

FULTON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 16, 2024

Present:

Matt Brower, Chairman
Mitch Rogers, Vice Chairman
John David Praught, Legislative Member
Frank Lauria, Legislative Member
Rob Perry, Farm Bureau

John Persch, District Field Manager
Jake Hart, Resource Conservationist

CALL MEETING TO ORDER @ 10.00 AM

Public Comment: NONE

Election of officers:

Frank Lauria made a motion to accept the same slate of officers, seconded by Rob Perry, all in favor motion carried.

Review of Policies: Internal Review; Bill Payment; Investment; Procurement; Director's Attendance; FOIL policy; Sexual Harassment Policy; Workplace Violence Policy; Code of Ethics; Breach Policy.

Designation of Official Publication: Leader Herald or paper of choice; Official Depository: NBT Bank.

A motion was made by Frank Lauria to adopt the new Breach Policy and to approve all the current policies as written, seconded by Rob Perry, all in favor, motion carried.

Audit: Two directors will be appointed to review the 2023 Annual Treasurer's Report and let the board know their results at a future meeting.

MINUTES of December 12, 2023, meeting were reviewed. Frank Lauria made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Rob Perry. All in favor, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT as of January 12, 2024

AEM round 17	\$17,021.90
Benefit Account	\$54,157.28
Capital Account	\$ 4244.64
Credit Card Account	\$11,674.55
CRF Goderies Tree Farm	\$37,228.25
CRF JB's Family Farm	\$22,035.52
CRF round 6	\$ 5.00
CRF round 5	\$ 10.00
CRF1-GSL Prescribed Rotational	\$ 6.07
CRF2 – Interseeder Pilot Project	\$ 5.12
Money Market	\$123,801.58
NYS Round 22	\$ 66,791.84
Part B	\$ 4,053.80
Part C	\$164,118.58
Petty Cash	\$ 250.00
Regular Checking	\$ 6,870.66

Review of disbursements (check register 12/11/2023 through 1/12/2024)

Review of outstanding accounts

Bills paid: See abstract - signed by Mitch Rogers and Frank Lauria

Frank Lauria 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 Mitch Rogers, motion carried.

Manager's Report: Given by John Persch

Field Work

- Fulton County Highway Dept
- Town Highway Dept's
 - Town of Perth
 - Town of Johnstown
 - Town of Johnstown Bridge Pecks Lake
- SWCD Projects
 - Pecks Lake shoreline erosion stabilization. Completed
 - Sir William Johnson Hall stream stabilization project.
 - Saratoga State Park Stream bank project (Parks and Rec and Fish and Wildlife)
 - Ashley Park Stream Repair and Canada Lake shoreline repair Karl Swartz FW.

Office

- Employee handbook and policies
- 2022 Part B
- MRBC DEC Grant
- Fish & Wildlife Board – Todd Bradt was appointed to the Fish and Wildlife board; Jim Groff was appointed as the alternate.
- Drainage and pipe sales
- New office building

Jake Hart, Resource Conservationist

Agricultural Environmental Management

- AEM Round 18: 1/1/24 – 12/31/25
 - Technical Assistance
 1. I have been working on the AEM round 18 project packages.
 2. Met with Jeff Wilson (Engineer) to get his eyes on one of the proposed irrigation water management projects.
- AEM Round 17: 1/1/22 – 12/31/23
 - Assembling closeout documents

Round 22: NYS Ag NPS: Contract expires 12/31/23

- S & S has been paid in full. This is great news, now we can proceed with the closeout.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Round 4: Contracts expire 12/31/23

- Goderies' Tree Farm project cancellation has been submitted and is under review by our AEA Scott Fickbohm,
- I haven't heard anything yet on the contract extension for JB's Family Farm.

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Round 5: Soil Health on Vegetable Farms: Contract expires 6/30/24

Climate Resilient Farming (CRF) Round 6: Soil Health Initiative: Contract expires 12/31/24

Other Recent Activity/Assistance

- Annual Newsletter – **Last year the price for printing the newsletters was \$2,122, this year it should be about the same. Frank Lauria made a motion to approve the printing of the newsletters up to a cost of \$2200, seconded by Mitch Roger, all in favor, motion carried.**
- Ag Value Assessments
- Dovico Software

Old Business:

Performance Measures – PM are finished, and all requirements were met. These requirements are necessary to get funding from the state. Part A and B will be finished next week. Rhonda will be coming from Warren Co to help with the treasurer's report.

MRC-DEC Contract - This meeting was being held at the same time as the SWCD board meeting.

Yearly Computer Maintenance – Waiting for the computer guy to come to the office to do the yearly computer maintenance.

New Business:

Office Building /Pole Barn – Bid package and design is getting put together. It should be ready by the end of February. Matt asked if it was necessary to bid as one contract or if there needs to be four separate contracts. He was concerned that they would be required to bid it out separately. John needs to look into that.

2022 Part B – Not asking for the money back. Scott Fickbohm will be coming to look at the project and the bills and the project will be closed out.

End of Year Reports – Covered under Performance Measures.

Employee Handbook Revision – Revisions were made, and the new handbook was adopted.

John Close (Round 22 Closeout) – The closeout is complete.

Employee performance evaluations & salary increases – **According to the federal pay scale, upon their reviews, Mikaela was moved to a GS 7-2, Jake was moved to a GS 8-4 and John was moved to a GS 12-6. Frank Lauria made a motion to approve the raises and recommendations, seconded by Mitch Rogers. All in favor, motion carried.**

New Legislator Appointed – John David Praught was appointed as the new legislator to the Fulton Co SWCD Board.

District Law Training – Scott Fickbohm will be at the next meeting to do the District Law Training.

Adjournment:

Frank Lauria made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob Perry, all in favor, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:49 AM

NEXT MEETING: February 13, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Respectfully, Karen Klemczak