

Schuyler County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monthly Meeting of Directors
May 22nd, 2024
6:00 PM.
Seneca Lodge Resteraunt

Attending: Tony Specchio-Chairperson
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 T. Specchio @ 6:07 PM
2. **Pledge**
3. **Minutes of April 24th Meeting:** *Jim Howell motioned to approve the April 24th 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 Jim Howell. All in favor. Motion carried.*
5. **Vouchers April:** *Rick Reisinger motioned to approve the list of bills as presented. Seconded by Gary Gaige. All in favor. Motion carried.*
6. **Old Business:**
 - A. **None**
7. **New Business:**
 - A. **Carlson GPS Survey Grade Equipment -**

Jerry and Jessica explained the survey grade equipment that would allow for the continuation and expansion of the district's use of drone flown surveys. The GPS equipment sets the elevation and ties in the survey. The equipment can be used to set the entire survey to real elevations and not grade based surveys. This will save the district thousands in engineering survey fees and can assist many county agencies with various elevation related assessments. The estimate was in the packet which was \$16,350.00. This is survey equipment Jessica is very familiar with and used for over 11 years in Chemung County.

Gary Gaige motioned to approve the purchase as presented. 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. At approximately 6:32 Jerry asked to add the CRF Grant proposals to the current agenda. At that time Rick Reisinger left the room and recused himself from all discussions. Jerry noted the potential conflict with an application requested by Reisinger Summer Fruits owned in part by Rick Reisinger.

Jerry Stated the unprecedented funding dollars that have been put into the Climate Resiliant Farming Grant, known as CRF. He noted we have one open CRF contract but the work has

been completed and it is just a matter of a month or so to close it out completely with AGMKTS. Jerry noted that the District would like to apply for two CRF grants this round. One project would consist of a cover and flare for Seneca Valley Farms. Jerry Stated that this project would aid in the installation of solid liquid separation on the farm and a cover and flare for the largest manure storage in Schuyler County. Seneca Valley Farms is the second largest farm in the county and the manure storage that would be covered is 5 million gallons sitting just outside the village of burdett. It receives many order related complaints. It was put in by the SWCD with AGNPS funding. It has a very large reduction in green house gases. The largest dairy in the county Bergen farms is already installing methane digestion. Therefor this is the highest need of implementation for CRF.

Jerry also stated the second application would be for a wind inversion machine for Reisinger Summer Fruits. The farm approached Jerry years ago about this technology. They have never received funding since for Reisinger Summer Fruits. They are in the Seneca Inlet Watershed. They are leaders in conservation and willing to do soil health practices in the form of limited to no tillage and cover crops, as well as to help with the cost of the machine. The farm is also a leader in the area for other Fruit and small veg operations and they are willing to do demonstrations on the farm in a joint effort with the largest adjoining apple orchard in the region (Apples & Moore). This project is replicatable for the region. Our region has been devastated by frost damage. The farm currently burns 120,000lbs upwind of the Village of Watkins Glen, Watkins Glen State Park, and Seneca Lake annually. This is the only applicable funding for this type of equipment. The only other farms that have reached out about this grant source currently have active grants. It is our policy at Soil and Water that a farm completes a grant prior to applying for another grant.

Gary Gaige motioned to approve the applications as presented. Seconded by Jim Howell. All in favor. Motion carried. The meeting resumed and Jerry went and got Rick Reisinger at 6:51 to rejoin the meeting.

Jerry had the resolution and meeting minutes printed and signed for the application. He stated implementation has been going exceptionally well with out operators.

10. **Adjournment** -Motion to adjourn at 6:55 by Gary Gaige and seconded by Jim Howell

Respectfully submitted by:

Tony Specchio, Chairman

Jerry Verrigni – District Manager