

Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District  
Monthly Meeting of Directors  
March 27th, 2024  
6:00 PM.  
2400 Meads Hill Road  
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Attending: Tony Specchio-Chairperson

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 @ 6:05 PM
2. **Pledge**
3. **Minutes of February 28th Meeting:** *Gary Gray motioned to approve the February 28th minutes as mailed. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
4. **Treasurer's Report February:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Seconded by Gary Gray. All in favor. Motion carried.*
5. **Vouchers February:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the list of bills as presented. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
6. **Old Business:**
  - A. **County Road 8 Litigation** – Jerry passed out a timeline of the issues on County Road 8 and how the litigation process began. Jerry explained that he had completed both affidavets and a deposition. Jerry explained that our attorney from the insurance company tried to have the case thrown out due to the fact that we had no prior involvement on the issue. However, that couldn't happen because the Plaintiff filed an affidavet refuting that. Since it is his word against ours the case could not be thrown out. The case is moving toward a possible trial. They expressed interest in deposing more people including Mike Manwaring and Jim Howell. Mike was only on site after the flooding in 2021. Jim was at a different location nearly a mile away in July of 2021. That issue was caused by two pipes plugged on the plaintiffs own land, causing damage to the county road. It is our hopes that this issue is resolved swiftly due the fact that we have no ability to work in the highway right of way unless requested by the municipality, and the municipality has testified they did not request or ask for or have any involvement from SWCD prior to the flooding issue in 2021. Jerry said he will keep the board informed of how this moves forward.
  - B. **Lamoka Watershed Group** – *Jerry and Jessica both stated that they were once again contacted by the association to put in a grant for a comprehensive plan for the lakes. Jerry stated that he had talked to the association 8 months ago about the same topic and explained that with the very high level of planning that is on the books already it would be more beneficial for the group to raise small amonts of local funds to aid in implementation. Jerry showcased the millions of dollars of projects implemented in the watershed and showed how the Seneca Lake Pure Waters created a program in Seneca Lake to do this very thing. Jerry said at the time the folks were very receptive to this idea. Gary Gray who attended the previous meeting echoed those thoughts. Unfortunately these were entirely different people except for one so Jerry went through a lot of the same information.*
  - C. **Easter Fingerlakes Coalition** – *Jerry just simply explained the coalition is formed, the DEC is working to send funding to aid in capacity and then implementation.*

**7. New Business:**

**A. Water Quality Symposium Highlights -**

Jerry and Jessica echoed the common theme throughout the state and especially in the Finger Lakes Region was the abundance of new groups, offshoots of town boards, and associations looking to aid in improvement of water quality. This has inadvertently led to a drain on district resources because all those these groups are well intended they have little knowledge of historical knowledge of what has been done/is being done and why. They also have lack of practical knowledge on how to aid in accomplishing there goals.

Jessica also stated that she took a very good training on a new advanced GIS course. This will aid us in the future as GIS advances we will have the new software and have the ability to learn it over time.

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 7:30 by Gary Gaige and seconded by Rick Reisinger**

**Respectfully submitted by:**

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Tony Specchio, Chairman

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Jerry Verrigni – District Manager