

Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting of Directors  
August 28, 2024  
6:00 PM.  
2400 Meads Hill Road Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Attending:

Jim Howell – Vice Chair  
Gary Gaige - Member  
Rick Reisinger-Treasurer  
Gary Gray – Legislative Rep

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager  
Jessica Verrigni – Stormwater Program Technician

Mark Swinnerton – Guest (representing Seneca Lake Pure Waters)

1. **Meeting called to order** by Jim Howell @ 6:03 PM
2. **Pledge**
3. **Minutes of July 24th Meeting:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the July 24th minutes as mailed. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
4. **Treasurer's Report July:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Gary Gray. All in favor. Motion carried.*
5. **Vouchers July:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the list of bills as presented. Seconded by Gary Gray. All in favor. Motion carried.*
6. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Eastern Fingerlakes Coalition** – Jerry stated that \$42 million has been approved for implementation for the 11 county SWCD coalition over the next 6 years. This is sooner than expected for implementation funds. This is a huge step, that will hopefully transition more dependable consistent funding that will allow for much more meaningful conservation planning efforts, and much more seamless implementation. There is also funding as discussed for adding capacity of around 80k for the same time period. This will be used potentially to hire a year round equipment operator that will also learn mapping, doing maintenance, learn surveying techniques, and work with and understand permitting and project requirements.
7. **New Business:**
  - A. **Chemung County Project** -  
Jerry stated that he was unexpectedly asked just three days prior to a job that was supposed to be done by Chemung SWCD prior to fencing work, for Schuyler County SWCD to do the job. This was a job that Chemung SWCD new about since March and failed to do anything on. They were given step by step timeline of when to complete the work, when work should occur, and how with constant communication from Jessica and Jerry with little to none in return. However, being the farm is in the very headwaters of Seneca Lake. Being the farm never received funding in the past. This significant project entailed 2,200 feet of laneway, 2,600 feet of watering system, over 15,000 feet of fencing, 3 acres of riparian buffer, 500' of grassed waterway, 150' of drip trench, a well, winter watering facility, and seven other watering facilities. This project was completed by Schuyler County in just five days. Lots of extra work, no complaints and a ton of help and pride by the farmers that work the

land. It was a great project that reminded me of the ones done consistently 25 years ago.

**B. Seneca Lake Pure Waters –**

Mark Swinneton made note that the Soil and Water Conservation District was receiving an award at the Pure Waters annual banquet at climbing bins. The award was for work done through the SNPR program with the pure waters folks, but truly was for the 18 years and 86 million dollars of conservation implementation in Schuyler County, averaging over 50 projects a year, and over 4.77 million in implementation each year during that time period. Mark said that he hoped that folks from the district would be on hand to receive the award. Jerry said that all staff would be at the banquet to receive the award.

**Executive Session –**

*At 6:40 pm Jim Howell made a motion to enter executive session, seconded by Gary Gray.. All in favor. Motion carried.*

Mark Swinnerton left the meeting.

At 6:50pm Jim Howell made a motion to exit executive session, seconded by Gary Gray. All in Favor Motion Carried.

Gary Gray made a motion to have Jessica Skinner join the board as Member at large if Anthony Specchio's health didn't allow him to return by Octobers Meeting. The motion also stated that Tony would be encouraged either way to come to any meetings he felt capable to act as an experienced liason non-voting member of the board, after serving more than 47 years on the board. Seconded by Rick Reisnger. All in favor. Motion Carried.

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.
10. **Adjournment** -Motion to adjourn at 7:02 by Gary Gaige and seconded by Jim Howell

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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Tony Specchio, Chairman

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Jerry Verrigni – District Manager