

Minutes

Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors – Tompkins County SWCD
November 16, 2015
170 Bostwick Road, Ithaca, NY 14850

Present: David McKenna, Dan Carey, Alan Teeter, Aaron Ristow
Staff: Jon Negley, Kym Jackson
Agencies: Justin Olsen, NRCS

Dan Carey, Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:40pm. A quorum was present.

There were no additions or changes to the agenda.

David McKenna moved to approve the minutes as presented. Aaron Ristow seconded. No discussion. Carried.

Reports of Other Agencies:

Justin Olsen, NRCS read their written report and it is attached. Justin reminded everyone the EQIP deadline is today. For Baker's Project, there is some seeding left to do to cover an exposed area. Patrick & Justin may attend the CCA training on December 1-3rd. J. Negley will be attending the training. J. Negley has also been hearing some feedback from landowners that they would like more advance notice on the availability of funds and the application deadlines.

Financial Report:

D. McKenna moved to approve the financial reports for the month of October. A. Ristow seconded. J. Negley mentioned Beck's Project went \$50,000 to \$60,000 beyond its budget with the overruns being covered by the landowner and J. Negley was currently working to close the project out. Bakers' Project is moving forward and the concrete work is just about completed. The County budget should be passed at their meeting on the 17th. J. Negley advised the NYS Retirement contribution payment would be on the abstract at the next Board meeting and the funds have been set aside in a savings account. He also mentioned the Ford pick-up truck is 5 years old and the Board might want to think about a vehicle rotation schedule for the future. A vote was taken and the financial reports were approved. Motion Carried.

D. McKenna moved to approve the November, 2015 Vouchers. D. Carey seconded. No discussion. A vote was taken and the vouchers were approved. Motion carried.

2016 Budget:

The Draft Budget which was prepared in July was redistributed to be reviewed prior to the December 14th Board Meeting for a final version to be voted on at that time. Members requested K. Jackson and J. Negley prepare a report which shows the 2015 budget and costs to date next to the proposed 2016 budget for an easier comparison. They will create a spreadsheet for the December meeting.

Alan Teeter arrived at 1:20

Staff/Project Reports:

Angel Hinickle provided a written report of work she has been performing the past month and it is attached. Jon Negley did not provide a written report this month. James Balyszak provided a recap of the Hydrilla Program over the 2015 season. There was delayed growth of the Hydrilla, so treatments did not begin until mid-August. Monitoring continued

to November 2nd. The Inlet reports were promising as they showed only trace amounts of Hydrilla remaining. The Fall Creek area proved to be more challenging in the backwater areas as some Hydrilla was surviving and growing after the treatments. The SE corner showed no growth. In 2016, Inlet treatments may be scaled back. He also reaffirmed the County and City advance funding was much appreciated during the season while the District waits for reimbursement from the FWS and NYSDEC funding. There is one more, one year extension allowed on the NYSDEC contract. In 2016, applying spot treatments could potentially save the District \$100,000 to \$130,000. However, he warned that with decreased treatments, there would most likely be increased monitoring. James is working on preparing a project summary with the Hydrilla Task Force then a peer review of the report will be completed. A RFP would most likely be prepared and submitted in March of 2016. There have not been any substantial cost increases in the last few years in purchasing the herbicide; however, next year the District may see an increase in its cost.

Old Business:

- Resolution #2015-55 – Approval to Submit Proposal for Climate Resilient Farming Pilot Round – AGM01-CRF-R1-2015. D. McKenna made the motion to approve, A. Ristow seconded. Approval of this resolution would allow the District to submit an application on behalf of a farm for funding. Currently, there are no participating farms. A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2015-55 was accepted. Motion carried.

New Business

J. Negley and K. Jackson have requested information and a price quote from Tompkins Insurance Agencies, Inc. for District insurance coverage. The District policies are due to renew on February 1, 2016. J. Negley and K. Jackson explained that only the servicing agency for the policies would be changed. The insurance carrier/underwriter would not necessarily change. They would like to support a local company and do a review of the Districts coverage to ensure it is current and applicable. Currently, the servicing agency is located in Hornell, NY. A representative from Tompkins Insurance Agencies, Inc. will be present at the next Board Meeting to explain their services and philosophy.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

D. Carey made a motion to move to Executive Session at 1:50pm to discuss personnel matters – to select a Natural Resources Program Specialist for the job vacancy. A. Ristow seconded.

- Resolution #2015-56 – Approval of Hiring Qualified Candidate to Natural Resources Program Specialist. D. McKenna made the motion to approve Paul Gier as the primary candidate and Brad DeFrees as the secondary candidate. D. Carey seconded. A vote was taken and the adoption of Resolution No. 2015-56 was accepted. Motion carried.

D. Carey moved to adjourn the Executive Session at 2:07pm. Seconded by A. Ristow. Carried.

D. Carey moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 2:11pm. Seconded by D. McKenna. Carried.

Next meeting date: December 14, 2015, at 12:30pm. The meeting will be held in the conference room downstairs and will include a dish to pass.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kym Jackson, District Clerk

David McKenna, BOD Secretary/Treasurer