farm for this award. The deadline is May 15th. The discussion was tabled and Alice will gather more information on local farms that would be eligible for this award.

- **Soil Group Worksheets Rates**- A **MOTION** was made by Leerkes, seconded by Reynolds, and carried to change the price of AG Assessments effective April 1st, 2024. Soil Group Worksheets will be \$25.00 per parcel April 1st through Jan. 31st then for those done in Feb. and March the cost will be \$35.00 per parcel.
- **AGNPS26**- A **RESOLUTION** was made by Davis, seconded by Leerkes, and carried to approve a time extension amendment request for Contract # C701412.
- **Copier**- A **MOTION** was made by Monty, seconded by Leerkes, and carried to purchase a new copier from SymQuest for \$1,966.03 with a monthly service contract of \$55.00 per/month.

District Treasurer

A. A financial report was presented to the Directors, (Appendix 6). A **MOTION** was made by Reynolds to accept the January report as presented, seconded by Davis, and carried.

B. Bills due for payment in the amount of \$9,496.47 were presented to the Board for approval, (Appendix 7). A **MOTION** was made by Leerkes to accept and pay the February bills for approval, and pay as such, seconded by Davis, and carried.

COOPERATING AGENCIES

NRCS – No report

NYSSWCC – (Appendix 8)

NYACD- No report

Other Business

With no further business and/or discussion to come before the Board a **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 a.m. was made by Leerkes, seconded by Davis, and carried.

Next Meeting – Thursday, March 21st, 2024 at 7:45 a.m. at the Westport Town Hall

Attachments: Appendix 1 - Secretary Update (Renee)
 Appendix 2 - District Manager Update (Alice)
 Appendix 3 –Technician Update (Daniel)
 Appendix 4 - Technician Update (Meagan)
 Appendix 5 - Technician Update (Thomas)
 Appendix 6 - Financial Report
 Appendix 7- Bills
 Appendix 8- NYSSWCC Report

Submitted by:

Renee Clark, Secretary to the Board

