

Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monthly Meeting of Directors
April 24th, 2024
6:00 PM.
2400 Meads Hill Road
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Attending: Tony Specchio-Chairperson
Jim Howell – Vice Chair
Gary Gaige - Member
Rick Reisinger-Treasurer
Gary Gray – Legislative Rep

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager
Jessica Verrigni – Stormwater Program Technician

1. **Meeting called to order** by T. Specchio @ 6:02 PM
2. **Pledge**
3. **Minutes of March 27th Meeting:** *Gary Gray motioned to approve the March 27th minutes as mailed. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
4. **Treasurer's Report March:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Gary Gray. All in favor. Motion carried.*
5. **Vouchers March:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the list of bills as presented. Seconded by Jim Howell. All in favor. Motion carried.*
6. **Old Business:**
 - A. **County Road 8 Litigation** – A deposition will be held for Mike Manwaring on June 5th. Jerry sought advice from Cornell Local Roads. *They essentially said this is normal to go to trial. Unfortunately it usually does before something like this is thrown out. The AGMKTS staff simply said we are doing what we should do, and they don't have any legal staff with enough experience in this field.*
7. **New Business:**
 - A. **Tree Sale** -
Jessica explained that we had a very successful tree sale, with only two residents not picking up. Both called and came and picked up during the following week. We sold to over 70 residents nearly 6,000 seedlings. Folks were very happy with the new blue bird boxes. Many people wanted more. We will build more and have some on hand for the sale next year. Jerry stated how smoothly the sale went, and that Jessica handled the entire pack job of the trees by herself, making it an efficient program that allows us to continue with it for our residents.
 - B. **Spring Highway Kickoff Meeting** –
Jerry explained we had a very well attended spring highway meeting here at the office. We do this annually to kick off construction season. We discussed areas for improvement, how funding works, how projects are selected etc... There was at least one person from every municipality except one that was very busy. Jessica also stated that it was very important due to many new highway supers this year.
 - C. **Annual Audit** –
Jerry stated the annual audit once again went very well. Its done annually by an outside firm that represents the county. They are very thorough and jerry provided

them the necessary files, scanned back up copies, etc... electronically. The auditors were very happy.

8. **Stormwater Technician Report – Jessica V.** –Her report is in the packet and will be on file with the book of minutes. Jessica reviewed her reports highlights and showcased the busy time of year.
9. **District Manager Report -Jerry V.** – Jerry's Report was sent out with the packet and will be on file with the Book of Minutes. Jerry also highlighted the tragic death of a trucker for Mix Brothers. Jerry stated that Mike worked for the company for over 31 years. Jerry worked with him for over 25 years. Mike went out of his way to make sure we got the material needed, when we needed it and where we needed it. He took on much responsibility he didn't have to, and he saved our organizations thousands of dollars because of his above and beyond efforts.
Jerry also stated that the State passed the budget with several increases to SWCD funding and several new programs like the Eastern Finger Lakes Coalition. Very positive over all.

10. **Adjournment** -Motion to adjourn at 6:38 by Gary Gaige and seconded by Gary Gray

Respectfully submitted by:

Tony Specchio, Chairman

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager