

Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting of Directors  
January 22, 2025  
6:00 PM.  
2400 Meads Hill Road Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Attending:

Rick Reisinger-Treasurer  
Gary Gray – Legislative Member  
Jessica Skinner - Member

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager  
Jessica Verrigni – Stormwater Program Technician

1. **Meeting called to order** by Gary Gray @ 6:04 PM
2. **Pledge**
3. **Minutes of December 4th Meeting:** *Gary Gray motioned to approve the December 4th minutes as mailed. Seconded by Jessica Skinner. All in favor. Motion carried.*
4. **Treasurer's Report December:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Gary Gray. All in favor. Motion carried.*
5. **Vouchers December:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the list of bills as presented. Seconded by Gary Gray. All in favor. Motion carried.*
6. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Interseeder Seed Buggy** – Jerry stated that the seed buggy sold for \$15,270 more than double what we had it in it. The Interseeder looked as though it sold on the auction while Jerry was viewing on line. However the auction house called two weeks later and said it hadn't. Jerry asked why it said sold during the auction. The auctioneer said it was his bid. Jerry asked if he went to the back bidder and he said he had but they no longer wanted it. Jerry said They are keeping the machine over winter to try in their next auction. Jerry said two farms in the county expressed interest. He is trying to work out a deal to keep the machine in the county.
  - B. **County 8 Litigation Update** – *Jerry made sure first Jessica Skinner, as a new board member was aware of the issue and how it occurred to begin with. Jerry stated he has heard nothing from our insurance lawyers, however Ken Thurston reached out to show that the County Insurance attorney had offered a settlement. Jerry stated this was a horrible idea in his opinion because of the ramifications of now if a pipe plugs from debris there is precedence to make the county liable. Jerry stated he is hoping this will not cause our insurance attorney to follow suit. We are not highway workers, we cannot work in the public highway without being requested by the municipality, the municipality testified we were not asked until after the flooding issue. Therefore no liability exists.*

## 7. New Business:

### A. **Town of Montour Salt Storage -**

Jessica stated she was able to get a \$300,000 grant for a salt storage for the Town of Montour. We hope to build the project this year.

### B. **COG Lettter –**

Jerry stated he sent the letter that was in the board packet to the members of the COG. Jerry stated he reached out to municipalities to make sure they understood both sides of an issue that could be brought to their towns. Jerry stated that on about an every five year or so basis, STC has brought the idea to our municipalities to pass stronger stormwater laws as an option to them. This has come up in several meetings recently and Jerry wanted to make sure the municipalities understood that there are existing stormwater laws regulated by the state DEC. What they were and how they worked. He also wanted to make sure they knew if they passed a law they would now be responsible and liable to enforce that law with already taxed code enforcement professionals. Jerry stated he Soil and Water is saying to do it or not, just making sure both sides of the topic were understood.

Jerry also brought up an ongoing experience of town boards having many spinoff sub groups. Residents volunteering their precious times to aid their communitiies. He stated this should be commended. He also said we do need to be careful because in one instance a great information package was put together by one of these groups in Hector on Culverts. This was done by a former fish and wildlife professional with knowledge and backround. It was a great paper for the town to utilize internally. However it was said at a meeting that STC used that paper to apply for culvert replacement grants. Jerry stated that wouldn't be beneficial to the Town and could compete with funds needed for culvert replacement based on flooding and hydrology. The study done was only looking at habitat a passage of micro and macro invertebrates utilizing what is called NACC. This is great for what its intended. But we first need to look at hydrology, hyrologic studies, and the ability to pass appropriate years storms through culverts.

### C. **NYS DEC Wetland Changes –**

Jessica Skinner attended a webinar on the changes. It makes the existing mapping informational. It means that a biologist would have to make a delineation of the wetland to determine its boundaries. It means if a wetland is on a parcel that a permit must be submitted before work is performed. It will also allow for wetlands of 7.4 acres to be considered DEC wetlands by the year 2028. This could create a very big delay in getting projects done because it takes upwards of a year to get a permit from DEC now. The permit language gives them 90 days to respond, and 90 days again after the applicant responds. Meaning a minimum of 180 day delay on construction work.

### D. **Organizational Meeting**

#### Election of Officers –

Motion was made by Gary Gray for James Howell to become Chair, Gary G. Vice Chair, and Rick Reisinger to remain Treasurer. The motion was seconded by Rick Reisinger. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Gary Gray to keep our District Newspaper, bank, holidays and policies as is. A second was made by Jessica Skinner. All in favor motion carried.

### E. **Annual Treasurers Report and all end of the year reporting. –** Jerry reviewed the end of the year reporting documents. He said it was a tremendous help having Karen Tillotson come up from Virginia to make sure the annual box was arranged and ready for audit. She also reviewed the treasurers report and helped a great deal with payroll information, and banking information needed for all reports. Rick Reisinger asked

what custodial funds means. Jerry explained its funds held on behalf of another organization. In our case its CDEA. We administer the state stormwater program on their behalf. Dues come to us as well as payments for the review course. We do the accounting on that and then the money is sent to CDEA. This is done under contract for our time.

Gary Gray made a motion to approve the annual report of the treasurer as submitted, and seconded by Rick Reisinger. 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 stated it was a very busy time of year working on AEM conservation plans, grant applications, plans of work for grants obtained, and many calls visits and mapping for various issues in the community.

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 7:02pm by Rick Reisinger and seconded by Gary Gray

**Respectfully submitted by:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Howell, Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jerry Verrigni – District Manager