

Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting of Directors  
July 24, 2024  
6:00 PM.  
Seneca Lodge Resteraunt

Attending:

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

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager  
Jessica Verrigni – Stormwater Program Technician

1. **Meeting called to order** by Jim Howell @ 6:01 PM
2. **Pledge**
3. **Minutes of May 22nd Meeting:** *Gary Gaige motioned to approve the May 22nd minutes as mailed. Seconded by Rick Reisinger. All in favor. Motion carried.*
4. **Treasurer's Report May and June:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
5. **Vouchers May and June:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the list of bills as presented. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
6. **Old Business:**
  - A. **Carlson GPS Survey Equipment** – Jessica stated that the equipment came in and the Carlson technician came out and trained Jessica on the use of the equipment. Although updated Jessica said it was very easy to learn and very much like the one she ran in Chemung County.
7. **New Business:**
  - A. **CR 16 Project and Project Summaries** -  
Jerry stated that the CR 16 Project pictures and project summaries were mailed in the packet. That the CR 16 project went exceptionally well, with a complete team effort. A huge effort by our County Highway Department, assistance from Town of Orange Highway with truckers, and of course our staff. Everyone worked together and really enjoyed the project and got the main route opened back up in just a few days time.
  - B. **2025 Budget to submit to the County** –  
Jerry stated the draft budget was in the packet. He stated that there is a substantial gain in overall budget from grant funding obtained, and added expenditures from large increases in the cost of benefits and insurances. Jerry also stated that with Jim Barrett's impending retirement that a full time operator may be necessary and is planned for in the budget in order to attract the best possible candidates. Ones to learn from Michael Manwaring that could eventually do the work Mike currently does.  
*Jim Howell motioned to approve the budget as presented. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
  - C. **Draft Change to the Personnel Policy** –  
Jerry discussed changes to the personnel policy that were sent out and will be attached to these minutes. This change would allow for health care to be paid to retirees that meet the requirements as laid out in the mailed changes. Jerry expressed

this was a necessary change in order to attract the best candidates down the road when he and Jessica require. The way the policy is written protects the district financially. The reason this is important is most soil and water conservation districts state wide have this type of compensation for its long term retirees. This would bring Schuylter County SWCD to that level playing field.

*Gary Gaige motioned to approve the changes to the personnel policy as presented to allow qualified retirees to receive health care until the age of 65.. 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 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 discussed Anthony J. Specchios health and asked the board members to keep him in their thoughts and prayers. Jerry discussed positive movement with the Eastern Finger Lakes Coaliton funding from NYS.
10. **Adjournment** -*Motion to adjourn at 7:20 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